

Mayor addresses recent string of retail robberies with use of surveillance
SEE PAGE 4



Peace of mind
High School student starts *Evergreen Dementia Foundation* to help community – **SEE PAGE 6**

San Jose's ADU program is a successful model for speeding up housing production
SEE PAGE 17



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DEC. 10 – DEC. 23, 2021 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 25



Viraj Pandey of Almaden Valley declared a finalist in the 2021 3M Young Scientist Lab Challenge

Viraj Pandey of Almaden Valley has been declared a finalist in the 2021 3M Young Scientist Lab Challenge.

Viraj, a seventh grader who attends Bret Harte Middle School in Almaden, synthesized and innovatively applied graphene quantum dots (GQDs) to help track endangered species.

The 3M Young Scientist Challenge is the nation's premier science competition for grades 5-8. This one-of-a-kind video competition has sparked a sense of wonder and discovery in hundreds of thousands of students and enhanced science, innovation and communication across the United States.

"This competition is an amazing opportunity to be heard and get recognized and might take my project to the next level so I can implement my idea in a real-world setting and on real test subjects," Pandey said. "This could be the beginning of a long journey and this challenge might

See PANDEY, page 6

Crime prevention in Almaden Valley



SJPD Lieutenant **Brent McKim** said burglaries have recently increased locally as well as citywide.

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Although Almaden Valley is a relatively safe area, burglaries, car break-ins and package theft are still an issue.

Councilmember Matt Mahan said although residents are fortunate to have less crime in their neighborhood, any type of criminal activity makes people feel violated and unsafe.

San Jose Police Department officers updated residents on crime prevention tactics at a Inside City Hall/Almaden Valley Community Association meeting in November.

Lieutenant Brent McKim, bureau of field operations, said burglaries have recently increased locally as well as citywide. As people sheltered in place and worked from home during the pandemic, home and car break-ins and package theft decreased, McKim said, while commercial and school burglaries increased. But as people returned to work, this trend reversed.

McKim recommends residents take

precautions such as ensuring burglar alarms are working and cover the second story of homes.

"We've had break-ins into the master bedroom upstairs where valuable are stored," he said. "They enter a window at the back of the house and no alarm goes off."

Lights, Locks and Landscaping

Because of this, SJPD Crime Prevention Specialist Jorge Casillas recommends not hiding valuables or medication in the master bedroom. When it comes to security, Casillas said residents should consider their lights, locks and landscaping. He said burglars don't want to spend more than 60 seconds breaking into a home so anything that discourages them is helpful, including having a radio or tv and lights on to seem like someone's home.

The officers suggested residents make sure their home surveillance video cameras are working and know how to download and forward video footage to the police department so cases can be solved quickly. *(Continued, page 7)*



13-year old scientist develops new scalable, reusable shipping box

By William Bellou
Publisher

A young San Jose scientist in the making is right here in Silicon Valley!

Aadrit Talukdar (pictured above), a 7th grader at BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, placed in the Top 10 of the 3M Young Scientist Challenge in partnership with Discovery Education.

Aadrit developed a scalable and reusable shipping box that can be used for online order shipments to reduce or eliminate the use of oversized boxes and excess packing materials.

Aadrit was among thousands of students participating in the competition nationwide and only 10 finalists are chosen based on their passion for science, spirit of innovation and ingenuity, and effective communication skills.

The 3M Young Scientist Challenge is known as a top event that brings together young people with new ideas and innovations to solve problems faced by societies by using engineering and scientific knowledge.

"I've always been interested in exploring new ideas through scientific experiments," Aadrit said. "Since March last year, life has been different for me just like everyone else in this world trying to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our family was relying more and more on online orders, and I started wondering if there is a better way to minimize this waste of materials. So I created a scalable and reusable shipping box."

"If I go for post-graduate studies, I hope to be close to finishing my work and working on projects that benefit society. I hope to be a good person and a good citizen," said Aadrit.

Aadrit said he is very humbled to have been chosen to be part of this incredible journey.

"I'm very excited to begin working with my mentor, Ms. Mary Brown, to make my idea a reality," Aadrit said. "She has already given me so many insights for the project that I cannot wait to work on this great adventure."

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

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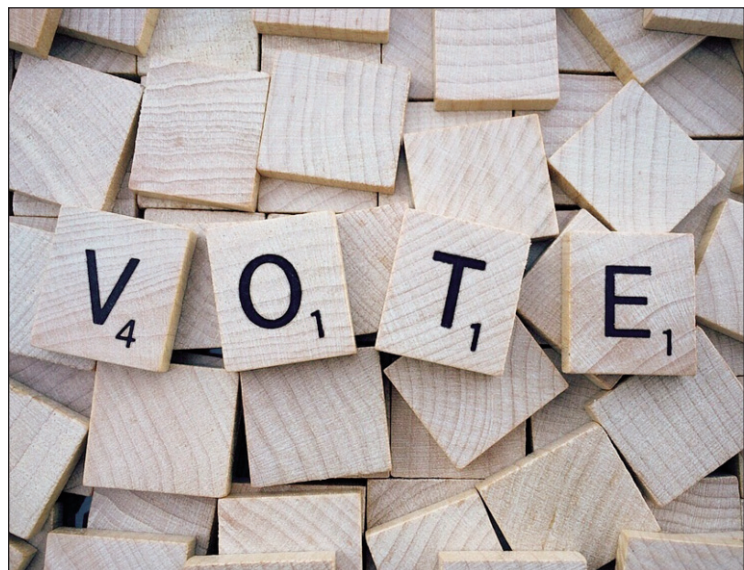


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The Untapped Potential of Young Voters: Online presentation to feature research project by high school senior Claire Zhu

By William Bellou
Publisher

The League of Women Voters, Fremont, Newark, and Union City is sponsored a recent online presentation featuring a fascinating research project by high school senior Claire Zhu.

Zhu became enthralled with the idea of what would happen if more young people voted. Zhu and league member Julie Dunkle discussed her groundbreaking work in student-led voter registration drives.

The 2020 Presidential election demonstrated that youth voters are beginning to emerge as a powerful force in American politics. Historically young voters have participated significantly less than other age groups in US elections. However, according to the highly respected and non-partisan group, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, 50% of Americans between the ages 18-29 voted in the 2020 election. This was one of the highest rates of the young voting since voting rights were extended to 18 year olds in 1972.

A few years ago when Zhu's

older sister became eligible to vote she talked a lot about social and political issues, including the importance of voting. Likewise Zhu tried to talk with her friends about these issues; however no one shared her interest in the topic. She then began looking at the consistently low youth turnout in presidential elections and to wonder how the political landscape of our country would be different if more young people voted. So she decided to independently design and implement a research project to answer the question, "How does Youth Turnout impact Presidential Elections?"

Her findings show, indeed, youth turnout can significantly impact Presidential Elections, especially in battleground states. Her research is quite impressive, detailing the factors that influence youth voting behavior, and then goes on to offer five concrete actions to improve youth turnout.

While conducting her research, Zhu volunteered with the League of Women Voters Fremont Newark Union City (LWVFNUC) Youth Voter Movement. The program, developed and coordinated by league member, Julie Dunkle who has been highly successful in registering over 7000 high school students to vote.

When asked what was the most important lesson learned from her research project Zhu replied, "I learned how crucial it is for youth to be active and connected, especially in matters where they can make a big difference. By proactively reaching out to experts and civic groups, I not only became more knowledgeable about youth voting but also the importance of taking action and advocating for something you value." Zhu is now applying to colleges for next year with the intent of studying political science with an emphasis on data analysis.

Valley Currents

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



San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** speaks about a recent string of retail robberies outside Oakridge Mall. Photo by Tran Nguyen

San Jose mayor, law enforcement address recent string of retail robberies with use of surveillance

By Tran Nguyen

Courtesy of San Jose Spotlight

Facing a spate of organized recent retail thefts and robberies, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and local enforcement are looking for ways to beef up security during the holidays—including use of surveillance technology.

"I'm releasing a proposal with colleagues for investment in automated license plate readers and other surveillance tech that will assist in the arrest and apprehension, as well as deterrence, of several organized crime rings engaged in burglaries and robberies we've all read about," Liccardo said last week outside Oakridge Mall.

The proposal will go before the San Jose City Council next week for consideration.

Regional retailers are reeling from a string of organized thefts and robberies that happened over the weekend, when large groups of people hit department stores, cannabis dispensaries, a jewelry shop and high-end clothing stores.

San Jose car thefts on the rise, beating national trends In San Jose, thieves struck a Lululemon store in Santana Row Sunday night, stealing more than \$40,000 in merchandise. At the same time, another group hit the Westfield Valley Fair mall and took \$7,000 worth of items from a sunglasses store, according to the San Jose Police Department. Two people also attempted to rob Macy's at Valley Fair last night. Police have arrested two suspects in the case.

Officials said the recent string of thefts and robberies are coordinated and planned by organized crime rings.

"The San Jose Police Department has already made arrests in these retail robberies... and there are more arrests that are coming," Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen said. "Prosecutors in my office have already begun charging and will charge to the fullest extent of law."

Rosen also spoke of concerns of copycat thieves in light of recent robberies.

"I do think these are crimes of opportunity, things criminals think of as soft targets," he said. "We're trying to set the message straight that there are consequences for doing this and you'll spend a lot of time

behind bars"

Big box stores in San Jose have long dealt with shoplifting, an issue that started to run rampant after voters approved Prop. 47 in 2014. The law brings shoplifting from a felony to a misdemeanor for all thefts less than \$950. Many stores have since adopted policies prohibiting employees from pursuing shoplifters to avoid endangering customers and employees.

Liccardo clarified that the penalties for robbery are much more serious, as that is defined as using force or threat of using force.

In response to the rash of retail thefts in the Bay Area, Gov. Gavin Newsom promised Monday the state's budget next year will include substantial funding for cities to address retail theft and called for local mayors to "step up" in addressing the issue.

Bay Area prosecutors also announced an alliance this week to combat the series of organized retail crimes. The alliance includes San Mateo, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, San Joaquin, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The alliance plans to pool investigative tools together and share information among all jurisdictions.

Contact Tran Nguyen at tran@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @nguyenntn on Twitter.



Santa Clara County District Attorney **Jeff Rosen** said SJPD has already made arrests in a recent string of retail robberies. Photo by Tran Nguyen.

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Times **Features**



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Dec 2-5/ Dec 9-12, 12pm-2pm

Holiday Evening Open Houses and Boutique:

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Daleep Singh Pannu, founder of Evergreen Dementia Foundation and Truth Seeker Clothing LTD.

**High School student Daleep Singh Pannu starts
Evergreen Dementia Foundation to help community**

By Kevin Larsen

Times Staff Writer

“Start with an idea, make it a movement, then seek it.” This is the motto of High School student Daleep Singh Pannu.

He became interested in the world of dementia when he began noticing such signs present in his grandfather.

It is a world he began to explore because someday he plans to pursue medicine and explore the neurosciences.

On October 17 after extensive preparation, he gave a well-received presentation of what dementia is to those who speak Punjabi and English at the Sikh Gurdwara (a community hall and religious center). His motivation spread awareness about dementia in the community. The audience was fascinated.

He began to come to the realization that the Punjabi culture knew little about this disease. Pamphlets were handed out and a follow up question and answer session was done. He started a new organization to spread awareness and was brave enough to state that someday we will find a cure.

He leads people to resources from all organizations working to educate in helping fight dementia. He set up a clothing company (Truth Seeker Limited) to fundraise in which proceeds go to help the organizations that educate and do research on dementia

Dementia and me

On his website (truthseekerltd.com) Daleep Singh Pannu states: “I had to grapple with the reality of my grandfather’s diagnosis years ago. As I struggled to find the truth and ways to cope, I found that a few main resources were the most helpful. So, as a means of thanks, we donate all our

proceeds to those organizations; the Alzheimer’s Association, Lewy Body Dementia Association, and my own group; *Evergreen Dementia Foundation*, dedicated to disseminating resources in the Punjabi language to help out people in my own community.”

Clear your fog about a variety of neurodegenerative issues

In his *Evergreen Dementia Foundation* website (evergreendementia.org) Daleep Singh Pannu writes about many in Evergreen not understanding what dementia is. He states, “In the US, dementia, Parkinson’s, and Alzheimer’s research isn’t focused on in hospitals. It is especially lacking in the Punjabi diaspora - only about 10% of all cases are diagnosed in Punjab. Evergreen Dementia is here to change that. An organization run by a student, Evergreen Dementia uses videos, pamphlets, and a variety of other multimedia to fight for the awareness and rights of those with neurodegenerative diseases, and to clear the fog about these issues - and maybe even find a cure.”

Then he also writes something heartfelt and poignant and says, “Dementia is scary. The thought of being cooped up in a shell only you can understand, seeing things only you can see. Demons only you can fight, but the disease has taken away all your weapons.”

Editor’s Note: Look for more information from Daleep Singh Pannu in upcoming issues of the Evergreen Times. He is helping our community in many ways.



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Pandey

Continued from page 1
be the reason I will get there!”

Grand Prize

The top prize in the 2021 3M Young Scientist Lab Challenge is a check for \$25,000 along with a one-of-a-kind 2 day/1-night destination trip Titled: America’s Top Young Scientist. The top 10 finalists will each receive \$1,000.

When Viraj was asked what he hopes to be in 15 years, he replied, “I hope to be a 27-year-old scientist working in the field of physics or chemistry and hopefully contributing to the world through my research. I believe in applying science to unravel the puzzles we see in nature. There is still so much to know, so much to cure, so much to prove. Maybe I will discover something that will benefit every human in the world and every field of science.”

Times **Cover Story**

Councilmember **Matt Mahan** said crime makes people feel violated and unsafe.

Crime prevention

Continued from page 1

Most importantly, they said to get to know your neighbors and report suspicious people.

"If you see something, say something," Casillas said. "It's up to you and your neighbors to keep your neighborhood safe."

McKim said a burglary was interrupted when a neighbor saw someone hop a fence and called the police. He recommends residents call 911 if they see a suspicious person looking in cars, scoping the area or stealing a package.

"It all starts with the 911 call," he said. "If a crime happens to you, call the police. That's how we allocate resources and identify crime trends."

Reporting details related to a crime or suspicious person is essential, Casillas said. For instance, note the time of day, color and type of vehicle, if it's missing a hubcap, bumper stickers or has a cracked window. Be aware of people's skin tones, tattoos, piercings, way of talking and walking, he added.

With the Christmas season have come an increase in robberies, including at shopping centers and Oakridge Mall. McKim recommends shopping in pairs, keeping purses and bag secure and being aware of your surroundings.

"Note people watching you," he said. "Crooks want to catch you by surprise. If you see someone suspicious, report them to security."

To prevent crimes of opportunity, Casillas recommends hiding a purse, wallet or package in your trunk before arriving at a parking lot.

"Hide things before you park and be vig-

ilant who may be watching," he said.

Side shows

Mahan said street racing and side shows have plagued Almaden Valley with hotspots by Bret Harte Middle School, Leland High School and Safeway supermarket on Camden Avenue.

By working closely with the City Council and District Attorney's office, SJPd has been successful in reducing this activity, McKim said.

He said with resources provided by the City Council, the police department implemented a racer enforcement detail focused on racing. Officers are trained to spot racing activities and empowered to impound cars and cite offenders. Promoters and bystanders have been charged as well, he said.

McKim said officers have written 50-60 citations and towed numerous cars at a single event. He said cars can be impounded for 30 days, and fines start at a few hundred dollars and increase per infraction.

"If we see a vehicle, we can get a warrant to tow it wherever it is," he said. "These are great tools we can use to tamp this down."

To increase safety, the police department recommends residents know their neighbors, create neighborhood associations and host Neighborhood Watch meetings with input from police officers.

Neighborhood associations create a sense of community and give officers a way to communicate with residents, Casillas said.

For emergencies call 911. From a cell phone, for emergencies call 408-277-8911 or text 911. Call 408-277-8900 for past crimes or to report suspicious activity. Call 408-535-3500 to report abandoned vehicles, potholes, broken streetlights, graffiti, illegal dumping or to schedule a free junk pickup.

Anatomy of a residential burglary:

Burglars typically want to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into your home.

Anything you can do to discourage them or extend the time it takes for them to break in, will usually send them somewhere else.













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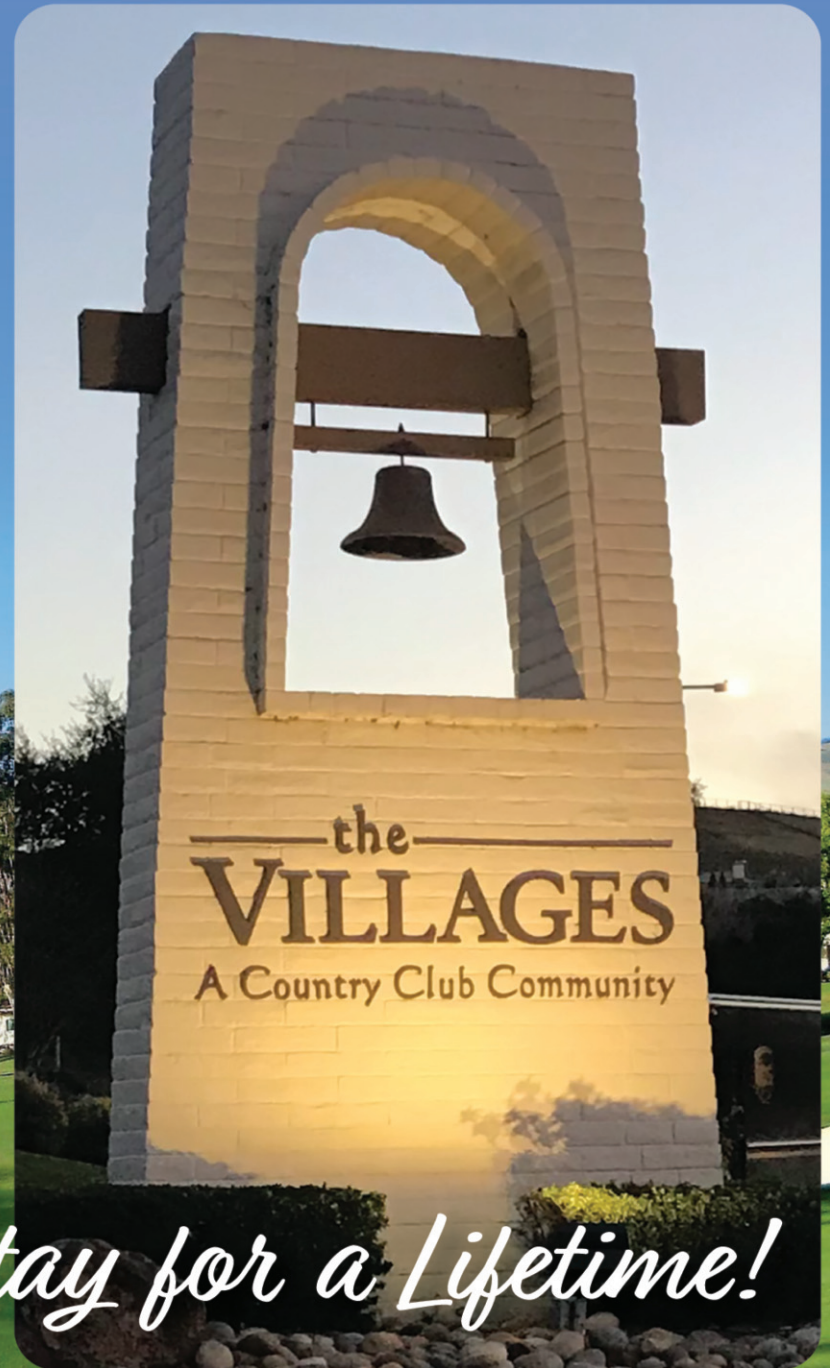
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San José Chamber Orchestra presents Happy New Year 2022

A Sunday Salon like no other!

San José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) will present Happy New Year 2022 (A Sunday Salon like no other!), Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 3 p.m. at the St Francis Episcopal Church, 1025 Pine Avenue, San Jose.

Music will include compositions by Chopin, Krommer, Jessie Montgomery, Mozart, Prokofiev, Gershwin and Michael Touchi conducted by Barbara Day Turner. Featured artists include Jon Nakamatsu, pianist, Jon Manasse and Alec Manasse, clarinetists.

The Program:

Serge Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes

Jessie Montgomery: Strum for string orchestra

W. A. Mozart: Larghetto from Clarinet Quintet

Frederic Chopin: Romanze from Piano Concerto in e minor

Franz Krommer: Allegro from Concerto for two Clarinets, opus 35

George Gershwin: I Got Rhythm (arr. Michael Touchi)

Michael Touchi: Fantasia on Klezmer
Barbara Day Turner, conductor

Maestra Barbara Day Turner is the founder and music director of the San José Chamber Orchestra. An ardent advocate for new music, she has premiered more than 200 new works with San José Chamber Orchestra alone, as

well as leading the first performances of 5 American operas. Named a 2012 Silicon Valley Arts Council "On Stage" Artist Laureate, Maestra Day Turner completed 15 seasons as Music Administrator and Conductor of the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre. She has conducted numerous musical theatre works and operas in the US, and guest conducted in Germany and Mexico.

Venue

SJCO is now performing at the newly renovated performance space at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Glen. The flexible purposing of this space is beautiful, inviting and located in a lovely part of town near lots of great places to eat in the nearby downtown Willow Glen core. It also is easy to get to just off Highway 280 and Meridian Avenue, and has ample free neighborhood parking.

Ticket price: \$50. Senior \$45 for age 62 and above, age 22 and under all seats \$15, proof of vaccination and masks required. No tickets sold at the door. Tickets and information: sjco.org 408 295-4416. Email: sjco@sbcglobal.net

The seating is comfortable, the room has great acoustics, and the in-house keyboards are excellent.

The San José Chamber Orchestra is funded in part by grants from the City of San José, Office of Cultural Affairs and Silicon Valley Creates in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council.



Maestra **Barbara Day Turner**

IN MEMORY

Sydney Lee Melbourne

October 23, 1936 - November 12 2021
New Almaden

Sydney Lee Melbourne passed away from lung cancer on Nov. 12, 2021 at the age of 85.

Syd (aka Lee) was born in San Francisco and was raised in Daly City and Burlingame, CA. He was in the great graduation class of 1955. He volunteered for the Army right after graduation and served in peacetime Germany. He was in the 3rd Armored Division and played football. After the Army, he went on to Compton College, once again to play football.

Syd met his wife Peggy while at Compton. He graduated with a teaching credential from San Jose St. He taught at schools in the Oak Grove School District - the longest time at Bernal.

Syd, Peggy and their daughters moved to their beloved New Almaden in 1970 where they enjoyed 51 years of bliss. Syd was a much loved member of that friend-



ly, historic and beautiful community.

He was always a great dad who exposed his daughters to such diverse things and took his grandsons on many adventures.

Syd was a man of many interests. He was very knowledgeable about most sports; the Giants, Yankees, Cal, Olympics, the Tour de France were special favorites. He loved vacationing over much of the west and had a special love for Yosemite, wildlife and wildflowers. He ran 10ks, and a few marathons and hiked many miles

in Quicksilver - often picking up artifacts and litter along the way.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Peggy (né Carter), his daughters Julie Melbourne - Weaver and Dawna Melbourne and Julie's son's Preston Melbourneweaver (Samantha) and Lee Melbourne - Weaver.

Syd had good friends in all parts of his journey. He will be missed by many.

Donations can be made in Syd's name to the New Almaden Community Club PO BOX 4 New Almaden Ca 95042 or donations in Syd's honor to sponsor a student trip to Washington, D.C. If you would like to donate, send a check payable to Bernal Washington, D.C. Fundraiser c/o Nadene Russell, 613 Heatherkirk Ct., San Jose, CA.



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Rebuilding Days

Our Rebuilding Day program provides major and minor repairs and renovations resulting in life-changing improvements for the homeowners and organizations served.

Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

Ways to get involved

Volunteers Joined us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, April 17 & 24, 2021, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

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Final vote on final three redistricting maps to be held December 14

By **Matt Mahan**

Special to the Times

Thanks to the work of the Redistricting Commission, the San Jose City Council will be voting on the final three maps recommended over the next two Council meetings.

The last two redistricting hearings will occur after 6 p.m. at the next two Council meetings. This is your final chance to have your voice heard on this once-a-decade decision. I encourage all of our neighbors to speak up and be heard. This decision will impact how the city is shaped for the next ten years.

In the final meetings of the commission, hundreds of residents called in advocating for two of the three maps being presented to Council. Some, including the South Bay Labor Council, created the Unity map which proposes the most aggressive changes to our city boundaries. If adopted, District 10 would lose the VEP Community Association (Vista Park, Carson and Parkview) and surrounding neighborhoods in the northern third of the district and would pick up about one-third of District 2, stretching south along the Santa Teresa Ridge. With this map, the downtown area

would also be split across two districts, reducing its voice in the political process, just as we are seeing significant new investment in our urban core. Willow Glen and other neighborhoods may be split between these two districts. The Unity Map received the least amount of support by the Redistricting Commission with a tally of 6 - 5.

The other leading map is the Community Map. This map prioritizes keeping together “communities of interest” such as neighborhoods and commercial zones with similar needs, and minimizes the number of residents whose representation will change when the new map is adopted next year. Essentially, this map moves district boundaries at the edges just enough to rebalance for population growth. The Community Map was largely supported by community members and neighborhood associations with a favorable vote by the Redistricting Commission of 9-2.

While the Commission’s own D-Map is still moving forward (and received the most votes by the commission 11-



District 10 Report
Matt Mahan
Councilmember,
District 10

0), it appears that the Community and Unity Maps are the top two contenders that are being called for by the public. Again, this is an important opportunity for neighbors to engage and have their voices heard. Please consider joining the San Jose City Council on December 7th and 14th after 6 p.m. if you’d like to advocate for a specific map.

As your Councilmember, I am recommending that the Council adopt the Community Map, as it was clearly powered by people, not politics. Neighbors from throughout San Jose came together to put together the Community Map, and we deserve to keep our neighborhoods together.

Please feel free to email my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov if you’d like more information on the upcoming Council meetings, including Council agendas, or have feedback for me on any of the items before the Council.



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Life-changing flights flown by pilots with big hearts

Reid Hillview a critical anchor for “Angel Flights - Pilots Flying People in Need”

The call goes out with a request; someone needs non-urgent life-saving medical care and no nearby doctor or hospital can provide treatment.

An Angel Flight volunteer pilot answers the call and donates their aircraft, piloting skills and time, and all flying costs to help families in need.

Angel Flight missions include: transportation for patients needing treatment and care they cannot receive locally, doctors traveling to remote areas to render aid, domestic violence victims needing relocation, veterans traveling for prosthetics, and numerous other humanitarian causes.

Reid Hillview Airport has become one of the most important centers of this humanitarian work with its close proximity to Stanford and University of California - San Francisco Hospitals.

There are 36 active Angel Flight pilots based at the airport and they have flown 1,628 lifetime missions with 120 flights so far through September 2021. Roughly one in six Northern California Angel Flight pilots call Reid Hillview home.

If developers and their political allies are successful in closing the airport, far fewer of these lifesaving missions will be possible.

More information on the community effort to preserve and enhance Reid Hillview Airport can be found at www.savereidhillview.org

Times **Local News**

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo spurs support for local businesses with Launch of #ShopLocalSJ Campaign

Mayor Sam Liccardo rang in the holiday season with a campaign to encourage shopping and dining at local, small businesses and to remind business owners of City resources available to those struggling from ongoing economic impacts of the pandemic on Friday, Nov. 26.

These initiatives include a virtual local business directory and digital resources for small businesses.

"Despite the hopes of a robust recovery from the pandemic, many small businesses still struggle to stay afloat. By spending our dollars here in San José this holiday shopping season, we can each do our part to show appreciation to the hardworking shopkeepers and staff that keep our city vibrant," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "I encourage everyone to #ShopLocalSJ and support our small business community."

As the holidays approach, policies to support small businesses include:

- **#ShopLocalSJ**, a social media campaign to encourage residents to shop and dine locally during the holiday season to support establishments facing continued financial stress as a result of the pandemic. Residents are encouraged to post photos and positive reviews of local businesses with the hashtag #ShopLocalSJ on social media.

- **Digital directory** to highlight small businesses through the area. Community members who are not active on social media can help identify their favorite local businesses by visiting siliconvalleystrong.org/shoplocal and submit the businesses' information for the online directory.

- Small businesses that do not have a comprehensive digital presence can connect with **Get Virtual** for resources and guidance free of charge. Get Virtual will pair local businesses with college students trained in entrepreneurship, digital marketing, and web development to build out their online presence. Businesses can contact 'Get Virtual' by visiting siliconvalleystrong.org/shoplocal and click on "I need help getting my business online."

Individuals interested in lending their technical expertise to the program can sign up to help by contacting info@getvirtual.org.



Liccardo

Silicon Valley Reads 2021

Connecting...

www.siliconvalleyreads.org

Italian American Heritage Foundation

FESTA Di NATALE

12 noon, Thursday, December 16, 2021
IAHF Hall, 425 N Fourth St, San Jose, CA 95112

MENU

Assorted Antipasti with herbed garlic bread;
Insalata mista (with marinated artichokes);
Pasta Bolognese;
Salsiccia Brasato with Finocchio & green onions;
Piselli alla Fiorentina (peas sautéed in creamy tomato/mushroom sauce with diced ham);
Dessert.

Disclosure: This menu may be subject to minor adjustments.
Vegetarian pasta option in butter-sage sauce is available.

**\$25 per member; \$30 per non-member; and
\$8 per child 7-12 years old**

Open Seating

Go online to pay, or call 408-293-7122,
or send in a check payable to the IAHF.

After December 14, waiting list only!

WATER-WISE

The Challenge Of Clay: Hydrophobia

By Matthew Frazier
*Garden Center & Nursery
Consultant/Water Manager*
In the years I have worked in garden centers and nurseries... Hardware stores and home-improvement centers with attached garden centers. One of the most common conversations I

have had, and continue to have, with customers, whether they are contractors, landscapers, homeowners, renters and etcetera... Is the issue of purchasing herbicides and applying large volumes of these chemicals to their gardens and landscapes.
The clay soil we have here in



Santa Clara County/Santa Clara Valley presents several challenges. One of which is that weeds, also known as volunteers, emerge when and where most of us don't want them. The temptation is to spray them with potent chemicals which promise to eradicate them and make our gardens and landscapes closer to being pristine, at least for short periods of time.
One of the advices I dispensed to customers for a very long time
(Continued next page)

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Times **Feature**

was to purchase forty-pound bags of solar salt (water softener salt) and dissolve the pellets or crystals in boiled water and dump that solution onto the areas most affected by weeds, given they would not be growing anything in that space for some time. This advice turned out to be erroneous and harmful.

A term I learned along the way, in attending classes, in-person and via Internet, was that salts make our soil “hydrophobic” or resistant to infiltration. My last article addressed the challenge of infiltration with clay soil. In conjunction with this challenge is the practice of using herbicides which leave harmful residues which impact beneficial insects and pollinators.

Many of the weeds we see in our gardens, landscapes, and turf lawns actually serve a purpose. Many of them flower and bring beneficial insects and pollinators. When herbicides are applied, the salts within dry out the soil and make it unfit to let native and natural vegetation thrive. The idea of letting weeds emerge is one that does not bode well with those who strive to keep their gardens and landscapes devoid of such plants.

Composts and mulches have long been advocated as an alternative to herbicides. A three-inch layer of mulch is what was recommended to me from instructors of these classes and online webinars. Sunlight allows the weed seeds to germinate and emerge around the plants we do want. By adding mulch to the areas around the plants, we allow the soil to retain its moisture while minimizing sunlight exposure. A radius of four to six inches from the stalks and trunks is what I was advised.

The product labels on these herbicides claim the soil will be ready to plant soon afterwards but in reality, the chemicals and salts within these herbicides linger for a long time afterwards, making the prospect of growing new flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines a challenge. These plants may grow but the quality of the soil will have been compromised.

When these salts within the herbicides begin to infiltrate into the soil, water has a much more difficult time moving through that soil: Hydrophobia. Using black plastic sheeting in autumn and winter, and clear plastic sheeting in spring and summer, over these areas affected by weeds, will trap moisture and cook the weeds below. After which time we can add a three-inch layer of mulch and the disintegrated weeds will add nitrogen to the soil.

It takes a long time to thoroughly flush the residual salts from herbicides. Leaving a layer of mulch a few inches away from the stalks

and trunks of our desired plants will create a natural and safe alternative to a chemical treatment. If any weeds do emerge, pulling them will be far easier, given that the roots will be loosely anchored in damp or moist soil.

In an earlier article, I advocated the planting of native flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines: Those

native to Santa Clara Valley. Or, at least those native to a comparable climate or zone within California. Further... Naturally occurring weeds of this valley help provide food and shelter to beneficial insects and pollinators. The term “Insectary Plants” is often used to describe those plants which act as conduits for these beneficial

insects and pollinators.

The challenge many of us face is having enough, or any, free time to tend to our gardens and yards. With the pressures of working long shifts and consecutive days without ample breaks or rest, doing this is a challenge.

I encourage each and all of us to spend time in our gardens and

yards, taking the few extra minutes, to survey what is occurring. There is no harm in letting these volunteers (weeds) emerge and create an environment which is conducive to a balance in Nature. To reach Matthew Frazier, email kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Festive Holiday Gifts for Pets

FAMILY FEATURES

Spreeding holiday cheer with loving gifts is a tradition for many people, and families often include their pets in the fun to make those happy moments even brighter. Festive apparel, toys, treats and more can help pet parents show appreciation to their animal friends throughout the season.

From dogs and cats to reptiles, guinea pigs and other lovable pets, a retailer like PetSmart has gift ideas that can delight pets of all shapes and sizes. Plus, with the option to “buy now, pay later” through Afterpay, pet parents have more flexible payment options when shopping online or in stores.

Consider some of this season’s top holiday gifts for pets, and find even more gift ideas and stocking stuffers at PetSmart.com or in stores.



A Kitty Countdown Advent Calendar

If your cat made the nice list this year, you can include him or her in the countdown with the Merry & Bright Holiday Advent Calendar for cats featuring a 25-day countdown with one toy for each day. With daily surprises including glittering ball and bell toys or catnip, the calendar provides plenty of opportunities for your kitty to hunt, stalk, swat and pounce all season long.



A Festive Fit for Reptiles

Comfy pajama sets don’t just have to be for friends and family. Fun, seasonal attire can also help make reptilian pets a part of the festivities. Options like this Merry & Bright Lumberjack Reptile Costume provide your bearded dragon with a warm, comfortable and adorable outfit you can easily slip on and off.



Pamper Your Pup with New Shampoo

Freshen your pet’s coat before guests arrive with a 2-in-1 shampoo and conditioner. Despite the hustle and bustle of the season, the Burt’s Bees 2-in-1 Tearless Puppy Shampoo & Conditioner can keep your pet’s coat clean and shiny all season long. Made with nourishing buttermilk to soothe skin and soften fur, the shampoo allows you to groom your pet with gentle, natural ingredients.

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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

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 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.

If you are interested in going, email us at dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net or call Donna at 408.266.4938

Please view the Broadway San Jose’s Safe & Clean Commitment at:
<https://broadwaysanjosese.com/information/safe-and-clean-commitment/>



Trips to Waikiki Beach can be more affordable with hotels than with Airbnb.

Report: The top locations where you can save money by staying in a hotel over an Airbnb

Top 5 US locations where Airbnb is the most affordable option

Did you know that booking a hotel over an Airbnb in Yosemite you can save 68%?

With lodging thought to take up over a quarter of domestic travel expenditures, the travel experts at Bounce analyzed the prices of Airbnb and hotel listings in 80 top travel destinations, across the US and the world, revealing the US destinations where staying in a hotel is the most affordable accommodation option.

If you’re looking to visit the stunning Hawaiian paradise of Waikiki Beach, you could save 72.9% by staying in a hotel over an Airbnb. The average nightly price of a double hotel room near Waikiki Beach is just \$74, while for a similar Airbnb stay, it would cost you \$271! For a 72.9% markup, holiday-goers would be better off choosing the traditional option.

Renowned for its clear blue lakes, and mountains with beautiful views, visitors to the Grand Teton National Park have no

shortage of things to do, but where you sleep can have a major impact on your bill. The research found an overnight stay near the park would typically cost just \$231 in a hotel but a whopping \$847 in an Airbnb.

Ranking third for hotel savings is Yosemite, which sees an average hotel cost of \$206, in comparison to Airbnb’s average of \$646!

You can view the full research here: <https://usebounce.com/blog/hotel-vs-airbnb>

If you’re planning a trip to the historical city of Boston, your wallet would thank you for choosing to stay in an Airbnb. A night in a double room of a hotel will typically cost tourists \$397, whereas it’s only \$172 for Airbnb. Meaning you could save over 100% by making the right decision.

Home to one of the richest histories of conservation parks in the country, Zion is flooded with tourists. Stopping over in a hotel would dent your wallet more than an Airbnb. Hotel rates average at \$456 per night, whereas it’s almost half the price for an Airbnb (\$284).

Here are the top 10 US locations where you can save money by staying in a hotel over an Airbnb.

Rank	Destination, State	Average nightly Airbnb price	Average nightly hotel price	Difference
1	Waikiki Beach, Hawaii	\$271	\$74	73%
2	Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming	\$847	\$231	73%
3	Yosemite, California	\$646	\$206	68%
4	Nashville, Tennessee	\$612	\$202	67%
5	Savannah, Georgia	\$435	\$199	54%
6	Las Vegas, Nevada	\$567	\$281	50%
7	Yellowstone, Montana	\$456	\$229	50%
8	Houston, Texas	\$277	\$143	48%
9	Asheville, North Carolina	\$346	\$205	41%
10	Jackson Hole, Wyoming	\$513	\$336	35%

The research also revealed the top 5 US locations where staying in an Airbnb is the most affordable option:

Rank	Destination, State	Average nightly Airbnb price	Average nightly hotel price	Difference
1	Boston, Massachusetts	\$172	\$397	131%
2	Zion National Park, Utah	\$284	\$456	61%
3	Maui, Hawaii	\$426	\$625	47%
4	Seattle, Washington	\$229	\$263	15%
5	Kauai, Hawaii	\$488	\$561	15%

Times **Local News**



Report: 2021 Holiday Budgets by US City

With last year’s holiday spending having increased 8.3% despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its 2021 “Holiday Budgets by City” report, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

WalletHub also released its free tool that calculates personalized holiday budgets for all WalletHub members between now and Dec. 25, 2021.

To help consumers avoid post-holiday regret, WalletHub used several key metrics, such as income, age and savings-to-monthly expenses ratio, to estimate the maximum spending amounts for consumers in each of 570 U.S. cities.

The following are some highlights from the report:

- Average Consumer Profile of San Jose:
 - Monthly Income: \$9,133
 - Monthly Expenses: \$6,288
 - Savings: \$17,211
 - Age: 36.7
 - Monthly Income-to-Monthly Expenses Ratio: 1.45
 - Savings-to-Monthly Expenses Ratio: 2.74
 - Average Holiday Budget for 2021: \$1,293

Holiday Budget by the top 50 US Cities

1	Flower Mound, TX	\$3,427
2	Sunnyvale, CA	\$3,085
3	The Woodlands, TX	\$3,073
4	Sugar Land, TX	\$3,029
5	Mountain View, CA	\$2,959
6	Ellicott City, MD	\$2,950
7	Naperville, IL	\$2,941

8	Bellevue, WA	\$2,927
9	Carmel, IN	\$2,806
10	League City, TX	\$2,778
11	Milpitas, CA	\$2,710
12	Allen, TX	\$2,688
13	Pearland, TX	\$2,669
14	Maple Grove, MN	\$2,577
15	Cary, NC	\$2,541
16	Troy, MI	\$2,524
17	Plymouth, MN	\$2,499
18	Arlington, VA	\$2,434
19	Newton, MA	\$2,399
20	Columbia, MD	\$2,379
21	Rochester Hills, MI	\$2,338
22	Palo Alto, CA	\$2,276
23	Arlington Heights, IL	\$2,260
24	Pleasanton, CA	\$2,248
25	San Ramon, CA	\$2,231
26	Weston, FL	\$2,228
27	Santa Clara, CA	\$2,219
28	Eagan, MN	\$2,166
29	Cambridge, MA	\$2,157
30	Frisco, TX	\$2,133
31	Shawnee, KS	\$2,130
32	Alexandria, VA	\$2,054
33	Plano, TX	\$2,044
34	Somerville, MA	\$2,038
35	Livonia, MI	\$1,998
36	San Francisco, CA	\$1,981
37	Rockville, MD	\$1,927
38	Seattle, WA	\$1,906
39	Highlands Ranch, CO	\$1,904
40	Kirkland, WA	\$1,902
41	Centreville, VA	\$1,892
42	Fremont, CA	\$1,878
43	Richardson, TX	\$1,857
44	Fishers, IN	\$1,834
45	Yorba Linda, CA	\$1,817
46	Livermore, CA	\$1,797
47	Overland Park, KS	\$1,779
48	Cedar Park, TX	\$1,770
49	San Mateo, CA	\$1,767
50	Farmington Hills, MI	\$1,753

For the full report, visit:
<https://wallethub.com/edu/holiday-budgets-by-city/16912>

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City of San Jose pilot project improves recycling behavior

The City of San Jose's Environmental Services Department has conducted a successful pilot program to improve residents' recycling behavior by providing recycling cart lids with trilingual (English, Spanish and Vietnamese) labels showing what is recyclable and what isn't.

The labels in the pilot were molded into the cart lids and feature images of recyclables and non-recyclables along with easy-to-understand text in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The program, conducted this spring, sampled recycling material from nearly 5,000 single-family homes along five collection routes in north and east San Jose where the graphic labels had been distributed. The contamination rates along those routes dropped by an average of 20 percent.

The citywide contamination rate in 2020 was 51 percent. The average contamination rate for the 4,767 homes in the pilot project was 73 percent.

Recycling contamination occurs when garbage or other nonrecyclable material is placed in recycling carts and when recyclable containers are not emptied of food and liquid. It makes sorting recyclables and finding a market for them more challenging and expensive for processors, which can lead to higher rates for residential customers.

"Our pilot program shows we can make a big difference in recycling behavior by providing residents with information right where they recycle," said Kerrie Romanow, Director of the Environmental Services Department. "We will be rolling out more of these cart lids in phases, beginning with the most contaminated routes."

The study determined the cart lids with educational information were particularly effective at decreasing contamination in

areas with very high contamination rates. The largest decrease occurred among 956 households on a route whose contamination rate, which was 81 percent before the pilot, dropped by 35 percent.

Recycling contamination worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, as San José residents spent more time at home and generated more waste. During the period of April-December 2019 to April-December 2020, single-family homes generated:

- 8 percent more garbage
- 17 percent more recycling
- 33 percent more recycling residue (non-recyclable material removed from recyclables during the sorting process)

While the amount of garbage increased, the City did not see an increase in residents' requests for larger garbage carts, which means some residents likely placed extra garbage in their recycling carts. Environmental Services encourages residents to upsize to a larger garbage cart when needed and recommends purchasing Extra Garbage Stickers for occasional use when they have more garbage than their cart can handle. Residents can visit sanjoseca.gov/311, dial 3-1-1 or call (408) 535-3500 to request larger carts. Extra Garbage Stickers are available at City Hall and San José Safeway and Lucky stores.

The pilot was part of a comprehensive, trilingual Recycle Right outreach campaign to inform residents about how to recycle properly.

Among the campaign's many features is SanJoseRecycles.org, a website that includes a recycling guide that shows what goes where, tips and articles, and a variety of other resources. The website has garnered more than 500,000 users since its 2019 launch.

Times **Local News**

San Jose's ADU program is a successful model for speeding up housing production

By William Bellou
Publisher

What are ADUs?

ADUs are Accessory Dwelling Units and are also known as granny units, in-law flats, secondary units, and backyard cottages. They are now approved by San Jose planning department due to a severe housing shortage and can be innovative and affordable. Some can install them too for extra rental income purposes.

While there is currently an intense debate about the densification of single-family home zoning to multi-unit zoning, a housing initiative called "Opportunity Housing", densification of single-family lots with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) has been legal for many years.

In 2017, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, along with the San Jose City Council, worked to simplify and reduce permitting fees of ADUs as a path to deliver naturally affordable housing to our housing stock. Instead of being met with massive opposition, the community generally accepted densification through ADUs, so much so that this program has become a model for speeding up housing production.

Some two story ADUs now approved by City of San Jose

To accelerate ADU production, SJ City Council reduced regulations to allow for ADUs on smaller lots, allowed for two-story ADUs, increased the ADU square footage limit from 750 sq. feet to 1200 sq. feet, and even allowed for an amnesty program for unauthorized buildings to receive retroactive approval. For ADUs that are 750 square feet or below, the State eliminated park and school fees and the City reduced additional fees that are normally collected to subsidize low-income housing.

Zero percent loans offered

Earlier this year, the San Jose Scaling Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) pilot program was launched to create an innovative financial program offering a 0% interest loan to 20-30 San Joseans to build backyard homes. The pilot program is designed to reduce costs, speed construction, and ease permitting challenges, according to Mayor Liccardo.

San Jose City staff also came up with many ideas to streamline the process, such as assigning an ADU Ally to help deal with permitting problems and to educate the public about the process of building ADUs. The ADU Ally, Sarah Shull, has conducted numerous community meetings, both virtual and in-person, with council members and is currently producing a video to help prospective ADU customers understand the importance of working through our ADU Universal Checklist.

San Jose City Staff has created a preapproved ADU vendor list and preapproved plans to choose from so that people who are interested in building an ADU can have trusted plans and contractors to choose from. City staff also launched a Building Permit Services webpage in March 2020 to accommodate virtual online appointments. These processes are all aimed at streamlining ADU production to help alleviate the housing shortage.

\$25,000 grant program launched

There is more good news on ADU's. The California Housing Finance Agency, CalFHA, has an ADU grant program to



Photo: actonadu.com

For ADUs that are 750 square feet or below, the State eliminated park and school fees and the City reduced additional fees that are normally collected to subsidize low-income housing.

reimburse up to \$25,000 in costs associated with the construction of an ADU. For more information about the CalFHA Grant program and other ADU resources, visit the ADU Corner provided by the Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS®.

Eliminating fees and simplifying the process have yielded massive increases in the number of ADUs being permitted in San Jose. In fact, permits for ADUs have increased from 35 per year in 2016 to 349 in 2020. This year, the Planning & Building Department has already received 350, with an entire quarter remaining in the year. This is a 1000% increase in ADU permits!

While San Jose's efforts to spur development with their ADU programs may not solve our housing supply struggles alone, there is a basic lesson that needs to be learned by their concerted efforts. If we want to increase our housing supply, we need to reduce fees and streamline regulations.

To learn more about the ADU program, visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/business/development-services-permit-center/accessory-dwelling-units-adus

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Times **Feature**

Tech Jargon of the week

Zero Knowledge Protocol

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:

Zero Knowledge Protocol

Zero Knowledge Protocol (ZKP) is a way for doing authentication where no passwords are exchanged, which means they cannot be stolen. This is important in today’s world because it makes your communications so secure and protected that nobody else can find out what you’re communicating about or what files you are sharing with each other.

ZKP allows you proving that you know some secret (or many secrets) to somebody at the other “end” of communication without actually revealing it. The very term “zero knowledge” originates from the fact that no (“zero”) information about the secret is revealed, but the second party (called “Verifier”) is convinced that the first party (called “Prover”) knows the secret in question. Why would you need to prove you know the secret without telling it? When you don’t trust the other person, but still need to persuade them that you know it. So, what does the process look like?

Let us assume there is a blind person and two

balls, one black and one white. You then would like to prove to the blind person that these balls are indeed of differing colors without revealing the individual colors of each ball.

For this, you ask the blind person to hide both balls under the table and bring one ball back up for you to see. After that, he should hide the ball back under the table and then either show the same ball or the other one. As a result, you can prove to the blind person that the colors are different by saying whether he changed the balls under the table or not.

Obviously, the other person might think that you were just lucky and is not yet completely convinced that both balls have indeed different colors. ZKP solve this problem by repeating the experiment repeatedly. After every round, your chance of being consistently right by pure luck goes down by half. So, with 5 rounds, you have a 1 in 32 chance of successfully faking. With 10 rounds, it is 1 in 1024, and with 20 rounds, it is about one in a million. This way one can reach any probabilistic level of proof that is desired, although an absolute certainty can never be achieved.

Actual ZKP do not deal with balls, of course, but proof the validity of any kind of data. This includes financial data or personal data (passwords, names, etc.).

Summarizing, ZKP protocols are not magic. But by understanding how they work; you can add some ‘magical’ security measures to your architectures.

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

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Times **Community News**

"A project this big, this important, with this much land and this many different types of buildings absolutely needs and should have affordable housing on-site," Shoor said.



Cambrian Park Plaza inches toward redevelopment

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Cambrian Park Plaza is a step closer to redevelopment with the release of its draft environmental report.

Located at the intersection of Union and Camden avenues in San Jose with its iconic carousel sign, the reimagined single-story shopping center, which dates back to the 1950s, is a long way from approval. An estimated completion date for the proposed urban village design is not expected until June 2026.

The project is complex and complicated. It requires annexation from Santa Clara County into San Jose, which will begin review in mid-2022. This will place the development into District 9, represented by San Jose Councilmember Pam Foley.

The 18-acre development also requires an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address noise and air pollution, traffic and the impacts on land, vegetation and wildlife. Residents have can submit public comments until Jan. 3.

The design will include 305 apartments, 48 single-family homes with 27 attached accessory dwelling units and 25 townhomes. The village will also provide a 229-room hotel, a senior living center and four acres of open space. Foley has requested the developer build affordable housing.

Alex Shoor, executive director of Catalyze SV, which advocates for sustainable, equitable and vibrant places, said its members would like to see the village include a sports facility, public Wi-Fi and more open space. Although the group appreciates the vibrancy it will bring, it strongly objects to the lack of affordable housing.

"A project this big, this important, with this much land and this many different types of buildings absolutely needs and should have affordable housing on-site," Shoor told San José Spotlight.

The draft EIR found "no significant and unavoidable impacts" to the environment or utility systems from this project. It states all impacts can be reduced to "less-than significant" under California Environmental Quality Act standards by implementing proper mitigation measures.

Some residents remain skeptical. Marylyn Anderson, who has lived in the area for 38 years, said the complex will overwhelm the neighborhood and utilities.

"Every unit requires more electricity and water," she said. "We don't have enough water now and have constant brownouts."

Other residents in the area worry about traffic and the overall aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Peter Clarke, a member of Friends of Cambrian Park Plaza, said residents would like to see lower building heights and have concerns about increased traffic from commuters. He said it's unlikely people who can afford to live at the village will choose public transportation rather than drive. Clarke also doesn't agree with the city's plans to add a cut-through street through the proposed park.

"We'd like families to be able to let kids run around without worrying there's a speeding car coming," he said.

Monica Mallon, chair of the Cambrian Community Council and San José Spotlight transportation columnist, said the planned retail and park will attract people in the surrounding areas, creating traffic issues. She said residents are also unhappy with the proposed height of the buildings and want them to be one or two stories.

"In Cambrian, there aren't a lot of tall buildings," she said. "I live in a two-story building, and it stands out."

The purpose of the EIR is to have a conversation, Foley said. She's hosting a virtual town hall at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 13, and will be joined by city staff and the project's developers to provide information and answer questions.

"It's an opportunity to gain feedback," Foley told San José Spotlight. "It's important we listen to our community and work with them on what they'd like to see. We need to be thoughtful and hear people's concerns."

Cambrian Park Plaza is under new ownership as Weingarten Realty was recently acquired by Kimco Realty Corp., but Kimco has retained Weingarten to continue the plaza's revitalization.

Since 2019, Weingarten has worked closely with Foley's office on redesigning the plaza based on resident feedback, Foley said. This includes moving taller buildings to the corner, creating underground parking for 1,000 cars to make the space more inviting and preserving the beloved carousel sign.

Foley envisions the redeveloped Cambrian Park Plaza as a walkable community gathering place.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to create housing and commercial uses in a signature project," she said. "It's going to be the gateway to Cambrian."

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Symphony San Jose presents American Masters: Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein, Ellington Jan. 22-23

Symphony San Jose presents American Masters January Jan. 22 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

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Conductor: Tito Muñoz
The Program:
Aaron Copland: Appalachian Spring
George Gershwin: Cuban Overture
Leonard Bernstein: On the Town (Three Dances)
Duke Ellington: Black Brown & Beige

Tito Muñoz, conductor: Praised for his versatility, technical clarity, and keen musical insight, Tito Muñoz is internationally recognized as one of the most gifted conductors on the podium today. Now in his fourth season as Music Director of the Phoenix Symphony, Mr. Muñoz previously served as Music Director of the Opéra National de Lorraine and the Orchestre symphonique et lyrique de Nancy in France. Prior appointments include Assistant Conductor positions with the Cleveland Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Aspen Music Festival.

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Symphony San Jose is supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose.

Box office: Call 408.286.2600; www.symphonysanjose.org Or visit the Box Office between 10 a.m. and 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.



Left: Conductor **Tito Muñoz**. Right: **Duke Ellington** poses with his piano at the KFG Radio Studio on November 3, 1954.

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- Walk-in Tubs
- Low-Barrier Showers
- Soaker Tubs
- Accessories and more!

BCI BATH & SHOWER

CALL NOW!

(844) 988-1663

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires December 31, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

Auto Detailing

Diamond Auto Detail San Jose

Has your car or truck lost its luster? Are you embarrassed to be seen in it? Let us bring back the shine with buffing, polishing, color sanding, complete interior treatment, engine steam clean, overspray, paint sealant and more. Appointment is required, please be sure to call ahead to get on her schedule.



Rocio Salcedo
(408) 294-4135
74 S Autumn St
San Jose, CA 95110



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



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.



Sale Pending

\$2,800,000 | 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath
2875 Sq Ft | 10.114 Sq Ft Lot

Amazing Views from Almaden Country View Estates. Multi-level home on a quiet cul-de sac with spectacular views from backyard, kitchen, family room and master bedroom. Living room with stunning fireplace, formal dining room, kitchen with wood flooring, tile counters, and plenty of cabinetry, family room with door to the backyard with fabulous views of the surrounding hills. Three-car attached garage. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.

1136 Starling View Court



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