



Happy New Year!

Here's to a healthy, happy 2022 from the staff of the Times!

JANUARY 2022 ■ VOL. 18, NO. 1

Willow Glen Times

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Photo of **Tito Muñoz** courtesy of the artists and Symphony Silicon Valley

Symphony San Jose presents American Masters 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.

Four composers, whose works defined America in the '30s and '40s, come together on one grand program: George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and Duke Ellington.

Copland's expansive, optimistic Appalachian Spring became known as "the quintessential American sound." In fact, all four composers could stake that claim. Gershwin and Bernstein each gave us a brilliant mix of symphonic music, jazz and Broadway.

Duke Ellington's stunning reflection on Black history from slavery to the Harlem Renaissance is considered one of the greatest examples of long-form jazz. Drawing on the blues, soaring gospel music, work songs, swing, and more, Ellington created an all-American orchestral masterpiece.

Conductor: Tito Muñoz

The Program:

Aaron Copland: Appalachian Spring; George Gershwin: Cuban Overture; Leonard Bernstein: On the Town (Three Dances); and Duke Ellington: Black Brown & Beige

Tito Muñoz, conductor: Praised for his versatility, technical clarity, See *SYMPHONY*, page 2

San Jose mayoral candidate fundraiser triggers COVID-19 case

By **Jana Kadah**

Article courtesy of *San José Spotlight*

A recent fundraiser for San Jose mayoral candidate Dev Davis has resulted in one confirmed COVID case, and a few others feeling symptoms.

The fundraiser, hosted by Davis' campaign team was held at an Almaden mansion owned by Harmoz Barandar, where roughly 100 people attended on Dec. 17.

There were no vaccination checks in place, and little to no people were wearing masks in the indoor space according to attendees.

On Tuesday evening, Davis' campaign team sent an email to attendees about the con-



A Friday fundraiser for San Jose mayoral candidate **Dev Davis**, who represents Willow Glen on the San Jose City Council, has resulted in one confirmed COVID case, and a few others feeling symptoms.

firmed case, as per county protocols.

"We sent out an email as soon as we were aware of the positive case," Davis said.

She has not learned of any more positive cases since, Davis said, but two people reported feeling symptoms. Davis is also awaiting her test results, as of Wednesday

morning.

"We took the measures that we thought were prudent for an indoor event, there was a lot of space available for people and obviously, masks are always encouraged at every event," Davis said.

See *FUNDRAISER*, page 13

Santa Clara County lawmakers choose new political map

New redistricting map does not split Willow Glen neighborhoods

By **Eli Wolfe**

Article courtesy of *San José Spotlight*

After months of intense debate and controversy, Santa Clara County has taken an important step to finalize its political boundaries for the next decade.

The Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 on Tuesday to advance a map known as draft 90195, introduced by Supervisor Cindy Chavez. The map is a variation of the Yellow Map, a controversial option advanced by a coalition of civil rights and labor groups. Supervisors considered eight other maps during their meeting, mostly variations of the Yellow Map.

Supervisors Chavez, Susan



The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting chambers. File photo

Ellenberg and Otto Lee voted in favor of the 90195 Map. Supervisors Mike Wasserman and Joe Simitian voted against it. Chavez's map is a modified version of the Yellow Map, previously known as the Unity Map.

The 90195 Map has a population deviation of 4.1%, meaning it has a relatively equal number of people living in each of the county's five districts. It's similar

to the Yellow Map in that it creates a "majority-minority" Asian-Pacific Islander district in District 3, and maintains a Latino influence district in District 2.

Critically, the map removes Los Gatos and Almaden Valley from District 1 and places them in District 5—a point of controversy that has prompted fierce debates in past meetings and legal questions from opponents. The map

also unites Evergreen, does not split the Willow Glen neighborhood and uses barriers like the Capitol Expressway and the Guadalupe River to create natural district boundaries.

Chavez expressed confidence in the 90195 Map's positive attributes. She acknowledged the challenges of the redistricting process, noting every tweak to an existing boundary line can have significant consequences for residents.

"Every time you touch a census tract it has a ripple effect on another area," Chavez said. "So these were really challenging to put together."

Moving the lines

The Yellow Map, introduced months ago by groups including Silicon Valley Rising Action, Asian Law Alliance and the San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP, upset opponents who claimed it would

See *MAP*, page 12

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Times **Community News**

Kids are now learning math on their phone

New ways of instantly breaking down math solving approaches with cyber help

Ask any middle or high school student which subject is the hardest to find quality help with online, and you will undoubtedly hear that Math remains the most challenging. Backing this up, a recent survey of students showed that math is the number one subject in 35 states that students are struggling with this year alone, making up 35% of the questions alone on Brainly's platform.



This is why Brainly, the world's largest online learning platform and homework help community, created Math Solver, their online feature focused specifically on providing step-by-step solutions to complex math problems.

Math Tutor is available for free as part of Brainly's suite of learning tools and is accessible to all 350M users across 35 countries, on supported mobile and tablet devices.

Math Solver, was created to remove the confusion and anxiety from mathematics and provide users with a clear path to solving even the most difficult algebra problems. By simply taking a photo of the problem, or writing it into your mobile device's touchscreen, Math Solver instantly provides a detailed step by step explanation or a graphic visual of the solution. Math Solver's straight forward, step by step walkthroughs have also been created to help parents, who are often just as stumped as kids are when it comes to assisting with math study.

"During the last year, Brainly continues to be an integral part of how students are learning, with the shift to virtual education," said Patrick Quinn, resident parenting expert at Brainly. "Math has always been the most active topic on Brainly so we know just how helpful this product will be for Brainly users."

If your kid is struggling with Math, you know that they are certainly not alone. These top five states are the ones who struggle with math the most: Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina.

For more personal assistance with all other subjects, Brainly Tutor offers one-on-one instant access to qualified teachers to help solve problems and answer questions in real time. With Math Solver and Brainly Tutor, Brainly provides support to both students and parents looking for help outside of the classroom.

ASK THE DMV

Check some stress off your list and utilize some of DMV's convenient services

Tis the season to...wait in line! Whether it's at the grocery store, the post office or the mall, we've all been there – but don't let the DMV be one of those places.

Now you can add DMV to the "nice list" for not having to wait in line for some online services.

Q: I saw a DMV Now kiosk at my local grocery store. What is used for and how can I use it? Can I use it if I can't make it to the DMV office before the holidays?

A: Yes! If you are unable to make it to the DMV before the holiday season, you can use one of the hundreds of DMV Now kiosks located throughout the state to help complete your vehicle registration renewal, submit proof of insurance, receive a driver or vehicle record, and more.

DMV Now kiosks are convenient and allow you to conduct transactions quickly and efficiently. Simply scan your document, pay the fees using a card or cash (where available) and then print your registration card and sticker, planned non-operation acknowledgment, and more, right on the spot.

DMV kiosks are freestanding self-service touchscreen devices that guide you through various DMV transactions, from registration renewal and payment to submitting proof of insurance. To locate a convenient kiosk near your, visit: www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/locations/kiosks.

Q: My car registration is out of date and I don't have time to visit the DMV before the holidays. Can I renew my registration online?

A: Yes! Skip the line this holiday season and renew your vehicle registration online. The DMV offers a variety of online services that make completing your DMV business easy and efficient, from renewing vehicle reg-

istration to changing your address, or driver's license renewal – and much more! Find a www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv-online you guessed it, online!

In addition to online services, the DMV offers other methods for completing select transactions to help reduce your trips to the DMV and save you time this holiday season, including DMV kiosks and Business Partner Automation (BPA) locations:

Our Business Partner Automation (BPA) program authorizes qualified partners to process vehicle related transactions, including vehicle registration and titling, from their remote locations. Learn more about the BPA program visit www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/vehicle-industry-services/business-partner-automation-program and what transactions can be processed.

For more information or answers to questions not listed here, please visit www.dmv.ca.gov

Symphony

Continued from page 1

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.

One of America's most prolific composers, Duke Ellington is credited with over a thousand works. He often called them 'American Music' rather than jazz. Ellington's 30-year collaboration with composer-arranger-pianist Billy Strayhorn produced not only countless songs but several long-form compositions - suites more at home in concert halls than in, say, Harlem's famed Cotton Club. The greatest of these is Black Brown & Beige.

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.



OP-ED

I saw them kissing

I always wondered why Paris is considered the city for lovers.

As I get older, I begin to realize that perhaps many in our world forget the wonder of kissing.

Holding hands in some ways fades as each decade passes and sometimes partners walk behind one another.

At the local shopping mall, looking up while going down an escalator I happened to view a chance encounter which made me smile.

It was a girl and guy both in their teens, going up the moving stairs and she turned around to hold her man. You see, their heights seem to match as she stood a stair above him. It was all unexpected for him and one could visibly see he was dazed in this somewhat out of place experience.

How I admire her courage to plant a kiss on him while pressing in and all the while facing backward while traveling up.

It was a sight to see and she and he both measured the time of the kiss as they rapidly reached the top peaking once to not fall down and have a kissing catastrophe, while all the while smiling at each other and going back to kissing each other for one more time on the way up. Maybe they knew that the best place to secretly kiss was in full view of all because no one seemed to notice or if they did, everyone seemed to not want to reveal it.

This experience is perhaps the most important in one's life and all unscripted with daring and gallantry. How many such moments have been thwarted by fear to never take place.

I did not want to spy as they walked to the right out of sight but my eyes took in how gleefully he took his arm and like a square-dance tethered it into hers. The girl started a chain reaction of happiness with an innocent boy who perhaps had never been kissed before and he certainly could not have found a better tutor.

My memories I am afraid have become numbed over time but I could reflect decades ago of my personal experiences to find my smile once again.

As I get older, my leg bones seem to need oil to move, I understand more clearly now why in Paris the act of public kissing is applauded. Maybe secret glances by passers by have the strength to reawaken fond remembrances of long-ago romantic interludes inside their sacred souls.

Such chance sights bring hope and joy in our world to know that people can find happiness in connecting with someone they might fall in love with and know that such things cost no money but only take simple courage to achieve.

Holding hands is most important followed by kissing. Perfume and after shave take command of all air particles. There is no better joy in being with the one you love and having the inner mechanisms of emotions not follow directions, teasing mercilessly the logic in one's mind while writing the simplest of love letters to come.

But of course, such mail written in ink, is perhaps a thing of the past.

I only know for sure, that it's good to witness girls and guys kiss in 2021 and hold hands without masks too.

You see, I saw them kissing and it made me smile.

Kevin Larsen
San Jose

*Let there
be peace
on Earth
as we
celebrate
this blessed
season.*

*Fondly,
Jackie*



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IN MEMORY

Mary Joann Gunsaulis

March 22, 1924-
December 1, 2021

Mary (Maria Giovanna Martorano) was born in San Jose and grew up in Willow Glen. She was married to Clifford Gunsaulis in 1951 until his death in August 1989.

Mary worked for Alum Rock Union School District as a Cafeteria Manager at Cassell & Dorsa School. Together they had three children, David Gunsaulis (Chyrl) Linda Gunsaulis Loesch (Donald) & Sue Avila. Grandchildren, Christopher Loesch (Tara) Jennifer Loesch (Brett Cole), Joseph Avila (Amy), Kimberly Avila (Paul Coutts) Jason Avila (Joanna), Michael Avila, Ken Maurer (Rosalie), Trisha Gunsaulis. Great-grandchildren, Gabriella, Leeann, Lyla, Emma, Andrew, Preston, Gianna, Kenny Gunsaulis-Maurer Jr. (Stephanie), Cody, Danielle, Tyler, Ryan, Ethan, Ashlynn and Kylie. Great-great-grandchild: Kenny Maurer III. Many nieces and nephews.

Rosary was held on December 28, at Lima Family Erikson, 710 Willow Street, SJ 95125. Funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church, 325 Willow Street on December 29. Celebration of Life will be held in early 2022.

Willow Glen Times

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Valley Currents

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

San Jose mayoral candidate wants to upend state housing law

By Eli Wolfe

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

A San Jose mayoral candidate is campaigning against a controversial state law to alter zoning in single-family neighborhoods.

Willow Glen Councilmember Dev Davis has repeatedly hammered SB 9 on social media and in a recent op-ed for opening residential neighborhoods to higher-density development. She became the first person in the state to sign an initiative for a 2022 ballot measure to amend the state constitution to give local land use laws precedence over those passed by the state.

"The state making land-use decisions without giving us additional money for our infrastructure is frankly unfair. By essentially nullifying that document it silences our community voices," Davis told San José Spotlight, referring to the city's general plan.

SB 9, which goes into effect in January 2022, allows homeowners to divide properties into two lots that must be at least 1,200 square feet each and build up to four units per lot. Davis, who announced her mayoral candidacy this summer, argues the law is detrimental to neighborhoods because it has no provision for affordable housing and will add massive stress to local infrastructure, such as sewers and roads.

"It's just really important for San Jose to build the density where we have planned for it, and with public input," she said.

Davis' comments have drawn swift condemnation from proponents of the law, who say it's imperative San Jose densify housing and use the law as a stepping-stone toward building up the affordable housing stock.

Zoning power

San Jose is struggling to meet its housing goals in a booming but unaffordable residential market. San Jose officials promised to build 25,000 new homes—10,000 affordable—by 2023, but the city is well below that threshold.

San Jose mayoral candidate opposes state housing legislation

Alex Shoor, executive director of Catalyze SV who was speaking in his capacity as a housing advocate, noted roughly 94% of San Jose residential land is zoned only for single-family homes, which restricts where taller buildings can be located.

"Any councilmember who wants to solve the housing crisis needs to look at the developers, needs to look at their colleagues and con-



A San Jose home going through renovations is pictured in this file photo.

stituents and say, 'we have to build taller buildings, and we have to build them all over the city,'" he told San José Spotlight.

He noted multiplex buildings are already well represented throughout the South Bay and integrate well in the housing landscape.

Kiyomi Yamamoto, staff attorney with the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, said opponents of SB 9 mischaracterize how it will affect cities. The foundation is part of a coalition in support of SB 9 and a similar local initiative called Opportunity Housing.

"Local jurisdictions still have zoning power," said Yamamoto. She added she's disappointed to see misinformation spreading about SB 9, including assertions that it will negatively impact tree canopy and infrastructure.

"Hopefully we can have a fact-based conversation and at least a realistic view of what this actually means for our neighborhoods," Yamamoto told San José Spotlight.

Davis argues SB 9 will ramp up congestion in neighborhoods, which won't further the city's climate goals. She also objected to the idea that she's trying to obstruct housing for other people.

"I have supported and advocated for every affordable housing project that has come before me and advocated for the ones in my district as well," she said.

Inclusion, not exclusion

Roberta Moore, a broker associate who serves on San Jose's 2040 General Plan Task Force, says Davis' detractors are ignoring valid concerns, including the possibility that SB 9 won't create more affordable housing opportunities.

Moore says high development fees will deter people from using the law to build more homes. Instead, she claims SB 9 will be used to build more rental units in residential family neighborhoods.

"That does not create equity—sorry, it doesn't," she told San José Spotlight.

Sandy Perry, president of the Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County, says he's in favor of SB 9, even though he believes it won't create many affordable homes in the long run. But he takes issue with Davis' stance against a policy designed to expand housing opportunities.

"We have to practice inclusion, not exclusion, if we're going to survive as a community," Perry said. "As long as we continue to push people out, try to exclude people and not let certain people live in certain neighborhoods... our city is going to continue to be torn apart."

Contact Eli Wolfe at eli@sanjosespotlight.com or @EliWolfe4 on Twitter.

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Times **Local News**

In annual speech, San Jose mayor says homelessness is city's 'biggest failure'

By Jana Kadah

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** (pictured right) painted a realistic picture of the city's failures while highlighting a hopeful future at his State of the City address on Thursday, Dec. 23.

In his seventh annual address, and second virtual speech, Liccardo discussed the city's biggest issues. He focused on homelessness, public safety, community resiliency and environmental improvements.

The city's biggest failure in Liccardo's eyes—homelessness.

"I take responsibility for that failure and for every unhoused neighbor who is in camps in our parks, our creeks and our sidewalks," Liccardo said. "It's the failure of decisions predicated on the belief that if we just keep doing the same things the same way, eventually progress would come, contrary to the palpable evidence in our streets."

The city's 2019 homeless count showed San Jose had more than 6,000 unhoused residents—a figure that rose 42% from 2017 to 2019. It's also a figure many housing advocates believe is much higher after two pandemic years and the end of the state eviction ban.

Liccardo said the city helped 4,900 homeless residents find permanent housing since the pandemic's start, but the proof of growing homelessness is in the streets as many roads, parks and creeks are still riddled with tents and makeshift homes.

San Jose mayor focuses on COVID-19 recovery in State of the City speech

Sandy Perry, a housing advocate and president of the Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County, said the homeless crisis is "without a doubt" the city's biggest failure.

"The lack of affordable housing is the city's problem, but I just don't agree with their approach because they're long on transitional housing or temporary housing and they're short on permanent solutions," Perry told San José Spotlight.

Liccardo touted new, innovative solutions like transforming motel rooms into interim housing sites and building additional prefabricated homes. His goal for next year is to construct 1,000 quick-build apartments and convert 300 motel rooms.

He advocated for quicker, temporary solutions to be more cost effective and get people off the street quicker—noting 2016's Measure A "gave too many false hope that it would solve homelessness."

"In reality, the first apartment complex funded with that 2016 measure didn't open its doors in San Jose until 2020," the mayor continued.

Public Safety

Liccardo spoke of solutions to improve public safety "without a gun or a badge," like halting police enforcement in high schools and expanding the community service officer program. He also pointed to a program started this year that sends



behavioral and mental health specialists on calls with police.

But advocates within the criminal justice system like Raj Jayadev from Silicon Valley De-Bug said the mayor has done the opposite by increasing funding to police through the purchase of different surveillance technologies without investing in alternatives.

"It's really, quite frankly, insulting knowing that people are dying on the street and they're buying new technologies that exacerbate the suffering," Jayadev said.

"We're seeing just an escalation of people that are having more and more real interactions and dangerous interactions with police."

The mayor said San Jose police are the most thinly-staffed department compared to other major cities in the U.S., which is why he said he didn't listen to protestor calls to defund the police.

"Our neighborhoods invariably tell us that they want to see more police patrols in their neighborhoods, not fewer," Liccardo said.

Environment and community

The mayor also discussed plans to create a more sustainable future—noting the recent vote to make San Jose carbon neutral by 2030—the first city in the U.S. to set such a goal.

He also pointed to the 400 miles of bike lanes recently completed and the installation of 2,000 publicly accessible car chargers for electric vehicles.

Liccardo celebrated the city's investments to curb the digital divide. The city helped connect more than 100,000 residents to free Wi-Fi and equipped more than 60,000 students with laptops, the mayor said.

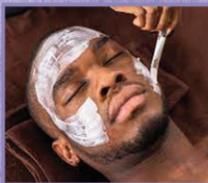
"We continue to pull together to confront unprecedented challenges," Liccardo said. "For all our challenges, San Jose has never shone brighter."

He concluded by saying San Jose is the envy of all other cities because of its innovations and opportunities.

"I've provided you with a glimpse of some of our work so far and of our work together in the year ahead," Liccardo said. "I hold my service to you as my greatest professional honor I relish the privilege of continuing to serve you."



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Times **Travel**



Report: Most popular US national parks on TikTok

Research can today reveal the most popular US national parks on TikTok, and Yosemite National Park is the 3rd most popular on the app.

The team at ParkSleepFly analysed the view counts on TikTok of national park hashtags in the US (& around the world) to reveal the most popular national parks on the app.

You can view the full research here: parksleepfly.com/blog/the-tiktok-national-park-index

It is no secret that Yellowstone National Park draws in tourists from all over the world thanks to its incredibly photogenic landscapes and its unique variety of sceneries: from mountainous landscapes to

waterfalls and forests! This may explain why the national park is the most popular on TikTok, with 630.3 million views, 339 million views ahead of second place.

Second place winner **Denali National Park** (pictured above) is instead known precisely for Denali, the highest peak in North America! The national park received 291.5 million views on TikTok overall.

The national park in the US (& the world) with the lowest number of views on TikTok is Kobuk Valley National Park in Alaska, with only 124 views.

The research also looked at the most popular national parks around the world on TikTok, with 7 US national parks making the top 10 globally.



We believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home.

Now more than ever, we have come to appreciate the importance of a safe place to call home. At RTSV, as a nonprofit we are proud to provide critical and safety repairs at no cost to our local neighbors in need across Santa Clara County. But we can't do it without you.

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We have three programs to help our neighbors in need

Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

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

Contractors We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

Donate Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at www.rtsv.org today.



Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley

408-578-9519

1701 South Seventh Street #10, San Jose CA, 95112
rtsv.org | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Top 10 US national parks on TikTok:

Rank	Name	State	Hashtag	Views
1	Yellowstone National Park	Wyoming Montana Idaho	#yellowstone	630,300,000
2	Denali National Park	Alaska	#denali	291,500,000
3	Yosemite National Park	California	#yosemite	279,800,000
4	Grand Canyon National Park	Arizona	#grandcanyon	249,200,000
5	Joshua Tree National Park	California	#joshuatree	120,800,000
6	Glacier National Park	Montana	#glaciernationalpark	115,000,000
7	Redwood National Park	California	#redwoodnationalpark	95,200,000
8	Zion National Park	Utah	#zionnationalpark	90,100,000
9	Virgin Islands National Park	US Virgin Islands	#virginislands	85,700,000
10	Death Valley National Park	California Nevada	#deathvalley	43,100,000

Top 10 US national parks in the world on TikTok:

Rank	Name	Location	Hashtag	Views
1	Yellowstone National Park	USA	#yellowstone	630,300,000
2	Denali National Park	USA	#denali	291,500,000
3	Yosemite National Park	USA	#yosemite	279,800,000
4	Grand Canyon National Park	USA	#grandcanyon	249,200,000
5	Göreme National Park	Turkey	#göreme	122,900,000
6	Joshua Tree National Park	USA	#joshuatree	120,800,000
7	Glacier National Park	USA	#glaciernationalpark	115,000,000
8	Lake District National Park	UK	#lakedistrict	105,900,000
9	Kruger National Park	South Africa	#krugernationalpark	98,700,000
10	Redwood National Park	USA	#redwoodnationalpark	95,200,000

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- Before you prepare food and before you eat.

Wash your hands **with soap & warm water** -OR- clean your hands **with alcohol-based hand cleaner.**

Santa Clara County PUBLIC HEALTH

California's new composting law: what you need to know

By William Bellou
Publisher

On Jan. 1, a new law requiring Californians to separate organic waste from the rest of their trash will start being phased in.

The groundbreaking new law will forever change the way we dispose of our organic waste, in particular, kitchen scraps.

Senate Bill 1383 requires all residents and businesses to separate such "green" waste from other trash, but the program will be rolled out gradually for homes and businesses in the coming months.

Fines can be levied for failing to separate organic refuse from other trash. But those charges aren't scheduled to begin until 2024. CalRecycle, the state agency overseeing the change, has lots of information about the new requirements on its website: www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/education

Beginning in 2024, state law will allow fines for those who contaminate their organic waste. A first offense could cost you \$50 to \$100, with third and subsequent offenses costing up to \$500.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the new requirements.

Isn't garbage just garbage? Why are California lawmakers requiring us to separate organic waste from the rest of our trash?

Scientists have found that organic waste dumped into traditional landfills decomposes and creates methane, a super-pollutant with as much as 80 times the Earth-warming potency of carbon dioxide.

When do I need to begin separating my kitchen waste from other trash?

The opening date for organics diversion varies, depending on where you live.

Are there alternatives to having the kitchen and yard waste trucked away?

Yes. Food scraps can be composted at home or taken to friends or family who compost or to a community compost location.

What about food that's still edible? Where should it go?

SB 1383 proposes increasing by 25% the amount of edible food that supermarkets and other large outlets preserve. (It does not require residents or small businesses to recycle edible food.) The surplus goes to food banks. Businesses can learn more about donations by visiting FoodDropLA.com.

Who's going to pay for all this?

You are. A survey by the League of California Cities found that most local governments expect refuse collection rates to increase less than 20%, with 1 in 5 cities saying they expect charges to go up more.



Beginning in 2024, state law will allow fines for those who contaminate their organic waste. A first offense could cost you \$50 to \$100, with third and subsequent offenses costing up to \$500.

Survey: More than 1 in 3 Californians avoid posting about politics for fear of being ostracized

More than 1 in 3 Californians avoid posting about politics on social media for fear of being ostracized, survey finds.

- Almost 2/3 want all their social media posts automatically erased when they die.
- 38% say they used their spare time during the course of the pandemic to clear their accounts of any embarrassing post.

If it seems like social media platforms are a hotbed for hatred and hostility, it's because (at least one) appears to have been designed in this way. Indeed, a leaked memo from Facebook a couple of years ago stated: "Our algorithms exploit the human brain's attraction to divisiveness." This was further followed in October, when a whistleblower explained how the company seeks to sow division between users, which is why those who utilize social media platforms would do well to steer clear of posting contentious topics.

Religion and politics are notoriously divisive topics. And nowadays, when people post controversial viewpoints on social media, they're more likely to blow up on the internet given that the algorithms are designed to do precisely that.

Moreover, given how divided our nation is politically, a simple post can bait thousands of other users to comment. Redact.dev, a unique

software that allows you to scan your social media history and automatically remove any contentious posts, conducted a survey of 5,444 social media users across the U.S. This discovered that more than a third (35%) of Californians avoid posting about politics on their social media accounts for fear of being ostracized by the online community. It appears women are slightly more concerned about these fears than men.

The survey also discovered that many want their online legacies removed entirely once they're no longer around to manage their social media profiles. Sixty percent of social media users in California think their entire post history should be completely erased in the event of their death. Perhaps this is because more than 1 in 10 (13%) users are concerned about existing social media content posted in the past, that might now be considered contentious... Some platforms, like Facebook, allow users to appoint a legacy contact, who will have certain rights to the account when the original users die. Google also allows users to plan their post-mortem account management by sharing certain data with a trusted contact via the Inactive Account Manager.

As our knowledge and worldview expands, oftentimes our thoughts and opinions evolve

alongside. This may explain why almost half (46%) of users say they've gone back through their social media history and found their old posts, which are totally different to the opinions they currently hold today. This might also explain why 25% say they've set their social media accounts to 'private' when job hunting...

Lockdown presented many with an opportunity to complete tasks that may have been of lower priority before the pandemic, but still needed to be done sometime. More than a third (38%) of social media users say they used their spare time during the course of the pandemic to clear their accounts of any embarrassing posts.

'If you're concerned about your social media history bearing a negative effect on your future, such as job prospects or your post-mortem legacy, it could be worthwhile for your own peace of mind to go through your accounts and start afresh,' says a spokesperson from Redact.dev. 'This will allow you to alleviate stress about any content you may have posted in the past, which differs from your current thoughts and opinions.'

Survey results illustrated in the following infographic: www.redact.dev/blog/digital-death-cancel-culture

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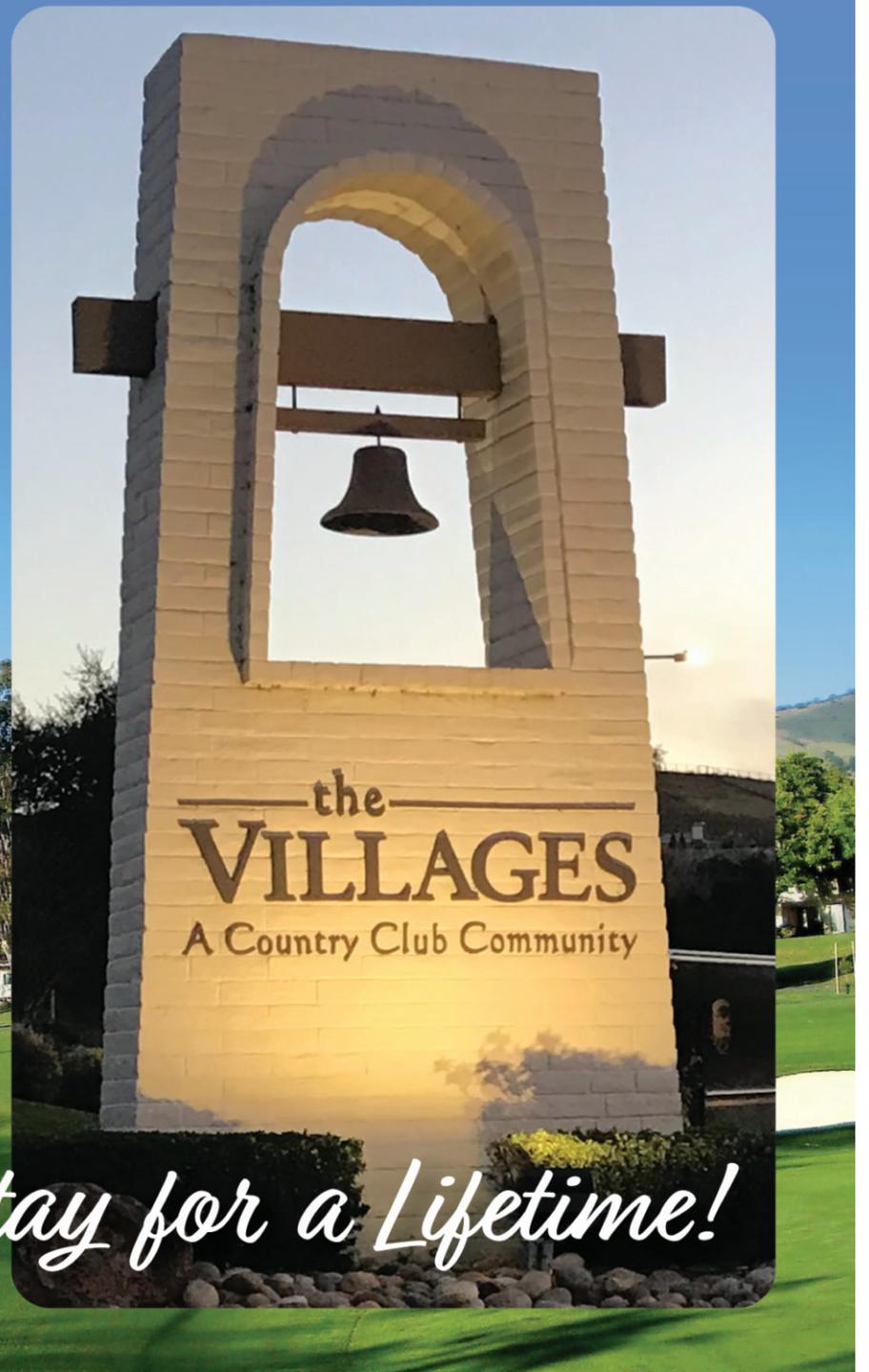
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2022 Hiring Trends

By **Angela Copeland**
Special to the Times



The New Year is here! Just like last year, the world has changed.

Our personal lives and our work lives will continue to look much different than they did in 2019. We've found a new normal. So, what does this mean for hiring in 2022? There are a few trends you should be on the lookout for.

Find Your Style: One of the great things that has come out of the pandemic is remote work. But, remote work isn't for everyone. The good news is, not every company is remote. This means that you, the job seeker, have an opportunity to decide which working style works the best for you. I firmly believe this split of in office, remote, and hybrid work environments will stick around long after the pandemic is over. This is the time to pick your perfect work environment.

Extend Your Search Area: In the past, if there were no jobs in your local area, you had two choices. You could stay with your current employer, or you could move. But, remote work breaks down the barrier of distance. If you're in a small market, you can now fish for jobs anywhere in the country. This opens up the possibilities. In some cases, it can also mean an increase in salary. If you're looking

for remote opportunities, look beyond your local market. And, just because a job posting has a city attached to it does not mean there's no chance of remote work.

Try New Roles: The job market is tight right now. Companies are having a tough time finding talent. This means that when a company tries to find a perfect candidate, they very likely will come up empty handed. For the job seeker, this is great. If you've thought of trying a new career field, this is the time to try. Hiring managers are much more likely to give an underdog applicant a shot when it's hard to find the perfect candidate.

Remote Learning: For years, companies have expected their employees to take charge of their education. When employees stay at an organization for fewer years, the company has less incentive to invest in training. They expect you to show up, ready to work. The problem is, in a remote world, it can be hard to increase your skills and knowledge. It's like you're on an island, focused only on your existing work. But, there are many free online courses available. Use them to keep yourself up to date while you're growing your career.

Whatever you do, don't sell yourself short in 2022. I know that the last two years have been scary. We've faced a lot of unknown together, and in quite an isolated fashion. But, companies are still hiring. And, you are still valuable. Accept that what is normal has changed. Make a new set of goals for the New Year, and let's move forward together.

Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does cherishing life require abolishing abortion?

Dear Editor,

Life begins at the point of conception. No one can deny that after a human being is conceived it will develop into the very same being as those debating this issue.

What astounds me is that those who favor abortion went through an identical development stage as the being they are condemning to death. Would these very same people agree that a similar choice should have been made about their own existence? How many human lives have been lost that could have added to our society in so many ways?

Abortion today is used primarily as a birth control of convenience because people are too self-centered to take precautions. They prefer their own pleasurable self-indulgence over the care and sanctity of the life they created. What ever happened to taking responsibility for one's actions in this country? Is it too much to ask a woman who has conceived to place the child into adoption? Nine

months of discomfort is nothing compared to life in prison for voluntary manslaughter! And what about consenting to sex with a male; is that part of the equation too? Or has abortion just become another extension of the women's liberation movement started in the late 60's which coincidentally boosted membership on or about the same date as Roe V. Wade?

Does the father of the child have a say in this? And what about the constitution of the United States? Are not all people conceived in this country deserving of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? I believe abortion is a crime against humanity and should be outlawed. We need to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision and get back to cherishing life in this country. For a country that murders its children cannot be far from self-destruction.

Back in 1973 a Supreme Court decision {Roe v. Wade} legalized abortion by a 7-2 vote.

Six of the seven justices in the majority were Republican appointees. The only Democrat appointee, Byron White, voted against Roe v. Wade. Back then the Republican motto was government is best that governs least. Hence the Republicans giveth and the Republicans taketh away.

Joe Bialek

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A look at the San Jose city council candidates running for office in 2022

By Lloyd Alaban

Courtesy of San José Spotlight

In less than six months, San Joseans will go to the ballot box to pick their next councilmembers and mayor.

Numerous candidates have already pulled papers, including Cindy Chavez, Dev Davis, Jonathan Royce Esteban, Matt Mahan and Raul Peralez who are vying to become San Jose's next mayor.

Here's a roundup of the candidates who have declared so far in the race by office. (Candidates have until March 11 to file to run for political office in San Jose.)

Half of the City Council's seats — all the odd districts — are up for election this cycle. Districts 1, 3 and 5 are open seats, with the current officeholders terming out, while Districts 7 and 9 have two incumbents running for reelection: Maya Esparza and Pam Foley, respectively. The primary is set for June 2022.

The biggest seat up for grabs this cycle is mayor. Sam Liccardo is terming out in December 2022 after eight years as the city's top elected official and a previous eight years representing District 3.

With nearly half the 11-member City Council potentially changing, June's results could shift council power back toward business interests or strengthen labor's narrow 6-5 majority. San Jose is generally divided between the two political powerhouses — the business lobby and labor unions — and the business-aligned leaders lost their majority last year when progressive Councilmember David Cohen unseated conservative incumbent Lan Diep in District 4.

The top two vote-getters in each race will head to a runoff in November unless one candidate wins by more than 50 percent in June.

Mayor

Next year's biggest prize already has four big-name candidates in the race: Councilmembers Dev Davis, Matt Mahan and Raul Peralez and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. Also in the mix: former Nevada congressional candidate Jonathan Royce Esteban.

Davis, who won reelection to her council seat in November, has pushed hard in recent weeks against SB 9, a state bill that allows homeowners to build additional units in single-family neighborhoods. She's made preserving these suburban neighborhoods a cornerstone of her campaign.

Mahan, who was sworn into his first term of any political office in December 2020, launched his campaign for mayor in September in what he called a "revolution of common sense." Part of that revolution includes building up to 5,000 prefab units on 50 acres of public land, improving policing by holding rogue officers accountable for misconduct instead of defunding police and building housing around transit.

Chavez, who has served on the Board of Supervisors since 2013, has the longest political tenure of anyone in the field. One of labor's most seasoned insiders, she was a vocal leader in the fight to close Reid-Hillview Airport amid concerns that leaked fuel was poisoning the community.

Peralez, a former teacher and police officer, is terming out after eight years representing downtown San Jose. He helped launch a business recovery task force to help downtown businesses weather the pandemic. The son of an immigrant and the first in his family to graduate college, Peralez said homelessness has been his number one priority.

Here's the rest of the mayoral field

Also in the race is Tyrone Wade, a former marriage and family crisis counselor who used to run a homeless shelter. Wade wants to implement serious criminal justice reform, including community policing and review the San Jose Police Department's use of force policy. Wade's first priority would be to reform the children protective services system, he told San José Spotlight.

Another contender is Brian Smith, a political unknown who lives in East San Jose.

District 1

Planning Commissioner Justin Lardinois was the first candidate to declare for the West San Jose seat in April. He's joined by the president of the San Jose Downtown Foundation board, Ramona Snyder. The district's incumbent, Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, terms out next year.

Snyder's Facebook campaign page is light on details, but she's been a force in downtown for years. She is a former chair of the city's Arts Commission and was part of the team that helped build a playground at Sherman Oaks Elementary School.

Lardinois, who has served on the commission since July 2020, is also a former member of the city's Housing and Community Development Commission. His priorities include more affordable housing, more opportunities for first-time homebuyers, sanctioned encampments and safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians.

District 3

Peralez terms out next year and is running for mayor. The downtown seat has flip-flopped between labor and business interests over the years—before Peralez, Liccardo represented District 3 and before him Chavez held the seat. She headed the South Bay Labor Council.

Health care professional and former Congressional candidate Ivan Torres and attorney

Elizabeth Chien-Hale have already declared for the seat. They'll be joined by Gulf War veteran and 2006 City Council Candidate Dennis Kyne, Miles Christopher Linden and Irene Smith.

Kyne, a 15-year Army veteran and insurance worker, previously ran for the seat in 2006. Similar to his prior campaign, Kyne's top priority is ending the homelessness crisis in the city.

Linden declared his candidacy last month. San José Spotlight couldn't find a website or other campaign materials for him.

Smith has lived in the downtown area since 1989, according to her campaign website. She's looking for a different solution to homelessness with a lot more coordination between the county and state.

"No group knows what the other is spending or how the programs might work together. There has been no coordination, no master plan," she says on her website.

District 5

One of the most highly-anticipated council races is the fight for the East San Jose seat.

Three longtime politicians have already declared for the East San Jose crown: Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustee Peter Ortiz, Planning Commission Chair Rolando Bonilla, and former Assemblymember Nora Campos, who held the seat from 2001 to 2010.

Ortiz won election to the Board of Education in 2018, and has kept active in East San Jose's small business community. He wants to launch paid job training programs for the district's unemployed residents, sanctioned encampments and alternative policing, such as community patrols.

Bonilla, a former City Hall insider, created a grant program in February to help East San Jose small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this year, he asked the City Council to spend millions in East San Jose for economic recovery and pressured the council

to increase illegal dumping fees.

Campos is no newcomer to politics. Both she and her brother, Xavier, have represented District 5 on the City Council. Her latest comeback centers around supplying East San Jose businesses with resources to survive the pandemic.

Radio anchor H.G. Nguyen is the latest to join the race.

Nguyen doesn't have an official campaign website, but she has been active in the city's Vietnamese community. She hosts San Jose Co Gi La, a local Vietnamese language radio station.

Nguyen and husband Thuan Nguyen ran the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce of Santa Clara Valley, according to a report by the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

District 7

Incumbent Councilmember Maya Esparza, former director of Destination: Home's homeless veterans campaign, has filed for reelection.

Esparza will face two Vietnamese Americans for the East San Jose seat: San Jose Fire Captain Bien Doan and East Side Union High School District Board President Van Le. Esparza is expected to draw significant support from the city's labor camp.

Esparza defeated former Councilmember Tam Nguyen in 2018 leading to a loss in Vietnamese representation — compounded by Diep's loss in 2020. Vietnamese leaders are eager to win back a seat for their community.

District 9

After coasting to victory in 2018, incumbent Pam Foley officially announced her run for reelection on Thursday. She currently has no competition, according to the city's filings.

"It has been an honor to represent the neighbors of District 9 on the San Jose City Council," Foley said in a statement. "We have been able to accomplish so much—but we still have much more to do."

Superheroes spread good holiday cheer

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

Kindergarten students at Alex Anderson Elementary School in San Jose couldn't believe their eyes when a group of superheroes dropped in for a visit.

"This is the best day ever!" shouted the kids.

Batman, Superman, Captain America, Captain Marvel and Thor arrived ready to spread good cheer. They were accompanied by the Mandalorian, much to the excitement of the young Star Wars fans.

Interacting with the kindergarteners came naturally to Sean Bassett, who played the Mandalorian, as he has a five-year-old daughter. He remembers seeing costumed characters when he was young, including his father who dressed as Darth Vader to bring joy to children.

Bassett said being able to follow in his father's footsteps and do something for kids meant a lot to him.



The children's faces lit up even more when the superheroes gifted them with teddy bears. David Watkins, dressed as Batman, was delighted to hear the children's squeals and peals of laughter.

"It feels great seeing the kids' expressions," Watkins said. "This is why we're all here."

The superheroes were also able to distribute teddy bears, donated by Raley's Nob Hill, to students at Horace Cureton, Earl Frost, Hayes and Oak Ridge Elementary Schools.

Principal Sarah Kates-March said it was nice for the kids to see life can still be magical. She told the superheroes she was grateful to them for bringing joy to children who hadn't had a lot to look forward to lately.

"These days with COVID...happiness is the

greatest gift," she said. "I can't imagine a better gift around the holidays."

Instructional Assistant Gretchen Siri said it was exciting for the kids to see some of their heroes in person. Siri also appreciated their giving out gifts.

"Some of these kids might not be getting too much for Christmas," she said. "So, this is really nice for them."

Lam said when he hands a child a bear and sees their smile and the excitement in their eyes, there's nothing like it. Nitschke agrees.

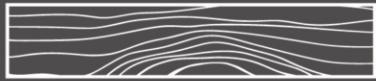
"Seeing their joy, I want to spend the rest of my life doing this," he said.

Pictured above: **Captain America, Thor, Superman, Batman, the Mandalorian and Captain Marvel** brought joy to kinder students at elementary schools throughout San Jose.

Times **Local News**



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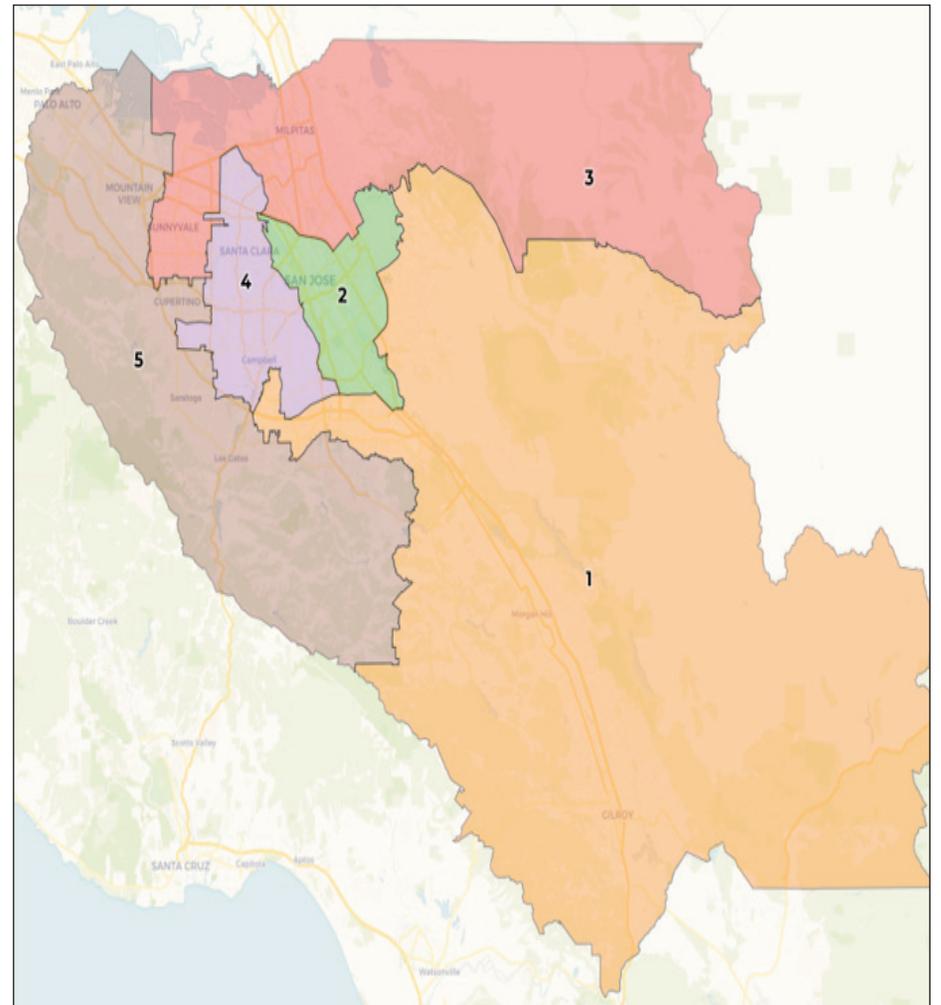
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Map

Continued from page 1

dilute conservative power in District 1 by cleaving off Almaden Valley and Los Gatos.

Gerrymandering accusations

Several community leaders accused the map of gerrymandering because it would exclude two candidates from the District 1 election—former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis and Los Gatos Vice Mayor Rob Rennie. They also raised last-minute legal issues and claimed Chavez should have been barred from voting due to alleged conflicts of interest.

The Santa Clara County Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve the 90195 Map, introduced by Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Chavez said the 90195 Map improves on the Yellow Map by reducing the population imbalance between districts and improving contiguity and compactness of borders—criteria required by state and federal law for jurisdictions engaged in the once-in-a-decade redrawing of political lines.

Wasserman reintroduced the EE 2.0 Map, an option discarded at a November meeting. He said it deserved consideration because it has the lowest population imbalance of any proposal at 1.2%. He said the county currently has a 17.2% deviation, well above the state guideline of 10%.

“I attribute a lot of that to the fact we didn’t start with the lowest deviation possible 11 years ago,” Wasserman said.

Residents still unhappy

Residents in favor of Chavez’s map largely echoed what has been said of the Yellow Map: that it will provide better representation to communities historically marginalized in county politics.

“It provides our citizens with equity because of the fact that we will have a voice in South County as opposed to the way it’s set up now,” said resident Marty Estrada.

Several residents spoke in favor of the EE 2.0 Map, arguing it has the lowest population deviation and maintains cultural continuity in South County.

“South County fundamentally differs from the rest of Santa Clara County in that our residents do not enjoy the job growth, transportation services or income level as the rest of the county,” said Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley, adding the addition of four San Jose communities to her district will dilute representation of rural residents.

David Noel, president of the Erikson Neighborhood Association, unsuccessfully urged a last-minute recusal before the vote.

“I respectfully ask Supervisor Chavez to abstain from voting on district maps given her close association with the groups that funded and created the map,” Noel said. Several conservative leaders claim Chavez should have been barred from voting on the Yellow Map because she previously worked for South Bay Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA, both of which participated in creating the map. They also claim there is a conflict of interest because Chavez participated in a fundraiser for Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine, who is running for the District 1 supervisor seat.

The board asked the county surveyor to prepare a description of the adjusted supervisorial boundaries, and for County Counsel to report back on Dec. 14 with a resolution of the redistricting plans.

Contact Eli Wolfe at eli@sanjosespotlight.com or @EliWolfe4 on Twitter.

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Times **Local News**

Fundraiser

Continued from page 1

An individual at the event who preferred to remain anonymous said the doors and windows in the house were open, which likely helped curb the spread.

"But I would have felt better if there were at least vaccination checks, mask wearing measures or at least other measures in place, so that at least we can reduce the risk," the individual said.

The fundraiser hosted many longtime South Bay politicians including former San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis; Tim Beaubien who was formerly with the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors along with its current CEO Neil Collins; San Jose Downtown Foundation board president Ramona Snyder who is running for the San Jose District 1 seat and San Jose District 3 candidate Irene Smith.

The anonymous guest continued that they have since tested negative from a rapid test, but is still feeling weary.

"I got nervous after the fact realizing that I have to quarantine myself for holidays, and it's a really terrible feeling to

Davis said this fundraiser was not unlike other fundraisers hosted around the city and county, however she will be doing things differently moving forward.

have this happen right before the holiday season," the individual said. "Our county is at 80% fully vaccinated, so I mean, there's statistically at least a one to five chance that somebody there was not."

Davis said this fundraiser was not unlike other fundraisers hosted around the city and county, however she will be doing things differently moving forward.

"I think we will probably not have any more indoor events," Davis said. "And I hope the weather will get better so that we can have outdoor events going forward in the campaign."



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Times **Local News**

VTA recovers nearly half of pre-pandemic weekday ridership

Shortage of bus drivers keeping VTA from offering full services

VTA's weekday transit ridership has reached 47% of pre-COVID levels as of November 2021 – a marked increase over the 30% recovery rate this time last year.

The improvement in ridership comes after the agency fully restored daytime weekday operations in its October 11 schedule update.

The bulk of recent ridership growth is concentrated on VTA's Frequent Bus lines,

which are seeing nearly two-thirds of normal rider counts back onboard. Weekday bus ridership overall has risen to 52% of pre-pandemic levels. The rates of weekday ridership recovery broken down by service category are as follows:

- Frequent: 59% of pre-COVID weekday ridership recovered
- Local: 50% of pre-COVID weekday ridership recovered
- Rapid: 49% of pre-COVID weekday ridership recovered
- Light rail: 31% of pre-COVID weekday ridership recovered

Express: 25% of pre-COVID weekday ridership recovered

"The need for reliable, safe public transit has continued to ring true throughout the pandemic," said VTA Chief Planning and Programming Officer Deborah Dagang. "And the trajectory for VTA's service restoration aims to improve service for everyone, especially those who rely on it most."

The rate of VTA's weekday ridership recovery is accelerating. While most years see a dip in riders between October and November, this year saw an increase in that timeframe as bus ridership remained steady and light rail increased by nearly 1,000 passengers.

The accelerated recovery speaks to the effectiveness of investing in the system's core service, which was a cornerstone of the New Transit Service Plan that launched in December 2019.

This ridership return is both local and regional. Routes like the Rapid 500 between Berryessa BART and Downtown San Jose/ Diridon saw weekday ridership nearly double in September 2021, compared to June 2020 when BART service launched in North San Jose.

To date, the amount of transit service VTA is offering is at 90% of pre-pandemic levels. A shortage of bus operators is keeping VTA from running full service.

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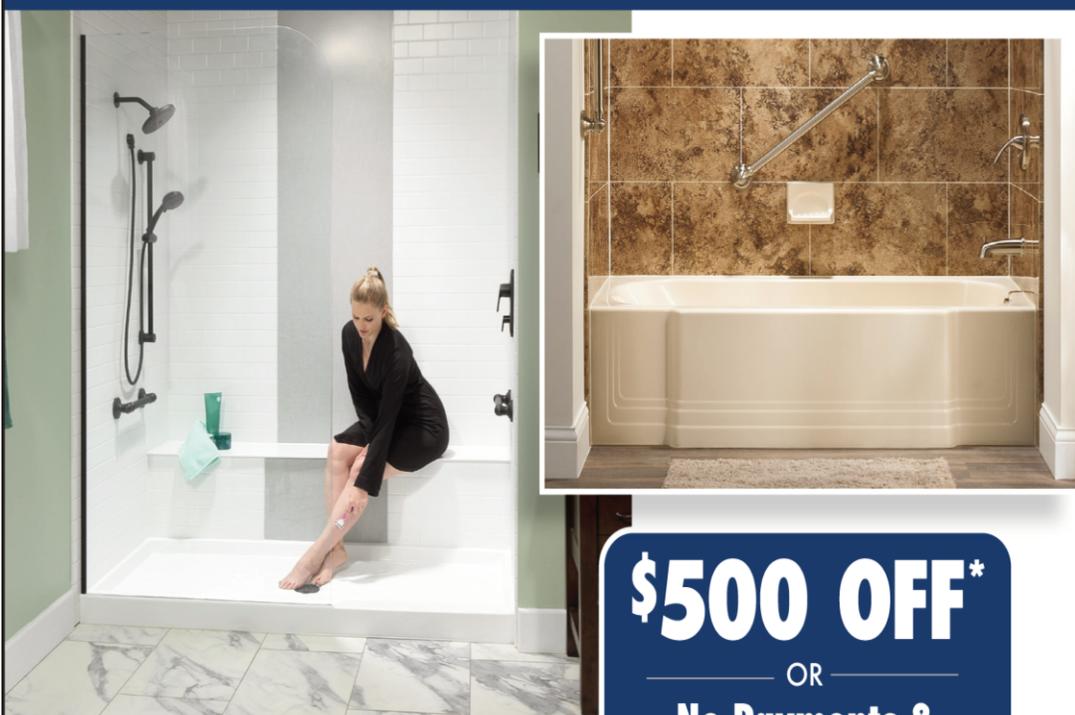
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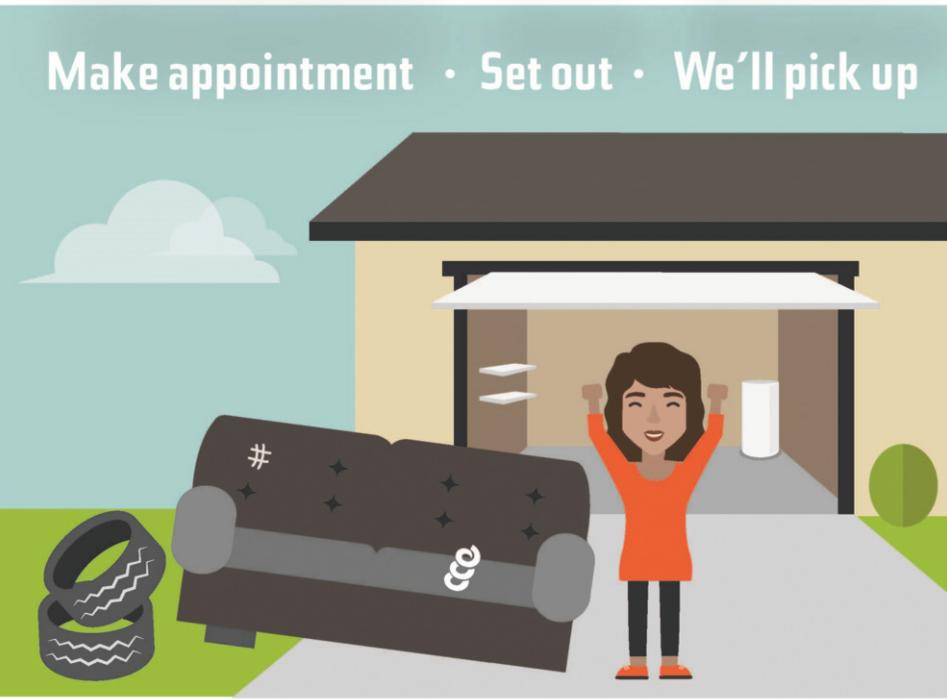
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