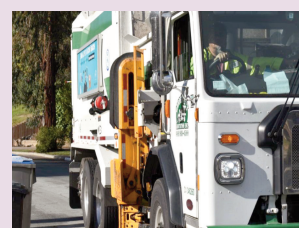


Residents express concern with allowing non-citizens to vote
SEE PAGE 4



Shade harder to find
San Jose loses 1,728 acres of trees between 2012-18
— **SEE PAGE 4**

State law changes what Silicon Valley residents can throw away
SEE PAGE 19



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Almaden Times

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JAN. 21 – FEB. 3, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 2



Rain totals reported for Almaden Valley for recent storms

Rain totals for the area's most recent storms are being reported from private rain gauges in Almaden Valley.

Rain was on and off for over a week and Almaden Valley received a total of 4.08 inches bringing the year-to-date total to 9.79 inches.

The calculations for year-to-date totals began October 1.

Danielle Chang of Almaden named to Wheaton College (Ill.) Dean's List for Fall 2021 Semester

Wheaton College student, Danielle Chang of Almaden Valley has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester.

To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

San Jose mayoral candidate Matt Mahan leads pack on fundraising

By Eli Wolfe
Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Cash is flooding into San Jose's mayoral race—a sign the election is going to prove costly for all contenders.

Councilmember Matt Mahan leads the way, raising \$504,000 from roughly 1,000 donors during the first 23 days of San Jose's fundraising period. Mahan, a tech entrepreneur who announced his mayoral campaign a little over a year after being elected to the City Council, credits his early fundraising success to peer-to-peer organizing.

"The most promising sign of support we've seen has been the dozens of neighbors across the city who have already organized or signed up to organize a house party to introduce our campaign to their neighbors," Mahan told San José Spotlight. "We're meeting hundreds of San Joseans through these grassroots events."

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez trails behind Mahan's fundraising with \$474,000 from 955 donations. In an email to her supporters, Chavez said her campaign has drawn



San Jose Councilmember **Matt Mahan** announced his mayoral campaign in September. *File photo by Lloyd Alaban.*

supporters across San Jose, from Berryessa to Willow Glen, and throughout the greater Bay Area.

Chavez, who did not respond to requests for comment, held a virtual fundraiser on Dec. 30 featuring as guests Rep. Zoe Lofgren, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and former Supervi-

sor Ken Yeager. 49ers legend Ronnie Lott appealed to supporters in a video, while the team's top executives have publicly endorsed Chavez.

Councilmember Raul Perez said he's raised about \$264,000. Perez, who is competing with Chavez for the support of powerful labor organizations in the South Bay, said he deliberately chose to not hold any in-person events during December due to the rapid spread of the highly contagious omicron variant.

"I think it was a wise decision, personally," Perez said. "We were able to raise significant

resources in three weeks, and we've got a good start now and we'll keep going."

Councilmember Dev Davis experienced first-hand the risk of holding in-person campaign events. San José Spotlight reported that at least one person contracted COVID-19 after attending a Davis fundraiser held in mid-December at an Almaden mansion. The event, which held about 100 people, did not have a vaccination check and few people wore masks, according

See MAHAN, page 21

2022 Leland Bridge Night to return as an in-person event February 5

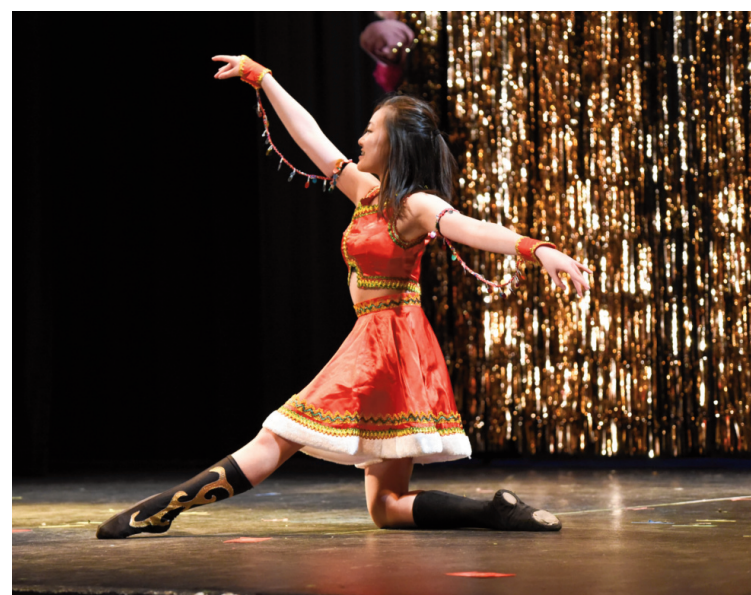
It's Leland Bridge Night again! This year's Leland Bridge Night will be held on Saturday, February 5th from 5 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leland High School Cafeteria. The in-person event will feature several performances and also include a raffle.

Leland Bridge Night is the annual fundraising event hosted by Leland Bridge, a nonprofit organization of Chinese American parents dedicated to promoting communication between Leland High School and more than 300 Chinese American families living in and

around the Leland area of Almaden Valley.

Since 2018, this event has sold more than 400 tickets and raised more than \$20,000 for Leland High School annually.

Funds raised through this event are used to renovate the school's Media Center and Cafeteria, update school equipment, subsidize course instructors, assist Leland's landscaping and recycling efforts, and enhance programs at Leland including Speech & Debate, Music, Journalism, Robotics, and college application essay reviews.



A traditional Chinese folk dance featured at the 2019 Leland Bridge Night event.

To purchase tickets, visit:
<https://forms.gle/mhTcc12Ho6oi5Vyy9>

For more information, contact Leland Bridge Treasurer by email, finance@lelandbridge.org.

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Right in the heart of Sunnyvale sits this lovely two-bedroom, two full bathroom condominium inside the desirable Compass Place development. Inside, its open concept floor plan and well-lit, airy atmosphere make for comfortable home living and remote work with plantation shutters, vinyl wood plank flooring throughout and updated bathrooms. Just off the living room sits a charming patio perfect for grilling and year-round alfresco dining. This welcoming space features an open kitchen, dining and living area with in-unit laundry and a pantry for additional storage. Situated on large open greenbelt with wonderful community amenities such as the swimming pool, gazebo and children's playground. The location is ideal for commuters, just off the 101 freeway and close to Google, Apple, restaurants and shopping.

Home Summary

- 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1,174 square feet
- Abundant light
- Bathrooms are both updated
- Plantation shutters
- Vinyl plank wood flooring in main living area
- Attached garage
- Spacious utility room with tile floors and plenty of storage
- Alarm system
- Ground level unit at back of complex opens to vast greenbelt
- Amenities include large open space greenbelt, sparkling swimming pool, gazebo, and children's playground
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Matt Mahan speaks at Jake's Pizza in West San Jose in late 2021, discussing several important issues with community members. Photo: Instagram (mattmahansj)

Residents express concern with allowing non-citizens to vote

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

The City Council's recent controversial proposal to allow San Jose non-citizens to vote in local elections dominated Councilmember Matt Mahan's Jan. 13 Chat with Matt community forum. Some residents took Mahan to task for voting for the City Council to pursue a study session on this topic, but Mahan said it would be better to have a discussion than for it to be placed on the ballot without one.

Stating that Mahan "sold out" and should "grow a spine," resident Rich Crowley said allowing non-citizens to vote challenges citizenship rights.

"I don't think it's a bad thing having the city have this conversation," Mahan said.

Another resident, Oleg (last name unavailable), said as an immigrant, he worked hard to become a U.S. citizen and felt betrayed by Mahan's vote.

Mahan clarified that he didn't agree to allow non-citizens to vote, just to have that conversation. He

*Also see:
San Jose City councilmembers seek to extend voting rights to noncitizens, page 18*

said he was glad to have the opportunity for people to weigh in at a future meeting.

"I'm in favor of open debate," he said. "We shouldn't be scared to publicly discuss and debate tough issues...This push to shut off discussion of the topic simply won't work and it isn't good for our community in the long run."

Some residents agreed with Mahan.

John Mogannam said it is a "good idea" to have study sessions. Laurie Boggs said Mahan "bought time" to possibly keep this issue from getting to the ballot and provided an opportunity for citizen input.

Mahan said he believes voting is a privilege and a duty associated with citizenship, but he said many community members feel strongly that those who have been living and working in the city for decades and paying taxes should have a voice in their local elections.

The proposal to allow non-citizen residents to vote in future local elections came as a surprise at the Jan. 11 City Council meeting, Mahan said. But the City Attorney allowed the topic to be considered, ruling it germane, he said.

In his newsletter, Mahan said he'd prefer to see Congress create a pathway to citizenship for those working and paying taxes than a dilution of the concept of citizenship.

"While I welcome open and robust conversation about any topic that is important to thousands of residents and the governance of our city, I do not see myself supporting this proposal," he wrote. "Fortunately, the Council cannot make this decision unilaterally--we can only put it on the ballot for the community to decide."

Valley Currents

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



San Jose City Arborist Russell Hansen cannot say for certain what happened to all the trees that are gone, though potential explanations run the gamut from climate change to removal for property development to poor maintenance to insufficient planting.

San Jose loses 1,728 acres of trees between 2012-18

Report: Canopy could cover less than 10% of city by 2030

San Jose is now facing a "shade tree crises."

The nation's 10th largest city's tree canopy that shades it has dwindled by 1.82% between 2012 and 2018, which 1,728 acres of public and backyard trees, or the equivalent of 2.7 square miles, according to a recent analysis by the U.S. Forest Service.

What is astounding is that the latest analysis leaves only 13.5% of San Jose covered by trees, compared to 28% of Seattle, 27% of Boston and 40% of Pittsburgh.

A new 242-page city report — the Community Forest Management Plan — reveals how decades of underinvestment and mismanagement led to the current state and warns that the damage could continue unless corrections are made.

Experts say that trees offer many benefits, such as lowering temperatures which is especially important to counteract high temps

due to global warming. Other benefits of trees include filtering the air, reducing flooding and providing shelter. Those living in areas with little tree coverage are more vulnerable to pollution, extreme heat and potential health problems.

Poor areas lacking shade

For San Jose's poorer neighborhoods, the situation is worse with roughly half as much shade and greenery as the city's wealthier parts, according to the study.

"I see this not just as an environmental injustice that has to be corrected but I see this truly impacting our mental health, education and everyday life," said Councilwoman Magdalena Carrasco, who represents East San Jose.

San Jose City Arborist Russell Hansen cannot say for certain what happened to all the trees that are gone, though potential explanations run the gamut from climate change to removal for property development to poor maintenance to insufficient planting.

While the city's goal is to reach 20% tree coverage by 2051, we could see a drop below 10% by 2030 at the current pace, according to the city report. The plan addresses the need for 40,000 trees needing to be planted to recover 1% of lost canopy cover. The city set aside \$210,600 in this year's budget to plant 250 trees in city-owned park strips in East San Jose.

San Jose's Community Forest Program currently has a budget of approximately \$4 million, and the city's parks department — which maintains more than 30,000 trees — has just \$150,000 a year for tree services. To manage all of the trees on public property and right-of-ways, the program would need an additional \$20 million to \$24 million a year, the city estimates.

The city recently failed to take full advantage of a \$750,000 grant from Cal Fire that could have paid for a full public tree inventory. The city's transportation department left nearly \$460,000 on the table by failing to meet the grant requirements.

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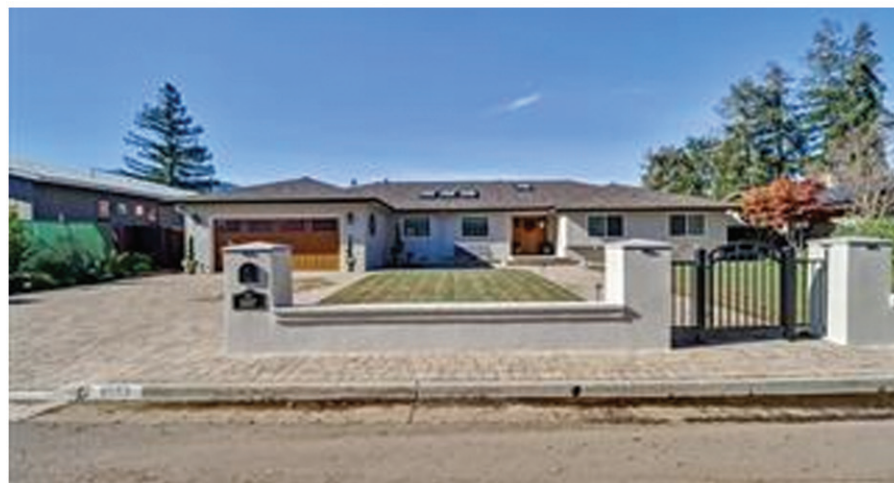


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Times **Feature****TENNIS TIPS****Seven tips to annoy your opponents**

By Ken DeHart

Do you play Ugly Tennis - and win?

As much as I would like to smash ground strokes and serves like the pros do, I don't have the practice time or the skill level - YET!



But guess what; even the pros annoy their opponents. They hit ground strokes and serves that annoy their opponents on purpose. Often time the way to win a match is not to play the game you would like to play, but play a game that your opponent does not like to play against.

We all play pretty well when our opponents hit wonderfully predictable balls with nice power that are just like the balls we hit in practice or in a lesson. While these shots make us feel like real players, they do not often win because those are the shots my opponents practice against.

Annoying shots, or as Brad Gilbert so perfectly put it, "Winning Ugly" destroys an opponent's rhythm. These shots make it challenging for an opponent to rip winners and over power you. In fact they often do not like to play against you. They usually explain at the end of the match, after they have lost to you, I just couldn't hit my shots today. I smile and think to myself, because I didn't let you.

Here are some famously annoying or ugly shots you should add to your game to make opponents fear you.

1. A soft loopy serve (or a kick serve) that bounces above their strike zone.
2. A weird sidespin serve that trails away from them or curves into their body.
3. A surprisingly fast serve following a series of off speed serves that catches the opponent off guard.
4. A loopy high return of a serve or ground stroke that makes the opponent move backwards to return your shot. This often results in them hitting the ball short to you so you can attack.
5. A short underspin chip shot or drop shot that makes your opponent have to sprint to the net to retrieve the ball. Follow that up with a lob over their head so they have to retreat and chase the ball down. When they go back, you come to the net to use an overhead, volley or approach shot to win the point.
6. A series of shots to the opponent's backhand until you receive a short ball. Now you hit wide to their forehand side to run them off the court (should they happen to get to the forehand shot, then a smart shot again to their backhand and you control the court).
7. When you receive a ball that lands short enough in your court, quickly follow your shot to the net as a surprise tactic. Make them feel the pressure of you taking away their space to place the next shot. With this tactic they usually panic and miss their attempted passing shot.

If you practice any of these 7 annoying tips, you will have weapons to destroy an opponent's confidence, change the momentum in a match and improve your match play results.

A word of caution, it is important to practice any of these tactics in your practice matches so you will feel comfortable using them in your next important match. You will love hearing your opponent complaining after your victory how they just couldn't get their shots to work today!

Here's to an annoyingly successful improvement in your game.

Ken DeHart, USA High Performance Coach, serves as Director of Racquets, Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club. He is a PTR Hall of Fame, PTR International Master Professional, and USPTA Master Professional. You may contact Ken at 408.892.3806; or email: kendeheart@aol.com; ken@alpinehills.us

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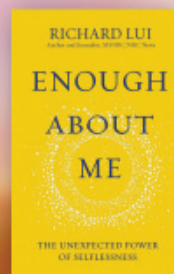
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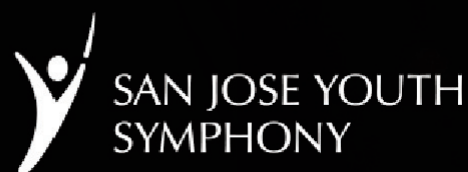
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Times **Community News****Op ed****Americans would pay a heavy price for amnesty**

By Mark Thies

Clemson professor

Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill are scrambling to find a way to amnesty illegal immigrants in their nearly \$2 trillion budget bill.

The Senate parliamentarian, who decides what provisions can and can't be included in the bill that's being advanced under the filibuster-proof "reconciliation" process, shot down their first two proposals. So now, lawmakers are proceeding with "Plan C" -- which would grant illegal immigrants "parole," a status that gives illegal immigrants work permits and a reprieve from deportation, without immediately granting them green cards.

Lawmakers are also plotting to expand legal immigration levels. All told, their current plan would increase the number of immigrants living and working in this country by several million people at a minimum.

Such rapid growth will put immense strain on our resources, both financial and natural, and the ensuing damage to our environment threatens to set progress there back by a generation or more.

Our country is not underpopulated by any

reasonable reckoning. Schools are already overcrowded, especially for young children. California, for instance, would need to build a new school every day for five years to provide class sizes of 15-19 students. Over the next 50 years, immigration is set to account for 96% of the increase in school-age children.

Mass migration is making life more difficult -- and expensive -- for working-class citizens. Just like everyone else, migrants need a roof over their heads -- so they compete against low-income Americans for our scarce supply of rental housing. Nationally, the median rent has surged over 16% since January, in part because of competition from new arrivals.

Environmental groups pretend to be blissfully unaware that adding so many people to

the population does irreparable harm to the environment.

Transportation is another example: more people mean more cars, gas or electric, creating more traffic and more emissions (electric cars pollute too -- albeit at the power plant, rather than the tailpipe). More development requires the clearing of woods and fields to make way for pavement and parking lots. Federal data shows that around 90% of open space lost in the past decade -- both urban and rural -- can be attributed to population growth. Yes, more and more of our unique outdoor heritage is being lost.

This sprawl comes with serious environmental and health consequences, threatening wetlands critical for clean water and flood pro-

tection as well as harming endangered species. The American Southwest, in particular, faces a dystopian future of water shortages as its population skyrockets. Lake Powell just above the Grand Canyon is now at 29% of capacity, an all-time low, an astounding 156 feet below full capacity.

Poll after poll shows that amnesty is unpopular -- as we all see right before our very eyes that such an unsustainable flood of migrants is worsening the quality of life for all. The only question is whether our leaders will grow backbones before it's too late.

Mark Thies, Ph.D. is an Engineering Professor at Clemson University whose research is focused on energy and sustainability. This piece originally ran in The Hill.

Senator Cortese's bill to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking moves forward

State Senator Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley) made the following statement regarding his bill SB 435, The Ending Online Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation Act, passing through the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, January 12th.

SB 435 which is meant to "put an end to human trafficking in the digital age" is sponsored by the California Women's Law Center and supported by a broad coalition of advocates for ending sexual assault and

exploitation including the Audrie Pott Foundation, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Democratic Activists for Women, the Enough Is Enough Voter Project, Equality Now, Feminist Majority, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, the Silicon Valley Democratic Club, and Women's March San Jose.

"The coalition behind SB 435 is committed to empowering victims of 'digital trafficking' and ending online sexual exploita-

tion as swiftly as possible. I'm appreciative of my colleagues for listening to survivors of this type of online abuse and for advancing this important measure."

"I want to be very clear -- this bill only seeks to eliminate the circulation of online content of a sexual nature that is shared, distributed, or uploaded against a person's will as well as the sharing of child sexual abuse material online. Victims of this form of exploitation deserve some form of recourse and our civil code, as it stands, simply doesn't afford them that. SB 435 is a first-in-the-nation bill to end the trafficking of nonconsensual digital sexual material that has become increasingly pervasive nationwide."

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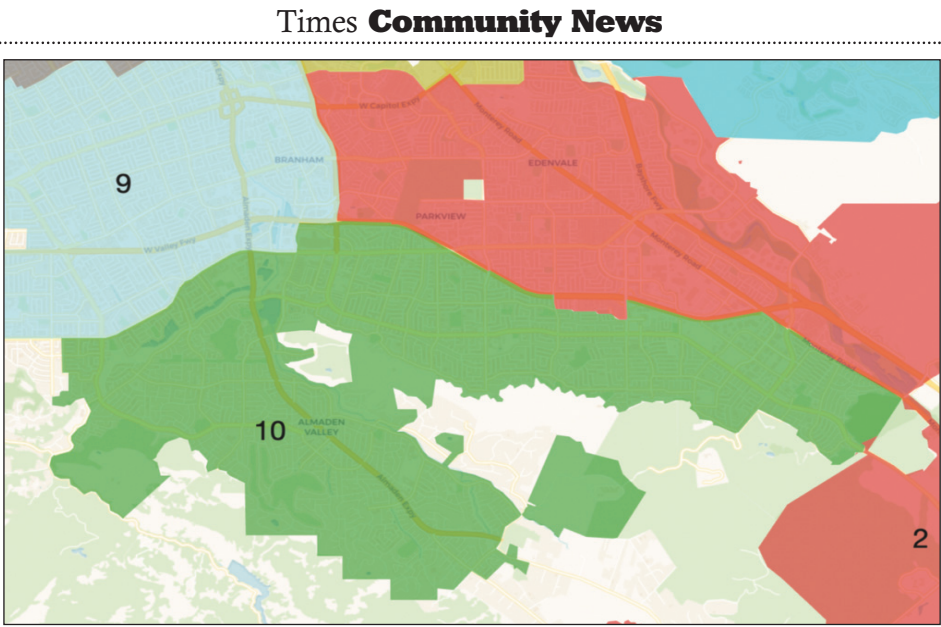
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District 10 boundaries change significantly

By **Matt Mahan**
Special to the Times

I hope your new year is off to a great start! My team and I are honored to continue serving you in 2022 as we work together to make our city safer, cleaner and more prosperous for our entire community.

As of last week, our District 10 boundaries have changed significantly due to the City's once-in-a-decade redistricting process. I want to welcome the more than 20,000 former District 2 residents who live along the Santa Teresa Foothills and who are now part of District 10. While I will no longer formally represent roughly the same number of residents who live north of Highway 85, our office will continue to monitor and support projects we started together, from the roundabout at Hillsdale and Vista Park to the traffic signal and new Martial Cottle Park entrance at Kingspark and Branham Lane. Please be in touch and don't hesitate to reach out if our office can be of assistance. Finally, I want to thank District 10 resident Lenka Wright for her service as the D10 representative on the Redistricting Commission.

Above is a map of the new District 10 boundaries, which will be in effect for the next 10 years:

District 10 retains Almaden Valley and Blossom Valley, but now includes the Santa Teresa Foothill neighborhoods all the way to Coyote Valley. To view an interactive online version of the map, visit the following url: <https://bit.ly/sjredistrictingmap>

Last week, the Council also took up an unexpected proposal made by two of my colleagues to allow non-citizen residents of San Jose to vote in future local elections. Obviously, this is a significant and controversial proposal. My starting place in this discussion is that I've always viewed voting as a right and duty associated with citizenship. Personally, I would prefer to see Congress create a pathway to citizenship for people who have been working and paying taxes in our country for many years, rather than begin to dilute the concept of citizenship.

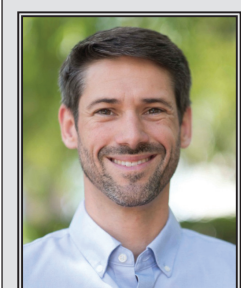
After listening to lengthy public comment about the topic last Tuesday, Council agreed

to schedule a future conversation during which I hope to hear from a more representative sample of residents. While I welcome open and robust conversation about any topic that is important to thousands of residents and the governance of our city, I do not see myself supporting this proposal. Fortunately, the Council cannot make this decision unilaterally--we can only put it on the ballot for the community to decide. I will keep you updated on this issue via future newsletters and, if you feel strongly about it, I hope you will provide your comments at our dedicated study session.

Finally, the Council reviewed and accepted an extremely thorough Charter Review Commission (<https://bit.ly/sjcharterreviewcommission>) created over the course of last year. I want to thank Frank Maitski and Tobin Gilman, who served as our D10 representatives on the Commission, for their service. The Commission considered a wide range of proposal changes to the City's charter, which is the governing document for our city government, including moving to rank-choice voting in local elections, expanding the number of Council districts, and changing mayoral election timing to align with the Presidential election cycle to increase voter turnout. In addition to scanning the report linked above, I'd like to ask you to weigh in on some of the Commission's recommended charter amendments via a survey my team has put together: Link Here: <https://forms.gle/7drGcFXdHWjVpBdg6>

As with the question of non-citizen voting, the Council cannot make any of these changes directly. In a future study session, we will decide which, if any, of the recommendations will be placed on the ballot for public referendum. As always, I will carefully read the feedback you provide via the survey and will keep you updated on the process so you can fully participate.

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



District 10 Report
Matt Mahan
Councilmember,
District 10

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San Jose Youth Symphony to hold auditions for 2022-23 season

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) will be holding its annual general auditions for the 2022-2023 Season.

The auditions will be held on Thursday afternoons (March 31 & April 7) and Friday afternoons (April 1 & 8) between the hours of 4-9 p.m. Saturday auditions will be held all day (April 2 & 9).

All student musicians are welcome, ages 8 and up, who play orchestral instruments (woodwinds, brass, percussion & strings) or who are interested in performing jazz.

Marching Band musicians are welcome to apply for an audition now, and then join after marching band season ends.

To submit an audition application, visit: www.sjys.org to join one of SJYS's 12 orchestras and instrumental ensembles. Your audition will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The symphony will do its best to accommodate the date preferences listed on your application.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 24, 2022.

Questions? Reach out to: sjys@sjys.org.

About the SJYS

The San Jose Youth Symphony is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the West Coast of the US. Founded 69 years ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical

performance and education.

SJYS member musicians, of ages 8 to 20, are selected from more than 650 applicants through our annual spring General Auditions. SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras; a chamber orchestra; two flute choirs; concert winds, saxophone, percussion, jazz and harp ensembles; and two string ensembles. Each group rehearses weekly from September to May or early June and performs a scheduled series of concerts each season. In addition, member musicians participate in a weeklong summer camp and receive special coaching and participate in masterclasses from professional and renowned musicians in the Bay Area.

The premier group of SJYS is its Philharmonic Orchestra, led by SJYS Music Director and Conductor, Yair Samet. The orchestra performs its season subscription concerts at the historic and beautiful, California Theatre, in downtown San Jose, as well as in its annual Season of Hope Concerts in December at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, now an over-25-year-long tradition. The orchestra also travels biannually on its International Concert Tours, and have performed in renowned concert halls in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ireland, Argentina and Uruguay.



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Although December brought several storms that dumped nearly 17 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, most of the state's large reservoirs still remain well below normal levels.

New rules introduced to curb water wasting

Voluntary conservation efforts continue to fall short of Newsom's target

Although recent rains have brought some drought relief to many areas of California, voluntary reductions in residential water use has missed its target for five months.

Total state-wide reduction was just 6.8% in November, compared with November 2020.

Amid that news, and emphasizing that California's drought still isn't over, state

water officials approved new rules to prohibit wasteful water practices such as washing cars without a hose shutoff nozzle.

Although December brought several storms that dumped nearly 17 feet of snow in the Sierra and soaked cities from Northern to Southern California, most of the state's large reservoirs still remain well below normal levels.

Three months remain in the winter rainy season with no guarantees on how many more storms the state will receive.

"Despite record levels of precipitation in some areas, we're not out of the woods yet," said Eric Oppenheimer, chief deputy director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The state water board voted 4-0 to approve emergency rules to prohibit wasteful uses of water statewide, including hosing down driveways and sidewalks and running sprinklers so much that water runs into the street. Fines for violators could reach \$500, although enforcement would be up to local water agencies.

The new water conservation rules expire in 2023.

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Valley Water now accepting applications for its 2022 \$1.4M Grant Program

Valley Water announced it is accepting applications for its 2022 Grant Program. Each year, Valley Water provides critical funding for projects that support the mission of providing safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

"We want to support projects that bring change and make a difference in our communities," said Gary Kremen, Chair of Valley Water's Board of Directors. "Through our Grants & Partnerships Program, we are able to work

with Santa Clara County residents toward a common goal of protecting and enhancing our water resources."

The Grants & Partnerships Program is part of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a parcel tax Santa Clara County voters overwhelmingly renewed in November 2020. For 2022, Valley Water has a total of \$1.4 million available to award, with no minimum or maximum amount for projects that fit into the following categories:

- Water Conservation: Projects that research and identify devices, programs, and strategies that can help save water and promote conservation efforts.
- Pollution Prevention: Educational programs, technical assistance, or other means to reduce contaminants in water.
- Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education: Projects that assist with cleanup and watershed stewardship activities, as well as education and outreach about our watersheds.
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration: Projects that support or restore native plants and animals. Examples include creating or enhancing wetlands to remove non-native, invasive plants to protect threatened or endangered species.
- Access to Trails and Open Space Grants: Proj-

ects that provide and increase access to open space and Creekside trails.

Valley Water highly encourages applications from those working on projects that promote equity and would reach areas that have been historically underserved. Valley Water is also interested in first-time applicants, and applicants that demonstrate financial stability.

Applications are due by March 4, 2022.

Valley Water will host two virtual informational workshops, where applicants can learn more about the available grants and their requirements: January 25 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (RSVP – <https://bit.ly/Grants2022Jan25>)

To learn more about the program and the available grant funding for 2022, visit valleywater.org/grants

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Santa Clara County supervisor candidate moves to stay in race

The decision to uproot his Almaden family home was not an easy one

By Jana Kadah

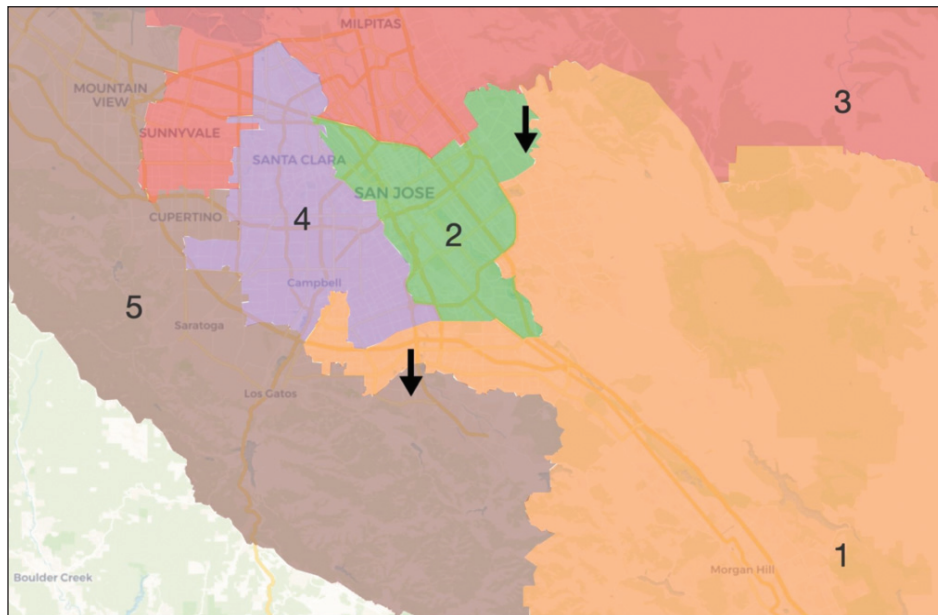
Santa Clara County supervisor candidate Johnny Khamis is moving back into District 1 after a contentious redistricting process drew him out.

The Board of Supervisors moved Almaden Valley and Los Gatos out of District 1 into District 5 at the end of last year, as part of a once-in-a-decade adjustment of political boundaries to account for population changes. The redistricting process placed both of Khamis' properties outside of District 1, essentially cutting him out of the race. The newly drawn District 1 includes parts of South San Jose like Evergreen and Silver Creek, in addition to Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Martin.

The decision to uproot his family from their Almaden home of 13 years was not an easy one, Khamis told San José Spotlight.

"This move is really sad because this has been our home," said Khamis, who previously served as the San Jose District 10 councilmember for eight years. "And I wouldn't do it if I didn't have a passion for serving the community and if I didn't have the support of my family."

The arrows indicate where Khamis' two properties are located within the newly drawn districts for Santa Clara County. Image by Jana Kadah.



The arrows indicate where Khamis' two properties are located within the newly drawn districts for Santa Clara County. Image by Jana Kadah.

Despite recently refurbishing the fireplace in his Almaden home to his wife's liking, Khamis joked, he signed a lease this week to rent a condo in South San Jose near Bernal Road. He needed to move within the newly drawn district 30 days before the final filling date on March 11, so he is in the clear to continue his campaign.

Khamis said under other circumstances, his family probably would not have agreed to move. But they believe the final map—

a variation of an option put forth by labor and civil rights groups—was politically charged and aimed to disperse fiscally conservative voices to prevent people like him from running and winning the seat.

"My wife said, 'This is so unfair that I don't think you should quit the race,'" Khamis said. Khamis is one of several conservative voices who took issue with the redistricting process. He even considered a lawsuit, citing ethical concerns, but decided against

it because it would be too expensive and time consuming.

Some believe removing Almaden Valley and Los Gatos from District 1 limits pro-business voices and makes it harder for conservative candidates to win. District 1 has been represented by a conservative for the last 28 years, and current Supervisor Mike Wasserman terms out this year.

Los Gatos Mayor Rob Rennie, a Democratic candidate for the D1 seat, was also drawn out of the district.

"It's disappointing to be moved out of the district after I spent a whole year actually campaigning," Rennie told San José Spotlight. "But I am looking at it as a learning experience."

The Los Gatos lawmaker decided to end his campaign to keep representing his town, but could potentially run for the Santa Clara County District 5 seat or the newly drawn state Assembly District 23 seat in 2024. In the meantime, Khamis said he still has the know-how to represent the new District 1.

"These are my people, they think like me and want to see their money spent wisely," Khamis said, noting the priorities of residents in the newly added neighborhoods in Evergreen, Silver Creek and the villages are similar to the rest of D1 residents. "The people of South San Jose and Morgan Hill and Gilroy want to solve homelessness, crime and transportation. Those are the three main issues I am hearing."

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Times **Community News****Board of Supervisors
appoints Tshaka Campbell
as 2022-23 Santa Clara
County Poet Laureate***Campbell becomes the seventh
person to serve in this honorary role*

The Board of Supervisors for the County of Santa Clara has appointed San José resident **Tshaka Campbell** to the honorary post of Santa Clara County Poet Laureate for a two-year term ending Dec. 31, 2023.

"Poetry inspires us, as well as sheds light upon the emotional side of the human condition," said County Librarian Jennifer Weeks. "The Library is a repository for the written word as well as a public space for poets to perform their work and future poets to learn the art form. We look forward to hosting poetry events with Tshaka during his term as County Poet Laureate."

Campbell is the curator of "Beautiful Black Books" as part of Poetry Center San José. He also conducts lectures, workshops in creative writings, spiritual verse, and other related topics. He is a talented poet, author, and musician.

"Words hold great power to entertain, to inform, and to help us grow," said Supervisor Mike Wasserman, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Chair of the Library Joint Powers Authority Board. "The County of Santa Clara welcomes our new Poet Laureate and we look forward to the important contributions he brings to inspire a love and appreciation for poetry in our communities."

Campbell was recommended to the Board following the call for applications, and a two-step review process organized by the County of Santa Clara, Silicon Valley Creates (SVCreates), and the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD).



"SVCreates is a proud partner in Santa Clara County's Poet Laureate program and has been since its inception. This is one of several SVCreates programs that highlight the importance of the arts in our community and works to ensure access to arts experiences for all in our county," said Connie Martinez, Chief Executive Officer of Silicon Valley Creates. "We are thrilled that Tshaka Campbell has been selected this year to demonstrate the power of poetry and its relevance to contemporary lives."

Campbell has authored four books (Tarman, Muted Whispers, Tunnel Vision and Stuff) and released three music albums (One, Bloodlines, and Skin vol.1). Campbell has collaborated on a number of musical projects in the House, Jazz, and Blues genres, as well as appeared in national commercials.

"I am standing on the shoulders of those who have held the post in the past, so I am both honored and humbled to be chosen," Campbell said.

Campbell is the seventh poet laureate to be appointed by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. Nils Peterson was the County's first Poet Laureate (2009-2011), followed by Sally Ashton (2012-13), David Perez (2014-2015), Arlene Biala (2016-17), Mike McGee (2018-19), and Janice Lobo Sapiago (2020-21).

Campbell looks forward to implementing multiple programs aimed at spreading and socializing the impact of poetry within our communities. One of these initiatives, "In Our Words", will invite local youth/students to write poems that capture the impact the last two years have had on them. Their work will be published in an anthology and displayed at select installments around the county.

A presentation will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8 during the Board of Supervisors' meeting to formally introduce Campbell. He will read a selection of his work as part of the invocation.

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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.

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Times **Local News**

Teachers have had to adapt, teaching in unprecedented ways

By Patrick Quinn
Special to the Times

Our past academic year was unlike any other before due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

After nationwide school closures in 2020, classrooms reopened in the Fall using a combination of hybrid, in-person and remote learning styles.

Teachers everywhere have had to adapt to unforeseen circumstances, teaching in unprecedented ways, while also being challenged to establish connections with students and their families.

Despite the overwhelming consequences of the pandemic on teachers, this global crisis has also been an extraordinary time for learning. New opportunities have been created for teachers to reconnect with their pupils, catering to the individual rather than the collective hive.

Brainly, the world's largest online learning platform and homework help community, has focused on not only supporting students but also the teachers and parents that make learning possible.

With such a difficult time adjusting to the new learning experience, the appreciation from students for teachers and instructors has been outstanding.

Last year, Brainly celebrated 30 million thanks. On the Brainly platform, "thanks" are given by a user to an answer that another user provided. Additionally, Brainly highlighted all of the positive sentiments dedicated to teachers and experts around the world.

One way that Brainly has reestablished the connection with instructors is through their Brainly Tutor feature. Brainly Tutor, offers one-on-one instant access to qualified experts and teachers to help solve problems and answer questions in real time.

Last year the platform hosted more than 500,000 live tutoring sessions between students and Brainly Tutors, reiterating the volatility of safely meeting students where they are for learning.

Teachers chose this profession because of the love and passion they have for teaching and helping students grow. In order to show appreciation for their efforts, Brainly has gathered a few pandemic-safe ways to show love to your favorite teachers.

Send A Gift Card

Along with friends and family, chip in to send your teacher a virtual gift card to their favorite coffee place. For teachers who put in long hours organizing lesson plans and grading homework, coffee is a must!

E-Cards

Send a personal Ecard to honor your teacher and recognize the hard work they have put into virtual learning.

Draw Your Thanks

Even though we may be apart, show your teacher you care with a personalized drawing! Teachers will love to see your creativity from afar.

Social Media

Hop on TikTok or other social media platforms and make a creative video to show your teachers how you and your family are utilizing at-home learning during COVID-19.

COVID-19 Essentials

Coordinate with fellow classmates and put together a gift basket of your teacher's favorite snacks and treats along with COVID essentials like cool masks and mini hand sanitizers.

#REDforED

Wear something red on National Teacher Appreciation Day which is on May 4th and post a picture on social media using the hashtag #RedforED and tag your teacher!

Gordon and Schuler of Almaden Valley named to Southern New Hampshire University Fall 2021 President's List

Cally Gordon and Mia Schuler of Almaden Valley have been named to Southern New Hampshire University Fall 2021 President's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point aver-

age of 3.70 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. SNHU is recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country.

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Grants & Partnerships Program



Grassroots Ecology is among the grant recipients under Valley Water's Grants & Partnerships Program and their staff are engaging participants with a hands-on educational opportunity to monitor the water at Stevens Creek Watershed.

Times Feature

Mental health: Stigmatized and discredited for decades

By Tanisha Mehta

Special to the Times

Mental health has been hugely stigmatized and discredited for decades. Millions of people across the world suffer from mental health challenges every day.

Throw a pandemic into the mix and the potential consequences could be catastrophic. School closures, financial insecurity, and social isolation resulting from Covid-19 have been



found to be associated with increased depression, anxiety, and stress among children.

My blog, written from the perspective of a high school sophomore in the Bay Area high school, and meant for both parents and children, strives to

spread awareness, highlight the value and importance of mental health, and to provide practical ways that parents can offer their support and understanding for their children's mental health.

Website link: www.mentalhealthinyouth.com. For more information, email: mentalhealthinyouth@gmail.com.

OP ED

Covid Challenge: A personal story

By Frank Shorrt

Times staff writer

Yes folks; Covid-19 is a fact, no matter which form it comes in.

Some say it is only a strong flu, but it is much stronger than any flu, except the Spanish Flu that came after the First World War.

I found out on November 27, 2021 that I had been infected with one or the other strains of Covid. I still do not know which strain did me in; but really it is no matter. What is really important is that, after quite a struggle, by the grace of God, I was able to overcome the nasty plague.

It began with a sore throat, as is usually what happens when I am about to come down with any kind of respiratory problem. I tried to treat the sore throat with lozenges and gargling. Soon, this turned into congestion in the bronchial area which I tried to overcome with a decongestant and cough suppressant. I found out that the only healer for any Covid symptom is time! Man's medicines are only temporary, to say the least, and will at least help a person to get some sleep and rest.

Then came diarrhea, the bane of the one needing rest! One becomes afraid to cough as the results can sometimes be disastrous! If anyone has had a severe problem with this, then you know what I write about.

A few days after I contracted the virus, I woke up with shaking in my whole body. No matter what I tried, it would not go away! I suppose this was another symptom. Soon it got so bad that my wife called 911 and explained the problem.

They came to take me to emergency at Kaiser Hospital and when the men were helping me down the stairs as we entered the patio, I was shaking so hard that the men had a difficult time keeping me on a chair that was on the patio.

After initial treatment in the ambulance, we arrived at the emergency room about 20 or 30 minutes later. They put me in a room as soon as they could because of being so swamped with sick people and it was not too soon for me as I was still shaking to pieces.

While in the emergency room I was given blood tests, chest x-rays, and taking of my

vital signs continually, and after a few hours, I was sent home as somehow the treatment caused the trembling to stop. One male nurse finally had sympathy on me and gave me some food just before releasing me.

Some of the things connected with the virus is an unwillingness to leave the house, loss of appetite, loss of taste and smell, and a sort of depression brought on because a person cannot do the things they once used to do. The virus also weakens the system, so much in fact, that one does not even have energy enough to get out of bed to go to the bathroom or the ability to dress oneself!

I must say that the worst plague to come with the Covid virus is the coughing. I coughed so much that my lungs began to feel like they were coming up with each cough. I was so sore at the base of my ribcage and at the top of my lungs that it was even difficult to touch the areas. I used Aspercream to stop the hurting along the bottom of the ribcage and a vaporized salve to help relieve the bronchial area and upper chest. Thank God it was only soreness and I had not torn



anything loose. If anyone who reads this gets Covid-19, don't be afraid to take some cough medicine to begin the healing process. When one can get symptoms to subside then healing is imminent.

It will take a little while to regain my sense of smell and taste I am told. Today, I was able to almost taste the waffle and bacon that I had for breakfast. It will also take a while for me to want to be in any crowded situation with people as I am a little "gun shy" from all the turmoil that my body has gone through. I do not wish this off on anyone!

Did the two shots of Moderna that I had taken make my symptoms less than what they would have been had I not taken them? I cannot truthfully say that this is so. I was scheduled to take the booster shot two days from the time I got Covid. I am scheduled again to receive the booster soon. Some folks say that I now have a natural immunity to Covid-19 since I actually had the virus but who knows if this is so?

I was in the USAF a few years ago and when the sergeant said, "shots today" we went and got the shot. I do not believe I have had any lasting effects from all the many shots so I will go ahead and get the booster to add to all the other vaccines that are already in my body. I must have faith to believe that whatever is concocted to help with a certain plague is a gift from God!

Times **Feature****TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK****Foundation Models**By **Shubhi Asthana**

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:

Foundation Models

Last year the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) started a new interdisciplinary initiative – The Center for Research on Foundation Models (CRFM). The initiative aims to make fundamental advances in the study, development, and deployment of foundation models.

Let us understand this concept more closely, which is a paradigm shift in AI.

Foundation models are machine learning algorithms that have been trained on board data at a massive scale that can be modified to perform a broad variety of functions. From technological point of view, these models are large neutral networks trained using self-supervised learning.

The researchers at CRFM published a detailed report “On the Opportunities and Risks of Foundation Models” to explain this concept further. The authors explained the term “foundation models” as follows:

‘A foundation model is itself incomplete but serves as the common basis from which many task-specific models are built via adaptation.’

These training models are not exactly new. In the world of Natural Language Processing (NLP), models like BERT, RoBERTa, BART

have been built on this concept. What’s innovative in Foundation models is the scale at which these models are created. Current foundation models have hundreds of billions or even trillions of parameters, and they are trained on hundreds of gigabytes of data.

These models could process or generate text, images, code, and potentially any other types of data. The foundation model can also be multi-modal, meaning it can work with several modalities (content-types) at once, e.g., CLIP and DALL-E models from OpenAI work with both image and texts.

At present, we are identifying many open questions and potential risks around the foundation models. Some critics mentioned that these foundation models already exist today as ‘large language models.’ It is also worth mentioning that large language models have the potential to mislead the machine learning platform by introducing misleading patterns. Yet the opportunities are very promising around this concept. These powerful AI techniques are evolving with full steam as commercialization of the machine learning algorithms take place.

What is in the future for foundation models?

The thought process started in the NLP field and is spreading to other fields and content types: images, sound, videos, analytical data, unstructured text and so on.

It should bridge the gap between the heavy-resourced companies that work on enterprise machine learning models and the others who cannot afford training such solutions on their own, instead relying on published or productized solutions from former companies.

About the Author

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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● *Enough About Me* by Richard Lui: Richard Lui made the difficult decision to leave his dream job as an NBC News/MSNBC anchor to help care for his ailing father in San Francisco. It was a difficult time, and through the challenge he realized that doing this selfless act had a positive overall impact on his well-being. He decided to dig deep into exploring acts of compassion from the lens of a reporter. Part scientific, part emotional, his journey is one that many will relate to.

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

All three award-winning authors will participate in a virtual panel discussion hosted by the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley and moderated by Sal Pizarro of the San Jose Mercury News on Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. The authors will share their compelling stories which give hope to the future. Pre-registration is required for this event. The public can register for this free event and hundreds more at www.siliconvalleyreads.org/events.

NEW THEME**The Power of Kindness, Resilience & Hope: Silicon Valley Reads, 2022**

Virtual Kickoff Event on Thursday, January 27th

Silicon Valley Reads 2022 will move the community forward with the theme, “The Power of Kindness, Resilience & Hope.”

Silicon Valley Reads is a county-wide community engagement program that offers free events and activities centered around books and a different theme every year.

Three memoirs were selected, with each embodying this theme from a different perspective. They include:

● *See No Stranger** by Valarie Kaur: A synthesis of wisdom and a chronicle of personal and communal history, *See No Stranger* is part memoir, part practical guide to changing the world. Author Valarie Kaur, renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer, ignited the hearts of millions around the globe by sharing her compelling story and declaring Revolutionary Love as the call of our times: a radical, joyful practice that extends to others, to our-

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Times Local News



San Jose Councilmember **Magdalena Carrasco** proposes a measure that would allow immigrants who are not U.S. citizens to participate in local elections. *Photo by Tran Nguyen.*

San Jose councilmembers seek to extend voting rights to noncitizens

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

A pair of San Jose councilmembers are proposing a measure that would allow immigrants who are not U.S. citizens to participate in local elections.

The measure, which requires voter approval, would give more than 200,000 noncitizen residents in San Jose a right to select new lawmakers and weigh in on different policies in future local elections. New York City became the largest city to enact a similar law last month, while San Francisco passed a law in 2016 to allow noncitizen parents to vote in school board elections.

Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco and Sylvia Arenas, who are spearheading the efforts, introduced the landmark proposal Friday—just days before the City Council is scheduled to vote on changes to the city's charter.

"This is a novel idea, but not a new idea," Carrasco said at a news conference Monday, adding it's unfair that the immigrant community pays taxes and contributes to the economy without having a say on local policies. "We need to make sure that the voice of our noncitizen community is not suppressed or erased... They deserve the right to vote for those in power."

The proposal to extend voting rights in San Jose to all city residents—including those who are undocumented, on a work visa, or "Dreamers"—has been years in the making. The effort was postponed under the Trump administration, which stone-walled and attacked the path to citizenship for many, lawmakers said.

"Racist policies from the Republican party have blocked immigration reform for decades."

— Sylvia Arenas

"Racist policies from the Republican party have blocked immigration reform for decades," Arenas told San José Spotlight. "It's our obligation to find ways to honor the role that immigrants play in our community—let's not allow nationalists to determine who matters in local San Jose elections."

The pair of policymakers is asking for a special study session to explore the measure, but no date has been set yet.

"We are not going to have all the answers tomorrow," Carrasco told San José Spotlight. "But this is the time to do it."

The City Council will vote on a host of potential city law changes Tuesday, including shifting the timing of mayoral elections, adding more council districts and increasing police oversight. Voters will still have the final say on the changes at the primary and general elections this year.

'Here I live, here I vote'

Local community organizations and activists are rallying behind the plan. Eva Heredia, a leader with community group Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network, led a chant at the event Monday: "Here I live, here I vote."

Heredia, a San Jose resident with two children, said the immigrant community has disproportionately been hit by the pandemic, as they have been the backbone that kept Silicon Valley moving. As a legal permanent resident, Heredia still can't vote until she becomes a naturalized citizen.

"I've always heard the American saying no taxes without representation. Unfortunately... I live that reality," she said. "It is time for (my) voice to be heard and taken into account."

The following are some reader responses to article as commented on Spotlight website (Efforts made to post both sides of the argument)

Opinion: Safe San Jose, No and NO. Voting should be a Right of Citizenship – and Citizenship should be a goal that Legal Immigrants should aspire to attain. Why would we want Legal Citizens of a Foreign Country voting in U.S. elections?

Opinion: This is a very sensible move. Honestly, I would be a little surprised if it significantly affected the outcome of any elections, but it's a good gesture towards the immigrants that the city relies on

Opinion: One of the rights afforded to all of us is the right to vote. If you want to vote, become a US citizen as some of my dearest friends. One of their reasons was so they could vote. Carrasco and Arenas never

See RIGHTS, next page

Community News



Eva Heredia, a San Jose resident and community organizer, said immigrants have disproportionately bore the brunt of the pandemic, but can't have a say in local policies affecting them. *Photo by Tran Nguyen.*

Rights, continued

disappoint in bringing some of the most ludicrous ideas ever proposed after being elected to the City Council. This one was the latest. HOPEFULLY, they will both be voted out of office.

Opinion: I've always heard the American saying no taxes without representation. Unfortunately... I live that reality," Very well said. 200,000 residents of San Jose live in this state. They work hard, raise their families, serve their communities and pay their taxes but they have no political voice in the place they call home.

This would be an amazing move – true democracy.

Opinion: Please don't spend tax payer dollars on this idea. The right to vote is for US citizens only. I do not support this idea.

Opinion: A non-citizen who pays taxes is a non-citizen who has a job. That should be a sufficient benefit in and of itself for non-citizens (who also have access to educational and emergency public services).

Opinion: Fully commit to the country and you too can enjoy all the benefits.

State law changes what Silicon Valley residents can throw away

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

Scraping food off your plate into the trash just became a no-no in more Santa Clara County cities as of 2022.

California's new composting law ushered by Senate Bill 1383 aims to fight climate change by reducing methane emissions created by organic material in landfills.

The bill requires a 75% reduction in organic waste disposal from 2014 levels by 2025 of up to 27 million tons of organic waste.

Rachel Machi Wagoner, director of CalRecycle, the agency that oversees the state's waste management, said SB 1383 is the biggest change to the trash system since recycling in the 1980s.

"This is a huge statewide initiative for us to achieve a 75% reduction in organic waste sent to landfills by 2025," she told San José Spotlight. "When we achieve that... it will be the equivalent of taking nearly a million cars off the road for a year."

San Francisco pioneered collecting curbside food scraps for composting 25 years ago, partnering with Recology. Its program has kept 2.5 million tons of food scraps and yard trimmings from ending up in landfills.

Since 2008, San Jose has also been at the forefront of reclaiming organic waste and is working toward a zero-waste plan, Machi Wagoner said. San Jose residents won't experience any changes with the new law in putting out their garbage, recycling and yard trimmings. Garbage is sorted at the GreenWaste materials recovery facility, which removes the food and compostable paper from the trash and sends it to



be composted.

Jennie Loft, a spokesperson with the city's Environmental Services Department, said it's critical to keep organics out of the landfill. She said methane is one of the more potent greenhouse

gases and climate change contributors. Landfills emit about 20% of the state's methane.

San Jose residents and businesses are already in compliance with SB 1383, she said, through the existing collection system. The city will be sending postcards to residents in February or March explaining this.

Loft said food scraps and food soiled materials should be put in the garbage and not added to the recycling bin or yard trimmings in the street. As part of SB 1383, residents are being asked to empty and scrape organics from recyclable materials.

West Valley Collection and Recycling, which serves residents in Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga, has already made changes in response to SB 1383, said Outreach Manager Weslie McConkey. Residents can put food scraps into their existing yard trimmings cart, which is now considered the organics cart.

McConkey said the only downside of the new system is that it takes people a while to get used to change. A 2.5 gallon pail with a lid is being provided for residents to use in the kitchen for food scraps. She suggests people put yard trimmings in their carts first before dumping food in so it's less likely to stick to the bottom.

"It used to be, when in doubt, put it in the recycling," she said. "Now, it's when in doubt,

See *RECYCLING*, page 21

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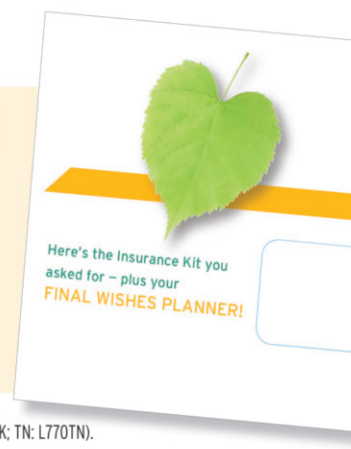
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Times **Local News****Khamis campaign raises maximum spending limit of \$250,000**

Johnny Khamis' campaign for Santa Clara County Supervisor District 1 has raised the maximum spending limit of \$250,000 which is set by the county. This limit is for the primary election on June 7, 2022.

"I am humbled and honored to have received so many contributions to our campaign, Khamis said. "As a result of your generosity, we have raised the maximum spending amount allowed by the county of Santa Clara of \$250,000. Together we can bring fiscal responsibility, accountability and results to the county."

Santa Clara County supervisor candidate Johnny Khamis is moving back into District 1 after a contentious redistricting process drew him out.

The Board of Supervisors moved Almaden Valley and Los Gatos out of District 1 into District 5 at the end of last year, as part of a once-in-a-decade adjustment of political boundaries to account for population changes. The redistricting process placed both of Khamis' properties outside of District 1, essentially cutting him out of the race. The newly drawn District 1 includes parts of South San Jose which includes Evergreen Valley and Silver Creek Valley, in addition to Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Martin.

The decision to uproot his family from their Almaden home of 13 years was not an easy one, Khamis said.

"This move is really sad because this has been our home," said Khamis, who previously served as the San Jose District 10 councilmember for eight years. "And I wouldn't do it if I didn't have a passion for serving the community and if I didn't have the support of my family."

The Khamis campaign is holding its first virtual Meet and Greet, on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 4:00 - 5:00 pm, hosted by Evergreen residents Pat Waite and Flor Harris. The Zoom reservation link to the event is here: <https://tinyurl.com/yjnx53jv>

Mahan

Continued from page 1

to attendees who spoke with San José Spotlight.

Davis, who did not respond to requests for comment, has not announced her fundraising results from December. On Twitter, she's touted her work as a councilmember completing urban village plans and funding a dedicated city attorney for code enforcement issues.

Dec. 9 was the first date candidates in the mayoral and City Council races could start fundraising. Mayoral contributions max out at \$1,400 per person or entity and \$700 for candidates running for City Council. The first semi-annual campaign disclosure statement is due Jan. 31.

Mahan, the top fundraiser, didn't quite break the previous record set by Mayor Sam Liccardo. In 2014, Liccardo raised \$513,000 in the first reporting period.

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

Recycling

Continued from page 19

throw it out. We don't want the recycling contaminated."

Separating out food scraps is nothing new to residents of Los Altos, said Mission Trail Waste Systems President Louie Pellegrini. They've been doing it since 2010. Residents put food scraps in their yard waste carts for composting.

"We embraced this early on," Pellegrini said. "The legislation took five years to be employed, but we knew it was coming and we're in pretty good shape with the programs."

The city of Santa Clara, which Mission Trail Waste Systems also serves, has taken a different approach, he said. Residents are instruct-

ed to keep food waste in the trash cart like they were previously doing. The trash is brought to a processing plant to be sorted to separate food waste which is sent to a composting facility.

The greatest challenge, Pellegrini said, is that material from each household, some sorted properly and some not, gets mixed up in the truck and the processors have to deal with it.

"Not everybody does it correctly and the few that don't could contaminate all the effort of everyone else," Pellegrini said. "People will participate, but it's not going to be perfect."

Recology South Valley provides compost, recycling and disposal services to Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Tanya Carothers, Morgan Hill's environmental services administrator, said SB 1383 won't have a great impact on homeowners in Morgan Hill

or Gilroy as it's been included in their organic waste recycling for more than 10 years. But businesses are now required to have three collection bins inside their facilities: trash, recycling and organic waste. They'll have to find space to place the bins and ensure people sort materials correctly.

Jocelyn Baird, waste zero manager for Recology Mountain View, said the city has had compost service for single-family households with carts for yard waste since 2017. They've now expanded this to food scraps and food soiled paper.

"The goal is to have all food scraps and food soiled paper like greasy pizza boxes and yard trimmings go into compost," she said, "so they don't have to go into the trash and end up in landfills."

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www.ccvucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118

408.265.5837

www.bibleroad.org

We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament.

Bible class at 9:30 AM

Worship at 10:30 AM Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243

Web: www.eca-sj.org

At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve.

Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?

A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakm" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

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EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>

2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.

(408) 239-6668

"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".

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*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. Expires February 15, 2022. 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.



Chambertin Drive

Old Almaden Winery | \$1,650,000 | 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1756 Sq Ft

Beautifully updated Old Almaden Winery home with soaring ceiling and dramatic windows throughout creating lots of natural light. Amenities include Brazilian cherry wood floors, plantation shutters, crown molding, granite slab countertops, glass tile backsplash, stainless appliances, and custom garage cabinets, just to name a few. Nearby Almaden Winery Park is 5.26 acres and has rose garden, vineyard, two lacy gazebos and two children's play areas.



Therese Swan

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AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

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