

Mahan emphasizes community engagement in State of the District address **SEE PAGE 4**



**Participate via Zoom**  
Community Budget Meeting to address budget shortfall  
— **SEE PAGE 7**

San Jose food pantry raises funds to pay for pricey city permit **SEE PAGE 10**



FEB. 4 – FEB. 17, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 3

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# Almaden Times

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## Alpha Kappa provides \$500 grants to enhance new teacher support at Almaden Elementary

By Louise Polizzotto

Alpha Kappa Grants Chair

During the pandemic, our classroom teachers are definitely our heroes!

Alpha Kappa chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was recently able to support two of our local beginning teachers with a \$500 grant each to enhance their teaching and support their students.

Emily Hindenes and Lisa Liao are new third and second grade teachers at Almaden Elementary in SJUSD. They are using their grants to increase their classroom libraries, purchase manipulatives for STEM projects, and provide basic school supplies to students whose families cannot. Emily hopes to purchase a Scholastic Magazine subscription for each of her students.

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international organization of women educators whose vision is to impact education worldwide. It was the pleasure of our local San Jose chapter Alpha Kappa to be able to help these caring, hard-working “early educators.”

## Business PAC announces San Jose mayor, City Council endorsements

By William Bellou  
Publisher

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC (Political Action Committee), which represents local business interests, endorsed two San Jose City Council candidates in the upcoming 2022 contest for Mayor of San Jose.

As stated on their website, the motto for the Silicon Valley Biz PAC is, “Help us advocate today for a better tomorrow.”

The PAC is supporting both Councilmembers Dev Davis and Matt Mahan in the contested mayoral race. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo terms out this year.

The organization is also endorsing San Jose Downtown Foundation Board President Ramona Snyder for District 1, small business



owner Irene Smith for District 3, San Jose Planning Commissioner Rolando Bonilla for District 5, San



Jose Fire Captain Bien Doan for District 7 and Councilmember Pam Foley, who’s running uncontested

for District 9.

“COVID really showed us what type of leadership the San Jose business community needs,” said PAC executive director, Victor Gomez during a recent interview with San Jose Spotlight. “Many businesses in Silicon Valley have been hanging by a thread since the pandemic began. We’re looking for candidates that certainly understand how important small business is to the San Jose community.”

The Silicon Valley Biz PAC, formed in 2019 by former members of the now-disbanded Silicon Valley Organization’s PAC.

PAC, which has a long history of endorsing candidates with business-friendly backgrounds, has raised \$125,000 for this cycle so far, according to Gomez.

## Dev Davis, Kaiser and others contribute to all-inclusive playgarden at Lake Almaden

The Playgarden at Almaden Lake Park is a local service project that will replace the existing playground and add hillside slides and nature paths.

The playgarden has received \$20,000 in donations in just the first two weeks of 2022.

Donors included:

- Dev Davis, San Jose Councilmember, District 6 and Mayoral candidate
- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
- John Guisto, honorary Rotarian

“These donations are part of almost \$300K raised by various charities and individuals within the local community,” said Richard Sanders, member of the Almaden Senior Association. “Grants from San Jose City and Santa Clara County got this project started.”

The donations from service organizations and the community expand the playground beyond



Dev Davis presents donation for Almaden Lake Playgarden. Pictured (left to right): Richard Sanders, Jeanne Sanders, Clay Marr, Dev Davis, Brian O’Neill, Jessie Consentino, and Ken Tavernier.

the initial grant funding and help to create a Playgarden & Nature Area where children and adults of all abilities can gather and play.”

“The Almaden Valley-Willow Glen Rotary Club along with Kiwanis and several other service organizations are supporting the project,” he said.

**Help needed**

The Almaden Valley Playgarden & Nature Area will become a wonderful destination gathering place for our community. We strongly encourage you to join us by donating to this worthwhile project and promoting this effort with your friends and family!”

You can find more information about the Playgarden at [www.playgardenal.org](http://www.playgardenal.org).

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## Flooding can happen during a drought; make sure you're ready

By Director Linda LeZotte  
Valley Water Board of Directors

As we welcome a wet start to the winter season, it's important to remember that flooding can happen anytime it rains. While our community continues to cope with the impact of the extreme drought conditions in Santa Clara County, we must also be ready for minor floods.

Historically, floods have followed droughts. The 2017 Coyote Creek flood followed a five-year drought with heavy rainfall, unleashing Santa Clara County's worst torrent since 1997. Valley

Water's work on projects that reduce the risk of flooding is ongoing.

We are excited to share that the completed construction of Valley Water flood protection projects in Lower Silver Creek in East San Jose eliminates the mandate for thousands of homes and businesses to carry flood insurance. In 2021 we also completed the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project which benefits the City of Mountain View, an effort nearly two decades in the making.

We invite you to take steps to prepare for the risk of flooding in your home or business. Visit [valleywater.org/floodready](http://valleywater.org/floodready) to see if you are located within a flood-prone area as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If you are in the flood zone please review our emergency preparedness guide, download apps that will alert you of any imminent flooding, and investigate flood insurance. Please watch our stream gauges during upcoming rains if you live near a creek by visiting the above-mentioned website. Obstacles in creek beds can increase the risk of flooding, so we encourage all residents to report any blockages to us via our Valley Water Access System, also located at [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org).

Remember, climate change has made extreme weather the new normal, and we all must be ready for more extended droughts and heavier floods. Don't get caught off-guard; be flood-safe even during dry years!

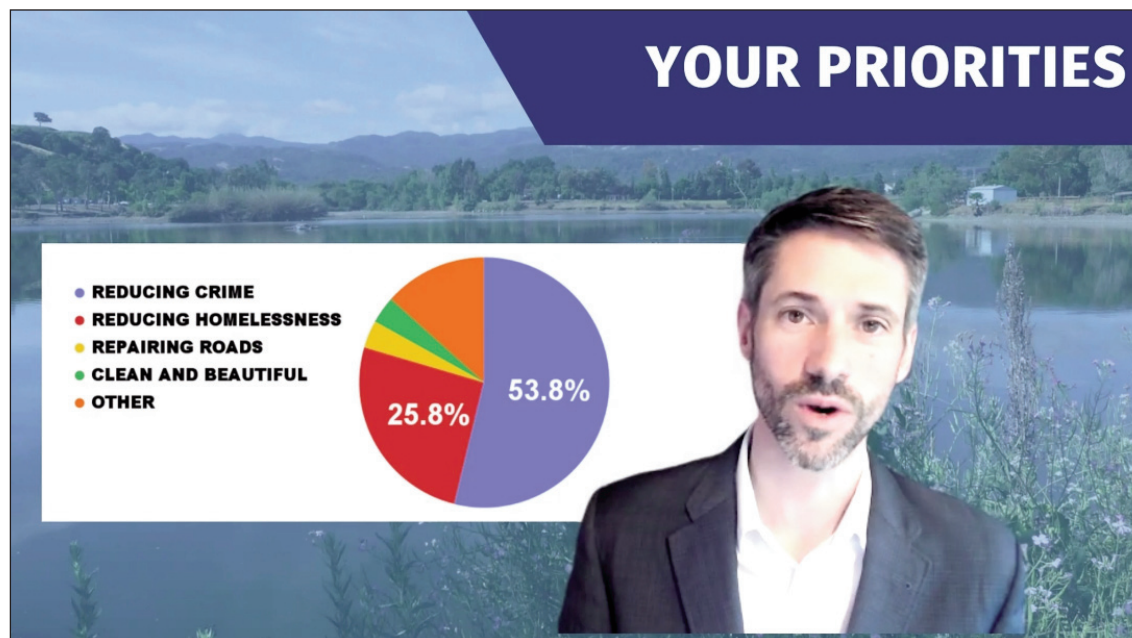


### Water District

Linda J. LeZotte,  
SCVWD Representative

# Valley Currents

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



Councilmember Matt Mahan focused on resident's priorities in his State of the District Address. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

## Mahan emphasizes community engagement, advocacy

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Councilmember Matt Mahan's emphasized community engagement in local government in his second State of the District address on Jan. 29.

Mahan believes residents working together can have an impact. His office helped create three new neighborhood associations and 10 working groups to advocate for change. The working groups range from mental health care to zoning and city policy on leaf blowers.

The Laura's Law working group helped Mahan's office push the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to vote to implement it, allowing judges to order outpatient mental health care for homeless individuals with repeated run ins with the law. Mahan said Laura's Law helps end the revolving door between the street, hospitals and jails.

"It was a significant decision," he said, "...and something we're very proud of."

Family and Homes partnered with Mahan's office to work on preserving single-family zoning and defeat Opportunity housing which allowed for fourplexes. Mahan believes building density downtown near transit is a better plan.

The General Plan allows for 120,000 additional housing units by 2040 downtown where there should be more density and people, he said, adding that density in suburbs creates more cars on the road, air pollution and a strain on critical infrastructure. Mahan said the City Council voted to drop Opportunity Housing and limit Sen-

ate Bill 9 to the smallest impact possible.

The leaf blowers working group pursued legislation banning gas-powered leaf blowers in the city to eliminate noise and pollution.

To build community, Mahan combined dumpster days with Neighbor Days. At these events, residents can ask Mahan questions about City Hall and do a service project together.

"Our office is working hard through building neighborhood associations, creating Neighborhood Watch groups and putting on Neighbor Days," he said. "We're doing our best...to help build a sense of community and connection."

Mahan said strong neighborhoods and a sense of community are the foundation for a healthy local democracy and an effective and responsive City Hall. Favoring online City Council meetings that enable the public to easily participate, he successfully urged the City to invest in technology to enable hybrid meetings permanently.

Helping residents to connect with City Hall, Mahan includes information on current issues in his District 10 newsletter. He posts previews of City Council meetings on his website and posts a video recap afterwards letting residents know how he and other councilmembers voted and what it means for the community.

Mahan said he wants residents to have the opportunity to shape the votes made at City Hall and have the opportunity to affect impacts on local government.

Through a community survey,

Mahan learned that resident's top priorities include reducing crime and homelessness followed by repairing roads and keeping communities clean and beautiful. Residents also care about supporting schools, small businesses and parks.

To reduce crime, Mahan said police staffing needs to be increased. He said San Jose has 11 officers per 10,000 residents while other major U.S. cities have 20 to 50 officers per 10,000 residents.

Mahan said he'd also like to see expanded foot patrols in commercial districts.

"The shooting at Oakridge Mall is a reminder that having a visible police presence makes people feel safe and is a deterrent to crime and ensuring a fast response," he said.

Mahan wants the police department to be well staffed, well trained and highly engaged in the community.

To end homelessness, Mahan would like to see an expansion of job training and placement like San Jose Bridge, which employs homeless individuals to clean up the city.

"We need to partner with non-profits and faith-based organizations to help people get work, build skills and have a pathway toward being a part of our economy and getting back on their own two feet," he said.

Mahan said the city needs to invest in addiction and mental health treatment and expand cost-effective shelters. He said rather than spending \$850,000 per unit on housing for the unhoused, less expensive prefabricated modular

See MAHAN, page 9

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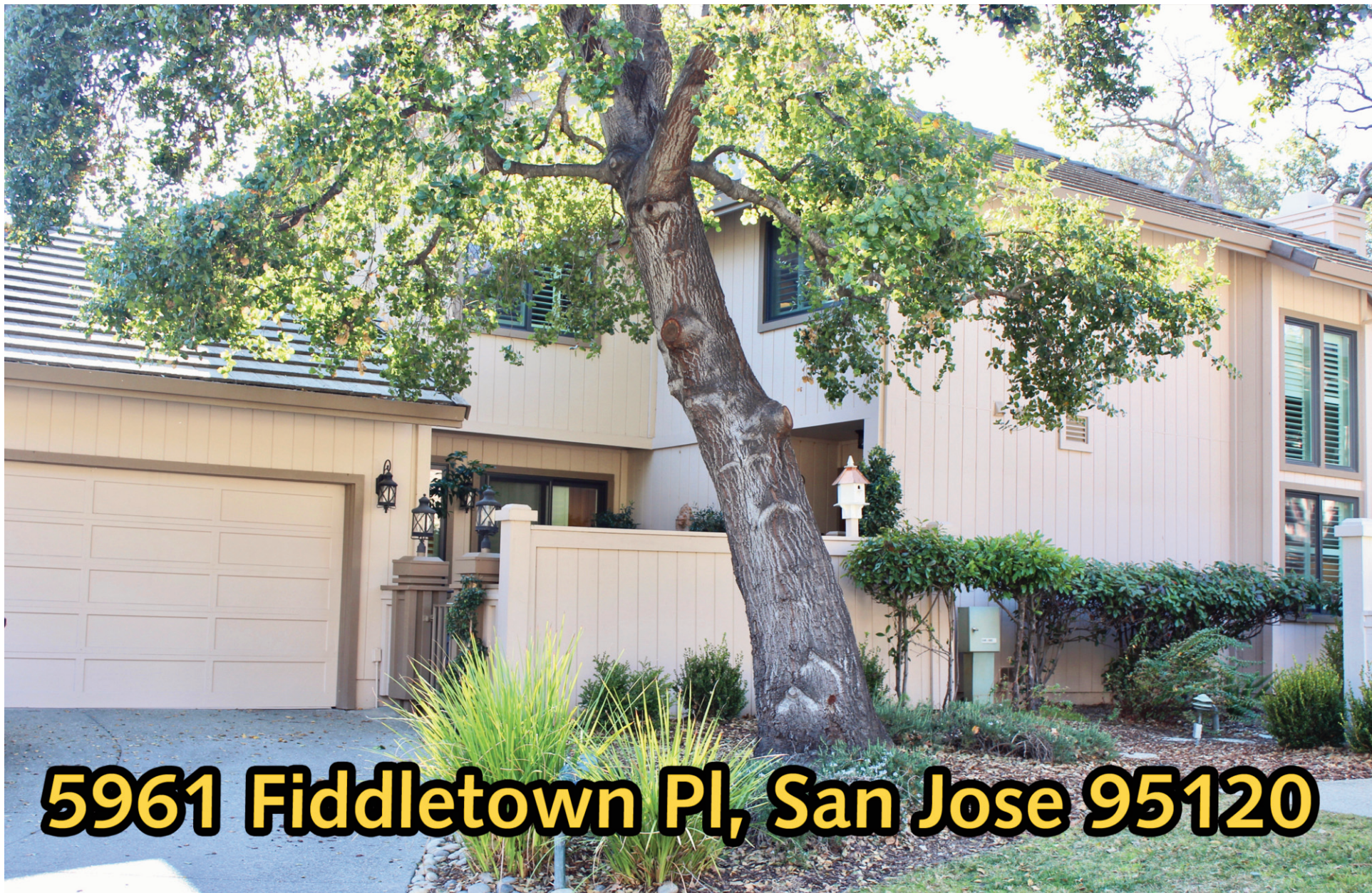
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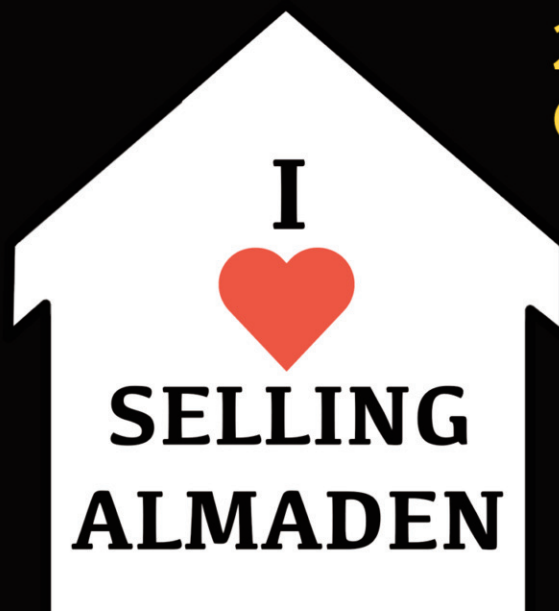
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Times **Feature**

## Coming Soon: Community Budget Meeting

Addressing the shortfall and softening the blow on our residents and first ever opportunity for Zoom (over the internet) voiced public comment at Community Budget Meeting

By Mayor Sam Liccardo

Special to the Times

As we await the official release of the City of San José's proposed 2022-2023 Operating Budget, the Mayor's Office is checking in—reminding our residents and workforce that while many areas of economic activity have recovered since 2020, we aren't out of the woods yet.

The City experienced solid revenue growth this last year, and projections are improving; however, the budget still faces a structural shortfall when considering the number of important, community-serving initiatives that were funded on a one-time basis in response to the pandemic.

We will need to make some tough decisions in the weeks ahead to develop a balanced budget that sustains the City's delivery of core services and continues pandemic-era programs that lack ongoing funding. The need for community engagement is critical to solicit feedback and offer insight into the budget process as we work together to identify community priorities.

Due to the recent surge in Omicron cases, we will offer the first community budget meeting by phone, website through Zoom and Facebook. In addition to the date and time listed below, please find unique options for sessions dedicated to Vietnamese and Español language. For more information and updates, please visit [www.sjmayor.org/budget](http://www.sjmayor.org/budget).

### Community Budget Meeting

Date and Time:

Thursday, February 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join on Zoom: <https://sanjose-ca.zoom.us/j/94745225883>

Call-in\*: +1(408) 638-0968, Meeting ID: 94745225883#

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SamLiccardo](https://www.facebook.com/SamLiccardo)

Note: For telephone call-ins, press \*9 to request permission to speak.

Please share this information with your neighbors and friends to help our community encourage inclusive feedback.

Contact the Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Email: [mayor\\_email@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayor_email@sanjoseca.gov); Website: [www.sjmayor.org](http://www.sjmayor.org).



**From the  
Mayor**  
Sam Liccardo



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## Prestigious recognition for Gifts for Teens

By Cheryl Markman

Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens announced that its project has been selected as one of the six finalists for consideration for an Impact Grant from The 100 Women Charitable Foundation for 2021.

All six finalists will receive grants, with three finalists receiving very large monetary awards, to be voted on by their members in early March. The grant application involves a six month long, four-step process.

The prestigious award will help GFT fill bags for needy local teens.

As the competition was fierce, this award underscores the fact that Gifts



fering from addiction. In general, it brings attention to AAUW's activism and outreach efforts in our community.

But the work never ends as Gifts for Teens is already collecting bag contents and donated funds to support our 2022 efforts.

Early spring cash donations are greatly appreciated and help GFT take advantage of bargains and sales throughout the entire year.

Donations are always welcome and checks should be written to ISPF-AAUW, GFT or donations can be made by using the PayPal button found on the organization's website: [www.gifts4teens.org](http://www.gifts4teens.org).

for Teens service project is valued in the community and that others care about needy local teens, be they impoverished, homeless, in foster care or suf-



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[www.sjys.org/musicians/auditions](http://www.sjys.org/musicians/auditions)

### **Audition dates:**

March 31 & April 7 Thursday (4-9 pm)

April 1 & 8, 2022 Friday (4-9 pm)

April 2 & 9, 2022 Saturday (all day)

**The deadline for submitting the audition applications is:**

Thursday, March 24, 2022

QUESTIONS? Reach out to [sjys@sjys.org](mailto:sjys@sjys.org).

SJYS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN 91-2166427) that has scholarships and financial aid offerings available based on a showing of need.

Times **Community News****Mahan***Continued from page 4*

units could be placed on government land across the county. He said the city could cost effectively provide safe, clean, individual shelters with a door that locks where people can have their belongings and their pets and take advantage of job programs and mental health and addiction treatment.

He said if government provides cost effective shelters and inpatient services, individuals have a responsibility to use those services.

"I don't think we should be scared as a city to enforce anti-camping laws," he said, "... as long as we're providing people with a safe place to go ... and programs."

Mahan also worked to increase management strategies for homeless camps. He suggested 150-foot setbacks around schools, day cares, parks and residential neighborhoods.

"None of our children should have to walk through or by an encampment to get to school," he said.

He also secured funding for sanitation services with trash pickups, porta potties and hand washing stations at homeless camps.

As speeding and street racing are additional challenges for the community, Mahan secured funding to add four pole mounted radar signs in the district. He said they have been shown to reduce traffic speeds up to 10 miles per hour in residential areas. He also secured funding to do a pilot project for a roundabout for traffic calming at Hillsdale and Vista Park.

Mahan said local service clubs and neighborhood groups are some of the best vehicles for getting involved in the community



and making District 10 a better place to live.

"Local government requires the engagement of the community," he said. "It's a government of, by and for the people."

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Times **Community News**



A Lighthouse food pantry volunteer and Pastor **Ralph Olmos** unload a truck. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

## San Jose food pantry raises funds to pay for pricey city permit

**By Lorraine Gabbert**  
*Article courtesy of San José Spotlight*  
After facing closure for having to pay San Jose up to \$15,500 for a special use permit, a local food pantry has raised enough funding overnight to remain open.

The Lighthouse Ministries Food Pantry, which serves families, seniors, disabled and unhoused people, was told by the city it would have to raise funds for a permit or cease operations on Feb. 14.

City spokesperson Cheryl Wessling said the cost of the special use permit is necessary for environmental and planning review, public notification and outreach and a public hearing, all which require staff. Complaints from neighbors about driveways being blocked and other parking issues related to the food pantry can be addressed in the permitting process.

The city threatened to charge the food pantry \$2,500 a day until the permit is paid for. If the permit was not paid for by that deadline, the city would charge a reinspection fee of \$231.

A day after San José Spotlight wrote about the potential closure, the GoFundMe campaign to save the food pantry exploded, with one anonymous contributor donating \$10,000. The campaign had raised \$16,662 as of Tuesday night.

A longtime San José Spotlight reader reached out to “Community” actress Yvette Nicole Brown on Twitter, asking her to retweet the article to raise support and funds for the food pantry to her nearly 500,000 followers. Brown retweeted the article, helping to bring more attention to the issue.

The food distribution center, located at E. Julian and 17th streets in San Jose, feeds more than 1,000 people a day six days a week, providing fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs and dairy to those in need.

Pastor Ralph Olmos said he couldn’t believe the outpouring of support Lighthouse received. Now the food pantry that so many rely on can keep its doors open, he said.

“It’s amazing,” he told San José Spotlight on Tuesday afternoon. “The people are speaking.”

Olmos said the Lighthouse volunteers expressed excitement throughout the day as the GoFundMe total kept rising.

“I want to say thank you to everyone who’s taken the time to show support for Lighthouse,” he said. “I feel a lot of gratitude in my heart that the people are embracing us.”

Olmos said he will use the funding to pay for the permit and improve the look and feel of the farmer’s market-style food pantry.

Lighthouse Distribution Center manager Tony Covarrubias said Tuesday it’s a blessing that people are willing to step up to help keep the food pantry running. He said they’re giving food back to the people who thought they’d have to go without it.

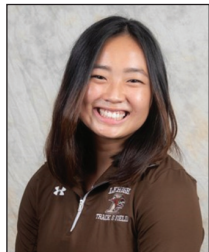
“From the bottom of my heart, I’m really grateful,” Covarrubias told San José Spotlight. “There are still people out there who care, who have a good heart to help others who are less fortunate.”



Food pantry patrons state the “Pantry” helps them get by on limited retirement funds and produce is healthy for them but often is expensive to buy. *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert.*

Times **Community News****Chae Eun Kim named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University Fall 2021 semester**

**Chae Eun Kim** (inset) of Almaden Valley has been named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University in the Fall 2021 semester. She is a member of the University's 2021-2022 Women's Track and Field.



Dean's List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Chae Eun Kim from San Jose, CA in the Fall 2021 semester.

For more than 150 years, Lehigh University ([lehigh.edu](http://lehigh.edu)) has combined outstanding academic and learning opportunities with leadership in fostering innovative research. The institution is among the nation's most selective, highly ranked private research universities.

**Dean's, President's list names Almaden Valley residents Flora and Vieira for UA fall 2021 term**

Two Almaden Valley residents have been named for University of Alabama fall 2021 term.

Named to the Dean's, President's list are **Jordyn Flora** (right, top), and **Payton Vieira** (right, bottom).



A total of 1,979 students enrolled during the fall 2021 term at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).



The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

**Heather Krenn named to Fall '21 Dean's List at ENMU**

Heather Krenn of Almaden Valley, has been named to Eastern New Mexico University's Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours with a GPA of 3.25 or greater.

**Fatal collision involving a vehicle and 3 pedestrians on Almaden Expressway**

Officers responded to the area of Almaden Expressway and Foxworthy Avenue for a traffic collision involving a vehicle and three pedestrians on January 18th at approximately 8:24 p.m.

A 2017 Toyota sedan was traveling northbound on Almaden Expressway in the number one lane in the area of Foxworthy Avenue. The Toyota struck three adult pedestrians that were crossing Almaden Expressway outside of any marked crosswalk. The pedestrians were crossing from the west side towards the east side of the expressway. The investigation also revealed that the vehicle had a green light at the intersection.

The three adult pedestrians were trans-



ported to local hospitals with various injuries. Two adult males were pronounced deceased shortly after their arrival. The third pedes-

trian, an adult female, is being treated for moderate injuries and is expected to survive.

The driver of the Toyota, and adult male, was also transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries considered to be non-life threatening. There is no indication of drug or alcohol influence.

This is the 6th fatal collision and victims number 6 and 7 of 2022. This is also pedestrian fatality number 4 and 5 of 2022.

Anyone with information on this investigation is urged to contact Detective Templeman #3566 of the San José Police Department's Traffic Investigations Unit at 408-277-4654.

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# Three local high school juniors first place winners at Silicon Valley DECA conference

At this year's Silicon Valley DECA conference, three local juniors from San Jose placed 1st in the Franchise Business Plan division.

The juniors from Basis Independent Silicon Valley (BISV) chose Dairy Queen as their franchise pick at this year's conference held at the Santa Clara Marriott January 7-9. Last year the juniors chose Krispy Kreme.

**What is DECA state competition?**

DECA conferences are targeted, highly-focused learning experiences for students and

advisors that support National Curriculum Standards and the development of 21st Century Skills. The State Career Development Conference (SCDC) is the biggest and most exciting California DECA event of the year.

There were more than 600 students total in attendance and they competed in more than 20 different business related events.

Students earn medals for their test score, a role play interview with a local business professional and earn a spot at the DECA state competition which will be held in March.



Pictured (left to right) are DECA Conference first place winners Neetika Mishra, Riya Pai, and Aashirya Rai.

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## Times News



The Delphi Trio, courtesy of the San José Chamber Orchestra.

## San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Unbreakable' March 20

San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Unbreakable' featuring the Delphi Trio on Sunday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San Jose.

The program includes Beethoven's Triple Concerto and the World Premieres of Clarice Assad's Triple Concerto, Ahmed Alabaca's Unbreakable, and the world premieres of new works by composers Clarice Assad and Ahmed Alabaca.

About the Venue: St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San José, 95125:

SJCO returns to San Jose's newest small venue at St. Francis Episcopal Church in San Jose (Willow Glen). The venue includes comfortable seating, space for distancing, gorgeous acoustics and more. There is easy access off Highway 280 and Meridian Avenue with ample street parking available.

Tickets: [sjco.org/](http://sjco.org/) or 408.295-4416; Note: no tickets sales at the door. Single Ticket Prices: Adult: \$50; Senior (62 and above): \$45; Student: \$15; Covid-19 info: Proof of vaccination required. Masks required. Subject to change. For more information visit: [sjco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjco@sbcglobal.net)

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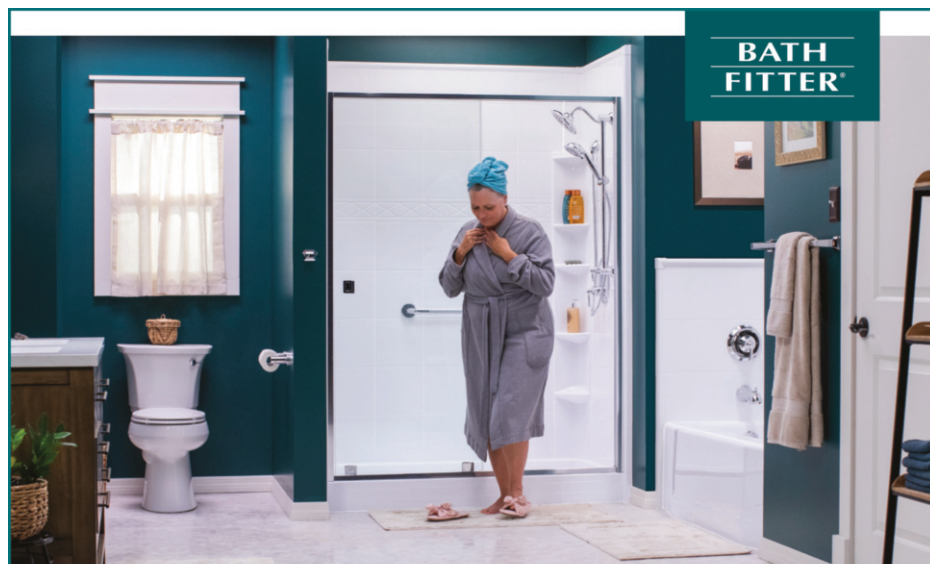
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Times **Community News**

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**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.

Together, we've completed 50,000 repairs for our most vulnerable community members in the last 30 years

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](http://www.rtsv.org) today.



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## Steinway Society – The Bay Area announces Winter programming for 2022 season

Steinway Society has announced its first two LIVE programs of the 2022 season.

The first two live programs are Vyacheslav Gryaznov, Saturday, February 12, and Yeol Eum Son, Saturday, March 12 at the McAfee Performing Arts and Lecture Center 20300 Heriman Avenue Saratoga, CA starting at 7:30 p.m.

Oacheslav Gryaznov (called Slava by his friends) thrilled the audience in his West Coast debut with the Steinway Society in 2016, receiving three encores, and was one of the featured artists in the 2021 Home Concert Hall series. He has performed to great acclaim throughout the U.S., Russia and Europe, including Carnegie Hall and the Berlin Philharmonic. Gryaznov studied at the Moscow State Conservatory for his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and he earned the Yale School of Music's Artist Diploma in 2018. He is on the teaching faculty of the Moscow Conservatory's piano department. In 2014, Gryaznov signed with Schott Music, where his work is the publisher's top ten best-selling piano editions.

#### February 12 Program

Mozart, Nine Variations on "Lison dormait", K. 264/315D

Mahler/Gryaznov, Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Liszt, Rhapsodie Espagnole

INTERMISSION

Gryaznov, Transcriptions

1. Borodin, Notturmo, from String Quartet No. 2
2. Tchaikovsky, Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a
3. Rachmaninoff, Songs

1. Night is mournful, Op. 26, No. 12
2. How fair this spot, Op. 21, No. 7
3. Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 14
4. Italian Polka

Glinka, Valse-Fantaisie in B minor

A leading international artist, Yeol Eum Son has excited patrons in her two previous San Jose appearances. She is highly regarded as a

brilliant virtuoso whose playing has a rare balance between enormous kinetic energy and substantial gravity.

Yeol Eum performs a widely eclectic and rich repertoire—ranging from Bach and Mozart to German and Russian Romantics, and the twentieth century music of Gershwin, Szymanowski, Ligeti, and Salonen. She performs as a soloist and with the world's leading orchestras. Yeol Eum placed second at the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Competition and the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Her discography includes the music of early 20th century composers Berg, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Ravel, as well as recordings of the complete Chopin Etudes, Chopin Nocturnes for Piano and Strings, Schumann's Fantasy in C, Kreisleriana, and Arabesque, and a new all-Kapustin release—marking a year since the composer's death.

#### March 12 Program

Baldassare, Harpsichord Sonata No. 5 in C Major, T.27

1. Andante
2. Allegro
3. Allegro Assai

Mendelssohn, Piano Sonata in G minor, Op. 105

1. Allegro
2. Adagio cantabile e lento
3. Presto

Prokofiev, Piano Sonata No. 3 in A minor, Op. 28

1. Allegro tempestoso

INTERMISSION

Ravel, Sonatine

1. Modéré
2. Mouvement de menuet
3. Animé

Kapustin, Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 54

1. Allegro molto
2. Scherzo: Allegro assai
3. Largo
4. Perpetuum mobile: Allegro vivace

Ticket Prices: \$42 to \$65 for live performances; Streaming Tickets: \$40 per household. Link is live for 48 hours from the time of the live concert.

Purchasers may choose to watch the event live or the recording afterward.]

Purchase Tickets: <https://steinwaysociety.com> Box Office: 408.300.5635

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Times **Local News**

Photo courtesy of **Conductor Carlos Vieu** and Symphony San Jose

## Symphony San Jose presents Feste Romane

Symphony San Jose presents *Feste Romane* on Sat, Mar 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Sun. March 27 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose.

This multifaceted concert features Respighi's *Feste Romane*. The program also includes two pieces by Brahms and a new lyrical double concerto performed by renowned classical violinist Rachel Lee Priday together with its composer, Juan Pablo Jofre, playing the haunting bandoneon.

### The program:

Johannes Brahms: Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)

Juan Pablo Jofre: Bandoneon Violin Double Concerto No. 1 (with Juan Pablo Jofre and Rachel Lee as soloists)

Johannes Brahms: Nanie

Ottorino Respighi: Feste romane

Conductor: Maestro Carlos Vieu"

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



**Rachel Lee Priday**

*The California Theatre is located at: 345 South First St., San Jose.*



**Juan Pablo Jofre**

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Times **Feature**



# Seven biggest trends predicted to influence home projects this year

Homeowners expect to invest in features to make their homes more comfortable, livable and sustainable. High style will take a back seat to comfort and calm in 2022 as homeowners invest in features and projects that foster a sense of renewal and reflect core values around sustainability and self-care, Zillow analysts predict. Projects and features that foster a sense of well-being and create new space to relax, recharge and work comfortably from home are among the top seven home trends to watch in 2022.

Potential and recent home buyers also appear keen on colors associated with water and blue skies. Zillow's interior paint color analysis found homes with light blue bathrooms could sell for 1.6% more than expected, or nearly \$5,000 on a typical U.S. home. Homes with a bedroom painted a dark, moody blue could sell for a nearly \$1,500 premium.\*

**Putting values into action**

Sustainability is a core value for many homeowners, especially younger generations who will be seeking out home features and products in 2022 that reflect their values.

Sustainable home features such as smart lightbulbs, leak detectors and thermostats can save energy and money — and they are associated with homes that sell faster.

*Continued, next page*



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YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



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



Zillow research found that home listings with descriptions mentioning “eco,” “energy efficient” or similar terms sell more than two days faster than expected.

Listings that mention drought-resistant landscaping can sell 13 days faster, while smart sprinkler systems and energy-conserving double pane windows are associated with homes selling more than a week quicker than expected.

**Old is new again**  
Secondhand furniture and décor will be in demand, a trend driven by supply issues and the desire to reduce waste by giving used furnishings a new life.

Younger homeowners will put a modern twist on design trends that were prominent during their childhoods. For instance, plaster finishes will replace faux paint finishes, and wallpaper will make a comeback but with bold, contemporary and geometric patterns.

Look for all-wood kitchens too, with cherry cabinets giving way to white oak.

**Furnishings that feel good**  
Forget stiff couches, sharp angles and scratchy fabrics. With people spending more time at home, furnishings will become as comfortable and cozy as a pair of flannel pajamas.

Furniture styles are already starting to reflect an easy-on-the eye sensibility, with curved couches and rounded corners dominating the market. Nubby fabric upholstery — as opposed to leather — will be cropping up on all manner of furniture, ottomans will replace sharp-edged coffee tables, and cozy accent chairs that hug the body will become preferred sitting.

**Renovations that add space**  
As the home continues to serve as the center of life and work for millions of remote workers, homeowners will be renovating their homes to meet new, evolving needs.

A recent Zillow survey found that nearly three in four homeowners are considering

at least one improvement project in 2022. The most popular was adding or improving a home office space (31%), followed by finishing a basement or attic (23%), adding another room (23%) and putting in another dwelling unit, such as a backyard cottage or guest house (21%).

Supply disruptions in materials and labor shortages also will spur homeowners to repurpose existing spaces. For instance, expect garages to become full-scale home gyms, sheds to become home offices and closets to do double-duty as “cloffices.”

**Peaceful retreats at home**  
Homeowners will prioritize retreats within their homes, creating spaces for meditation or reflection, reading nooks and spa-inspired bathroom escapes. Retreat features, such as a “she shed,” can help a home sell for 2.2% more than expected, while a free-standing bathtub can contribute to a home selling for a 2.6% premium.

Homeowners also will be bringing more natural light into their homes, especially home offices and common spaces, while indoor plants will retain their popularity for bringing nature indoors.

**More spaces for pets**  
Pet ownership among recent movers soared over the past year, impacting housing decisions. Nearly three-fourths of home buyers report having at least one pet at home (73%), up from the 64% of buyers who reported having a pet in 2020, according to Zillow research.

Expect those pets to be enjoying new digs as more homeowners design their homes inside and out with their pets in mind and invest in custom feeding stations, built-in pet beds, even playrooms.

Zillow research finds homes with a doghouse often sold for more than expected last year, while homes with a fenced yard or dog run sold faster than similar homes without these features.

\*Adding these design features to a home, or adding words to describe them to a for-sale listing description, does NOT guarantee or definitively cause the ultimate sale price to increase (or fall) as much as observed. Rather, it’s likely that for-sale homes with these kinds of features in their descriptions may be of generally higher quality all around (or are at least perceived to be), in ways that are difficult to observe or quantify but which tend to lead to a higher final sale price.

*This article is not intended to provide legal, financial or real estate advice. It is for information purposes only. Article provided courtesy Zillow.*



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## Times Feature

### Tech Jargon of the week: Voice Recognition

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there's no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

#### Voice Recognition

Voice recognition software is an ever-increasing part of our lives, though thankfully not like the sci-fi movies of the 80's or 90's led us to believe. Whether its Siri or Cortana on our phone, or Amazon Echo or Google Home in our living rooms, we are talking to digital assistants more than ever.

Their popularity is derived from the numerous benefits they provide to our professional and personal lives. Using voice recognition software, we can quickly respond to emails, record speeches, surf the internet, get the latest weather updates, and get the latest news, to name but a few. While, for those with physical and visual impairments, this software can assist with everyday tasks, such as reading out messages, playing music and adjusting the lighting and thermostat in the home.

So, what is Voice Recognition and how does it work?

Put simply, voice recognition is an alternative to typing on a keyboard. You talk to a computer, or a smartphone and words 'magically' appear on a screen. The software behind this technology 'takes' the soundwaves in the air and translates them into their digital representation, which a computer or a smart device can understand. Voice recognition is part of the family of 'behavioral biometrics', used to

authenticate identity and can be used as an alternative to the traditional PIN and password.

Although this new type of technology has become widely available to the public, the question of how it works is still frequently asked. Voice recognition software programs work by analyzing sounds and performing tasks based on the information that is given to them via voice. Broadly speaking, there are four different approaches a computer can take if it wants to turn spoken sounds into written words:

1. Simple pattern matching (where each spoken word is recognized in its entirety—the way you instantly recognize a tree or a table without consciously analyzing what you're looking at)

2. Pattern and feature analysis (where each word is broken into bits and recognized from key features, such as the vowels it contains)

3. Language modeling and statistical analysis (in which a knowledge of grammar and the probability of certain words or sounds following on from one another is used to speed up recognition and improve accuracy)

4. Artificial neural networks (brain-like computer models that can reliably recognize patterns, such as word sounds, after exhaustive training).

In practice, the everyday speech recognition we encounter in things like automated call centers, computer dictation software, or smartphone "agents" (like Siri and Cortana) combines a variety of different approaches to get the results.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at [shub.saxen@gmail.com](mailto: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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## Community News



The Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on March 31, 2020 as officials work to make a temporary homeless shelter on the site during the COVID-19 outbreak. Photo by 111th Group aerial photography.

## Santa Clara County plans Major League cricket stadium at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

By Times Staff Writers  
Publisher

Santa Clara County's law makers are moving forward with plans to build a 15,000-person cricket stadium at the county fairgrounds located on Tully Rd. in San Jose.

Major League Cricket (MLC) and the county announced they are in an exclusive negotiating agreement to move forward with lease negotiations and design approvals for a new stadium that will be constructed on a 14-acre site located on the fairgrounds.

"Cricket is a sport that's increasing in popularity in the U.S. and Santa Clara County," said Supervisor Otto Lee in a statement. "The addition of an international cricket venue to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds would help attract large numbers of visitors from around the world to the region. We look forward to finalizing plans with Major League Cricket to move forward with this exciting development for Santa Clara County."

MLC spokesperson Tom Dunmore said

*"The addition of an international cricket venue to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds would help attract large numbers of visitors from around the world to the region."*

– Supervisor Otto Lee

the fairground is an ideal location for a cricket stadium adding, "We love the idea of adding to that land and helping develop that portion of San Jose."

County officials have attempted to revitalize the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds site for many years. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors voted to explore and evaluate a long list of options, including a baseball stadium, cricket field, county park, and a hotel among others—with a vision to create a space for public events and recreation.

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## Times Feature

# Why you aren't popular

By Apoorva Panidapu  
Special to the Times

Hi everyone! As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM (fields of science, technology, engineering and math), is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. This column will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end.

You aren't popular. Don't take it personally, but mathematically speaking, on average, your friends have more friends than you do. Cue the Friends theme song, "So no one told you life was gonna be this waaaay!"

You might be thinking, "What friends?" It's okay, I'm your friend, and one is better than none! <3

But seriously, the phenomenon of the number of friends of your friends being, on average, greater than your friends is known as the friendship paradox. This paradox was first introduced by sociologist Scott Field in 1991. (I heard that, by 1992, his friend count went down to 0. Wonder why...)

How in the world is this true? It seems like we would run out of people at some point, right? If my friends have more friends than me, but their friends have more friends than them, and their friends have more friends than them, won't we need an infinite number of friends? No! We have forgotten one key fact: people can count more than once because friendship is mutual (hopefully). Also, the friendship paradox is based on an average, which can be a very misleading measure. For example, if I took the average of 1, 2, and 3, I would get  $(1+2+3)/3 = 2$ . But, if I took the average of 1, 2, 3, and 96, I would get  $(1+2+3+96)/4 = 25$ . With just one extra value (an outlier, if you will), the average COMPLETELY changes. Now, this is a very simple example, but you get the idea: your popular friends are to blame for your comparative unpopularity.

Think of your most extroverted, sociable friend, who seems to have people around them all the time. For me, that's my very good friend Andrew Garfield. (Alright FINE, we're not "real" friends in the technical sense of the word, but in my head we're besties so it still counts). Anyway, Andrew knows all the cool celebrities and is literally Spider-man, so he basically has hundreds of friends. Now, think of someone you know who prefers their own company, maybe only has a couple friends (it's okay, you can say yourself). Our social circles tend to have more of the Andrew Garfield type, just because there's a higher chance of being one of their many many friends than being friends with someone who is a little more introverted, though it's still possible! However, the averages often overshadow these friendships with introverts.

This is why the friendship paradox happens: the distribution of your friends is not linear. Most people have a couple close friends, but the small number of people that have TONS of friends is why this average becomes suddenly skewed, making your number of friends pale in comparison. It's a form of sampling bias, because your friends are not an accurate representation of the general population friend counts.

This paradox translates to very similar sit-

uations, like your Facebook friends have more friends than you have on average, your Twitter followers have more followers than you do on average, and your friends also have more money than you do, say it with me, on average. This is an expected result because of how these networks are connected.

Let's just say this isn't very helpful for our general happiness levels. That's why it always seems like the people around us are happier, richer, and just doing better than you are, especially on social media where networks are even broader. But don't worry, that's the horrible sampling bias at work! It's like going to the gym for the



## Gems in STEM

By Apoorva Panidapu

first time. You might be distraught by how much bigger muscles the people there have. However! You forgot about the people who don't go to the gym, so you're comparing yourself to a very small part of the population that isn't an accurate representation of the general muscle size. Don't worry, you'll get those big muscles eventually!

So, is the friendship paradox's only purpose to torture me with the knowledge that my friends are popular-er, richer, and better than me? Thankfully, no! Otherwise, I would be squaring up with Scott

Field right now.

This paradox can be applied to help prevent

the spread of infectious disease! Sound familiar? This makes sense, because "popular" people who meet more of their friends are more likely to catch it and spread it, making them "super-spreaders." The lesson? Don't have friends and you won't catch diseases! (The actual lesson is to be responsible during a pandemic, but that's beside the point.) The friendship paradox can actually detect these outbreaks faster than traditional methods, and caught flu outbreaks two weeks earlier than the old methods.

So, the paradox isn't really a paradox, and you aren't really unpopular. But, even if you are, I'll be there for youuuuuu!

Until next time! If you found this interesting, make sure to check out the next column! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvapwrites@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvapwrites@gmail.com).

## Shawn Ansari – Record Sale



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# Sale Pending!

## 5821 Chambertin Drive

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.

Old Almaden Winery

\$1,650,000

3 Bed

2.5 Bath

1756 Sq Ft



*The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2021 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.*

*If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.*

**Therese Swan**

408.656.8240

tswan@tswan.com

AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

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