

San Jose, Vietnamese residents mourn loss of community leader  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**Health as a priority**  
Access to safe and high quality healthcare vital to county  
**SEE PAGE 12**

Silicon Valley residents could face fines for wasting water  
**SEE PAGE 14**



MAY 20 – JUNE 2, 2022 ■ VOL. 39, NO. 11

# Evergreen Times

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Athena Crosby

## Athena Crosby will compete in Miss California USA pageant representing SJ

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Athena Michaela Crosby of Almaden Valley has been named Miss San Jose in the Miss California USA pageant which will be held June 3-5 in Anaheim.

Each year two young women are crowned Miss California USA and Miss California Teen USA. The pageant provides a positive, fun  
*See CROSBY, page 2*

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## New Evergreen restaurant *Funny Farm* break-in caught on surveillance camera

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Evergreen Valley's newest restaurant *Funny Farm* is reeling after a senseless, destructive break-in resulting in the loss of staff tips; all caught on surveillance video.

The video shows the moment the masked burglar smashed right through the side entrance plate glass door and into *Funny Farm* Restaurant on the corner of San Felipe and Yerba Buena (in the Evergreen College Shopping Center) at 3:30 a.m. Thursday, May 5.

"I woke up to quite a number of texts and missed phone calls," said co-owner Monica Levi. When they realized what had happened, she and co-owner Ron Levi jumped in the car to find the damage and the police already on the scene approximately 15 minutes later.

"We both watched the surveillance video as the intruder searched our restaurant for anything of value, Monica said. "It was really sad, and stealing the staff tips, that was kind of hard because they were hidden."

The video showed the burglar grabbing about \$200 in tips from beneath the front counter and smashing the empty cash register to pieces. They also busted through the exterior door and

kicked in an unlocked door to a back office.

"They pretty much destroyed the whole thing," said Ron. "It's useless now."

Monica and Ron have also learned they're not the only ones targeted in their shopping center.

"Almost everyone in this plaza has suffered a break-in and a lot of them multiple times," said Ron.

And Ron says the thief seemed to be experienced, because "The thief knew exactly what they were doing and just went for the super high-end stuff."

Stolen were expensive liquor, some bottles worth hundreds of dollars each, and an iPad, along with other small items.

That's another couple grand in repair costs.

"The damage is more of an emotional kind of crush than the things they're stealing, because you see the wreckage and you have to do something about fixing it," said Ron. "The stuff that's gone – it's gone – you lost it."

### Community support

The couple says neighboring business owners are now communicating and looking out for one another.

"The burglar should know it won't be that easy next time," Ron said.

And they say customers responded by bringing them business, spreading the news on social media.

"People have just been coming out in droves to support us, so it's really heartwarming," Monica said.

### Police investigation

The San Jose Police Department



The video shows the moment the masked burglar smashed right through the side entrance plate glass door and into *Funny Farm* Restaurant on the corner of San Felipe and Yerba Buena.

is investigating and the Levis say they've received calls from people who think they know who the man is and the callers were forwarded to police.

*Editor's Note: To learn more about the new Funny Farm located in Evergreen, visit their website, [www.funnyfarmrestaurant.square.site](http://www.funnyfarmrestaurant.square.site)*

## Measure EE Citizens' Oversight Committee accepting applications from parents and community members

The Evergreen School District is accepting applications from parents and community members interested in serving on the Measure EE Citizens' Oversight Committee for the 2022-2023 school year.

This committee will oversee the expenditure of Measure EE Parcel Tax funds, ensuring they are spent as approved by the voters. It is expected that the committee will meet twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit a letter of interest to: Evergreen School District; 3188 Quimby Road, San Jose, CA

95148; Attention: Debbie Ashmore.

Your letter should include a brief introduction of yourself, your contact information, and an overview as to why you are interested in serving on the committee.

### Deadline

All letters must be received at the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on May 27, 2022.

Applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Katie Coates at 408-270-6827 or [kcoates@eesd.org](mailto:kcoates@eesd.org).



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Times **Cover Story**

**Crosby**

*Continued from page 1*

environment in which young women have the opportunity to develop skills that will help them win in life by being their personal best in everything they do; building self-confidence, individual pride, and a greater self-awareness.

"I'm so excited to be competing in Miss California USA 2022 representing my hometown of San Jose," Crosby said. "As a former Miss California Teen USA, the pressure is definitely on for me to perform well."

Athena, a Leland High School graduate, explained that the Miss California USA competition is even more competitive, as the winner goes on to Miss USA, where she has the chance to advance to Miss Universe, the most prestigious pageant in the world. She is the recipient of two "Miss Congeniality" awards during her pageant career.

Athena said, "Being a former teen queen is an advantage for me given that I know the expectations of the organization and the skills it takes to execute the job. Yet, it is a whole new competition and I couldn't be more excited to be competing with the most accomplished and intelligent women across the state."

Athena is involved in San Jose's community which she says is very important to her.

"I am honored to be singing the National Anthem at this week's San Jose Giants game. The San Jose Giants promote excellence amongst their athletes, and many of them have gone on to play major league baseball for the SF Giants and other teams. They compete at the local level and at the state level, just like a pageant."

Aside from pageants, Athena works as an actress, model, and television host. Her most no-



**Athena Crosby** Miss San José USA at San José Giants honoring the crowd, players, and game by singing the US National Anthem on April 26.

table work was hosting "Eco Company," which was a nationally syndicated show that aired on FOX about environmental preservation.

Athena is currently the key host and moderator for Cinequest, Silicon Valley's international film festival which just wrapped a successful spring season. The event is anticipating a return to an in-person festival format later this year.

Athena has also been a special guest on CBS Los Angeles, FOX News Bay Area, and Good Morning San Diego, and her most recent acting work includes two television commercials for Tahoe Blue Vodka and Sway Energy Drinks. Additionally, she has worked as a print and promotional model for brands such as Verizon Wireless, Xfinity, iTan, Cupshe Swimwear, and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Athena was born and raised in San Jose and is a dual citizen of the United States and Venezuela.



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**Fedor former positions include:** Board Member, San Jose Police Foundation | Rape Crisis Counselor Santa Clara County President Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association | Volunteered for Archbishop Mitty High School, Quimby Oak, Odyssey of the Mind, Lego Build Day, PAWS



Denelle Fedor is pictured with Jim Zito, Evergreen School District Board Trustee, with his son Anthony Zito at his Senior Ball.



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## Two stabbed, others pepper sprayed at Lake Cunningham Park in Evergreen

Two people were stabbed and at least three others were pepper sprayed during a large fight at Lake Cunningham Park in Evergreen on Sunday, May 1, according to police.

Police responded to the park at about 5 p.m. and determined a female stabbed two people. The victims suffered non-life threatening injuries and were transported to local hospitals.

Police said another female used pepper spray on various people.

Three victims requested to be treated by first responders at the scene and were subsequently released.

## Bicyclist killed in crash with car is identified

*The man was hit while crossing lanes of traffic*

A bicyclist was pronounced dead at the scene after a collision on Capitol Expressway on Sunday May 8.

The bicyclist was killed after being struck by a driver while crossing traffic lanes on Capitol Expressway and Tuers Road at approximately 9:12 p.m. near Tuers Road, according to a San Jose police.

Authorities identified the victim May 11 as 52-year-old Jose Navarro Jr. by the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office.

A person driving a 2007 Nissan sedan in the westbound lanes hit a man riding a bicycle, police said. The bicyclist was crossing traffic lanes from north to south.

The driver stayed at the scene and cooperated with the investigation, according to authorities. Police said alcohol and drugs were not believed to be factors in the crash.

The fatal crash marked the 31st traffic death in the city this year and the fourth of a bicyclist.



## Annual 'Proud of My Family' event slated June 4th at Discovery Museum

Adding a positive voice to the national narrative around inclusion and diversity, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose hosts its eighth annual "Proud of My Family" event Saturday, June 4.

Visitors will enjoy activities designed to celebrate all types of families, especially LGBTQ+ parents, relatives, and friends.

The museum's "Proud of My Family" event is one of the few Pride events that is held every year for young children and their families.

The event fosters understanding and builds awareness of family diversity while recognizing that families come in all configurations and what binds people together are the shared hopes and dreams for their children and their futures.

### Day of Activities

- Make a rainbow streamer to spin, twirl, and whirl.
- March in the visitor parade.
- Rainbow Reflections:
- Learn the meaning behind the Pride Flag colors with a scavenger hunt.
- Strike a pose to make lasting family memories with a commemorative photo.
- Craft a rainbow and magical designs on faces, hands, and arms with paint in the museum's Face Painting Room.
- Move and groove in the Rainbow Dance Zone.
- Enjoy a live performance. (TBD)
- Take home a swag bag of Pride goodies.

The program was created in partnership with the museum's LGBTQ advisory committee and is part of the museum's Cultural Competence strategic commitment.

The museum was the recipient of the prestigious Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion Award in 2020 by the professional association American Alliance of Museums, which represents over 5,000 museums of all disciplines.

# Valley Currents

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

## San Jose, Vietnamese residents mourn loss of community leader Thang Do

By Tran Nguyen

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

The South Bay is mourning the death of a community leader who dedicated years of his life to uplifting the Vietnamese community and revitalizing downtown San Jose.

Thang Do, CEO of San Jose-based architecture firm Aedis Architects and co-founding member of the Progressive Vietnamese American Organization (PIVOT), died Sunday, May 8 due to health issues at the age of 62. He's survived by his wife Grace Liu and four children.

Do, a refugee who fled Vietnam in 1975, supported himself through college. He earned his degree in architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo College of Architecture and Environmental Design. He called the South Bay home for roughly four decades. As a San Jose planning commissioner and board member of the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, Do played a pivotal role in the efforts to revitalize downtown San Jose. Do worked with the city, nonprofits and local businesses to transform South First Street and the SoFa District.

"Many of us lost a friend this weekend, and the community lost a giant," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said in a social media post. "Thang Do bestowed beauty on our city with everything he designed at Aedis Architecture, with a passion for sustainability and for telling each community's unique story. Thang's own story was remarkable, having escaped the Vietnam War to build an incredible life and family—here with his wife Grace Liu—always giving back to the community."

### A legacy in San Jose

Do was also the lead architect in the first-of-its-kind Vietnamese American Service Center on Tully Road, a project he called a milestone of his career. Do brought his experience and perspective as a Vietnamese immigrant into the design of the building, which features a large yellow letter V representing Vietnamese people in the main lobby, images of a bamboo edge and rice paddy fields and an overhead art installation that resembles the shape of an iconic Vietnamese conical hat.

As a community activist, Do spearheaded efforts to empower the local Vietnamese culture.

In 2017, Do co-founded PIVOT to help bring the Vietnamese community together as older and younger generations saw the political disconnect widen between them under the Trump administration. Do took on the responsibility of translating information and news articles into Vietnamese. The organization has since been recognized nationally for its role in increasing civic engagement and fighting misinformation for Vietnamese residents across the U.S.

"He built more than just buildings—he built community, across generations and geography," PIVOT said in a statement about Do. "He taught many about the love of the Vietnamese language and culture. He reminded us through his own actions about what it meant to love family, community and justice."

Khanh Nguyen, a friend of Do for more than 30 years and a board member at PIVOT, said Do was a bridge the community needed.

"So many of us felt this loss," Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "He was not only a huge contributor (to the community), but he was just someone who was a very special person."

Do's vision, talent and generosity has inspired many, including Vietnamese American Roundtable Executive



Thang Do (left) was the lead architect in the first-of-its-kind Vietnamese American Service Center in San Jose. Photo courtesy of Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Director Philip Nguyen.

"He was one of the first faces in the Vietnamese community here that welcomed me in," Philip Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "He gave a lot of himself to the community through (designing the Vietnamese Service Center)."

### A visionary

Do was recruited by Aedis Architects—then known as PJHM—after graduating college. The young architect quickly moved up the ranks and became the firm's leader when he was barely 30, Do told Chopsticks Alley, a multimedia publication promoting Vietnamese and Filipino stories in San Jose.

Do started to get heavily involved in community work around 2008, when he became a San Jose planning commissioner.

Fred Buzo, SPUR's San Jose director, was a city employee at the time. Buzo said he was impressed with Do's vision and ability to apply his immigrant experience into urban planning. He recalled a meeting in 2009 where Do raised questions about a policy that would potentially gentrify certain neighborhoods.

"I just remember thinking, 'Wow, this guy really gets it,'" Buzo told San José Spotlight. "He was thinking way ahead of people."

Do also stood out to Buzo as a visionary for his strong commitment to sustainable and environmental-friendly building designs.

Aedis Architects designed its own LEED Platinum certified headquarters inside a historic structure on South First Street. The facility houses SoFA Market, an urban food hall Do founded. He also opened The Fountainhead Bar in the same building, a space that has served as a community gathering space for both his colleagues in architecture and members of the Vietnamese community.

Do also served on the San Jose Architectural Review Committee, Silicon Valley Housing Trust and the San Jose Museum of Art.

His work has been honored and recognized by the American Institute of Architects, the city of San Jose, Santa Clara County and Assemblymember Ash Kalra.

"Of all the places in the world Thang Do could have made his contributions, we are blessed that the universe chose San Jose," Kalra said in a commendation given to Do this month. "I will forever be grateful for the places and spaces Thang has created for us that will be enjoyed for generations to come. Talent, humility and commitment to community are a rare combination that Thang possesses and will serve as a model for me and many others to emulate. Thank you, Thang!"

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Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO

WILLIAM D. BELLOU

willamb@timesmediainc.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

WILLIAM D. BELLOU

willamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES

WILLIAM D. BELLOU

408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,  
SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD,  
NIRBAN SINGH, FRANK SHORTT,  
JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU,  
APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR

JEFF BAHAM

graphics@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

SANDY BELLOU

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## Former Pleasant Hills Golf Course 114-acre site for sale

By William Bellou  
Publisher

A large 114-acre site, the Former Pleasant Hills Golf Course, is for sale. Asking price: \$125,000,000.

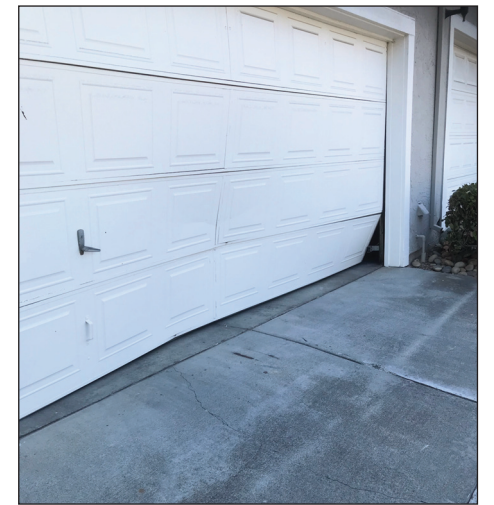
The golf course property, which closed in 2004, is one of the last remaining large sites available for development in Silicon Valley directly across from the 16-acre Lake Cunningham Park in Evergreen Valley and is surrounded by three residential neighborhoods.

The property was originally supported by the City of San Jose Planning Department for a large residential development.

However, in 2008 the City Council tabled the development in order to revise the City's general plan (a four year process).

In February of 2012 the City's new general plan (Envision 2040) was adopted and this parcel was left in an Open Space zoning. The potential for completing a master planned, mix-used development on the site remains a real possibility with the creation of a "Signature" development plan.

Although housing should be a major part of any development, the City of San Jose will require a balance of jobs as part of the development.



Pictured are two of the twelve damaged garage doors caused from an angry driver allegedly under the influence of drugs on May 11 at the Villas of Yerba Buena townhomes in Evergreen.

## A rude awakening: 12 homes shook when garage doors are rammed

By Frank Shortt  
Times staff writer

Imagine having a peaceful morning interrupted by hearing one's garage door being rammed inward by an unknown assailant.

That's what happened to twelve homeowners living in the usually serene Yerba Buena Villas in Evergreen consisting of well-kept townhomes on Wednesday, May 11.

The homes shook when their garage

doors were destroyed by a driver allegedly under the influence of some type of substance.

Not only did the maniacal female driver rampage cause thousands of dollars of damage at the Villas, but it is reported that the same person visited a couple of local country clubs, forcing her way in by crashing the guard gates and ramming into garage doors there too; 24 in all.

There has not been a motive decided but  
*See GARAGE DOORS, page 21*

### Norwood Neighborhood Association



### Community Event - Neighborhood Wide



On Saturday, May 21st, many of the residents of the Norwood Neighborhood Association will participate in a Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale.

Norwood Neighborhood Association represents the residents in the area bounded by White road to the West, Ruby Ave to the East, Tully Road to the North and Norwood Ave to the South.

The residents of the are invited to participate in the Garage Sale. The residents will hold their garage sales at their own home, in their own driveway. The neighborhood association will publicize the event through various media.

To find out which streets have residents that are participating, look the Association's Facebook Event (<https://fb.me/e/35VAtKLYc>). The event page will be updated as the local residents inform the organizers that their home / street will participate.

Date: Saturday, May 21st

Time: 8AM to 2PM

Where: homes within the Norwood Neighborhood Association area. See <https://fb.me/e/35VAtKLYc> to get a list of streets participating.

Inquiries: contact Michael Gabler at [mgabler@earthling.net](mailto:mgabler@earthling.net)



## Evergreen School District

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San Jose, CA 95148  
ATTN: Debbie Ashmore

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Times **In Memory**

### Honoring the legacy of Norman Mineta

By Otto Lee

*Santa Clara County Supervisor*

Norman Yoshio Mineta, a true American legend, trailblazer, and friend, passed away on May 3, 2022. Norm dedicated his life to public service and left the United States of America a better country because of his work.

Norm Mineta was born in San Jose, California on November 12, 1931. Shortly after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, this racially based order forced Norm, his family, and over 100,000 other Japanese Americans out of their homes and lives and into internment camps. Norm and his family spent several years interned at the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Cody, Wyoming. Despite being interned as a child during World War II, he dedicated his life to fighting for others and serving his community.

As a young man in the Bay Area, Norm helped supply insurance to thousands of Asian Americans when they were unable to obtain insurance. In 1967, San Jose Mayor Ron James appointed Norm to a vacant

seat on the San Jose City Council. During his time as a Councilmember, his colleagues voted him to be the city's Vice Mayor.

After serving four years on the City Council, he became the first Asian American elected Mayor of San José in 1971. Norm was so loved by the community that his Mayoral campaign won every single precinct in San Jose, garnering 60% of the total vote. He was then elected to Congress in 1975 and subsequently reelected in the next ten elections, always collecting at least 57% of the vote.

During his two decades as a Congressional Representative for the Greater San José area, his numerous contributions included transforming transportation planning nationwide, and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that granted reparations to interned Japanese Americans.

Norm was the first Asian American to hold a cabinet post when he served as Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton. He then became one of only four Americans to hold a Cabinet position under presidents from different parties when he became Secretary of Transportation in 2001.

*See MINETA, page 10*



# How were your 2000 Measure A tax dollars spent?






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## Public Hearing Notice

The public is invited to provide input at the 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee's (MBCOC) public hearing on 2016 Measure B revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021:

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.  
Zoom videoconference (includes phone capability)

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent county-wide sales tax devoted to enhancing transit, highways, expressways, and active transportation (bicycles, pedestrian, and complete streets) within Santa Clara County. Voters entrusted the MBCOC with oversight to ensure that 2016 Measure B funds are being spent consistent with the ballot language and to inform voters on Program compliance.

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) continues its delivery of the projects and programs contained in the 2016 Measure B Program. Examples of the many projects/programs underway include local streets/roads repair and improvements; highway interchanges; and bicycle/pedestrian projects. More information on 2016 Measure B projects/programs is available on VTA's website: (1) 2016 Measure B Program; and (2) 2016 Measure B Transparency Website.

Further information on the public hearing is available at the Board & Committee portal on [vta.org](http://vta.org). The public is encouraged to provide their input during the Zoom meeting or via email, which will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on 5/25/22 at: [board.secretary@vta.org](mailto:board.secretary@vta.org).

Sign language and additional interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting VTA Customer Service at least five days prior to the hearing at [customer.service@vta.org](mailto:customer.service@vta.org) or (408) 321- 2300, TTY (408) 321-2330.

Copies of 2016 Measure B Program documents, and the results of the independent audit on FY 2021, are available for public inspection from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the VTA offices at 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA in the Building B lobby. This information is also available at: [vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b](http://vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b). Questions on the public hearing should be directed to: Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-5680 or to [board.secretary@vta.org](mailto:board.secretary@vta.org).

**Your 2016 Measure B Tax Dollars at Work!**

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### A break from prowling

This bobcat was caught taking a nonchalant break at the Villages on a recent spring day.

### Mineta

*Continued from page 8*

During the most perilous of times for America, he guided our nation by making the unprecedented decision to ground all planes during the 9/11 attacks. Acting on his lived experiences at the internment camps during World War II, Norm stopped airlines from practicing racial profiling against the Muslim community thereafter. At the heart of his legacy is the steadfast leadership and poise that protected our nation and our civil lib-

erties.

I am humbled to have been mentored by him for the past number of years. I am truly fortunate and grateful to learn from the wisdom and experiences that he shared with me. His service opened a pathway for generations of Asian Americans to serve and lead in Santa Clara County and across the nation. I revere him as a role model for his selfless loyalty to our nation.

He will be missed by so many, but he will always be remembered. Rest in peace, rest in power and rest in honor, Norm.

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\* 100% of proceeds are donated as grants to struggling charities and schools, and merit-based scholarships for high school students.

For more information  
[www.AlmadenWomen.org](http://www.AlmadenWomen.org)



### Join our community of involved women!

The Almaden Valley Women's Club is currently accepting new members. We are a committed group of women who enjoy having fun while giving back to our community. We come together to volunteer as a group, to socialize with walks and fun activities and to put on annual community events, raising funds for local area non-profit organizations.

If you live in the San Jose area and are interested in learning more about us, please visit our website: <https://www.almadenwomen.org>





Times **Community**

## Church linked to recent kidnapping also tied to alleged exorcism death of three-year-old girl

The recent kidnapping and safe recovery of a 3-month-old boy, Brandon Cuellar, resulted in two individuals being charged with the crime who allegedly knew his mother from a church she attended.

The boy's grandmother, Victoria Mejia, told a reporter last week that she had met the supposed linchpin of the kidnapers, Yesenia Guadalupe Ramirez, 43, at church services and then befriended her, seeming to hover nearby when her baby grandson Brandon was near.

### Alleged possible exorcism death last year of three year old being investigated

The church is now being linked to the death of a 3-year-old girl last year.

Police were called to a South Bay church in September 2021 for a separate incident that involved the death of a 3-year-old girl at the Iglesia Evangelicas Apostoles y Profetas. The church operates out of the back room of a house and often posts its sermons on YouTube.

According to court documents, the death occurred at the church as family members were trying to rid the girl of an evil spirit that took place September last year. The incident was a private matter, not streamed, and it is alleged was some sort of exorcism that resulted in the death of the little girl.

According to court documents, the deceased girl's mother told police she thought the child was possessed by an evil spirit "because the victim would wake up and scream or cry periodically."

### Brandon's mom attends arraignment

The mother of 3-month-old Brandon attended the arraignment of the two suspects in the kidnapping case. She did not comment on the case.

It was learned that key suspect, Ramirez, of the kidnapping had previously been deported to El Salvador three times.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said the 43-year-old suspect had been deported once in 2018 and twice in 2019. She spent 10 days in a Texas jail in 2019 for illegal entry into the United States, ICE said.

ICE has placed a new detainer on Ramirez with the Santa Clara County Jail which would require Santa Clara County to hold onto Ramirez whenever she is released so she can be picked up and deported again.

Currently the county doesn't notify ICE when an undocumented person is freed from jail. But the request will most likely not be acted upon according to Zelica Rodriguez-Deams with the Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations.

"The county has made a commitment not to collaborate with ICE," Reodriguez-Deams said. "Especially because we want to make sure that we are upholding the value of our community, and our community feeling safe and trusting for our local police."

The county, as a policy, does not notify ICE when an undocumented immigrant is freed from jail and it does not keep any inmate longer than the law requires.



Kidnapping victim 3-month old **Brandon Cuellar**. "When Brandon was returned to his grandmother Ayala said, 'I felt like my soul came back to my body.'"



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Silver Creek Academy

SOS Auto Repair

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Valley Water

## Primary Election Ballots mailed Here's what you need to know...

By **William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

One million registered Santa Clara County voters began receiving June 7 primary ballots late last week.

Voters can begin casting 2020's first ballots in local and state races and on ballot measures.

The vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, dropped off at any county Vote Center, or deposited in any one of 48 dropbox locations in San Jose or any one of the 55 dropbox locations in other cities in the county before 8 p.m. June 7.

Elections officials want to remind voters that ballots only count when the return envelope is signed by the regis-

tered voter to whom the ballot was mailed. Also, the signature must appear similar to the original signature on the voter registration form.

Voters also can drop their ballots off at a Vote Center, where they also can vote in person.

The last day to register to vote in the June 7 primary is May 23. However, you can request a same-Day Voter Registration (less than 15 days before an election).

*Editor's note: Voters are likely to find some surprises in their ballots due to new district lines for the city of San Jose, county Board of Supervisors, as well as state Assembly and Senate, and Congressional districts, based on the 2020 census.*



Times **Community**



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San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose features shops and restaurants. Photo by Eli Wolfe.

# San Jose throws a lifeline to struggling small businesses

By **Jana Kadah**

Article courtesy of *San José Spotlight*

San Jose launched a new grant program this week to help small business owners with their back rent as a commercial eviction ban winds down over the summer.

About \$2.6 million in federal funds will be allocated to provide up to \$15,000 in grants to small businesses or companies still reeling from the economic impacts of the pandemic and COVID-related closures in the past two years. These grants will help cover unpaid or pending rent from March 24, 2020 through Aug. 19, 2021. City officials estimate 300 businesses will benefit from the program.

To qualify, San Jose business owners must fall into specific income brackets. A single-family household must make under \$78,550 per year. A family of four must make under \$112,125. The business must have less than 10 employees, must have gross receipts under \$3 million and have been in business before March 24, 2020. Applications will be accepted until May 30 at 5 p.m.

The program's launch was strategically timed with the commercial eviction protections ending on Aug. 19, city officials said. In February, commercial tenants had to pay half their back rent to remain protected from eviction. By August, tenants have to fulfill all back rent or risk losing their retail space.

"Direct funds to businesses are the best thing we could do," Nanci Klein, director of economic development, told San José Spotlight. "And removing a burden like rent allows and supports businesses in maintaining their location."

This program is the second iteration of a back rent grant by the city. In 2020, the city doled out \$3.8 million to more than 300

small business owners. The first time around there were too many barriers for those who were digitally illiterate, lacked broadband access or English wasn't their first language. This time the city has a lottery system and allows small business owners to apply in person.

"We learned from the other grant programs what are the pitfalls and barriers that make it almost impossible for a small business person," said Elisabeth Handler, spokesperson for the city's office of economic development. "It's very hard for some to apply for these particular programs that are administered by very, very sophisticated financial institutions, so that is the difference with our program."

Handler said changing the process to a lottery gives everyone an equal chance.

"The larger, better-established businesses are not going to really bother to try to get a \$15,000 rent relief grant, especially since it goes directly to the landlord," she

said.

However, she did add the city loses the ability to pick business owners in the hardest hit areas, which they were able to do in the first round. In 2020, the city notified people in the hardest hit ZIP codes first.

About 92% of prior grants went to business owners of color and 100% were distributed to low- or moderate-income applicants, according to city documents.

Derrick Seaver, president and CEO of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, said the grants continue to improve and are more targeted.

"This latest round is really microbusinesses, with some of the lowest amounts of overall annual revenue, often sole proprietorships," Seaver told San José Spotlight. "So from what we're hearing circumstantially, this seems to be going better than in the past."

**"Direct funds to businesses are the best thing we could do," Nanci Klein, director of economic development, told San José Spotlight. "And removing a burden like rent allows and supports businesses in maintaining their location."**



Times **Community**

# Silver Creek Academy celebrates 15 years of success

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Silver Creek Academy (SCA) has reached another milestone having served the academic needs of students in the Evergreen Valley community for 15 years.

Located in the Canyon Creek Plaza, SCA opened their doors in 2007. Founded by owner and credentialed teacher Shelley Swircek, the academy offers a wide variety of academic programs that focus on the individual needs of students.

Throughout the years, Silver Creek Academy has won many honors including being named Bay Area's #1 Learning Center by Bay Area Parent Magazine eleven times.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to do what I love in a community that supports our mission, Swircek said. "I know that the past two years have been difficult for many small businesses. We are fortunate that we quickly pivoted our teaching methods and continued to provide the best academic support possible for our clients. The dedication, passion, and hard work of our staff allowed SCA to navigate a difficult time for everyone."

The academy's programs are taught by credentialed teachers and include writing and grammar, reading comprehension, mathematics, public speaking and debate,



and HSPT & SAT preparation.

This summer, SCA will again be offering academic courses and summer camps for grades 1-8.

"We are honored to have served this community for the past 15 years and are excited to continue to provide the highest quality of educational support for our students," said Swircek.

For more information about Silver Creek Academy contact 408-839-5905 or visit [SCAAsanjo.com](http://SCAAsanjo.com).



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

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

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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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### Evergreen Senior Citizen Property Owners Are Eligible for Measure EE Parcel Tax Exemption

Evergreen property owners age 65 by June 30, 2023 or older are eligible to file for exemption from the annual \$125 Evergreen School District parcel tax for parcels they occupy as their principal residence.

For joint owners of a principal residence, only one owner needs to be age 65.

More information regarding the parcel tax exemption, including a form to request exemption, can be found on our District website at [www.eesd.org](http://www.eesd.org).

To complete the exemption, the form and supporting documents may be brought into the District Office located at 3188 Quimby Road, San Jose. Call Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863 to make an appointment.

Residents must file for the exemption in person with documents to prove their home ownership, residency, and age eligibility.

Those who have previously been granted an exemption from the Measure H Parcel Tax, their exemption will continue to be automatically renewed each year as long as you remain eligible for the exemption.

*Residents unable to submit the application in person or for additional information, contact Patty Maciel at (408) 270-6863.*

## Times Feature

# SJECED seeks applications to fill vacancy on Board of Trustees

San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECED) is currently soliciting applications from members of the community to serve as an appointed member of the board of trustees.

The appointment of the trustee would be effective until the next regularly scheduled election for governing board members, which will take place November 8, 2022.

The board is responsible for the performance of San José City College, Evergreen Valley College, the Community College Center for Economic Mobility, and the San José – Evergreen Community College Extension at Milpitas, which combined serve nearly 30,000 students per year and provide vital educational services to the communities in the region.

The board is seeking candidates who have the ability and time to fulfill the responsibilities of being a member of the board, which include:

- Participate fully in the work of the board, including attending all board meetings and key college events, studying and discussing policy issues, and participating in trustee education programs.

- Be knowledgeable about the communities served by SJECED and be willing to act on behalf and for the benefit of those communities.

- Be committed to community colleges and their missions; understand educational, social, and economic policy issues.

- Engage in balancing the needs of many diverse groups; be able to contribute to and build consensus.

- Contribute to effective board functioning and support the authority of the board as a whole.

The board of trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Additional meetings may be held each month as study sessions or as needed. Applicants must reside within Trustee Area 3, details of which are available online.

Those interested in the appointment may contact the SJECED Chancellor's Office to submit an application. Further information and application materials are available on the SJECED website or from Sherri Brusseau, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chancellor's Office and Board Services, at (408) 270-6409 or via email [sherri.brusseau@sjeccd.edu](mailto:sherri.brusseau@sjeccd.edu).

Applications are due no later than 12:00 p.m. on June 9, 2022. The Board will interview candidates on June 21, 2022 and anticipates it will make the provisional appointment on June 21, 2022.

## Silicon Valley residents could face fines for wasting water

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Although Valley Water aims to educate the public on conservation, it might start issuing fines for water wasters.

Residents could see water enforcers in their neighborhoods this summer, and offenders being slapped with fines up to \$500 after repeated warnings.

Valley Water board member John Varela said in a statement that if the statewide drought continues into 2023, Santa Clara County faces the possibility of wells going dry and land sinking from empty aquifers, which can rupture pipelines and crack home foundations, roads and bridges.

"For the first time in our history, Valley Water is considering adoption of an enforcement program that could fine those who waste water," he said. "We do not take this lightly, but we want everyone to know that we are in a very serious drought emergency, and we must all take immediate action to protect what little water we have."

California is once again in a statewide drought. San Jose received just 0.3 inches of rain from January through March this year, compared to 11 inches during the same time period in 2019, according to Valley Water.

Matt Keller, Valley Water spokesperson, said compared with March 2019, water usage increased 30% this March. Keller said residents being overwhelmed by the pandemic, war in Ukraine and inflation may have been distracted from worrying about water conservation, but it's essential.

"Everybody needs to take action to start conserving now," he told San José Spotlight. "We've endured the driest start to the year

ever on record. If we have another dry year, we will be in even more dire circumstances in 2023."

Keller said when violation reports come in, the water district will visit sites and provide education before issuing penalties. Sometimes people don't realize they are wasting water, he said. The cause might be a broken sprinkler.

Keller said water enforcers are needed because Santa Clara County isn't making enough progress on water savings. San Jose officials recently took steps to tighten water restrictions for new developments. He said about half the county's water is used outdoors. This is where the greatest reduction can occur, especially if residents just water lawns two days a week.

"If people just follow that," Keller said, "we should be able to meet our 15% conservation goal."

Kirsten Struve, assistant officer for the water supply division of Valley Water, said last June the board called for a 15% mandatory water usage reduction. In April, the board voted unanimously to restrict outdoor watering to no more than two days a week.

Although Santa Clara County is using less water than the state, Struve said it could be doing better. In March, California showed a 19% increase of water usage compared with March 2020, while the county only showed a 5% increase, she said.

"We haven't seen any water savings this year because it's been so dry," Struve told San José Spotlight.

Struve said thirsty lawns take a lot of water to keep green. She recommends letting them brown or replacing them with drought tolerant landscapes. Valley Water has increased rebates for residents to replace lawns during the drought.

The new ordinance will be voted on at Valley Water's May 24 board meeting.

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Times **Feature**

# The Auspices of Auxins

By Matthew Frazier

In late spring of 2010, I was working in the garden center at The Home Depot in the Cambrian area of San Jose.

It was during this time that a manager called me aside and told me I was to be certified, based on what they had observed thus far of my conversations and interactions with their customers. The curriculum was forty hours of web-based training to become a certified nursery consultant. This was eight multi-hour lectures which resulted in being given an iron-on patch with the title.

One of the lectures in the course dealt with something I had not yet heard, though I had worked in a true independent retail nursery prior to being hired at this Home Depot garden center: Auxins. From what I recall in one of these lectures ...

When we prune or shear a shrub or a tree, we cause a hormonal change which affects the growth habits and patterns. I learned that when we prune or shear with bypass pruners in a specific fashion, we inhibit lateral growth within which results in a more desired form and shape for our shrub or tree.

When we prune roses, for example, I was told to locate a leaf junction of three to five then locate the bud on the cane where we want the cut. Using bypass loppers, pruners, or shears ... Go up ¼ inch and cut parallel to the direction the bud is pointing. This causing a release of auxins which will inhibit lateral growth for the roses and give us a more balanced and bilateral form.

This principle was shared with me too by an arborist who was a guest in another nursery during a pruning seminar/workshop. When water droplets form on branches and canes, they can slide off when we make cuts parallel to the buds. Making cuts perpendicular to the buds allows water droplets to rest there and cause dieback and other damage. This practice, along with removing crossing and dead/dying branches or canes, will help

promote balanced and healthy plants.

I have invested some time in watching videos on how auxins work within plants. I have studies, in some basic manner, anatomy and physiology of plants independently as well as part of my on-site training in the nurseries where I began and later in the garden centers attached to the home improvement centers.

Giving balanced form to plants will help draw sunlight and oxygen to their core – resulting in a lower probability of aphid infestation and other destructive nuisance insects. In a future article, I will mention insectary plants which complement our garden and landscape specimens.

There are comprehensive videos which go into great detail about geotropism and phototropism and how auxins cause the foliage and the roots of plants to grow in a specific way with respect to sunlight. I highly recommend watching some of these videos. The level of detail is not really feasible to synopsise in this short article.

One of the pieces of knowledge which has stayed with me for the years during and since I worked in garden centers and nurseries is that plants are

highly adaptable and can alter their habits with respect to cosmetic and structural pruning and shearing. In the context of water conservation and xeriscaping ... Using bypass loppers, pruners, and shears in this fashion will allow your shrubs and trees to grow in a more balanced manner.

For enthusiasts of all levels, I always recommend learning the concepts and the details of care for our plants. Though I no longer work in garden centers or nurseries as a consultant or specialist, I do very much enjoy working in the gardens here at the house and employing what I learned in my years in service to customers and the public.

My focus has since shifted from garden centers and nurseries to landscape irrigation/water management and now Stormwater Management and Wastewater Management as they relate to Water Conservation. Next time you find yourself in your garden or your yard and working with your plants, please do take the opportunity to put this knowledge to use for your care and maintenance of your beloved plants.



**Water Wise**  
Matthew Frazier,  
Certified Water  
Manager

## Symphony San Jose announces 2022-2023 season

Symphony San Jose has announced the 2022 – 2023 Concert Season for Oct. 2022 – June 2023.

For the 2022 – 2023 concert season, Symphony San Jose will feature an acclaimed solo artist chosen for their virtuosity and their singular magic on their instrument.

Tickets: Subscriptions are available for packages of 4 and 8 programs.

Four-program packages range from \$204 to \$420; Eight-program packages range from \$360 to \$736. (Prices include Theatre Preservation Fee)

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Email: [jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org](mailto:jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org) Box Office and Administration Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose (Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre.)

Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm

Editor's note: Most programs at California Theatre at 345 South First Street with the Film in Concert performed at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden Blvd in downtown San Jose.

### The Season Preview

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See SYMPHONY, page 19

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Times Feature

TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK:

Robocalls

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

Robocalls

Answering a phone call only to have some random stranger yelling and threatening you because you supposedly owe the IRS money is confusing and frustrating. Robocalls aren’t only annoying, but they ultimately scam people who

don’t know any better out of money.

So, what are Robocalls?

Robocalls are automated phone calls made by computer systems that play a recorded message when you answer your phone. They are often a sales message but can also be an automated message for an appointment reminder or political message. When you pick up your phone to answer and hear a recording of any kind, you’ve just received a robocall. The term robocall derives from the fact that the call is completely automated, as if conducted by a robot.

Robocalls are used for a wide variety of communications including public service announcements, appointment reminders, marketing, advertising, opinion polls and political campaigns. They’re also often used illegally for phone scams.

Robocalls often enable interaction from the recipient, either through voice or keypad input or

through transfer to an agent or representative. A scam robocall, for example, might involve a message congratulating the recipient on winning a cruise and requesting them to press 1 to speak to an operator.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is responsible for enforcing the laws on robocalls. According to the FTC, there are some easy steps you can take to help reduce robocalls:

- Don't answer calls from blocked or unknown numbers.
- Don't answer calls from numbers you don't recognize.
- If someone calls you and claims to be with XYZ company, hang up and call the company yourself. Use the company's website to find an official number.
- If you do answer a call and hear a recording such as "Hello, can you hear me?" just hang up.

• The same goes for a call where you're asked to press a number before being connected to a representative.

When you answer a call and interact with the voice prompt or by pressing a number, it lets the spammer know your number is real. They can then sell your number to another company or begin targeting your number more frequently.

Because a scammer knows you're more likely to pick up if you recognize the caller, they might enter a number they think is in your address book. They could even one day use voice manipulation technology to impersonate that person.

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

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Times **OpEd**

# Mystery solved: Homeless elderly lady has money in the bank

*City leaders, politicians allegedly secretly allowed 3 month 'Homeless Hotel' at the Evergreen Library to open without informing the public*

By Kevin Larsen

**A**s a writer what I am about to say is troubling to me... and I'm very tired; it's been a long day!

The following opinion editorial is composed of my personal views on this important situation and I encourage others to piece more information together to get help and get this elderly lady off the streets.

Our Evergreen Valley community watched many months as the homeless elderly lady nearly 80 years-old began to pile up belongings next to a bus stop on Aborn Road (near TACO BELL). This practice is referred to as "hoarding."

The lady used a pseudonym as a name and preferred to be called "Hanoi," perhaps because she was possibly an orphan in Vietnam. She stated that at the age of five her parents were killed in Vietnam. Thus, many who spoke with her said she was still experiencing trauma.

**Originally at Story and White bus stop**

In January and February, the elderly lady could be seen at the BURGER KING bus stop at Story and White Road. We know this to be true for a NEXTDOOR.COM posting was put under Lost and Found that stated, "Lost Elderly Lady."

From the information that many residents gathered on NEXTDOOR.COM, a person allegedly started a Go Fund Me page for her and also drove her to the extended stay OWL WARMING CENTER located at the Evergreen Library perhaps in March.

There are two OWL WARMING CENTERS in San Jose where low-income people check in at 8 p.m. and check out at 7 a.m. They are secret places (not announced well by the city) and Evergreen library is perhaps the only library in San Jose that does this. These centers are paid for by the City of San Jose and run by a for-profit company called HOMEFIRST. Originally the libraries were used for very cold nights or very hot days sporadically.

This year I believe that changed and the Evergreen library was secretly utilized as a three-month free "Homeless Hotel," meaning, with referral people stayed there for months. I believe homeless people were bussed in to the library from outside the community and on Fridays, people could walk up and try to get a place to sleep without a referral. This brought in new homeless people to Evergreen and many stayed all day to return to the "Homeless Hotel," at night for a free dinner.

The OWL WARMING CENTERS ("Homeless Hotels") were set up during the cold months with blue mats spread out closely for people to communally sleep on the floor. A sheet was supplied for each mat. These centers were running for months and the community was not officially informed. In my opinion, it was all a mystery as to how these centers were functioning and how they screened people for the sleep over.

I believe Mayor Liccardo should invest in satellite shelters and NOT use our public libraries for annual long term "Homeless Hotels." There needs to be public buy-in on what we do rather than pay a "for profit" company (HOMEFIRST) to secretly open up a 'Homeless Hotel.'

**Evergreen library allegedly secretly allowed 3 month 'Homeless Hotel' to open' which allowed Hanoi to relocate to Evergreen**

Someone picked up Hanoi from the story and

White bus stop and drove her to be checked into the Evergreen library OWL WARMING CENTER. Thus, this homeless person was relocated to Evergreen.

"Hanoi," stayed in the OWL WARMING CENTER for perhaps a month and then it is believed she wanted to bring more items (in bags) into the warming center, however she was only allowed to bring in two bags, it was rumored, and thus her request was denied by the staff and she was upset and went out into the rain. That night she moved over to the bus bench and set up a new home at White and Aborn Road and began to pile up a lot of bags and took over the bus bench.

**Through social media 1000's of people**

**connected**

More than one NEXTDOOR.COM reader visited the elderly lady to communicate to her. One said, I told her, "Mama, people are trying to help you and you need to accept their help." They also said, "Ahhh, I hope soon she has a new safe home and she is happy."

To help her out I began to visit her regularly and she spoke to me about things in her life (See April 8, 2022 Evergreen Times article). I reported her situation to many politicians and also spoke directly with the OWL WARMING CENTER leaders (HOMEFIRST) and was told that the lady refused assistance. Also, Councilmember Sylvia Arenas sent out a community

See HANOI, next page



"Hanoi" found the next day after all her things were taken due to an abatement by county officials. She's riding the bus at night to keep warm and staying at different bus stations during the day.

## Shawn Ansari – Record Sale



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Times **OpEd**

**Hanoi, continued**

letter stating the elderly lady has refused assistance.

“Hanoi,” often griped to me about people taking her things. On one evening while visiting her after 12 midnight, I spotted a man going through her things from one of her piles and taking them. She was sleeping on the ground covered in a sleeping bag. I yelled to the man creeping about, “Hey what are you doing.” I immediately recognized my error. In the world of homelessness all abandoned things are fair game for theft. He quickly put a large bag of Lays potato chips under one wing and held other food items with his other hand. He looked at me and I felt dumbfounded. His teeth looked like a collection of bolts and his body rail thin. I said, “Take what you want,” and he did and I could tell he needed those calories. Then I pointed to the lit sign of Grace Church and explained that sometimes food can be found there too. His hair looked soaked with auto grease and his pants the color of dirt. The incident made me realize how fortunate I was to have a place to live!

The next day “Hanoi” told me that someone took her purse in the past. She said the purse contained her California ID, her Passport, Keys to her postal box and Banking Information.

Weeks later I was contacted by a person who gave me their phone number on the NEXT DOOR.COM chat. I called this person and spoke to this person who was also trying to help the elderly lady. I asked if the person had her purse. I was told, “If I gave it back to her, she would take out her monies from the bank and just give it away to others.”

I was concerned about this comment as homeless people have rights too! Thus, I asked that person to return the purse to her.

I asked “Hanoi” kindly if she wanted her purse back and she responded, “Yes.” When she agreed to speak to the police about her purse, I called 911 as

instructed by a Police Sergeant, and we waited for nearly four hours for the police to show up. Unfortunately, both of us needed a bathroom break, so we had to leave the area.

I was hesitant to use my car, but felt it kind of an emergency for her. A police report was filed, but I felt useless when I was told that the police station does not follow up on criminal police report filings and only out in the field can a criminal matter be followed up upon. Seems kind of crazy but that is how it works. I was told I should have waited for the police. I explained we waited for nearly 4 hours but left the area for a bathroom break. The officer at the police station said our call was on the low priority for them to come out.

The ladies behind the bullet proof glass continued to try to speak with the elderly homeless person but got nowhere because Hanoi seemed not to share things. She was told by the police, “If you fill out a complaint you’ve got to go to court.” The victim (no purse) was distracted by things at the station. She wore a clear plastic TACO BELL bag on her hair. Earlier I asked her if she wanted a nice hat but she refused saying, “I designed this.” I think everyone in the police station found her entrance unusual.

**She privately walked into her bank**

After leaving the police station, I drove her to her bank as she requested and she went in and out alone. She showed me that she has a bank account by holding the bank receipts in the air. I explained to her that it might be good for her to take out say a few dollars to have with her for food and emergencies.

**A feeling of relief with regard to deeply caring about her wellbeing**

Once I realized she can access monies, I began to feel less concerned for her and it was a bit of a relief because I knew she had the capacity to get monies. However, it might be very hard for her to get to her bank if she needed to. Her ability to do things and get around concerned me and too my goal was just



Pictured is “Hanoi” at a happier time when she was setting up camp along Aborn Road at the bus stop.

to have her purse returned. I thought that maybe if the purse had a California ID and a Passport and more, it might help her in some way to gain a better place to stay.

The elderly lady said things that may or may not be true. She stated she had \$400,000 and land in both the U.S. and Vietnam, \$27,000 in cash and more. She stated she has no children, no family, no one. Her words may or may not be true, no one knows.

I believe she needs a social worker that can caringly communicate with her and someone in government to help her, but for now, I think under law, she has the power to live and do as she wishes.

**Where the residents of Evergreen Community went wrong**

In my opinion, if a homeless person starts piling up things in public view, HOMEFIRST can post abatement signs and pick it up to go to storage for 30 days (then it is thrown away). Where we went wrong as a community is not pushing harder for our politicians to act quickly rather than leaving all the things out at the bus stop for months.

The Sheriff came first and gave a warning and then nothing happened (I think this happened twice in two weeks). The Sheriff is kind of a scare tactic. The only way the strewn hoarding of things is to be removed is when HOMEFIRST posts an abatement sign and in three days it is fully cleaned up and gone. Some on NEXTDOOR also stated it is a health hazard.

In my opinion, even if it means picketing in front of city hall. I believe, Evergreen residents must stand up and insist that homeless persons not set up and hoard things along bus stops or similar public places. It is not good for kids to see this, in my opinion, as it can desensitize us to the plight of houseless people.

**She speaks English fluently**

I did learn in my visiting the lady for over 20 times and buying her coffee and food that she does speak English fluently. In my opinion, she can play act in such a way that’s hard sometimes to understand. Yes, she does have mental challenges, but if one gets to know her, one can learn a great deal about her and she opens up with speaking and her views on life.

**Text messages from person holding her purse**

By text this past week, I was told by the person who told me that they had her purse and bank info, that the city came and took everything and did not even leave her a jacket or a blanket or even her hat. Then the person stated that they would come with dinner and clothes, but “Hanoi” was nowhere to be found. I texted the person back and forth and asked the person to return the purse to Hanoi. I never got back a clear response that this would be done.

**The elderly lady wanders**

After “Hanoi’s” belongings were removed as a result of abatement, she got on the bus at night in order to keep warm (and perhaps she does to this day). I gave her \$20 and she went into Safeway. She bought a roasted chicken and bananas and was in good spirits. She was quite interesting and went to the produce isle and pulled down say 30 plastic bags on the spool then handed them to me and told me to tie them in a ball. I learned later that she liked to use them for cleanliness and when she ate, she put her hands in the plastic and told me, this keeps the food clean.

**Freedom to live her own way**

As for now, we know that “Hanoi” has some slight mental challenges, but I wouldn’t categorize her for pick up under Laura’s Law. So, she lives free and as she wishes. I find her to be quite intelligent and know that a good social worker could help her more. Perhaps, someone in government who cares and is not jaded by the bureaucracy bungling of this or that can perhaps break through and assist her in kind ways to find housing assistance and more.

**In my opinion, secret “Homeless Hotel” in Evergreen Library needs to go**

See HANOI, next page

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Times **OpEd**

**Hanoi, continued**

The governor of California has given mayors of cities billions and billions of dollars to help the homeless and the mayors keep returning with hands out for more. In my opinion, we don't need to use libraries as free homeless hotels. Instead should be asking the mayor to pay for the leased-use of closed businesses so that HOMEFIRST can create satellite shelter hotels during cold months for homeless on the street. Otherwise, as with the elderly lady, many sleep on the bus all night to keep warm.

The Evergreen Branch Library -- opened at 8 p.m. every day of the week for months. It was a homeless hotel, a shelter, for three or more months and remained in operation through April 30 from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. The politicians and HOMEFIRST did not refer to the situation or place as a "shelter." In my opinion the code words "OWL WARMING CENTER," were used but what it became was a long-term shelter and kept, in my opinion, as a big secret from residents watched over by a security guard. Law makers also shipped homeless people there without informing the community and devoid of any discussions with the community.

**Some witticisms stated by the elderly lady**

The following are some of the valuable, interesting and funny comments Hanoi said to me over the course of helping her for months. Here is some of her wisdom that she chose to express to me.

"I am not hungry about the bank, from time to time I am hungry about what to eat."

"We have to learn in any country."

"If you have to learn again what I said earlier, you have to pay me."

"No house, no country, no law."

"I won't live like fish in a can." (Perhaps referring to the sleeping in the make-shift library hotel where blue mats are placed close together on the floor).

"Anybody bothers my life they will be in big trouble."

"The rats rob."

"I am a U.S. Citizen - the U.S. government is a liar."

"I don't like communism... they wear uni-

forms to make people afraid."

"The social workers are robbers, banks are robbers, they killed my life."

"Stop trying to help me, help yourself."

"You are a lower-level thinker and I am a higher-level thinker."

"Sometimes people give me food I do not wish to eat but I accept it because it makes them happy."

**Dropping her off at the bus stop at dusk**

As I dropped her off at the shopping center in Evergreen, I offered to buy her a cup of coffee and a vanilla ice cream sundae at McDonalds. She responded, "Don't overreach if you can't spend that much."

I felt better knowing she has access to her monies. A weight upon me was lifted as she exited the car. You see, when dealing with people with mental challenges one never knows how they might act in irrational ways.

As the day ended, I took a hot shower and tried to put all of the things that occurred out of my mind.

I did my level best in trying to help "Hanoi," and if she gets sick she may die in my opinion. Homeless people have a lower life expectancy and I could tell that during the day, she would doze off while sitting. I asked her for permission for me to give her a compact down-feather hiking sleeping bag and she refused saying it was too hard to carry.

I have a mission to have residents help in the quest for her to get her purse back, maybe others can convince the person to return it to her for it is in my opinion against the law to take things from homeless people. I believe this person has visited with Hanoi again, but still refuses to give her purse back. She wants her California ID, her Passport, her Keys and Bank Information that she says is in her purse. It is my hope that the police will finally get involved.

In my opinion, God and the power of prayer will tilt the situation to one of goodness.

In recent days, she has relocated back to the bus stop at White Road and Aborn Road.

If you see her, just walk up to her kindly and whisper, "would you like a cup of coffee, I can get it for you."

**Symphony**

*Continued from page 15*

soloist Tine Thing Helseth performs Tomasi's formidable Trumpet Concerto with her signature lyricism and warmth.

Sample Video: Soloist Tine Thing Helseth performs J.S. Bach: Trumpet Concerto in D after Vivaldi, 2nd movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXc2JRyPcJU>

**SYMPHONY #2: Le Grand Viola**

October 22-23, 2022 • California Theatre

Conductor: Tito Muñoz

Soloists: Timothy Ridout, viola

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: Ballade in A minor

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Suite for Viola

Niccolò Paganini: Sonata per la Grand Viola

Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No 4 Italian

Dazzling English violist Timothy Ridout, one of Europe's foremost young stars, performs two contrasting works, Williams' Suite for Viola and Paganini's Sonata per la Grand Viola.

**SYMPHONY #3: Mighty Cello**

December 3-4, 2022 • California Theatre

Conductor: Joann Falletta

Soloist: Julian Schwarz, cello

Joaquin Turina: Danzas fantásticas

Edouard Lalo: Cello Concerto

Antonín Dvořák: Symphony No. 7

Cellist Julian Schwarz, already near-legendary in his early 30's, marks his second appearance in San Jose with one of his favorite works, Lalo's Concerto in D minor.

**SYMPHONY #4: Tchaikovsky**

Flute January 21-22, 2023 • California Theatre

Conductor: Jayce Ogren

Soloist: Denis Bouriakov, flute

Igor Stravinsky: Jeu de cartes

Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 7

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto arranged for Flute

Last season the Symphony first welcomed world-renowned flutist Denis Bouriakov. With brilliant artistry, Bouriakov returns this year to perform Tchaikovsky's magnificent Violin Concert -- on the flute!

**SYMPHONY #5: Cinema Paradiso Film In Concert**

February 9-12, 2023 • San Jose

Center for the Performing Arts

Conductor: To be determined

Score by Ennio Morricone: Cinema Paradiso

Young Salvatore Di Vita discovers a refuge from his life in his war-torn Sicilian village...its Cinema Paradiso movie house, where projectionist Alfredo instills in the boy a deep love of films. This beloved film features one of the most unforgettable of all movie scores, by Italian maestro Ennio Morricone.

**SYMPHONY #6: Nakamatsu**

Plays Grieg. March 18-19, 2023 • California Theatre

Conductor: Aram Demirjian

Soloist: Jon Nakamatsu, piano

David Amram: Jhaptal

Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto

Florence Price: Symphony No. 1

San Jose's own Cliburn gold medal winner Jon Nakamatsu reprises the first work he ever played with Symphony San Jose: Grieg's Piano Concerto.

**SYMPHONY #7: Brahms & Fandango**

May 6-7, 2023 • California Theatre

Conductor: Tatsuya Shimono

Soloist: Anne Akiko Meyers, violin

Gerald Finzi: Prelude for String

Orchestra in F minor

Arturo Marquez: Fandango

Johannes Brahms: Symphony #4

Orchestra in F minor

Arturo Marquez: Fandango

Johannes Brahms: Symphony #4

Violin virtuoso Anne Akiko Meyers performs a new commission from preeminent Mexican composer Arturo Marquez. Her request for a concerto based on Mariachi traditions reflected his father's heritage, and so was born the fiery, soulful Fandango.

Arturo Marquez. Her request for a concerto based on Mariachi traditions reflected his father's heritage, and so was born the fiery, soulful Fandango.

Arturo Marquez. Her request for a concerto based on Mariachi traditions reflected his father's heritage, and so was born the fiery, soulful Fandango.

**SYMPHONY #8: Carmina Burana**

June 3-4, 2023 • California Theatre

Conductor: Carlos Vieu

Soloists: Maria Valdes, soprano;

Martin Bakari, tenor; to be announced, baritone

Symphony San Jose Chorale, Elena Sharkova, Director

Cantabile Youth Singers

Samuel Barber: Knoxville: Summer of 1915

Samuel Barber: Knoxville: Summer of 1915

Carl Orff: Carmina Burana

Lyric soprano Maria Valdes opens the Symphony's final program of the season as soloist in Samuel Barber's haunting masterpiece, Knoxville: Summer of 1915. Added soloists, three choirs and the full orchestra then join Valdes in Carl Orff's exuberant cantata Carmina Burana,

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The Symphony's artists, nationally recruited, locally resident, with an average performance tenure in San Jose of over 20 years, are recognized as among the best in the greater Bay Area. Led by an exciting roster of distinguished guest conductors on the European model, the Symphony is an anchor tenant of San Jose's magnificently restored downtown California Theatre, one of Northern California's most outstanding music halls. There, audiences and critics alike greet its concerts with enthusiasm.

Symphony Silicon Valley is setting an example of an innovative business model in the arts -- market driven and financially conservative, with low overhead and the flexibility to match its programming to its support base. It earns 60% of its revenue each year -- an extraordinarily high proportion for a symphony of its size.



# Places of Worship



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Our ministries/activities include:

- Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.
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- Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater produc-

tions, informative lectures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment.

Our activities flow from our core values:

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.

[www.ccavucc.org](http://www.ccavucc.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

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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.



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**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 36th High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

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**1 thepoint.church**

**THE POINT CHURCH**

3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646  
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM  
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM  
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM  
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM  
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual

growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located

in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.churchstanthony.com](http://www.churchstanthony.com).



God is One  
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ  
Rab Ik Hai

**FR. LARRY HENDEL, Pastor. SAN JOSE GURDWARA**

3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and

walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562.

[www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfrancisofoassisi.org](http://www.stfrancisofoassisi.org)  
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall  
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM  
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM  
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

**Want to submit a news item for the Evergreen Times?**

Press day: June 1, 2022  
Deadline: May 29, 2022

Write to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com)

**Evergreen Times**

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For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458



Times **Community**

## Garage doors

*Continued from page 7*  
 some believe the driver may have had hallucinations regarding the perceived menace of garage doors. The woman was arrested and taken to police headquarters.

It has not been decided, at this date, who or which organization will be responsible for the damage and replacement of the many garage doors that were destroyed. It has not been determined if all the victims have homeowner's insurance. Some are hoping that their Homeowner's Association will cover the costs. This decision would be decided by what the Yerba Buena Villas homeowner Association CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) dictate.

One homeowner's door was completely demolished spreading splinters and door parts all over the homeowner's garage. Others were ungently pushed inward necessitating cause for consternation and definitely a repair bill as the Association CC&Rs require uniformity throughout the complex. Needless to say, there is considerable anger and anxiety among the homeowners in the usually quiet, serene complex.

A resident of the Silver Creek Valley Country Club (SCVCC) reported that allegedly the same lady driver that crashed through the country club guard gate "continued to drive forward to upturn garbage cans strewn all over."

The question is, what are folks who live in the Villas and Country Clubs contemplating when their security is penetrated by an angry person and there is an apparent increase in violence, burglaries, and drug use in the community around them?

*Needless to say, there is considerable anger and anxiety among the homeowners in the usually quiet, serene complex.*



## Save Reid-Hillview Airport!

**Your neighborhood airport is under threat of closing down!  
 Join the fight and help us preserve this incredibly valuable asset of the Silicon Valley!**

### Base of Operations for Disaster relief

Reid Hillview serves as a base for the Disaster Air Response Team (DART) and offers a staging area for agencies such as CalFire. Civil Air Patrol Squadron 80 is also based here and offers assistance to search and rescue operations!



### Relieves air traffic

Reid Hillview had on average 570 operations, or around 280 flights, per day in 2020! No airport the Bay Area could safely handle that much additional traffic!



### Ensures the continuity of aviation

The pilot shortage is here and requires a great deal of new pilots to join the work force. Reid Hillview is home to several flight schools, including San Jose State University's Aviation Department, that train the next generation of pilots.



### Free flights for children!

Through the generosity of pilots associated with the Experimental Aircraft Association, any child 7-18 can take a free flight via the Young Eagles program to explore their dreams of becoming a pilot!



### Volunteer flying organizations

AngelFlight is a network of pilots who transport those in dire need of medical treatment at no costs! RHV also hosts, "Pilots for Paws" a volunteer organization to transport our furry friends to their forever homes!



### Hosts numerous highly skilled jobs

Flight instructors, aircraft mechanics, Air Traffic Controllers, and airport technicians all work at RHV, keeping our operations running smoothly and safely. Also, businesses can use the airport as a gateway to the Silicon Valley!



**Visit [SaveReidHillview.org](http://SaveReidHillview.org) for more information!**




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**Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com**

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



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# 19975 McKean Road | REDUCED to \$2,275,000

This one-of-a-kind property with spectacular views of the surrounding foothills is the perfect tonic for today's hectic lifestyle. Private Farmhouse perched at the front of the property embodies country living with state-of-the-art amenities. The possibilities are endless with 87,107 square feet of level land to work with. The main house offers 2120 Square feet of single level living space, 4 bedrooms, and 3 full bathrooms. The 1200 square foot garage/workshop has room enough for 7 cars, plus a studio equipped with kitchenette, full bath and bedroom.



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CalRE#00595786





## 21290 Cinnabar Hills Road

\$3,950,000 | 5 Bed | 4+ Baths | 5000 Sq Ft | 2.5 Acres

Spectacular Almaden Valley home with stunning Valley views. Large open floor plan with soaring ceiling, dramatic windows and lots of natural light creating a seamless indoor/outdoor feel. Office and bonus room. Solar heated infinity pool with spa. Covered outdoor patio with built-in kitchen.

*A One-of-a-Kind Home.*

## 7217 Silver Lode Lane

\$3,199,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3700 Sq Ft | 8002 Sq Ft Lot

Beautiful Almaden Valley home, inside and out. Bonus/media/gaming room with wall mounted 70" TV and ceiling mounted rear speakers. Large kitchen with center island, gas cooktop, newer Bosch microwave and Bosch dishwasher and garbage disposal. Nest thermostat. Newer water heater. Stunning landscaping front and back with palms, roses, and many fruit trees. Graystone, Bret Harte and Leland Schools.



## 1129 Valley Quail Circle

\$2,849,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Baths | 3026 Sq Ft | 8052 Sq Ft Lot

Tri-level home on spacious lot in the Glencrest area of Almaden Valley. Great curb appeal. Living room with high peaked ceiling, dining room with slider to the backyard, spacious kitchen with granite slab counter and stainless appliances, family room with slider to the backyard. Primary suite with sitting room and walk-in closet. Top Almaden schools: Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle, and Leland High.

## 1146 Quail Creek Circle

\$1,599,000 | 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1612 Sq Ft | 5941 Sq Ft Lot

Single-level home on large lot in the Glencrest area of Almaden Valley. Living room/dining room with corner fireplace. Updated kitchen with granite slab counters. Primary suite with large walk-in closet. Dual pane windows, central air conditioning, and hardwood flooring. Top Almaden schools.



*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  
DRE 01355719

