



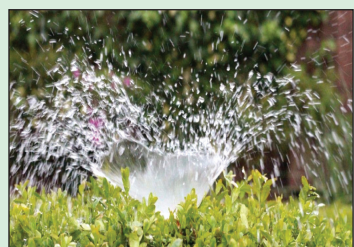
Dreaming... of a new home?

Find a professional Realtor in the Times' Guide to Real Estate: **Page 14**

JULY 2022 ■ VOL. 18, NO. 7

Willow Glen Times

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Valley Water will consider having water enforcers educate residents on conservation, and in some instances issue fines for repeat violators. *Photo courtesy of Pixabay.*

Drought and heat stress California's infrastructure

By Erin Zimmerman

The heat this past weekend was a reminder that California's weather is changing—and we are in a hot-zone.

Parts of California, including San Jose, are actually warming faster than the global average and some parts have already reached the two degrees Celsius cutoff cited by scientists as the point of no return.

California's infrastructure isn't ready

If the summer of 2020 taught us anything, it's that California's power grid is unprepared to deal with the consequences of climate change. High winds and temperatures now necessitate public safety power shutoffs, precautionary blackouts to prevent forest fires due to downed power lines. These shutoffs can leave thousands without power for days at a time.

The energy infrastructure also struggles with high demand. Just this past weekend area residents were warned of potential power outages in case demand outstripped supply due to high temperatures.

Californians are used to hot weather, but there is regular summer heat and then there is climate change hot. Just this past Friday, San Jose temperatures nearly reached 100 degrees and millions

See DROUGHT, page 7

'My Country tis of thee... sweet land of liberty!'

San Jose Gurdwara invites Evergreen community to an ice cream social for complimentary ice cream and refreshments on 4th of July

By Kirpal Atwal
Special to the Times

Evergreen residents are invited to attend the annual ice cream social on Monday, 4th of July.

Here's an opportunity to visit the Gurdwara and enjoy complimentary ice cream and fresh fruit and enjoy seeing the sky light up with fireworks in the valley below (no fireworks take place at the Gurdwara). Be sure to bring your binoculars!

"We are very proud as American citizens to walk hand in hand with everyone in celebrating our wonderful 4th of July celebration," said Bob Dhillon, president of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara. "Like you, we too are patriotic!"

Dhillon continued, "Always know,

in our heart we are so proud to be a part of America. The 4th of July is a very important day for us and we cherish it. The United States of America is this wonderful place of freedom in our world! We know it and we respect it! You will see lots of American flags at our celebration! Our little tradition for you is, each year we set up our special ice cream and refreshments under the moonlit sky at the Gurdwara on the Hill for everyone to walk and joyfully look down at the valley. It's a time for all to take a break from using the cell phone and enjoy saying hi to others in person, while getting complimentary ice cream, taking in nature and looking at the beautiful sunset."

Dhillon explained that in India, everyone says that America is the land of opportunity. "It's true that any person can truly bring themselves up from the ground to gather wealth and plan well for their future in America. That is not always the case in other countries. We believe in



equality among all people with regard to cultures, race, religion, and as well as between men and women too. The Sikhs were one of the first cultures in history to honor and embrace equality between men and women. The truth is, America is such a grand place to live that all one has to do is just grasp the opportunities and figure out how to make things work for each unique situation. What is so wonderful about America is that it is a diverse country and a place where people accept one another regardless of race, creed, color or religion. And finally, a special thank you to the Evergreen Community and beyond for accepting the Sikh Americans as your brothers and sisters."

Message to the Evergreen Community from President Bob Dhillon

Dear Community,
We are inviting you all up to the Gurdwara to have an ice cream social this 4th of July (Monday from 7-10

p.m.). We love the community and there is no more beautiful place for you to take a stroll than at the Gurdwara on the Hill. Bring the family!

Our Gurdwara is a community center as well as a place of worship. We have many events of this kind each year and want you to know you and your family are always welcome.

We have completed a beautiful children's playground open to the public and are in the process of designing a wonderful nature trail for the community to use in the future.

It is very heartwarming to see the community come up and meet and greet each other in this annual 4th of July Ice Cream Social. We do not have fireworks but you can see the beautiful valley view while enjoying delicious tasty ice cream. The children can go back for seconds if they wish too.

For more information on the 4th of July Ice Cream Social go to our website and where you can get our app too: sanjosegurdwara.org

Editor's note: The Sikh Gurdwara is located at 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148. Simply take Quimby road and go all the way up the hill (about 1 mile). The Gurdwara will be on your right. Many park their cars and enjoy walking up the hill to the front where fresh fruit and ice cream will be served. Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712.

SJ City Council OKs 'quick-build' housing, hotel conversions

"The traditional approach to building housing is not fast enough to meet the urgency of this homelessness crisis."

— Mayor Sam Liccardo

By Times Media news staff

In response to what San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo called "This homelessness crisis," the San Jose City Council has approved the addition of 400 new "interim housing" units, approved the purchase of the 89-room Arena Hotel with state Homekey funds and added 561 new affordable housing units.

"The traditional approach to building housing is not fast enough to meet the urgency of this homelessness crisis," said Liccardo in a statement. "San José is expanding on our success of

quick-build interim housing, tackling unsheltered homelessness head on, and embracing nimble, innovative approaches that enable cost-effective and rapid solutions while remaining committed to permanent housing for our most vulnerable residents."

Last year, Liccardo set a goal of 1,000 total resident beds in quick-build communities completed, acquired or under development by the end of 2022. San José's quick-build communities are built in a fraction of the time and cost of traditional apartments, city officials say. In total, the City will have 561 new additional units of housing built over the next few years.

See HOUSING, page 7



SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Celebrate Fourth of July at Almaden Lake Park: Legal and spectacular fireworks show

Presented by Council Member Matt Mahan

By William Bellou
Publisher

We are just about a week away from the 7th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park, presented by Councilmember Matt Mahan.

With the support of many local volunteers, the festival begins at 3 p.m. with fireworks getting underway at approximately 9:15 p.m. as soon as it is dark.

Free and open to the public: This event brings together families, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of our nation while watching a spectacular safe professional fireworks show.

Councilmember Mahan says he recognizes the importance of bringing community together to celebrate the July 4th holiday in fun and safe surroundings.

"This community event couldn't have come together without the grassroots efforts of our neighbors, as well as generous donations from the community and our

sponsors," Mahan said. "We offer this fireworks show to celebrate our independence and to provide an alternative to using illegal fireworks."

Residents are encouraged to report illegal fireworks. For information on illegal fireworks, including when to call 911, how to file a report, and San Jose's Host Ordinance, visit <https://bit.ly/SJ-Fireworks>.

Sponsors Major sponsors for this year's event include: Summerhill Housing Group, Casino M8trix, Devastating Pyrotechnics, City of San Jose and the Office of Cultural Affairs, Brandenburg Foundation and Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, County of Santa Clara, AT&T, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Home Depot, Star One Credit Union, Westfield Oakridge, Green Waste, 99 Ranch Market, WestGate Church, KeyPoint Credit Union, San Jose Earthquakes, and Midtown Family Services.

This year's Festival features local band, Snarky Cats led by George Nowicki, and local magician Pete G. Magic, food trucks and booths include: Falafel Fresh & Gyros; Grill Zillas, Citlaly's Catering, Hula Truck, Mister Softee, Dippin Dots, and Junior's Roaster.

Numerous festival booths include: Write a



"We offer this fireworks show to celebrate our independence and to provide an alternative to using illegal fireworks," said Councilmember Matt Mahan.

Letter to a Soldier sponsored by WestGate Church, Home Depot Kids Workshop, face painting, Hand in Hand Henna, catapults, giant Jenga, and many other activities.

Costume contest

This year's Costume Contest will be interactive. Guests can vote online for the Most Patriotic Family, Teen, and Child (under 12), so dress up and participate! Carpooling and public transit is encouraged. No drop offs. No on-site parking. No alcohol, No smoking/vaping, No pets or emotional support animals, No barbecues and no illegal fireworks are allowed at the park at any time

on July 4th. Also, bikes may not be ridden inside the park. These rules will be enforced; absolutely no exceptions.

Grab a Frisbee, bring a blanket for comfort and a flashlight for safety and celebrate the 246th Birthday of this great nation-United States of America.

Almaden Lake Park is located at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road. To volunteer and support the event, visit the District 10 website at <https://sjd10.com/4th-of-july> or contact the District 10 office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-4910.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Help the passengers find their way around Mineta San José International Airport (SJC)!



The Airport is looking for information booth volunteers to answer questions related to flight information, concessions, ground transportation, and much more.

Apply today! <https://www.flysanjose.com/volunteer>



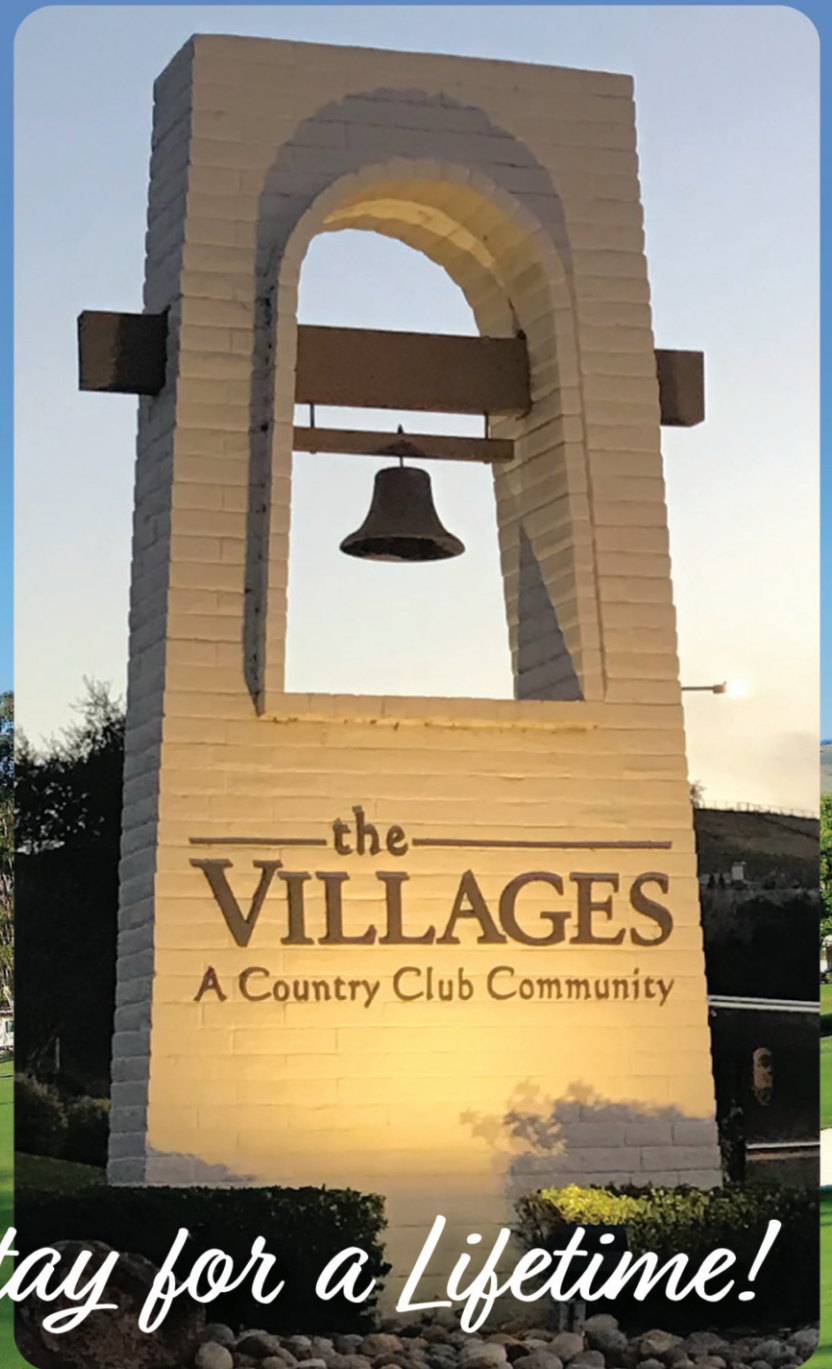
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IN MEMORY



Alberta (Bertie) L. DellaMaggiore
Jan. 8, 1939 - Jun 10, 2022
Graduate of Willow Glen High School

Alberta (Bertie) L. DellaMaggiore died peacefully on June 10, 2022, in San Jose.

She was born in San Jose on January 8, 1939, the daughter of Albert and Cordelia Ereno. She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years Gary DellaMaggiore, and her 4 children and spouses Donna Sojka (Leon), David (Robin), Frank (Cathy), and Steven. She was the sister of Betty Rubaker, Don Ereno, and Richard Ereno. She was a loving grandmother to 12 grandchildren and many, many great-grandchildren.

She graduated from Willow Glen High School and De Anza Community College. She was a

Camp Fire Girls Leader for 10 years, active in American Business Women's Association, and member of the Red Hats. She crocheted hundreds of Afghans for friends and family. She made wonderful raviolis and cuccidati for her family every Christmas. She was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants, the San Francisco 49ers, and the Golden State Warriors. She will be missed but will remain in our hearts forever. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, June 22, at Saint Simons Catholic Church, Los Altos, CA. Donations may be made in her honor to: ABWA, P.O. Box 4757, Overland Park, KS 6620.



Susanna Claire (Bagar) Castaneda
Oct 5, 1940-May 29, 2022
Resident of Willow Glen

Suzanne (Sue) Castaneda of Willow Glen passed away peacefully at home on May 29th at age 81.

She was born in San Jose, CA in 1940. Sue attended Lincoln High. She married Robert (Bob) Castaneda May 20, 1961. The two purchased a new home in Willow Glen, where they raised their three children. Sue had a few jobs but first and foremost was that of a mother and grandmother. Sue was preceded in death by her parents, Ann and Walter Bagar.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, her children, Laura, Lisa and Rob. She also leaves behind 1 granddaughter - Jenna, her sister Barbara, brother Walt, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Friends & family are invited to pay their respects at Lima Family Mortuary, 466 N Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Services were held on June 22 at St. Christopher Church, 2278 Booksin Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

Valley Currents

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

OP-ED

The SAP Centers ticket center is called LexisNexis Risk Solutions... THIS IS A PROBLEM

By Isabella Schou

As a kid growing up in Willow Glen, I savored the opportunities to go to Sharks games with my dad.

On special occasions, I would throw on my Patrick Marleau jersey and watch my fellow neighbors skate around the ice while I listened to my dad's commentary.

Now that I am in college, for my dad's birthday I flew back home to take him to a Sharks game as a surprise. Upon the first drop of the puck though, my excitement and elation quickly faded into confusion.

I noticed on the boards of the rank the words "LexisNexis" in bright red. I eventually realized that LexisNexis is the data analytics company that many of my peers in a human rights class recently were advocating against.

That class at the University of Washington, Seattle was centered on activism and action as a mechanism of learning. Specifically, we volunteered with an organization called La Resistencia. To generalize, "La Resistencia is a grassroots undocumented led movement that works to end the detention of immigrants and stop all deportations" (LR Facebook).

Subsequently, the organization advocates for the abolishment of the U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). One of the subgroups of student volunteers within the class were researching and advocating for the No-Tech-For-ICE campaign. The premise of No-Tech-For-ICE specifically on the UW campus, is to end UW libraries and UW law library's contracts with two companies that sell data to ICE. One of which is LexisNexis.

In the context of UW and law schools such as Santa Clara and Stanford, LexisNexis provides an extensive database of legal documentation for educational and research purposes. Although on the surface this service provided by LexisNexis appears constructive, the company itself could allegedly indirectly cause immense harm. Recently LexisNexis signed a 16 million dollar contract with ICE. This contract allows millions of people's personal data collected by LexisNexis to be shared with ICE making it easier for them to locate, apprehend, and detain undocumented immigrants. ICE as an Institution should not exist. It serves no purpose except to make rich people richer. Issues of immigration and legal documenta-



tion are civil matters. Subsequently, ICE can only detain people on civil grounds, yet they put undocumented immigrants into prison-esque detention centers as if they committed a crime. Undocumented immigrants in an ICE detention center in Tacoma Washington have been essentially forced into working for a dollar a day to keep the facility in operation. Additionally, extremely inhumane living conditions are described. For example, those detained have recounted a lack of adequate food and medical care which was especially pertinent and subsequently harmful during the pandemic.

Furthermore, many people are forced to come to the United States because of US governmental policy. For example, the NAFTA agreement, brokered by the US and Mexico, left Mexican corn farmers no longer subsidized and subsequently out of business to the US corn farmers who continued to be subsidized. This forced many of those who worked on the corn farms of Mexico to come to the US for work.

Unfortunately, due to the immigration system and the urgency of the issue, many had to do this without legal documentation. It is ironic and appalling that the US enacts policies forcing people to come to the US, but then spends millions of dollars and resources with ICE trying to keep the same people out. The immigration system and the related governmental policy in the United

States give no thought or care to the human rights and livelihoods of individuals. The only goal seems to be an expansion of money and power. At the bare minimum to protect the lives of undocumented immigrants in the US, ICE needs to be abolished.

Now, all that being said; I urge you to recall the first discovery I made at the beginning of this piece. According to Forbes, LexisNexis is one of the Shark's ten major sponsors. Additionally, the SAP Centers ticket center is called the LexisNexis Risk Solutions Ticket Center. THIS IS A PROBLEM. Unlike law school libraries, as far as I am aware LexisNexis provides nothing but money in return for an advertisement to the Sharks and the SAP center. There are a million other morally just companies that the Sharks and SAP could be promoting, but they choose this one. In my opinion, it is quite ironic. In the wake of the Shark's new campaign: Teal for Change; you would think that they would not advertise a company that gives money and data to ICE. If the Sharks want to be more diverse and inclusive and show that they care about social justice issues they must end their contracts with LexisNexis immediately and publicly acknowledge their wrongdoings.

As many in this community are players and employees of the Sharks, please share this information and use your influence and power to end the LexisNexis contract.

Willow Glen Times

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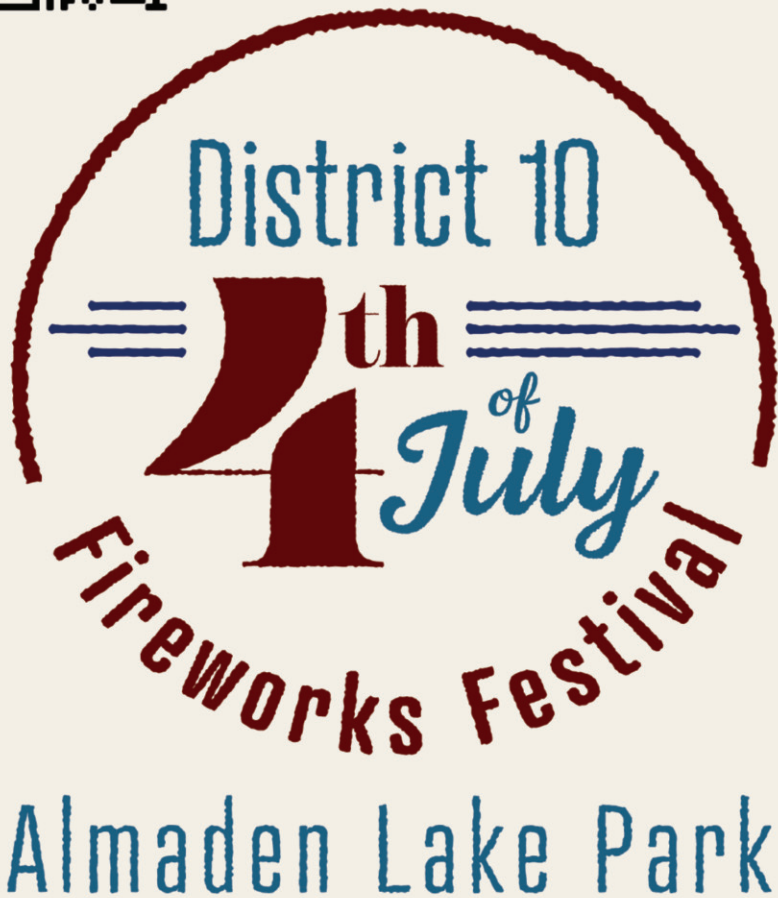
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Rules Will Be Enforced:

1. The following items WILL NOT BE ALLOWED at Almaden Lake Park AT ANY TIME on July 4th.
 - a. Absolutely NO Alcohol, Weapons, Barbeques, Drones, Pets, Emotional support animals, riding bikes, or moving vehicles in the park.
2. NO Illegal Fireworks - Offenders risk being FINED a MINIMUM of \$500 or more.
3. Tents/Canopies MUST be secured/staked into the ground and MUST be taken down at or before 6:00 PM

★ THIS IS A COMMUNITY SUPPORTED EVENT. TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE VISIT [HTTPS://SJD10.COM/4TH-OF-JULY](https://sjd10.com/4th-of-july) ★

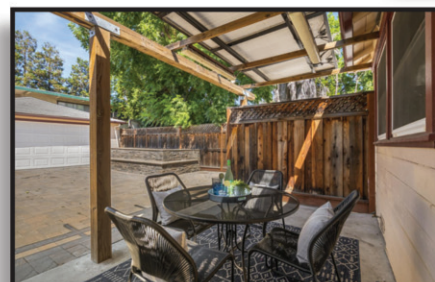
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1940s Bungalow
981 Myrtle Street | Offered at \$1,288,000

Gorgeous 1940s bungalow with 3 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms • 1,000 square feet of living space • Situated on a 5,067 square foot lot • Part of a wonderful neighborhood in San Jose not far from Willow Glen

This classic bungalow takes you back to a simpler time in the Bay Area, yet it's been updated with plenty of modern flair! Inside, its open floor plan and bright, airy atmosphere provide the perfect environment for hosting. Every space inside seamlessly flows into the other and gleaming hardwood flooring follows you the entire time. The kitchen is perfect for the budding chef and both bathrooms have been recently updated. The covered patio in the back will let you enjoy California dining, no matter the time of year. Part of a peaceful community in San Jose, the home is a short drive to both downtown San Jose, the Rose Garden, and iconic Willow Glen. Its central location makes commuting a breeze, while also giving you the ability to take advantage of the area's spectacular dining, parks, and entertainment options.



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Times **Notebook**

Drought

Continued from page 1

of Californians spent part of the weekend under an excessive heat warning.

The expected temperatures led Santa Clara County officials to advise vulnerable residents to stay indoors with air conditioning or make their way to available cooling centers. But cooling centers only work for short time periods and for vulnerable residents able to travel. Even healthy adults need to be careful during extreme temperatures, which is difficult for the many essential workers whose jobs require them to be outside.

Drought conditions also impact the ability of utilities to generate hydroelectric energy. According to the U.S. Energy Information Association (EIA), prior to the onset of the drought in 2019 about 19% of California's power was generated by hydroelectric. The EIA estimates that this year hydroelectric will account for just 8% of power generated.

We have already endured two heat waves this year, one in May and one last weekend, and summer just officially started on June 20. Without adequate investments in more climate resilient electricity infrastructure, San Jose residents will continue to experience reliably unreliable power.

Californians aren't ready

California is now both hotter and drier. January to March of this year was the driest on record, and currently 95% of the state is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions.

California is now drier than it has been in the last 1,200 years. It goes without saying that the severity of the current drought, which is part of a larger mega drought that started in 2003, can be attributed to climate change. Park Williams, a climate scientist at UCLA and the author of a study looking at the intensification of the mega drought, noted that "without climate change, this would not even be close to as bad as one of those historical mega droughts."

Despite the beginning of this year being the driest on record, Californians have continued to increase their water usage. Water use across the state was up by almost 18% in April compared to 2020.

For the first time ever, Valley Water has approved enforcement of water restrictions on outdoor water use. Valley Water board member John Varela said in a statement that the county needed to reduce its water consumption by 15%, largely by limiting outdoor watering. Restrictions went into effect on June

1. For those interested, Valley Water offers rebates for swapping out your lawn for a drought-resistant landscape and also has robust conservation programs. You can find water restrictions specific to your area by visiting: www.valleywater.org/find-my-retailer.

Recent scientific simulations have predicted the current drought has over a 90% chance of lasting through 2023, and has an alarmingly high 75% chance of dragging on until 2030. This means the water issue isn't going away and will likely only get worse. It is essential that state and local governments, as well as local residents, invest in water conservation education and efforts.

Erin Zimmerman is a climate reality leader with the Climate Reality Project's Silicon Valley chapter. Erin, a long-time environmental and political activist, holds a PhD in political science.

SJECCD Fills Vacancy on Board of Trustees

During its regular meeting on June 21, the San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) board of trustees appointed Mr. Tony Alexander to fill a vacancy on the board. Trustee Area 3, which represents areas of east and north San José, was made vacant earlier this year when long-serving trustee Craig Mann stepped down.

Alexander is appointed to represent Area 3 on the board of trustees until the next regularly scheduled election for governing board members, which will take place November 8, 2022.

"I'm very pleased that we had a number of

strong candidates to consider, all of whom have exhibited strong leadership and a history of community service," said SJECCD Board President Bob Livengood. "Tony is extremely qualified and will be an outstanding representative for Area 3."

Alexander has a long history of involvement with numerous community organizations, including leadership roles with the San José/Silicon Valley NAACP, African American Community Service Agency, San José Conservation Corps, and South Bay Labor Council, among others. He has also previously held elected office as a member of the board of trustees of Alum Rock Union School District.

Alexander was sworn in during the meeting on June 21 and will fully participate during board's next regularly scheduled meeting on July 12.



Happy Birthday America!

Complimentary Event For You and Your Family

On Monday The 4th Of July

"Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social" 7pm-10pm held at the Gurdwara on the Hill

We will not be using any fireworks but if you bring your binoculars and keen eyesight you will see the displays far in the distance which light up the sky!

All have been through such great challenges in the past years. We sincerely care about everyone and understand the sacrifices which have been made by families. We continue to have a fully outdoor event where you can walk under the moonlit stars with your family and friends. Admission and food are free. It is an event of joy and celebration of how wonderful you are and our strong and noble country called America is! If you can, come on up and have complimentary ice cream or fresh fruit and connect under the moonlit sky with those of all races and cultures in our wonderful Bay Area! It is a night of building family for all. We also will be serving complimentary vegetarian meals to-go at the Langar (kitchen area). – Kirpal Atwal, Gurdwara Director

We embrace the values of our American heritage strongly! Values of justice, liberty, equality and the caring about others are enshrined in the Constitution and also form the cornerstone of our Sikh beliefs. We are the Sikh Americans and very proud to be a part of the United States of America and of course the wonderful Evergreen community!




The San Jose Gurdwara is open for you to visit 365 days of the year. It is located all the way up Quimby Road on the hillside. The Sikh religion reaches out to the less fortunate and donations are always welcome. You can find information at our website below. The address is 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148. Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712 | Website: sanjosegurdwara.org



Housing

Continued from page 1

San José is reporting it has housed nearly 900 unsheltered residents, for the first time since 2015 halting the increase in unsheltered homeless in San José and countywide due to the quick-build program

The city council voted to expand on the success of the city's first three quick-build communities by approving the development of 400 additional interim housing beds across the city, and moved forward with development on four new quick-build sites across San José that have the potential for another 280 resident beds.

The council also approved additional funding to allow construction to start on the Kelsey Ayer Station affordable housing development in Japantown.

High gas prices have San Jose commuters seeing red

By Lorraine Gabbert

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

As gas costs continue to reach unsustainable levels, no one is immune to the pump pain. For those commuting miles to work, all are getting gouged equally.

While the state searches for solutions to the near \$7 a gallon price at the pump, people like police officers, delivery drivers and traveling nurses are dealing with this problem on a daily basis.

Ryan Goudy worked four years for the San Jose Police Department. He faced a two and a half hour commute each way from his home in Atascadero. He often stayed in the San Jose area during the week, which meant not seeing his family at the end of the day. With the lack of family time, the rising cost of fuel became the final straw. In April he left SJPD to work closer to home.

'It made it unaffordable'

"It made it unaffordable," he told San José Spotlight. "I couldn't do it anymore."

Goudy was spending \$1,000 a month on gas for his Ford F-150 truck, filling up three times a week. He now has a two-minute commute to the Atascadero Police Department, infrequent stops for gas and time to be with his family.

Gas prices shot up across the country following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. In California, added taxes and fees for environmental regulations and road and bridge repairs push gas prices to the highest in the nation. State gas prices have reached \$6.38 on average, according to AAA. That jumps up slightly to \$6.45 on average in San Jose.

Affecting morale

San Jose police officers who can't afford to live locally are finding the price at the pump increasingly difficult. Tom Saggau, spokesperson for the San Jose Police Officers' Association, said the lack of affordable housing plus inflation, crippling grocery bills and the high cost of gasoline pushes first responders further away. Some officers travel several hours a day to work from the Central Valley, Fresno, Sacramento, Hollister and Salinas.

"The gas prices being what they are," Saggau said, "...for those who can only afford with what they're paid to live where they live, it just makes it incredi-



Gas prices in San Jose continue to rise. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

bly worse."

Saggau told San José Spotlight the 50-hour work week plus travel time takes them away from family life, and all that comes with it. Officers miss their children's school open houses or can't coach Little League.

"It has this debilitating effect on morale that adds up," he said.

Shelby Bolduc, a current SJPD officer, understands those long commutes all too well. She has been with the department for four and a half years. When she wanted to buy a home, she had to move to the Central Valley, as living in the Bay Area close to work was unaffordable.

"With how much we make as police officers, there's no way that I could even think about buying anything," she said. "Even rent out here is ridiculous. That's why I have to live in the Central Valley."

4-hour commute

Bolduc previously lived with her parents and had a 20-minute commute. Now she travels more than two hours each way. Although she said her mortgage is probably half of what rent would be in the Bay Area, she is still spending big on fuel.

With "astronomical" gas prices, she pays almost \$100 to fill the tank of her Dodge Charger every three days, about \$1,000 a month if she fills up 10 times. Even her 12-year-old Ford Fusion commuter car costs \$90 to fill up.

Gas accounts for about 10% of her monthly paycheck, Bolduc said. Although she'd like to travel to relieve job stress, she's limited in how far she can go due to fuel costs.

"It definitely limits what you are able to do for yourself," she told San José Spotlight. "It would be nice to do more, but you have to work with what you have."

A new normal?

Allan Kamara, president of the Registered Nurses Professional Association, is also concerned for his nurses who have to drive

from far away, including a worker who commutes from Monterey County.

"That's two hours one way and will cost you about a tank of gas," he told San José Spotlight.

Kamara said he's worried rising gas prices may lead nurses to relocate if their pay doesn't increase, exacerbating the current health care worker shortage. Increasing gas prices are the talk of the breakroom, he said.

"I hope it doesn't become a new normal, because it's not going to be sustainable," he added.

Commuting steals rest time

For their mental health, nurses like to travel and see family when they're off work, Kamara said, but they're not able to do that due to fuel expenses.

"When they're off, they like to get out of the house," he said. "It's part of their therapy... especially with what nurses have been through in the past two years. Now people are careful where they go."

Over \$200 to fill a tank of gas

Charles Downing, a Home Depot delivery driver in San Jose, said it costs him \$230 per day to fill the truck he uses for work and \$190 weekly to fill the Chevy Suburban he drives for his large family. Although the cost of gas hasn't caused him financial hardship yet, Downing said it's only a matter of time with gas prices continuing to rise.



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Times **Feature**

Cortese's guaranteed income for homeless youth proposal to become district program

State Senator Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley) made the following statement when SB 1341 failed to garner enough votes to clear the California Assembly Committee on Higher Education today:

"I am deeply disappointed that this bill to serve our most vulnerable young people won't be moving forward. While this is an unexpected obstacle, we will not let inaction persist to the detriment of our future generation. Every year in California we are graduating our students into homelessness."

Cortese continued, "To this end, I am announcing a partnership with Supervisor Susan Ellenberg to bring the CalSOAR program to my home County to serve our students and build on the success of the Santa Clara County Transition-Aged Youth Basic Income Program."

Senate Bill 1341, the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (CalSOAR) Guaranteed Income Program, was introduced to provide guaranteed direct cash assistance to homeless youth in grade 12, to combat what's known as the "summer melt," so that students can exit poverty and have access to a higher education.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg has agreed to introduce an item before the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to move forward the framework proposed in SB 1341 as a pilot program to serve unhoused students in Santa Clara County.

"The success of Santa Clara County's cur-



rent guaranteed income pilot for foster youth demonstrates that we should continue to implement this type of resource for our County's underserved children," said Supervisor and Board Vice President Susan Ellenberg. "I am looking forward to introducing this proposal to my colleagues after the July Board recess to show the State that providing unhoused high school students with guaranteed income sets them up for future success. As a former school board trustee, I remember the extent to which resources for unhoused high school students were limited. I became a County Supervisor to ensure all kids have the opportunity for self-sufficiency."

According to Census Data (DataQuest), there were approximately 15,000 students experiencing homelessness who were enrolled in the 12th grade in California during the 2020-21 academic year. Experts report that a majority of these youth aspire to attend post-secondary education and an overwhelming majority (more than 90%) wish to pursue careers that require some form of postsecondary education.



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Rebuilding Days

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

Safe At Home

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

Ways to get involved

Volunteers Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

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

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



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Times **OpEd**

Here's why gas prices could skyrocket again

By **Wayne Winegarden**

We're all looking for relief from record high gas prices these days. Gas prices are the highest in United States history at a nationwide average of more than \$5 according to AAA. Many states surpass this average with California averaging \$6.26 per gallon.

But lawsuits filed by several cities across the country could actually drive gas prices even higher. In the name of climate change, over a dozen federal lawsuits have been filed by state and local governments, including New York City, Baltimore, and several California cities. They are suing oil and gas companies for alleged damages they caused contributing to climate change.

So what do climate change lawsuits have to do with the devastating gas prices sweeping the nation?

State and municipal climate lawsuits are anti-growth, anti-innovation, and anti-environment. They could impose large economic costs on families and businesses as the hundreds of billions of dollars in damages these municipalities are seeking in these lawsuits would inevitably be passed along to consumers.

As calculated in a new Pacific Research Institute study, for every \$100 billion in

potential judgements in these cases, gas prices could rise by 31 cents per gallon -- or an additional \$326 per household per year in higher energy costs.

As Americans suffer through painful inflation increases, such additional costs are simply unaffordable for most households.

Burdening consumers and businesses with additional costs is detrimental not only to economic growth but discourages the private sector innovation required to meet America's clean energy goals. A strong economy fosters an environment more conducive to developing the meaningful innovations required to address the global climate change these

municipalities claim to be fighting for.

In fact, increasing use of natural gas contributed to the decline of carbon emissions over the past twenty years. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has noted that "the 4% decrease in U.S. carbon intensity came largely from a decrease in the consumption of fuels with high carbon contents. Part of this change came from the continuing trend of natural gas and renewables displacing coal for electric power generation, both of which have lower or zero carbon content. Low natural gas prices supported this switch from coal use, and higher natural gas prices in 2021 have started to reverse this trend."

Best to carry pepper spray when walking your dog

A good idea to all is that when you walk your dog, it's best to have a pepper spray dispenser that is easy to get to.

Pepper spray is inexpensive and can even fit on your keychain.

I was surprised to read this recent dog attack account on Nextdoor.com and began to realize that I can go to a place of business such as Big 5 Sporting Goods or order on line. The pepper spray will keep me safe and my dog too when out for a walk.

Scary account of what happened as posted on Nextdoor.com

"My dog (leashed) was attacked by another dog this evening. We were walking down Tully and had just turned left on Ruby. A huge dog came out of nowhere. I tried to kick the dog off but it kept attacking. I pulled out my pepper spray and just kept spraying until it finally backed off. I was in shock and worried about my dog so I didn't think to take a picture before it ran off down Valley Vista. My dog has a large bite on her back as well as other bites on her legs. The other dog looked like a huge Samoyed/Malamute - mostly white with some grey spots. If anyone knows whose dog this is, please message me. This is the first time I've used pepper spray. I don't know what I would have done without it as the other dog wouldn't stop!!! So scary!!!"

Kevin Larsen
Evergreen Valley

The development of once-celebrated natural gas through private sector innovation has resulted in lower overall emissions. Investors see this litigation effort as a threat, making them less likely to make future investments in nuclear energy advancements, new battery technology, improved fuel efficiency and other innovations required to continue lowering emissions.

We cannot afford to stifle positive incentives for innovation in this space. Rather than continue with these lawsuits, there are other, better ways that state and local governments concerned about climate change can make positive changes. For example, they could increase incentives for private sector investment through reducing taxes for the companies working to develop innovative technologies that reduce GHG emissions. Such a positive-focused policy has the potential to address the risks associated with climate change through the private sector, rather than punishing innovators who have successfully reduced emissions through misguided lawsuits.

It's time to find new ways to make America's clean energy potential a reality. If these lawsuits are successful, we will continue to see increased energy expenditures for consumers across the country, further strained family budgets, rising costs of production for businesses, and decreased motivation to innovate -- while ironically reducing our progress in combating climate change.

Dr. Wayne Winegarden is a senior fellow in business and economics at the Pacific Research Institute and author of the new issue brief, "Counterproductive."

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County outlaws price gouging on infant formula

In response to the supply chain shortage for infant formula, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has adopted an Urgency Ordinance to protect families from predatory price gouging.

"It can be really tough to buy formula these days, and some young children require formula to survive," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian. "I know we can't control supply chain issues, but we can send a clear message to price gougers – who are buying up formula to resell it at a higher price – that price gouging won't be allowed."

Possible \$5000 fine and/or imprisonment

The Urgency Ordinance extends the enforceability of the County's price gouging restrictions (a criminal offense punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months), as well as other important emergency-related prohibitions, throughout the duration of a proclaimed emergency. Prior to the Board's decision on June 7, 2022, there was no enforcement tool to pursue and punish price gouging on infant formula in Santa Clara County.

"Exacerbating the nationwide supply problem, reports indicate that bad actors are engaging in widespread practices to buy up and then resell infant formula at a steep markup," said James R. Williams, County Counsel for Santa Clara County. "This bulk purchasing and hoarding of supplies contributes to shortages. Reselling those scarce supplies at predatory prices also exacerbates inequalities in our community, because some families simply can't afford to buy formula at an inflated price even if they have an infant who desperately needs it."

In February 2020, the County proclaimed a local emergency and declared a local health emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Civil Protection and Emergency Management Ordinance, price gouging of consumer products during a proclaimed

emergency was prohibited, but that prohibition lasted for only 180 days after the County proclaimed the COVID-19-related local

emergency. The new Urgency Ordinance will be in effect until thirty days after the emergency has concluded.



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Times **Entertainment**



Opera San José launches its season with an all-new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* 2.

'The Marriage of Figaro' launches new season

Opera San José launches its 2022-23 season with an all-new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, transported to colonial India during Victorian Imperial rule September 10-25.

Sexual politics and class resentments play out through the prism of shifting power and revolution, culminating in a sparkling Indian wedding that will bring the exuberance of Bollywood to the California Theatre stage.

Opera San José will join forces with Mosaic America to bring Indian classical dance to Mozart's masterpiece. Director Brad Dalton, who was last seen with the company for its 2020 production of *Il Trovatore*, returns for this vibrant production, while internationally acclaimed conductor Viswa Subbaraman makes his company debut.

Tickets: \$55-\$195.

For more information or to purchase tickets, the public can visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm).

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Times **Feature**

ASK THE DMV

REAL ID will be necessary for air travel next summer

This is the last summer you can travel by air within the U.S. without a federally accepted form of identification

By **Frankie Wenson**

Summer is here! This season is one of the most popular times to travel and if you or your family members are plan-

ning a summer vacation, make sure to check off getting your REAL ID from your travel checklist.

Wherever your summer vacation is taking you, REAL ID is your ticket to fly! This time next summer, federal regulations will require you to show a REAL ID driver's license or another federally approved form of identification (passport, military ID, etc.) to travel within the U.S. and to visit secure federal facilities (military bases, federal courthouses). Note that a REAL ID cannot be used for international travel, a passport is still required.

It's no secret, we're all ready to start traveling again. And with a REAL ID, you'll be

ready! The REAL ID process is easier than ever with the DMV's online services. Get ahead of the summer break rush and start your simple online application today.

Q1: My children are 7 and 11 years old. Will they need REAL IDs to fly to Florida next summer?

A1: No. The TSA does not require anyone under the age of 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States. However, the companion will need a form of federally accepted identification (REAL ID, U.S. Passport, U.S. Passport Card, DHS Trusted Traveler Card, etc.).

Q2: Which documents will I need to get a

REAL ID?

A2: You will need 1 original or certified proof of identity and 2 different printed proofs of California residency. Follow the three simple steps below and visit dmv.ca.gov/realid to start your REAL ID application and view a complete list of acceptable documents:

1. Gather your documents
 2. Complete your online application and upload your documents
 3. Make an appointment and visit the DMV office to complete the process
- Visit dmv.ca.gov/realid to get REAL ID ready today.

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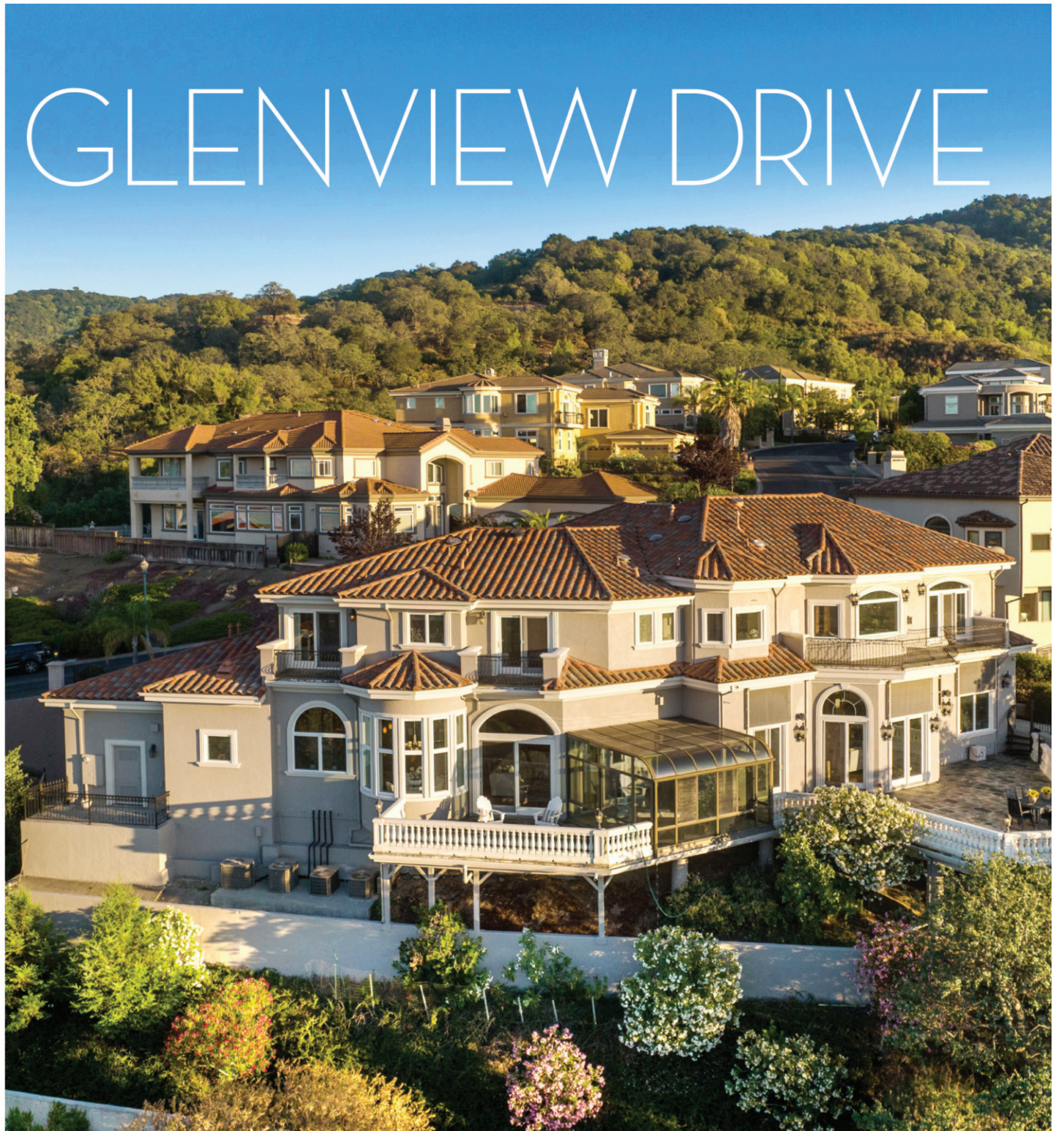
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