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Almaden Times

JULY 22 – AUGUST 4, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 15

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San Jose Unified School District Board reverses earlier decision to phase out police on school campuses

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Unified School District Board has reversed its earlier decision to phase out police on school campuses.

The board, in a unanimous decision earlier this month, approved extending more than two dozen contracts with San Jose Police Department officers that allows principals and school staff to use the officers at its middle and high schools through at least June 2023.

Carla Collins, president of the San Jose Unified School Board said many school staff and principals have requested the district continue their relationship with SJPd for their own campus's safety.

According to an agreement between the district and the police department, the officers help maintain "a safe and secure campus, develop positive relationships with students, and aid district staff in the disposition of prohibited or illegal items confiscated on school grounds."

The officers will be paid \$70 an hour and up to \$25,000 per year, for a maximum total of \$800,000. School resource officers are sworn law enforcement officers who are responsible for safety and crime prevention on school grounds.

There was a bit of controversy last year when the school board split its vote at its June 2021 board meeting to sever its contract with the police department. The school board's

See *CAMPUSES*, page 5

A picture-perfect celebration

30,000 joyfully celebrate 4th of July at Almaden Lake Park

By William Bellou
Publisher

More than 30,000 people celebrated Independence Day at the 7th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park.

It was a picture-perfect day at the park with people visiting the many booths, participating in a costume contest, enjoying the various food trucks, while others enjoyed the beautiful day sitting on blankets, chairs and under canopies.

Presented by the Office of Councilmember Matt Mahan, the annual patriotic event has become a tradition with a safe place to watch an amazing fireworks show and also to honor those who have served our country.

The spectacular fireworks show was again produced by Craig Cutright of Devastating Pyrotechnics. Craig



More than 30,000 people celebrated Independence Day at the 7th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park.

and Devastating Pyrotechnics never disappoint the large enthusiastic crowd with their amazing show.

Upbeat show kicks off celebration

This year's event started at 3 p.m.

to the sounds of Snarky Cats, Almaden Valley residents George and Cindy Nowicki's live band. Pete G. Magic performed his annual magic show, Cub Scouts from Pack 286 performed the flag ceremony,

and students from Vivace Youth Chorus sang the National Anthem. A Most Patriotic Contest was held, where the Best Patriotic Family; Best Patriotic Teen and Best

See *FOURTH*, page 16

National Night Out 2022 celebration slated for Aug. 2

On Tuesday, August 2, neighborhoods participating in *National Night Out* events throughout San José are asked to join in a city-wide effort to strengthen their community by planning an event with their neighbors.

Residents are encouraged to light up their street by turning on outside lights and spending the evening with your community and local police department.

National Night Out is an annual crime prevention event and community-building campaign that is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San José Police Department.

More than 38 million people across the country are expected to participate in *National Night Out* efforts to strengthen partnerships between neighbors and local law enforcement agencies.

National Night Out is designed to:



- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships

- Heighten crime prevention awareness

- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts

Neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of events ranging from small potlucks and BBQ's to block parties. Some additional event ideas include, but are not limited to, ice cream socials, games,



contests, food or clothing donations, plan a clean-up day to beautify a common area, discuss neighborhood issues or set neighborhood goals, discuss or plan a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is an opportunity to be creative, have fun and celebrate your neighborhood!

For any further questions about *National Night Out* contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133 and speak with any of the *National Night Out* Planning Team staff members.

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER



790 Finchwood Way



\$2,599,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3032 Sq Ft | 8025 Sq Ft Lot

This stunning home in Almaden Valley’s quiet Woodside neighborhood is just steps away from the Alamitos Creek where you can stroll or bike to Lake Almaden. One of the five bedrooms is on ground floor, and is adjacent to a full bath. Expansive great room with view of Mt Umunhum. Primary suite includes a large walk-in closet, oversized jetted tub, & large granite shower. One upstairs bedroom is extremely large and would make an ideal bonus room. Fully owned 3.9kw solar panels. A seating area with built in benches and sunken hot tub allow enjoyment of the backyard. Top schools: Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High.



20601 Via Santa Teresa

\$4,990,000
5 Bed | 4 Bath | 3 Half-Baths | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

Enter the private driveway up to this stunning Almaden Valley executive-style home and you are immediately awestruck by panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, game room, bonus room that could be an “in-law” suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop. Numerous balconies as well as the side yard with outdoor kitchen, two sitting areas, fire pit, pergola, hot tub, lawn, and pavers. Top schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



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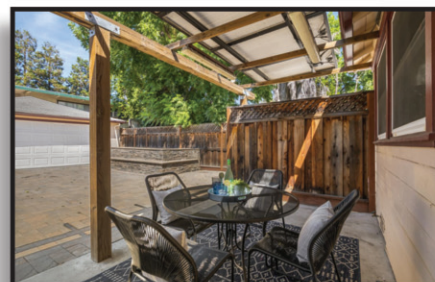
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This classic bungalow takes you back to a simpler time in the Bay Area, yet it's been updated with plenty of modern flair! Inside, its open floor plan and bright, airy atmosphere provide the perfect environment for hosting. Every space inside seamlessly 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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N O T E B O O K



Almaden residents Lucid and Stromfeld named to Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology

Two Almaden residents, **Constantine Lucid** (above right), industrial design program, and **Max Stromfeld** (above left), graphic design program, have been named to the Dean's List at Rochester

Institute of Technology for the spring 2022 semester:

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,700 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

California's water saving target missing in action

Water usage numbers released last week show that Californians continue to miss conservation targets by a large margin.

The state is currently in a severe drought (97%) and (59%) in an extreme drought, the third and fourth most severe of five drought categories.

Last July, Governor Newsom declared a drought emergency and asked California residents to voluntarily cut urban water use by 15% compared with 2020 levels.



The emergency request has fallen on deaf ears.

Northern Californians reduced consumption by 8.5% in May, Southern California regions fell far short at just 2.2% and dragged the statewide reduction in use to 3.1% compared with May 2020.

Will Governor Newsom's threatened crackdown in upcoming, mandatory conservation targets for each city take place? Some say it is similar to what former Gov. Jerry Brown imposed during California's last drought.

Newsom spokeswoman Erin Mellon called the May numbers a positive trend but said more needs to be done. "Individuals and California businesses need to step up," Mellon said.

Two day limit

In May, Newsom told the agencies to step up outreach and education efforts to communicate the urgency of the crisis to the public. A few weeks later, the state water board required most cities and water districts to limit outdoor watering to two days a week and ban the irrigation of "nonfunctional turf," or grass at office parks and industrial sites, but not at schools, parks or golf courses.

Valley Currents

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



From Left: **Kevin Cuellar**, **Michaela France**, **Adriana Herrera**, **Mahsa Ileslamlou**, **Eman Abdella**, **Beleny Quiroz**. Not shown **Jaziel Trujillo**.

POE-South Bay awards scholarships to seven seniors

Pursuit of Excellence – South Bay has awarded scholarships to six students from Los Gatos High School, Lincoln High School and Pioneer High School.

These six college bound students were selected from over 30 applicants for the financial aid and mentorship provided by POE South Bay during their college careers.

POE-South Bay is an all-volunteer scholarship and mentorship program that was founded in 2015 and has supported more than 45 students. Each student receives a scholarship for each year of the college career and in paired with a mentor who helps their student navigate the challenges of college.

"We are interested in supporting first-generation, low-income college bound students who have shown the commitment, drive and community involvement that will help them succeed in college," said Rosemary Rossi of Los Gatos, president of POE-South Bay.

"We are focused on the good student, who has worked hard, been involved in community activities, maybe worked as well, and who would benefit from both our financial support and our mentors," explained Donna Guldemann of Saratoga, the POE-South Bay co-founder. "Our scholarships range from \$2,00 to \$5,00 per year depending on the student's need."

This year's recipients

From Lincoln High School: Adriana Herrera will be attending West Valley Community College for a three-year pre architecture program with plans to transfer.

Beleny Quiroz will be attending Santa Clara University and plans to major in computer science.

Jaziel Trujillo will be attending San Jose State University and plans to major in engineering.

From Pioneer High School: Eman Abdella will be attending UC Santa Barbara as a Zoology major with plans to become a veterinarian.

Mahsa Ileslamlou will be attending UCLA to major in computer science.

Kevin Cuellar will be attending San Jose State University majoring in business.

From Los Gatos High School: Michaela France will be attend Sacramento State University and plans to major in nursing.

About PEO-South Bay

POE-South Bay focuses on helping each student complete college with as little debt as possible. With the support of their mentors, POE Scholars find summer jobs and internships, select classes that will satisfy their graduation requirements and learn to manage their time to be successful in college.

IN MEMORY

Francia Oborn Stephens September 23, 1939 - April 22, 2022

Taught at Almaden Country School

Francia Oborn Stephens passed away on April 22, 2022 in San Jose. She was born to Julia and Frank Oborn on September 23, 1939, in Ogden, Utah. Francia studied drama at Weber State University where she met Hal Stephens.

They were married in the LDS Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah. After moving to San Jose, California in 1961, Francia continued her education at San Jose State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Art and a Master's Degree in English Literature. Francia and Hal had seven children together, Daniel, David,



Jonathan, Michael, Joseph, Katharine and Benjamin.

She was a caring mother, devoted friend, and generous neighbor. She loved sending her children to the neighbors to deliver freshly-baked cookies and bread. Francia was a talented and creative artist, writer, poet, actor, director, singer, teacher, and quilter.

She taught at Almaden Country School, San Jose State University, and many of the community colleges in the South Bay. She directed and performed in local community theater, and she was active in the LDS Church for many years.

Francia is survived by her sister, Linda, her children, David, Jonathan, Joseph, Katharine and Benjamin, and twelve grandchildren. She is sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

A memorial service was held for Francia on July 16 at the LDS church building, 6625 Camden Ave. in San Jose.

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Times **Cover Story**

SJUSD Board members unanimously vote to approve funding for police officers on campus.
Photo by Annalise Freimarck, San Jose Spotlight

Campuses

Continued from page 1

decision to end the SJPD contract followed civil rights protests demanding police reform after the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, and a yearlong debate about the impact of law enforcement's presence on school campuses.

"I think what we have is an alternative. We have not returned to full-time officers on all campuses," Collins said. "I stand by my June vote to remove cops from campuses, but said, 'the move was a mistake because there wasn't a plan put in place ready to go to address what it meant for students and staff without officers on campus.'"

Some community activists are angered by the contract extensions and they believe the

school board is turning its back on them and ignoring requests to channel money spent on cops into on-site hiring of full-time mental health therapists to meet the needs of vulnerable students.

Michael Berwald, a science and leadership teacher at Bret Harte Middle School, said that every campus has different needs.

"As a teacher, ensuring students have a comfortable learning environment at school trumps the presence of cops on school campuses," said Berwald. "Students learn best when they're comfortable...so if they're not feeling safe or comfortable because they're threatened by a police officer patrolling the hallways and targeting or discriminating kids of their color that look like them; they're not going to feel safe on campus."

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Times **Community Notebook**

Road improvements coming to Almaden and Camden

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors recently approved an intersection improvement project at Almaden Expressway and Camden Avenue in San Jose.

A second left turn lane will be added in each direction of Almaden Expressway to provide both safety and ease of use at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Camden Avenue.

"This stretch of expressway needs improvement, no question about it," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who recently started representing Almaden Valley as a result of the County's redistricting. "This portion of Almaden Expressway has generated considerable comment and concern in the community. The sooner we tackle the problem, the better."

Improvements will also include reconfiguring existing median islands, installing new pavement striping and markings, repairing curb, gutter, and sidewalk, upgrading existing curb ramps in compliance with current standards, and removing two trees where second left turn lanes will be added.

In addition, new traffic signals and poles will be installed which will include an upgrade of pedestrian push buttons, installation of pedestrian motion sensors, and re-phasing the intersection to improve the traffic flow.

The first step in the intersection improvement project is for the Roads and Airports Department to advertise for a public solicitation for bids, which opened July 21, 2022, at 2 p.m.

San Jose Airport gets funding for disability upgrades

By Jack Delaney
San José Spotlight

Traversing San Jose's airport will get easier for people with disabilities thanks to future accessibility upgrades.

The Federal Aviation Administration is allocating \$10 million toward improving accessibility at Mineta San Jose International Airport, Congressmember Zoe Lofgren said in a statement last week. The funding is part of a bipartisan infrastructure package providing \$25 billion in total to airports over five years, of which \$1.5 billion will likely go to California airports.

"Americans with disabilities should be able to travel and access airport amenities fully and equally," Lofgren said. "I supported the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to upgrade our infrastructure in California and nationwide. These funds will help improve Mineta San Jose International Airport and ensure it is accessible to everyone in our community."

A 2018 study conducted by Jensen Hughes, an outside firm hired by the San Jose airport, found 1,760 accessibility issues. Though

the airport is involved in a larger accessibility overhaul that includes exterior improvements, the federal funds will support work inside the two terminals. Potential changes include lowering flight information display screens to be more visible to people with limited vision, adding low railings for travelers who navigate spaces with a cane and adjusting ramp slopes. Work is scheduled to begin later this year.

Representatives with the San Jose Peace & Justice Center, Disability Rights California, Parents Helping Parents and the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center did not respond to requests for comment.

Airport spokesperson Scott Wintner told

San José Spotlight the proposed changes are mostly small adjustments to bring facilities up to code, but will have a major impact.

"If the slope of a surface is a degree or two off, people who have full mobility might not notice. But for someone in a wheelchair, it might make a big difference," he said.

Director of Aviation John Aitken thanked Lofgren in a statement for her advocacy and support of the airport.

"This grant will support improvements that are core to our mission of making travel through Mineta San Jose International Airport easy and efficient for all travelers," Aitken said.

This is the most recent effort to address

accessibility at the airport. In December 2020, SJC began its Sunflower Lanyard initiative, which allows travelers to subtly indicate to airport workers that they have a disability. In March of this year, it briefly piloted the use of autonomous wheelchairs, though officials have not yet decided whether to pursue this as a long-term option.

"As an airport, one of our unique features is that we're easy to get in and out of," Wintner said. "We want that to be true not just for people who enjoy being able to park close to the terminal, or have a short walk to the gate, but also for all people—regardless of accessibility challenges they may face."



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Times **News**



Mufasa

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**San Jose Chamber
celebrating its 40 year
anniversary at its
Annual BBQ August 25**

By **Tony Mirenda**

It's that time of year again!

The San Jose Chamber Annual BBQ is quickly approaching and this year we are celebrating our 40 year anniversary!

We're firing up the BBQ Grill (a grill for 500+ that is) and looking forward to a great

night of networking, drinks, and fun. Come join us as we continue to once again celebrate camaraderie and good fellowship in our wonderful San Jose Summer weather!

Sponsorships and group ticket packages are available for purchase and can be split between companies. VERY affordable individual tickets are available as well by activating this link in your favorite browser: <https://lnkd.in/gqzBZ5eq>

Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and we'll see you there!

For more information, contact Kathryn at: kathryns@sjchamber.com.

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Times **Local News**



The entire family will enjoy the *Italian Family Festa* (pictured: the 2019 event).

Italian Family Festa returns celebrating its 40th year at History Park San Jose Aug. 20-21

Free admission for the entire family

The 2022 *Italian Family Festa* is back and better than ever August 20-21 celebrating its 40th anniversary at History Park San Jose. Admission is free.

The Italian American Heritage Foundation announced the return of *Italian Family Festa* after two years as it gears up to share their Italian culture hospitality with the Bay Area community. The festivities begin on Saturday, August 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 21, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Community support

"We are thrilled to be back after two years and grateful for the community support, volunteers, plus grants from the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara that make this festival possible," said Nancy Morreale, Festa Director. "With everything going on make sure to make time for our daily grape stomp and a marionette show each day, and don't forget our Festa Wine Tasting Garden, presented by The Sobrato Philanthropies, which will feature local Italian wineries and is always a popular activity."

Family emphasized

This year will be a Festa to remember. "The Foundation announced it is emphasizing the family at *Italian Family Festa* with the addition of a new children's area, Ragazzi Zona, sponsored by Harker School. The new additions are set in a large grass area where families can relax and children can hear Italian story tellers, enjoy crafts, and learn some Italian along with all the fun," Morreale said.

Musical performances

"This year, the Roma Stage will feature



"Saturday Night Street Dance" with Livewire

musical acts with performances from Mike Annuzzi, Blue House, Bella Ciao, John DeMers, a tribute to Sinatra and our "Saturday Night Street Dance" with Livewire, a Bay Area favorite tribute band," said Morreale. "A special Sunday only Festa favorite, the performance by the Anthony "Nino" Lane Band, will bring all generations of music lovers together."

Culinary secrets shared

FESTA goes can unwind and enjoy a culinary demonstration on the La Cucina Galbani® Cooking Stage with Galbani's celebrity Mark Sciortino "Chef Marco" along with a variety of local chefs all sharing their culinary secrets with you. Galbani® will also host the cheese log building contest for kids each day.

"Of course, we haven't forgotten all the favorite things that make our Festa unique," said Morreale. "Our Cultural Village, presented by JP Napoli Companies, will feature presentations on local Italian history, the lace makers are back demonstrating the lost art of Italian lace, and the Italian Renaissance Swordsmanship Academy, a local group, will be reenacting medieval sword fights and sharing their experience and knowledge."

Navy brass band honored

This year the foundation is honored to host the United States Navy brass band, along with a few friendly Naval robots that love to share and show off for the crowd.

So, grab a glass of wine, fill up on Italian food and enjoy a day in our Italy right here in Santa Clara Valley at the 2022 *Italian Family Festa*!

See FESTA, next page



Bella Ciao

Times Local News

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE PARK CHARTER FUND****Enjoy a
free day at
County Parks**

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Park Charter Fund, Santa Clara County Parks is offering free admission to all Santa Clara County Parks on Saturday, July 30, 2022.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate the day recreating outdoors at any one of the 28 County Parks. Visit www.parkhere.org for a listing of parks.

The 50th anniversary of the Park Charter Fund celebrates the fund's milestones and accomplishments over the past fifty years.

In 1972, Santa Clara County voters overwhelmingly first approved the Park Charter Fund. The passing of the Charter Fund accelerated the growth of parklands by enabling the department to acquire new lands and expand the County's regional parks and trails network, primarily in and around urban areas to now upwards of 52,000 acres and over 300 miles of trails.

In 2016, the Park Charter was renewed by voters and will be in effect until 2032. Beyond the expansion of parklands and trails, the Park Charter Fund has significantly enhanced the lifestyles, health and wellbeing of county residents, as well as preserving parklands for future generations, assisting in the reduction of wildfires

and reducing the impact of climate change.

Don Rocha, Director of County Parks, shares his appreciation to Santa Clara County voters. "If not for their foresight and deep appreciation for parks and open space, and its contribution to mental and physical health and the quality of life for all residents of Santa Clara County, we would not have this amazing system of parks and open space, recreational amenities and programs that contribute to education, preservation and overall wellbeing of the community."

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 60 years. This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California.

**Festa**

Continued from previous page

About Italian Family Festa

The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). The Festa brings to the Santa Clara Valley all things Italian. Through our food, music, crafts, bocce, grape stomp, cultural offerings and wine tasting garden we share our Italian culture and heritage. We welcome everyone to share a bit of Italy with us. All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program.

About Italian American Heritage Foundation

The Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Italian heritage and culture in the Santa Clara Valley. IAHF Cultural Center, 425 N. Fourth St, San Jose, CA, iahfsj.org, iahfsj@iahfsj.org, 408-293-7122

Editor's note: History Park San Jose is located at 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA. For more information, visit www.ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org. For a schedule of activities, visit www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/schedule. Follow the Festa on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ItalianFestaSJ>; and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/italianfamilyfesta>

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All smiles at Moonlight Under the Stars ice cream social

By **Kevin Larsen**
Special to the Times

Plenty of smiling faces and tons of ice cream!

The 18th annual complementary ice cream social was held at the San Jose Gurdwara to which the entire community was invited on July 4th.

The turnout, which was greater than last year, saw more than 1,500 people of different cultures and backgrounds with children running and laughing.

The annual event was originally created to better engage and connect the community.

After marching in the Rose White and Blue parade earlier in the day, the Sikhs went to work in setting up the traditional evening ice cream social.

At 7 p.m. there was a time for thanks and then famous singer Angela Borricua Tirado known as the Voice of San Jose, sang a truly beautiful and touching acapella rendition of the national anthem of the United States.

Some commented that it gave them goosebumps.

The Gurdwara is a combination of a community center and religious building that seeks to help the community and also is a place of deep thought and positive camaraderie for all.

The Gurdwara, a tourist attraction allows everyone to walk through the gates 365 days a year. The Gurdwara serves daily complementary vegetarian meals to everyone!

What a wonderful idea to have comple-

mentary unlimited ice cream, fruit (bananas), bottled water and even vegetarian dinners-to-go which build “family” in the Santa Clara Valley. Truly this annual event brings people of all cultures together and this connecting and interaction is therapeutic to the city!

Located in the Evergreen foothills, the location and buildings are reminiscent of the beautiful architecture of India. When you visit it is like you are transported to a

See SOCIAL, next page

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Times **Community News****Social**

Continued from previous page
different world.

Sparkles and vibrant colors in the sky were crowd pleasers

With no fireworks at this event, people gathered while eating daintily the complementary generous portions of top-of-the-line chocolate, vanilla or mango ice cream in cups with a spoon. All a bit giddy, the crowd watched the many fireworks displays in the valley, the youth emotionally yelled out “ooh” and “aah,” while those a few years older gained joy in witnessing the fun and exuberating moments of their grandchildren.

As the Moonlight Under the Stars ice cream social ended at 10 p.m., there was never a shortage of the ice cream due to the truly expert planning by the Sikhs and others who volunteered. More than 150 gallons of extra premium ice cream was professionally served outside for all to enjoy with cup and spoon. That’s a lot of scoops!

For three hours under the open-air canopy surrounded by American flags fluttering in the soft breeze, almost every second, a visitor in a fast-moving line would sweep their hand onto the table to select their ice cream bowl. The servers would also smile as they asked, “Does anyone want Mango?”

Ice cream just would never run out

There was a comforting feeling knowing

that there was no need to worry for the ice cream would surely never run out. After such a challenging two years of mask rules and regulations throughout our city, the upsetting memories would be canceled out momentarily for this evening, for all that would be heard and seen were happy children in the event, for the planning ensured no child would be disappointed.

In addition, many of the volunteer ice cream scoopers would ask, “Did you want one scoop or two?” Such is the caring and generosity of the Sikhs who created this one-of-a-kind annual event which is perhaps the only mega ice cream social event of its kind in the world. Everything at the event was complementary and this allowed for all families to come and participate in an easy going and welcoming way.

It was a comforting experience to reflect on the good things in the city after being ravaged by so many years of a mysterious virus that created fear and woes with the combination of confusing misdirection of leaders in our society.

True to the ambiance of the Gurdwara and what it stands for, the entire event was soft and quiet in nature with all behaving in loving ways. Visitors made their annual pilgrimage up the hill to watch fireworks in the valley with sweet ice cream which connected the community together with laughter, trust, kindness and smiles to joyfully celebrate the birth of our nation.



Thousands came to enjoy the ice cream, more than 150 gallons, which never ran out!



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OSC has opened a new program for women based upon equine interaction and equine-assisted-learning, designed to develop self-awareness and self-acceptance, confidence and resilience, and safe boundaries.

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead. The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

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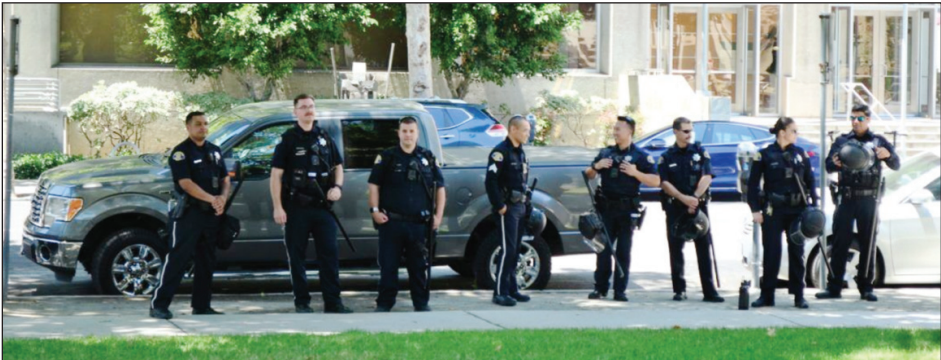
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You might see more beat cops in San Jose neighborhoods

By **Tran Nguyen**
San José Spotlight

San Jose is ready to bring back police foot patrols to address rising safety concerns and build trust with residents, a service that has not gotten consistent funding for decades.

The City Council unanimously approved a proposal from Mayor Sam Liccardo last month to fund 16 police to patrol San Jose streets. The program, which costs nearly \$3.7 million, is part of the mayor's efforts to rebuild the police department.

The program will add four permanent foot patrol officers to each police division in the city—with the focus on the downtown core, dense residential neighborhoods and business corridors. SJPd has four divisions, including central/downtown, Foothill, Southern and Western.

"Thanks to this year's budget, for the first time in decades, San Jose will have dedicated walking beats in every police district, and added foot patrols to high crime areas and downtown focused on street outreach, renewing our commitment to community policing in San Jose," Liccardo said.

The San Jose Police Department is the most thinly-staffed law enforcement department of any major U.S. metropolis, city officials said. The chronic staffing shortages in the department have intensified over the past decade from budget cuts. Increases in population and calls for service have also resulted in rising demand for police.

Police officials and residents hope the program will help law enforcement build relationships with the communities they serve, further advancing community-based policing.

"Foot patrols are significant because, by design, they are made to interact on a face-to-face basis with community members, local businesses and visitors to the area," SJPd spokesperson Steve Aponte told San José Spotlight.

San Jose expects the new officers to start patrolling in a year, as hiring and training will take at least 12 months, Aponte said. The city will rely on current officers to pilot the program this year. The City Council budgeted \$900,000 in overtime funding to accommodate this first year need.

The funding also includes \$632,000 to purchase eight patrol vehicles, \$186,192 in equipment for the new officers and \$67,536 for other supplies, budget documents show.

A game-changer for downtown
Councilmember Dev Davis, who has long called for more police officers, said the cap-

tains of each division will decide where officers will patrol on foot. The city also has plans to use data to prioritize high crime areas.

"When we have done walks with SJPd in the past, in our business corridors, they are always very well received," Davis told San José Spotlight. "It's really a way to get the community and the police department working together and to understand each other."

Downtown leaders and residents are excited about the foot patrol program, calling it long overdue. The issue came to a boiling point in April after an unhoused person assaulted a San Jose Downtown Association worker while cleaning graffiti.

Downtown San Jose's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has also been grim and economically lagging, a new city report shows. Months-long shelter-in-place orders led long-time businesses to close. With tech workers still working remotely, restaurants and bars continuing to suffer, and people are not comfortable walking downtown, a neighborhood association leader said.

"This is going to be a significant change for the downtown core," Elizabeth Chien-Hale, president of the San Jose Downtown Residents Association, told San José Spotlight. "I don't think downtown is going to be revived until we can promise people that it is clean and safe."

Businesses don't want to move into downtown because of safety issues, Chien-Hale added. She hopes the city will dedicate more officers in the downtown core.

Scott Knies, CEO of the San Jose Downtown Association, said the business group has been hiring SJPd officers to walk the downtown core prior to the program. He's disappointed the city will have to wait a year for foot patrols to be fully implemented.

"We're really optimistic that the level of interaction with the community will increase with the foot patrol concept," Knies told San José Spotlight, adding he hopes to see more collaboration between the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and San Jose State campus police as well. "I just wish we could (start) the services up quicker."

Challenges ahead

Tom Saggau, spokesperson for the San Jose Police Officers' Association, is skeptical of the program, citing the city's issue with hiring and retaining police officers.

"We feel a little bit frustrated because it always sounds good on paper, but where are these bodies gonna come from?" Saggau told San José Spotlight, adding he worries the city will cut back on other services to prioritize foot patrols.

District 3 Councilmember Raul Peralez, representing downtown, said the city has improved its retention issue and is working to hire new officers for the program.

"We're not losing them at the same rate that we were five years ago, but hiring has gotten more challenging indeed," Peralez told San José Spotlight. "It's a reality that we may not be fully prepared to permanently staff these new 16 positions next year."

Times **Local News**

Santa Clara County Fire Department switches to renewable diesel fuel with goal of obtaining lower emissions, cleaner air

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors recently approved an agreement allowing the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District to switch much of its fleet from operating on traditional (i.e., petroleum-based) diesel to using renewable diesel.

“Renewable diesel is a better way to go,” said County Supervisor Joe Simitian, whose District Five includes the higher-risk wildland-urban interface (aka the WUI) stretching from Palo Alto in the north to San Jose’s Almaden Valley in the south. “It’s better for the environment, it’s better for our air quality, and it’s better for the health and safety of our firefighters and community.”

The idea for making this switch was first raised by Los Altos Hills resident Anand Ranganathan, a constituent of Simitian’s and member of the town’s Environmental Initiatives Committee, an advisory group that provides recommendations on environmental initiatives to the City Council.

The Committee began taking an inventory of the town’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 and developed a Climate Action Plan to reduce its emissions. According to Ranganathan, the diesel used by fire trucks contributes to more than a quarter of Los Altos Hills’s municipal greenhouse gas footprint, but that switching to renewable diesel fuel could dramatically improve his community’s municipal footprint.

“I saw that a few big fire departments had switched to using renewable diesel fuel already, so it wasn’t going to be something that’s completely untested,” Ranganathan said. “Renewable diesel has become very popular as a way to cut greenhouse gas emissions. It seemed like a no-brainer to ask the fire department to switch.”

“It’s a reminder that if more people make local changes, then hopefully we can actually do something about climate change,” said Ranganathan. “It’s going to take a lot of this kind of work, but we need to start somewhere.”

The County Fire District’s agreement with

its fuel provider, Western States Oil Company, will provide bulk renewable diesel fuel through 2023. The switch to renewable diesel fuel is expected to contribute to the Central Fire Protection District’s goal of reducing its carbon footprint.

Renewable diesel works like petroleum-based diesel, but is made of nonpetroleum renewable and sustainable resources from a variety of organic material – including soybean oil, waste animal fat, waste fish fat, and used cooking oil. Renewable diesel burns cleaner than regular diesel. And it has been proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable fuel is a relatively seamless alternative to conventional diesel fuel since it doesn’t require different storage needs, and vehicles can switch back and forth between the fuels based on availability. Renewable diesel also comes with fewer of the downsides that made biodiesel not a good fit for use in fire apparatus.

“Santa Clara County Fire Department takes its mission of protecting the environment seriously,” said David Snow, Director of Support Services for the Santa Clara County Fire Department. “Implementing this small change in the type of fuel we’re using significantly reduces the impact from both the manufacture and use of diesel fuel in our fire engines and fleet vehicles.”

Involving constituents in the civic engagement process is not new to Simitian. During his time in the State Legislature, he introduced a “There Oughta Be A Law” contest, inviting constituents to send ideas for new laws. Simitian’s idea generated 21 pieces of real-world legislation that eventually became law.

“I’m grateful to Mr. Ranganathan for pointing out the obvious,” said Simitian. “Engaged constituents make our communities stronger. It would be foolish not to be receptive to good ideas from our residents. They care. They’re engaged. And they’re well-informed.”

Ranganathan said he was pleased to see his idea materialize.



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Times **Local News**

Top: Vendor Alley attracted many patrons, and the Letters to Soldiers booth (above) provided volunteers the chance to send inspirational notes to people serving the country.

Fourth

Continued from page 1
Patriotic Child won a prize based on interactive voting from the audience. Keeping everything working smoothly at the stage were our fabulous emcee, Corinna Girard, Pastor at WestGate Church, and our Stage Manager, Greg Koopman, VP of the Comanche Blossom Valley Neighborhood Association.

A variety of food was available from food truck vendors Falafel Fresh & Gyros, Citlaly's Catering, Grill Zillas, and Junior's Roaster. Ice Cream provided by Mister Softee and Dippin' Dots. Sadly, the much-anticipated Hula Truck was unable to attend at the last minute. They are looking forward to attending next year!

Fun Zone
The Fun Zone was a huge hit, with families and friends enjoying giant versions of favorite table games Jenga and Connect Four, table-top catapults from Pack 286, Plinko from WestGate Church, ring-toss and corn-hole, as well as face painting and writing letters to soldiers. Guests also learned how to use a fire extinguisher by shooting water at orange colored cones – a great way to have fun while learning a valuable, life-saving skill. Vendor Alley, with over 30 booths, also provided many activities and games, as well as vendors selling honey, decorating hands with henna, and providing information about their clubs, businesses, and non-profits.

New this year was a coordinated effort with the Office of Emergency Management to integrate trained CERT and R.A.C.E.S responders. This was the first time that San Jose Neighborhood CERT (sjncert.org) and San Jose R.A.C.E.S. (sjraces.org) worked together to provide coordinated communications for a major event. Their services were a valuable enhancement to festival security.

Corporate and community sponsors
This year's event was made possible

through many corporate and community donations. Major sponsors contributing at the Stars and Stripes level, were SummerHill Housing Group, Casino M8trix, and Devastating Pyro-tech-nics. Old Glory sponsors were AT&T, Home Depot, Brandenburg Founda-

tion/Cinnabar Hills Golf Course, and Big 5. Red, White and Blue level sponsors were Star One Credit Union, GreenWaste Recovery, San Jose Earthquakes, KeyPoint Credit Union, 99 Ranch Market, WestGate Church, Westfield Oakridge, and Midtown Family Services.

Additional funding was also received from these generous donors: Times Media, Starbucks, Republic-Urban, Almaden Senior Association, San Jose Water Company, Eden Housing, and The Schoennauer Company. We are grateful for the continued support of the Community Grant from Santa Clara County, the Festival Grant from the Office of Cultural Affairs City of San Jose, as well as this year's Abierto funding approved by Mayor Sam Liccardo.

In addition to funding, volunteers are critical to the success of this event. More than 150 residents, mostly from District 10, volunteered for at least 4 hours, and many volunteered for 12 hours or more, in order to provide this amazing event.

One of the most dedicated and extraordinary volunteers, Bob Vonderwerth, VP of the Playa del Rey Neighborhood Association, worked tirelessly with Michele Dexter, Event Coordinator from the District 10 Council Office, for the entire six months of planning for the event, bringing his vast knowledge and experience of previous events to the effort.

"A special thank you goes out to the Almaden Valley Women's Club and to the community at large for their continuous support of the 4th of July Fireworks Festival celebrating the birth of our country and honoring those who serve and have served our country," Dexter said.

Times **Feature**



Potter the Otter: A Healthy Adventure exhibition re-opens at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Museums for All initiative offers inclusion for low-income families
By William Bellou
Publisher

Thousands of visitors attended the re-opening of the popular STEAM-based exhibition *Potter the Otter: A Healthy Adventure* at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose.

Featuring the beloved otter's adventures and his discovery that eating fruits and veggies, drinking plenty of water, and staying active helps children become their best selves, the exhibit emphasizes positive messages for parents about the benefits of healthy decisions and affirming fun activities for children.

The exhibition originally opened in February of 2020 with funding from FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, but had to immediately close due to COVID. The exhibition will now run 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through January 15, 2023.

"We're so pleased to bring this exhibition back to the community. The goals of the exhibit remain critically important – curbing childhood obesity and supporting the development of very young children with activities that promote learning through creativity and developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills" said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "I'm so proud of the work we do with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County to change the lives of very young children by helping families and children make positive choices."

"We are so thrilled to be a part of this celebration as we slowly return to familiar life patterns as we emerge from COVID-19. The re-opening of this exhibit where children can learn, enjoy, and play is a joyous moment," says Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd, chief executive officer of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. "With recent news of the COVID-19 vaccine being available for our youngest children, we are excited to share our newest Potter the Otter book at this event about helping young children handle their emotions during the pandemic."

With friends – Moose, Goose, Toada, and the Kangaroos – Potter is off to catch a Rain-

bow Racer fish and join a water polo team. Tag along with Potter and pedal a boat, build and stack small logs to forge Rainbow River, explore Lapis Lake and Bubbling Brook, and create a colorful plate in The Market for a healthy adventure!

Near the end of Potter's exploits, children can help Potter catch the Rainbow Racer and take his well-deserved place on the water polo team - celebrating the healthy choices of eating fruits and veggies, drinking plenty of water, and being active.

Cost of museum admission: adults: \$15; children: \$15; seniors: \$14; infants and members are free.

Editor's Note: Reduced Admission Tickets are available so that all are welcome and included in the Discovery Museum experience with the Museums for All initiative. Their website states: Children's Discovery Museum is proud to be part of the Museums for All national initiative.

Ensuring that every child and family has access to high quality museum experiences, Museums for All makes it affordable for all families to discover our fun educational exhibits, programs, and events anytime during regular Museum hours.

Offering an easy way for low-income families to access the Museum at a reduced rate, Museums for All shines a light on our community's commitment to inclusiveness and accessibility for all children regardless of neighborhood, background, or ability to pay.

Museums for All is a cooperative initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Children's Museums.

All Museums for All tickets must be purchased in-person at the Museum.

\$2 per person for up to four people during regular Museum hours when you show photo ID plus one of the following:

- EBT card
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Advance reservations are not required. A percentage of tickets are allocated for this program for each session.

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Times Feature



The entrance to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on Tully Road in San Jose. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

San Jose State track proposal for fairgrounds

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

A proposed track and field at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds may return a university to former glory.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra requested \$25 million from the state Legislature for a San Jose State University Speed City Legacy Center and Track and Field Training Facility. The Legislature approved \$4 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year budget. The 9-acre project will be a partnership with Santa Clara County and San Jose State University at the fairgrounds.

The facility gets its name from the uni-

versity's track team, known as Speed City, after several of its athletes competed in the 1968 Olympics. Two of the medal winners, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, raised their fists during the awards ceremony in protest of racism and human rights violations. This iconic moment initiated the Olympic Project for Human Rights and is captured in a statue on the SJSU campus.

Kalra would like to see a center for social justice programming and services for the underserved as part of the track and field project.

"By funding the Speed City Legacy Center... we can use the framework of restora-

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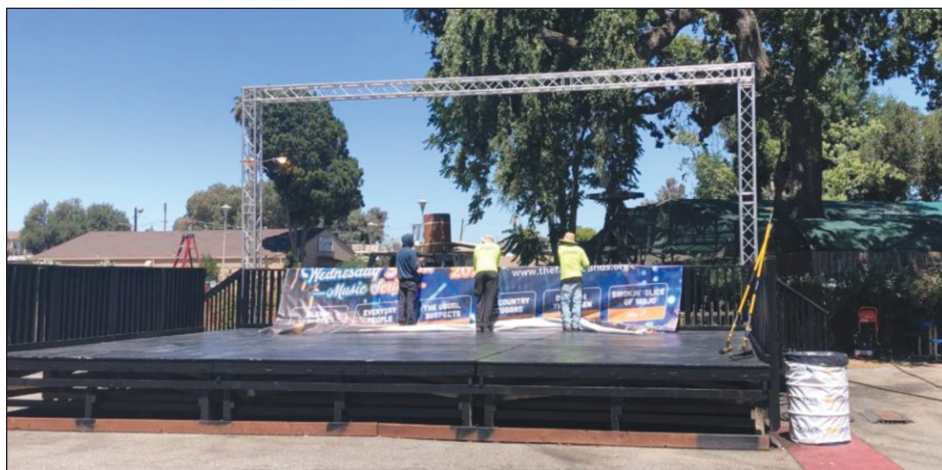
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Times **Feature**

Workers set up a stage for a music series at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

tive justice to create a dynamic home to keep the legacy and values of Speed City and the Olympic Project for Human Rights alive,” he said in a statement.

This isn't the only sports-related work planned at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. The county wants to create a variety of recreational opportunities at the site, and has lease agreements with the San Jose Earthquakes for a soccer academy and Major League Cricket for a 15,000-person stadium on 14 acres of the fairgrounds.

Santa Clara County entered into a no-cost exclusive negotiating agreement with SJSU in April to study the feasibility of leasing the parcel for the Speed City project. The contract runs until April 2023. During this time, SJSU will determine the potential costs and revenue for the project, provide design and planning details, develop a community engagement plan and development agreement and propose a lease for board review.

The facility, located in an unincorporated part of the fairgrounds just south of Franklin Elementary School, would also be open for public use.

Kenneth Mashinchi, spokesperson for SJSU, said the efforts by Kalra and Supervisor Cindy Chavez to secure funding for the Speed City project are appreciated.

“The funding from the state budget is held by Santa Clara County,” he told San José Spotlight. “We look forward to our continued partnership with the county regarding the funding and how it could be used.”

The site has been underutilized for years. It's home to the annual county fair, off-track horse betting and a paintball arena. It also has a shelter that serves 50 to 80 homeless people per night, and part of the area also serves as the county's largest COVID-19 testing site. A group of advocates is pushing for

a portion of the fairgrounds to be used for safe RV parking and prefabricated housing for homeless people.

About 72% of residents surveyed said they value the fairgrounds as a public meeting and event space, with 80% wanting active recreation on the site, according to Chavez, whose district houses the fairgrounds. She

About 72% of residents surveyed said they value the fairgrounds as a public meeting and event space, with 80% wanting active recreation on the site, according to Chavez, whose district houses the fairgrounds. She was not available for comment.

was not available for comment.

“It will be an honor to host the legacy of San Jose State's iconic track program and the Olympic Project for Human Rights,” Chavez previously told San José Spotlight.

San Jose Councilmember Maya Esparza also supported Kalra's request for the development of the Speed City Legacy Center. As chair of the city's Monterey Corridor Working Group, she said the project prioritizes historically marginalized and underserved low-income communities of color in a letter to the State Assembly Budget Committee. She was not available for comment.

Nick Kaspar, Esparza's chief of staff, told San José Spotlight the project brings critical open space with grass fields to nearby residents.



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Times Feature

WATER WISE

The solace of citrus

By Matthew Frazier

In the fifteen years I worked in retail and wholesale garden centers and nurseries, I enjoyed the spoils of my efforts to care for and promote plants which were both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscientious.

The very first nursery I worked in had eight consultants/salespersons of which I was one, where I was assigned to care for the owner's and manager's citrus, ornamental trees, and vines.

The collector's corner

I enjoyed the experience of caring for each and all of the plants, even the ones in The Collectors' Corner. There was something alluring about the citrus which set them apart from all other live goods on the property.

As the sun would set, the plethora of colors would glow in the waning light and accentuate the nuances of each and every item in the spaces. The citrus were both shrubs and trees. Their spectrum of oranges and yellows from the fruits and the greens from the foliage were something to witness.

Fragrance

The citrus have different flowering and fruiting periods, depending on the variety. One thing they had in common ... The aroma of the blossoms eclipsed all other features. The fragrance drew native pollinators including our very own native bees. Standing immediately outside of the gravel beds where they resided, I took in the smell while reminiscing about the day's events.

There are many varieties of citrus, as one will come to learn with some reading and studying. There are dwarf, semi-dwarf, and standard versions of most varieties. The dwarf limes were among our favorites. The sharp contrast of tart flavor against the sweet smell of the blossoms was one very noted feature.

In the two years and one month I worked at this nursery, I introduced hundreds of customers to the gallery of citrus which were my personal pride for which to care. Staging the black plastic pots symmetrically on a grid which was equidistant from all angles and sides caught the attention of passersby.

Citrus can ward off nuisance insects

One little-known advantage of citrus rinds is that they contain an enzyme which will ward off nuisance insects when grated with a culinary or a wood rasp. I have concocted home-made repellents using citrus rinds, dating back to when I worked at this nursery and beyond.

One challenge with caring for frost-tender varieties is that they must be covered with burlap as the sun goes down, to protect it from the cold air which settles by night. When the sun rises and the dew begins to vaporize, the image is at once cinematic and mesmerizing.

Regardless of whether you visit a garden center/nursery, a hardware store, or a home improvement center to purchase your plants ... You will be well-advised to visit the citrus

section. The scene and the scent invoke solace among other positive emotions.

Citrus like well-draining soils. I have seen them in a wide variety of soil mediums including nitrified redwood dust and sand. The composition and texture of the soil medium has much to do with the drainage efficiency of the citrus. I have found that the best is an aggregate of small-particle sand and nitrified redwood dust.

Citrus love sunshine

If your landscape or yard has full sun most of the day ... Citrus is a strong candidate. They can even handle brutal mid-day sun-



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

mer sun if irrigated correctly and efficiently. Irrigating at night is best in late spring and summer, I have found. The irrigation contractor I have mentioned in past articles says 9pm, 12am, and 3am, two nights per week in summer.

With the raging mega drought in Santa Clara Valley and throughout California, there is no better time to introduce this gem to your property. For areas of the landscape or yard which are battered by brutal mid-day sunlight ... Few better options exist.

Seek out citrus

To conclude: I strongly encourage you each and all to visit your local retail garden center or nursery and seek out the citrus. I am confident you will find one or more varieties which speak to your desires. Thank you for your time in reading this article.

I am available to answer questions via email for any and all who wish to inquire. Best wishes in your gardening and landscaping endeavors. Be well.

Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper, and Qualified Stormwater Manager. You may contact him at: (408) 656-5622 – Mobile/Text; or by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com

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790 Finchwood Way



\$2,599,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3032 Sq Ft | 8025 Sq Ft Lot

This stunning home in Almaden Valley's quiet Woodside neighborhood is just steps away from the Alamos Creek where you can stroll or bike to Lake Almaden. One of the five bedrooms is on ground floor, and is adjacent to a full bath. Expansive great room with view of Mt Umunhum. Primary suite includes a large walk-in closet, oversized jetted tub, & large granite shower. One upstairs bedroom is extremely large and would make an ideal bonus room. Fully owned 3.9kw solar panels. A seating area with built in benches and sunken hot tub allow enjoyment of the backyard. Top schools: Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High.



20601 Via Santa Teresa

\$4,990,000

5 Bed | 4 Bath | 3 Half-Baths | 7158 Sq Ft | 2.62 Acre Lot

Enter the private driveway up to this stunning Almaden Valley executive-style home and you are immediately awestruck by panoramic views in Santa Clara County. This architectural masterpiece incorporates the sweeping views into almost every room in the home. Gourmet kitchen, office/library, media room, game room, bonus room that could be an "in-law" suite. Tesla charging station. Solar. 4-car garage with workshop. Numerous balconies as well as the side yard with outdoor kitchen, two sitting areas, fire pit, pergola, hot tub, lawn, and pavers. Top schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.



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. 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

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