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Willow Glen Times

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San Jose residents react to record-breaking inflation

By Jack Delaney
San José Spotlight

San Jose residents are grappling with the highest level of inflation in 41 years, forcing many to make hard choices about food, travel and housing—furthering the disparity between the haves and have-nots.

On Wednesday, the Labor Department reported consumer prices have risen 9.1% since June of last year. Rising costs have affected nearly every sector.

The price of gas is up 50.1% in the Bay Area year over year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Utilities like natural gas and electricity are up 33.6% and

19%, respectively. Food prices are up 10.8%, with cereals and bakery products up 13.6%. Household furnishings and supplies have jumped 9.5%.

For some Silicon Valley residents, high food and gas prices mean lifestyle changes.

Claudia Daw, 95, and her 65-year-old daughter of the same name, from Santa Clara County, said inflation is preventing them from pursuing their favorite pastime: rock collecting, also known as rockhounding. Driving is too expensive, her daughter said, which prevents them from visiting family over the summer.

"It's painful," the younger Daw



Claudia Daw and her daughter of the same name said the cost of gas has prevented them from driving to see cousins this summer. Photo by Jack Delaney.

told San José Spotlight. "We have to work long trips into our budget. Our food bills have also tripled in cost."

Inflation is hitting the region at a time when property values are soaring and thousands of homeless people are sleeping on Santa Clara County streets. According to a recent report, the top quarter of Silicon Valley earners hold 92% of the region's wealth, with the top 10% holding 75% of all the wealth.

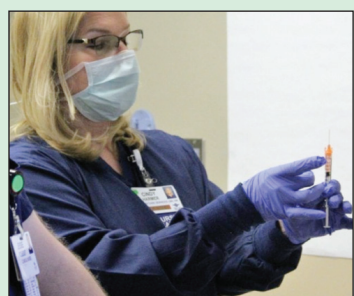
The average annual income in Silicon Valley was \$170,000 last year, and the median income was \$138,000—more than double the national median. But the average income for regional service workers was \$31,000.

Yige Kebede, 25, a rideshare driver who moved to San Jose in 2016, isn't able to visit his home of Gondar, Ethiopia because flights are too expensive. To make ends

See INFLATION, page 2



The high cost of plane tickets is preventing Yige Kebede, 25, from visiting his home of Gondar, Ethiopia. Photo by Jack Delaney.



Cindy Harmer, health care services line director, flicks any air out of the syringe containing the COVID-19 vaccine at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose in this file photo.

Silicon Valley water agency faces backlash over vaccine policy

By Natalie Hanson
San José Spotlight

Officials at Santa Clara County's largest water supplier are on the defense after a whistleblower publicly accused the agency of retaliating against employees unvaccinated for COVID-19.

An anonymous whistleblower calling himself "John Public" commented at a Valley Water meeting on June 28 and released a video on YouTube, which is no longer available, claiming the district's vaccination policy is discriminatory. Valley Water requires all workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an approved medical or religious exemption.

As of July, 98.82% of Valley Water's 851 employees are vaccinated, spokesperson Matt Keller told San José Spotlight. CEO Rick Callender said in a statement last week that with COVID infections still high, the public health emergency necessitates upholding the vaccination policy.

See VACCINES, page 2



Willow Glen High class of '72 to celebrate 50-year reunion

By the WGHS Class of '72
Reunion Committee

The Willow Glen High School Class of 1972 will be celebrating their 50-year re-union soon, and would like to see as many of our fellow graduates there as possible.

Event Details

When: Saturday, September 17th, 2022 5pm-11pm

Where: San Jose Marriott 301 South Market St., San Jose

What: No-host bar, buffet dinner, coffee, dessert, music of the 60s and 70s, catching up with old friends!

Cost: \$125 per person
For more information visit our website at myevent.com/wghsclassof1972

Here you will find the invitation, registration, ticket purchase link, room reservation link and more. Use the menu bar to navigate throughout the site to find this information as well as a list of who has already registered for the event, biographies of fellow grads, pictures, memorabilia and more. And by the way - you can add your bio on the website even if you are unable to attend the reunion, because we still want to know what you have been doing the last 50 years!

If you have questions regarding the website or the registration process, please send them to wghsclassof1972@gmail.com

Visit the website now! We hope to see you there!

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15

Times Feature

Inflation

Continued from page 1

meet, he's cut down on meat and is traveling less.

Kelly Hensley, 38, a barber from downtown San Jose, said he goes grocery shopping less frequently and buys less meat. Rising costs are forcing him to increase his prices at the barber shop, he said, noting many of his regular customers are showing up less frequently.

"I just go for the cheap stuff," Hensley said. "On my days off, I used to hop in the car and drive around. Now I don't."

For some residents, however, inflation is raising larger concerns.

Veronica Galvez, 50, a small business owner who lives in San Jose's West San Carlos neighborhood, said she is cutting down on "all the extras." She recently purchased a more cost-efficient vehicle, and said she isn't going out to eat. She's constantly on the lookout for sales, and visits multiple supermarkets to compare prices for specific items. Galvez said inflation is exacerbating the inequality already present in Silicon Valley.

"In this valley, there is such a big gap between the haves and have-nots," Galvez said.

Faizah Keval, a mother of two from San Jose, is thinking about her children's futures.

They were planning on visiting family in Texas, but decided not to because of gas prices. A parkour class—a sport that



Above left: Kelly Hensley, 25, a barber from downtown San Jose, is making lifestyle changes because of inflation. Above right: Veronica Galvez, 50, a small business owner from San Jose, has stopped eating out and is spending more frugally on groceries. Photos by Jack Delaney.

involves acrobatics and jumping over obstacles—which her son wants to enroll in is also off the table. Even getting basic goods like milk, Keval said, is starting to take a toll as prices go up.

"At this point, we have to make a choice about whether we can even live here, or raise a family here," Keval told San José Spotlight. "We're thinking of moving out of the state to be able to make a living and ensure that our children will be able to live comfortably."



Faizah Keval, from San Jose, is contemplating moving out of state because of record-breaking inflation. Photo by Jack Delaney.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

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Vaccines

Continued from page 1

of July 21, the seven-day rolling average of new reported infections in the county is 939, down from last month's average of 1,099 on June 28.

"Our critical infrastructure provides water to residents and businesses," Callender said. "While we understand there may be a few people who disagree with the policy, it is necessary during this time to follow the science and our public health leaders, not just for us, but for the people we serve."

The whistleblower disagreed. "The district has forced many of us out of their livelihoods already and the process is to put you through great duress/coercion. To be treated in this discipline process is nothing short of a beat down to submit or lose it all and denounce your faith!" he wrote in a letter.

His video, which contained copyrighted logos and clips, was hit with a claim from Valley Water's attorney Juan Carlos-Orellana and removed from public access. Carlos-Orellana was not available to comment, a Valley Water spokesperson said.

The whistleblower said via email he

thinks his video was removed because Valley Water did not like his claims that the company mishandled a vaccination mandate. He claims Valley Water used COVID-19 data to justify the vaccine mandate even though some people who were vaccinated still got sick.

He also said he and other employees had exemptions denied for nonspecific reasons.

"Those who got their religious exemptions denied were put on a discipline process that leads up to termination," he claimed.

Callender said he doesn't know who the anonymous source is, but is familiar with the video. He said the video used confidential staff information.

"We follow the county Public Health advice, we follow the CDC advice and as an agency that is what we followed," he said. "It sounds like the anonymous source is not following the CDC or public health advice or explanation."

Valley Water decided to pursue a 100% employee vaccination rate, Keller said, after the county suggested businesses and government agencies implement mandatory vaccination requirements. Last fall, the water district required unvaccinated

See VACCINES, page 4

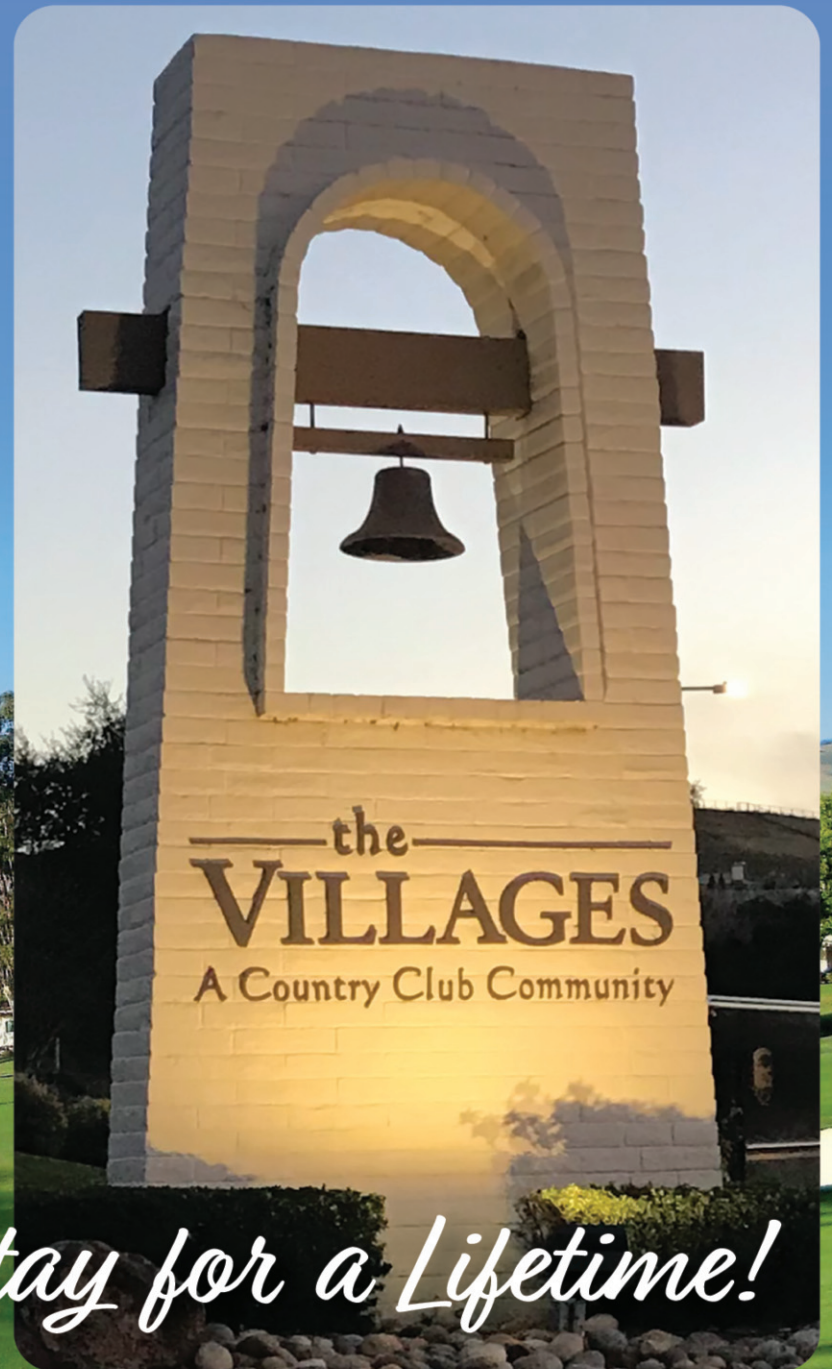
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14TH ANNUAL HOT SAN JOSE NIGHTS – A FREE FAMILY EVENT

Airport Day returns September 3 at Reid-Hillview Airport

Family friendly classic car show, static airplane show, and more! Event goes encouraged to bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank

By William Bellou
Publisher

For 14 years, Hot San Jose nights – Airport Day has been a huge family fun classic car show and airplane show for the entire family Saturday, September 3 from 10 a.m. – 3 pm. The event including parking is free.

“Bring your chairs and coolers and enjoy the day with us,” said event founder, Michael Hennessy. “We will have great live music and fun food all day. School robotics teams and ROTC will also be participating. And don’t miss the Civil Air Patrol presenting the Color Guard during the National Anthem in the Opening Ceremony at

noon. This is a great day for children to participate in a learning environment and have fun too!”

Aircraft

More than 40 static airplanes will be on display. San Jose State University aviation program, one of the nation’s oldest and the only public institution in California, is welcoming event goers to sit in their aircraft and talk with students and faculty. This gives everyone a chance to learn more about the educational opportunities we provide. The program offers a BS in Aviation with an emphasis in professional flight, operations, aviation management, and Maintenance Management.



More than 40 static airplanes will be on display at the event.

Valley Currents

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

OP-ED

Every day is special

By Bryan Golden

Every day you wake up is a special day. It is filled with potential and opportunity.

Too many people start their days in a foul mood. They drag themselves out of bed to prepare to endure another day. Starting on Monday, their objective is to make it to Friday. Then, on the weekend, Sunday becomes stressful as the clock clicks down to Monday.

It’s a shame to allow a bad attitude to cause you to lose sight of how special each day is. As you become jaded, each day looms as a challenge to get through rather than something to savor. Although we all face problems, it is our outlook that determines how successful we are in dealing with them.

Here are some tips for getting back on track so that you begin recognizing every day as special. Start with appreciating all of the things in your life you can be thankful for. Look past the fog and negativity. Regardless of what you are dealing with, there are many things which you can be appreciative of.

Developing this attitude of gratitude grounds you in the positive. Review your list of good things on a daily basis. This habit gets your day started on the right foot. The foundation you build makes it easier to recognize each day as special.

The things you are thankful for are your bright spots. They will energize you when you appreciate them. One bright spot alone can out shine all of your problems. Even if yesterday was a low point, every new day is a special opportunity to turn things around.

An appreciation of all the miracles in your life will boost your attitude of gratitude. Start with the miracle that is you. This wonder dwarfs the challenges you are facing. Pay attention to details. All miracles, regardless of how small, should be fully appreciated.

Adjust your perspective. Instead of looking at what’s wrong, identify what is right with each day. Everyone has problems, and each problem has a solution. Rather than being saddled with another day of



problems, you have a new opportunity to find solutions. Taking this approach lets you focus on what is right instead of fixating on what is wrong.

Determine what needs to be fixed. This means separating problems from symptoms. Problems are a cause while symptoms are the result. When ignored, symptoms will create secondary problems. Every day is another special opportunity to identify and fix problems. You will become more frustrated and problems will worsen when you fail to take corrective action.

Cut free from the shackles of the past. Don’t lament what you could have, would have, or should have done. When you hold onto your past it pollutes your future. The value of the past is to teach us what didn’t work and what did. Each day is a special opportunity for a new start.

Every day is another chance to accomplish what you put off yesterday. Taking action is the only way to accomplish anything. Stop procrastinating today and get into gear. Each day you delay, is a day lost you will never get back.

Cultivate positive thoughts. Purge negative words and concepts from your self-talk. Your mind believes whatever you tell it without discrimination. If you tell yourself you can do something, you are right. If you tell yourself you can’t do something, you are also right. Your thoughts are as special as each day because they determine the direction of your life.

As you can see, every day is indeed special. Take advantage of the new opportunities that constantly present themselves. Use the time you are given rather than wasting it. Believe in yourself and your ability to have the life you want.

Bryan is the author of “Dare to Live Without Limits.” Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2022 Bryan Golden

Vaccines

Continued from page 2
staff to test weekly.

In January, the district told workers to submit proof of full vaccination by March 1. Unvaccinated employees had to request an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Failure to provide proof of full vaccination would result in disciplinary action including termination, according to the policy.

“We also implemented a mandatory vaccination policy for all new hires, requiring they provide proof of full vaccination absent an approved medical or religious exemption prior to their start date,” Keller said. He said of 36 employees who asked for exemptions, three have received them to date. The district declined to say how many employees have been fired or quit because of the policy.

Not applicable to board members

Although workers have mostly adhered to the mandate, the requirement does not apply to Valley Water board members, Keller said.

Callender said the board, as elected officials, does not have a vaccine requirement and don’t need to provide vaccination records as they are not employees. He said board members are all concerned about not getting infected with COVID, all being over the age of 50 with some concerned about health conditions.

“They don’t want to get sick from members of the public or staff,” Callender said. “People are still dying from this.”

George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology at UC San Francisco, said he thinks policies like Valley Water’s are vital to preventing the transmission and spread of viral diseases like COVID-19.

“You always have to have vaccinations as the bedrock on which all other guidelines are built,” Rutherford told San José Spotlight. He said three variants are circulating and only 71.5% of Californians are fully vaccinated. Even people who received a booster last winter do not have full protection against infection, even though they have protection against hospitalization and death.

“No vaccine is 100% perfect because the amount of virus when (a person) gets infected varies,” he said.

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Crossing San Jose streets may become less dangerous

By Jana Kadah
San José Spotlight

One of San Jose's most dangerous roads will receive multi-million-dollar funding from the state to reduce accidents and fatalities.

The city is receiving \$10 million in state funding to install more street lights, build out bike lanes and other protective measures around Senter Road. The 4.7-mile stretch from Monterey Road to Story Road ranks sixth in terms of traffic accidents, with more than 570 accidents since 2016. During this period dozens have been seriously injured and killed.

State Assemblymember Ash Kalra, who represents part of the city's East Side, advo-

cated for the \$10 million for fiscal year 2022-23. The funding will add concrete medians and partitions for bike lanes, enhanced crosswalks with flashing beacons and better street lights. It also includes a new traffic light at Senter Road and Balfour Drive to simplify the complex intersection, and new signage and additional radar speed signs on other streets.

District 7 Councilmember Maya Esparza said for years, residents have been asking for more street lights, better signals and additional protections for bike lanes and that's what this money provides.

"We've had some just really heartbreaking accidents on Senter," Esparza told San José Spotlight. "You have the elderly cross-



The Tully Road and Senter Road intersection is one of the most dangerous locations in San Jose. Photo by Tran Nguyen.



San Jose sees rising property values despite economic woes

By Tran Nguyen
San José Spotlight

The value of taxable properties in San Jose skyrocketed last year thanks to demand for luxury homes and new construction. However, experts and county officials say the growth won't last.

At the heart of wealthy Silicon Valley, the assessed value of all property grew by \$15 billion over the last 12 months—a jump from \$215.9 billion to \$231 billion. In Santa Clara County, the value has reached a record-breaking \$619.9 billion, according to county data. That's a \$43 billion increase over the prior year, demonstrating the COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact has limited reach.

Changes of home ownership and new commercial construction continue to be the greatest drivers of growth in the region, Santa Clara County Assessor

Larry Stone told San José Spotlight. New construction in the county contributed \$5.9 billion to the total increase last year. Changes in home ownership contributed \$24.5 billion—nearly half of the total increase—in the region. In San Jose, residential assessments accounted for \$9.9 billion of the total increase, while commercial properties contributed \$5.1 billion.

The county's assessment roll, which contains nearly 500,000 properties ranging from boats and airplanes to commercial buildings, is revalued every year.

"In Silicon Valley, the luxury home market has been on fire particularly," Stone said. "On the commercial side, it was primarily new construction and major (tech) companies building and leasing spaces."

ing the street with children. You can see moms out there with strollers, so that's why the urgency to do something immediately was there."

During the last decade, San Jose traffic deaths more than doubled from 29 in 2010 to 60 in 2021. Last year was a record high with 60 deaths and 2022 is on track to beat this number with 36 deaths to date.

Senter Road is the first major safety corridor redesign project in San Jose that has been prioritized through the city's 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan, Kalra said. San Jose adopted the Vision Zero initiative in 2015 to analyze traffic data and develop safety programs after 60 traffic fatalities occurred that year. In 2018, the city identified 17 of its most dangerous corridors — seven of the streets run through District 7.

"The proposed improvements will make this corridor safer and more amenable for all street users," Kalra wrote in his budget letter request. "Especially for the city's disadvantaged communities that live and work in this area of San Jose."

Data analyzed by San José Spotlight found those roads account for more than 70% of all traffic-related deaths last year. District 7 had the most fatalities with 16. The deaths occurred along Monterey and Story roads, McLaughlin Avenue, Capitol Expressway and Tully and Senter roads.

The city has funded temporary, quick-build infrastructure solutions to make streets safer. On Senter Road, the city spent under \$1 million to paint the intersections and put green balls and plastic barriers in place to force driv-

ers to slow down. These efforts saw traffic death and serious injuries along Senter Road drop from 15 in 2020 to five in 2021, according to city data. Esparza said while that was a notable improvement, she is ecstatic to see a much larger investment on the East Side.

"This \$10 million is to serve people that are already there in the heart of San Jose," Esparza said. "It's not to serve a new project. It's not to build new development. It's to do right by the people who live in the heart of our city. And that's what's different about this project. It's the equity part of it."

The redesign of Senter Road has a \$30 million price tag, but the \$10 million allows the city to move forward and qualify San

During the last decade, San Jose traffic deaths more than doubled from 29 in 2010 to 60 in 2021. Last year was a record high with 60 deaths and 2022 is on track to beat this number with 36 deaths to date.

Jose to apply for additional grants. Typically, money for transportation projects is doled out only when there is new redevelopment, which is why this investment is noteworthy, Esparza said.

"Nothing's real in transportation until you have money," Esparza said. "Now that we do, we are literally applying for more grants this month."

By August, the city will release the timeline for the Senter Road corridor safety improvement project. It's unclear how long the build out will take.

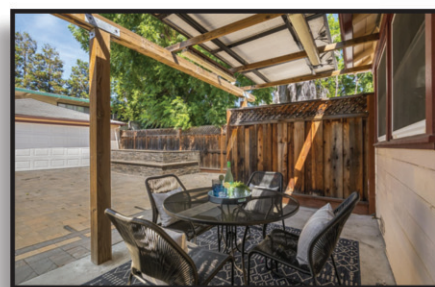


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2022 Ford Lightning true to its name accelerating 0-60 MPH in 4 seconds

The Ford Lightning can be ordered with an extended-range battery providing 563 horsepower and a 320-mile range and can accelerate from 0-to 60 miles per hour in about four seconds.

By Sean Eastwood
Times Media staff writer

The 2022 Ford Lightning electric pickup arrived a year after it was announced, and now there's an estimated three year backlog for delivery.

First announced at the 2019 Detroit Auto Show, Ford beat all the others — Tesla to GMC, Chevrolet to Rivian — to the competitive truck market to further add to the manufacturer's truck legacy with its success of the F-150 for that past 15 years. In fact, the new Lightning is quieter than other F-150s and more than 300 pounds lighter than a Rivian R1T.

The Lightning is a luxury oriented, full-



2022 Ford Lightning

size electric pickup truck with top-level performance and sports a 300-plus mile range. The truck can be ordered in Pro,

XLT, Lariat and Platinum trims.

What's unique about the F-150 Lightning is Ford's decision to offer the Pro trim

with a smaller-capacity battery; the Platinum is offered only with a higher-capacity battery. The XLT and Lariat are equipped with the smaller-capacity battery standard, but buyers can order the higher-capacity battery as an option.

Here's how the batteries stand up:

The truck's standard-range battery produces 452 horsepower and a 230-mile range; The extended-range battery provides 563 horsepower and a 320-mile range. The 563 horsepower Lightning can accelerate from 0-to 60 miles per hour in about four seconds.

The standard all-wheel-drive system has selectable Normal, Sport, Off-Road and Tow/Haul modes. Metal skid plates provide underbody protection. As an electric vehicle and with robust power, the Lightning is unique. a superior effort for any vehicle and particularly for a truck.

The top-line Platinum trim adds features from lower trims and the luxury-loaded Lariat trim.

Great America Amusement Park in Santa Clara to shutter its doors

By William Bellou
Publisher

After 50 years of bringing joy to Bay Area families, Great America Amusement Park will close its doors in Santa Clara in 2033.

The seller of the property Cedar Fair L.P. states it is selling the 112-acre amusement park's land to bring down the amusement park's debt.

Cedar Fair L.P. sold Great America for \$310 million to San Francisco based real estate developer Prologis Inc.

Cedar Fair said it first began looking into maximizing the value of its existing properties back in 2021.

Cedar Fair purchased the land beneath Great America from the city



of Santa Clara in 2019 for \$150 million. Previously, the land was leased.

Cedar Fair owns and operates 13 amusement park properties, including another California-based amusement park: Knott's Berry Farm.

Cedar Fair's stock (NYSE: FUN) is down nearly 40% in the past five years.

ECONOMY

When will California's 'inflation relief' payments be sent out?

California is sending out a new round of direct payments to an estimated 23 million state residents,

Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders announced the direct payments will begin to be mailed out just before the election in October.

The direct payments, as large as \$1,050, are part of an "inflation relief package" in California's budget agreement. The budget was finalized and signed by the

governor Monday, but don't expect money to hit your bank account just yet.

Most Californians will be receiving the money via direct deposit; the rest will receive the direct payments on their debit card.

According to the California Department of Finance, people who received a tax refund by direct deposit after filing state taxes in the 2020 tax year can also expect to receive their inflation relief payment via direct deposit.

If that bank account information is no longer valid for any reason, the finance department said you should expect to receive a debit card.

Some law makers believe the payments will actually make inflation worse. They believe a gas tax moratorium makes more sense for the foreseeable future.

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Sjenvironment.org/junkpickup

Help keep our neighborhood clean! Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500

Times **Feature**



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

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

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

We have three programs to help our neighbors in need

Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

Rebuilding Days

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

Safe At Home

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

Ways to get involved

Volunteers Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, 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.



Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley
408-578-9519

1701 South Seventh Street #10, San Jose CA, 95112
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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



"Saturday Night Street Dance" with Livewire

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 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 goers 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

See FESTA, next page



Bella Ciao

"YES, MY LAWN IS BROWN BECAUSE I'M SAVING WATER."



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Times **Feature**

Report: 2022's Best BBQ Cities in America

Smoked, sauced, grilled — we love our barbecue. But which are 2022's Best BBQ Cities in America?

With July a great month for mouth-watering BBQ's, LawnStarter compared 200 of the biggest U.S. cities based on 18 hallmarks of a true 'cue hub.

To separate the top sirloins from the chuck roasts of barbecue scenes, we considered the number of award-winning barbecue restaurants, barbecue festivals, experience hosting a "master-level" competition blessed by KCBS, and, of course, highly rated BBQ joints.

See the 10 barbecue scenes that smoked the competition (or came under friendly

fire) listed here, followed by some highlights and lowlights from our report.

Highlights and Lowlights

Show-Me Some BBQ: This year, the Mother of the West is also the mother of BBQ: Missouri cities filled out three of the top five spots in our ranking. St. Louis brings home the gold. Last year's 'Cue Capital, Kansas City (No. 2), and Springfield (No. 4) follow closely behind, with a boost from hosting acclaimed barbecue contests in recent years.

All three cities are home to award-winning barbecue, but Kansas City style smokes the competition with its impressive number of Accolades (No. 1).

A Southern Staple: Barbecue is more than food in the South — it's part of the region's identity. Some Southern cities are known for their BBQ scenes, but this year some unexpected cities topped America's traditional smokehouse meccas.

The report's full ranking and analysis can be found here: lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-bbq-cities



2022's Best Cities for BBQ

| Rank | City |
|------|-------------------|
| 1 | St. Louis, MO |
| 2 | Kansas City, MO |
| 3 | Chicago, IL |
| 4 | Springfield, MO |
| 5 | Orlando, FL |
| 6 | Overland Park, KS |
| 7 | Kansas City, KS |
| 8 | Austin, TX |
| 9 | Chattanooga, TN |
| 10 | Houston, TX |

2022's Worst Cities for BBQ

| Rank | City |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Paterson, NJ (tie) |
| 1 | Sunnyvale, CA (tie) |
| 1 | Ontario, CA (tie) |
| 1 | Paradise, NV (tie) |
| 1 | Spring Valley, NV (tie) |
| 1 | Enterprise, NV (tie) |
| 1 | Sunrise Manor, NV (tie) |
| 8 | Lancaster, CA |
| 9 | Miramar, FL |
| 10 | Aurora, IL |

Festa

Continued from previous page

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 Italy right here in Santa Clara Valley at the 2022 *Italian Family Festa!*

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 food, music, crafts, bocce, grape stomp, cultural offerings and wine tasting garden they share their Italian culture and heritage. They wel-

come everyone to share a bit of Italy. 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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Times **Feature**

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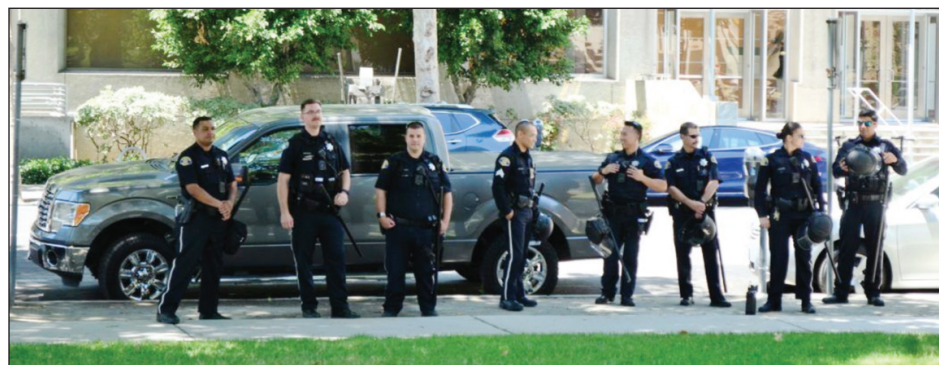
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You might see more beat cops in San Jose neighborhoods

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 longtime 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."

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 university'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-

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

"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 fair-

grounds. She 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 **In Memory**

In Memoriam

Carolina 'Lina' Veglia

October 27, 1919 - June 20, 2022

Resident of Willow Glen

Carolina "Lina" Veglia, aged 102, lived in San Jose's Willow Glen area for 58 years. She was born in San Jose on October 27, 1919.

When she was two, the family moved to Turin, Italy where she attended school. In 1952 she returned to the U.S., first to Reno and then to San Jose.

Soon after, she met and married Armando Veglia. They were together for 30 years and traveled to Italy and back many times. Together they enjoyed beautiful friendships and relatives within both countries.

Surviving are two loving nephews Enrico and Paolo Sarboraria and their families and

her sister-in-law Rosanna Ortu all from Turin, Italy; locally in San Jose, cousin Josephine Baroni and family as well as predeceased cousin John Sarboraria's family of Livermore.

Lina was a real lady in every respect. She was a very kind, loving, and genteel woman who always cared for others before herself. She made many friends within the neighborhood and her church. She will be remembered and missed by many.

Funeral Mass at St. Christopher's was held July 26 with interment at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Christopher Catholic Church, 2278 Booksin Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.



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Times **Feature**

Report: Why is State Farm so expensive?

State Farm is so expensive because car insurance is expensive in general, due to rising costs for insurers.

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insurance companies.

Even though State Farm offers cheaper-than-average rates, its premiums can get expensive for drivers with certain characteristics. For example, teenagers pay an average of \$2,258 for State Farm insurance, compared to \$959 for older drivers. Additionally, drivers who recently had an at-fault accident pay an average of \$1,436 for State Farm coverage, which is 56% more than drivers with a clean record.

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lower your rate. For example, you can take advantage of State Farm discounts or reduce your coverage.

In some cases, it might be better to switch insurers altogether. It's usually a good idea to compare quotes from at least three different insurers to see if you can find a better deal elsewhere. Each insurer uses its own algorithm to calculate premiums, so even if State Farm is charging you a high premium, you may be able to find a cheaper policy with another insurer.

To learn more, check out WalletHub's State Farm insurance review: <https://walletHub.com/answers/ci/why-is-state-farm-so-expensive-2140760965>

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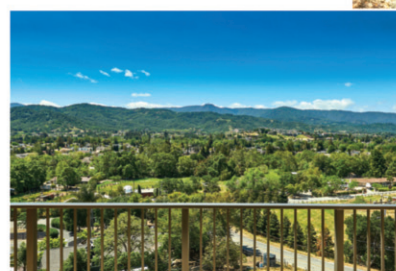


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