

\$56k raised to assist children with disabilities in war-torn Ukraine
— **SEE PAGE 10**



San Jose Cop talk
Questions about police funding, morale, require context
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High-speed rail to San Jose passes another hurdle
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SEPT. 2 – SEPT. 15, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 18



Equestrians made their way around the parking lot to greet cyclists at the Shared-Use Trail Speaker Night.

Championing Safety: Partnership focuses on trail etiquette for county park visitors

As more trail users arrive at San Vicente, community spirit grows

By Rachael Parakh
Special to the Times

During the Covid pandemic, the number of visitors to Santa Clara County Parks tripled. Cyclists, hikers, equestrians and pet walkers headed into the great outdoors to explore nature for health and recreation.

With the large increase in park visitors, the need to know how to safely share trails with other users also increased.

It was during a Shared-Use Trail Speaker Night, led by County Park Captain Ali Famalett, at the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, that concerns about trail safety etiquette were verbally raised and discussed. The conversation centered around preventing serious trail injuries when park users pass by each other too quickly or without proper warning.

As a result of these important discussions, the Santa Clara County Parks and Horsemen's Association gathered representatives from numerous communities to set up an information table at park entrances to speak with visitors before and after their trail adventures. With partnerships in place, the first table event was Saturday, August 13th from 8:00-11:00am at

See SAFETY, page 21

Castillero Middle School welcomes incoming 6th Graders

Taking the terror out of students transitioning to middle school

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Castillero Middle School's gymnasium exploded with applause, cheers and laughter as students competed in a balloon relay race.

It was part of an orientation welcoming incoming sixth graders and an attempt to take the terror out of transitioning to middle school.

Erika Vanecek, English Language Arts teacher and WEB Coordinator, facilitated the event to engage and support new students. It also taught them school expectations in a fun way. Castillero follows the Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program, created by the Boomerang Project, which pro-

motes student connections to reduce bullying.

According to WEB, studies show student's chances for success dramatically increase if they have a positive experience their first year in middle school, especially with guidance from eighth grade WEB leaders.

WEB leader Amber Wittekind said it was a great opportunity to be able to welcome the sixth graders and calm their nerves. It was especially meaningful to her since she missed out on her own

"It gives the sixth graders a chance to meet some other students who might be just like them and have the same interests," she said, "and to make connections with eighth graders. It's a really good time and a really great way to start off the school year."



Castillero Middle School teacher and WEB Coordinator **Erika Vanecek** and WEB leaders **Amber Wittekind**, **Andrea Mercado** and **Taytem Condit** did their best to help incoming sixth graders feel welcome. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

in-person orientation during the pandemic.

"We never really got this because of quarantine, so it's great to be able to put in what we would have wanted and help them have the best experience," she said.

Vanecek said the WEB approach brings the students a feeling of belonging.

"It gives the sixth graders a chance to meet some other students who might be just like them and have the same interests," she said, "and to make connections with eighth graders. It's a really good

time and a really great way to start off the school year."

Vanecek led the students in a series of energetic, interactive exercises, interspersed with an introduction to middle school life and culture. She told them middle school is about stepping up and setting goals, but the friends they made that day would always be there for them.

Afterwards, students divided into small groups led by WEB leaders, followed by a campus tour. WEB leader Andrea Mercado said small

See CASTILLERO, page 21

Sample Ukrainian dishes to benefit charity Sept 14, 16

By William Bellou
Publisher

San Jose-based ChefCentury will offer a second Ukrainian special meal with 10 percent of proceeds going to the UN World Food Programme. The special takes place on September 14 and 16.

Founded to support chefs hit hard by the pandemic, ChefCentury introduces customers to good food for good causes. For this special, Chef Brad Kunkel, whose family hails from Ukraine, will prepare traditional cuisine, enabling customers to try something new or enjoy a taste of home. For some of the menu items, Kunkel will use recipes handed down in his family.



From a Ukrainian version of chicken schnitzel to a cabbage roll casserole to cheese mlyntsi with berry sauce and more, Bay Area residents can bring a taste of Ukraine into their homes.

Customers can choose pick up or delivery, and a time window. ChefCentury has set a quota for 120 meals per day, so order soon at www.chefcentury.com/ukrainian-special-4-course-dinner

Much of Ukrainian cuisine harkens to hearty peasant dishes when people depended on seasonal crops to prepare meals. Ukraine is known for many grains including rye and wheat but also for beets, potatoes and cucumbers.

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NOTEBOOK

Almaden residents Cutler and Tesik named to Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University

Almaden Valley residents **Amanda Cutler** and **Kenzie Tesik**, College of Arts & Sciences, have been named to the Dean's Academic Honor List for the Spring 2022 semester at Baylor University.

Cutler is studying biology on the pre-medicine track with a goal of becoming a pediatrician. "My goal is to become a pediatrician who will, hopefully one day, be able to use my compassion and drive to provide the best medical care possible to infants and children,"

Cutler served as a Swim Instructor at Almaden Valley Athletic Club for more than 5 years.

Tesik is a Corporate Communications major and is currently an intern in Management & Sales at Sherwin-Williams. "I'm looking to use my experience in leadership and customer service roles to gain experience in an industry I am passionate in."

The Dean's Academic Honor List recognizes Baylor undergraduates for their outstanding academic work during each semester. Students honored on the Dean's List earned a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.70 with no grade lower than a "C" while enrolled in at least 12 graded semester hours.

Baylor provides numerous academic and research opportunities across various disciplines through 126 baccalaureate programs in fields as varied as business, engineering, nursing, pre-medicine, music and computer science, along with 80 master's programs, 47 doctoral programs (including the J.D.), the Education Specialist program and Master of Laws program.



Amanda Cutler



Kenzie Tesik

Pelino of Almaden makes Emerson College academic top 25 team honor roll while soaring on basketball team

Carla Pelino of Almaden Valley made the Emerson College 2021-2022 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll as a member of the Emerson Women's Basketball Team.

Pelino, who is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2023, supports the Emerson women's basketball team by advertising the game schedule and celebrates individual and team achievements throughout the season through Instagram posts.

The Lions have the highest GPA of any Division III women's hoops team

The Lions had the highest cumulative GPA of any Division III women's hoops team, with a cumulative GPA of 3.84 this past academic year. Emerson was one of 212 teams recognized, receiving honor roll recognition for the seventh straight season.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top 25 recognizes NCAA Division I, II and III, NAIA and two-year college women's basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined GPAs inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2021-22 season is the 27th in which the WBCA has compiled the honor rolls.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.



Valley Currents

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



Councilmember Matt Mahan shares recap of City Hall issues on his biweekly chat

By **Lorraine Gabbert**
Senior Staff Writer

Transportation, law enforcement and the homeless crisis dominated a recent District 10 Town Hall.

Councilmember Matt Mahan shared a recap of City Hall issues and responded to resident's concerns at his virtual, biweekly Chat with Matt meeting on Aug. 11.

San Jose's Department of Transportation (DOT) is suggesting strategies to reduce the number of cars on the road. It's encouraging employees use transit, ridesharing, walking, biking or paratransit to commute. It is also considering charging individuals who drive in congested areas during busy times.

Mahan said the city's goals to move people away from driving is laudable but unrealistic, especially for older residents and those who live on the edge of the city.

"In places like downtown, there's a lot of potential," Mahan said, "but for our district, that's much tougher."

Mahan is in favor of building housing near mass transit, including the development planned for the Blossom Hill light rail station. He said it provides retail and services as well as mixed income housing with affordable units on site. Mahan said the developer is investing in a trail from Blossom Hill Road to Martial Cottle Park and including a community room on the ground floor for public use. He said these provisions were requested as development growth is never free.

"There are always tradeoffs," Mahan said. "...More people means more cars on the road."

Policy

Mahan shared concerns about repeat offenders. He said San Jose's thinly staffed police department is

repeatedly arresting the same individuals, and in the last two years, 43 people were arrested 10 or more times each.

"What we're seeing is a relatively small number of people who are repeatedly offending and even failing to appear for their court dates," he said, "and yet are being re-released right back into the community."

He blames Santa Clara County's policy on depopulating jails by holding to a preset number of people in jail.

"Jail may not be the right intervention for everyone," he said, "but then we need a secure drug treatment facility for folks for whom addiction is really the underlying cause. I don't think just releasing people back is correct."

Resident Brad (last name withheld) raised concerns about the misbehavior of a few San Jose Police Department employees.

On June 1, the Rules and Open Government Committee approved Mayor Sam Liccardo's request asking the city manager and independent police auditor to explain how employees are held accountable. The proposal followed the arrest and conviction of Officer Matthew Dominguez for exposing himself to a family in their home during an investigation and former Code Enforcement Inspector William Gerry for soliciting bribes and extorting sex from massage parlor owners and molesting two children. In March, officer De'Jon Parker died from a fentanyl overdose.

"If we're taking about getting more police officers, are we lowering the standards?" Brad asked.

Mahan said San Jose needs to hold police officers to a high standard of accountability. He said the conduct of these officers isn't representative of the department.

Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink

Resident David (last name withheld) asked where water is going to come from for Cambrian Village, the new urban village replacing Cambrian Park Plaza at Camden and Union avenues. He also noted the rising cost of water in San Jose.

Mahan said there is nothing more important than water.

"We need to make some big investments in infrastructure to expand our water supply," he said, "and make sure it's secure."

Mahan said Valley Water projected it will be increasing rates approximately 9% per year for nine years. He said there can't be unbridled growth in California without dealing with the water supply.

Although he prefers to see density downtown, Mahan said apartments are "by far" the most water efficient way to grow. If apartments aren't built in San Jose, he said developers pave over the Central Valley and South County for housing, which takes a lot more water. He said investments in water recycling, rainwater capture, and lawn conversions are critical. Mahan said although desalination works, it would increase rates as it requires expensive technology. He said in the last 30 years, although the population doubled in San Jose, water use remained flat due to residents using lower flow showerheads and toilets.

Helping the unhoused

Resident Francesca Paist asked who decides whether the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on Tully Road can be used for tiny homes.

Mahan said the County Board of Supervisors decides. He said the fairgrounds offers a great opportunity for temporary housing for the homeless

See CHAT WITH MATT, page 19

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PUBLISHER / CEO: **WILLIAM BELLOU**
williamb@timesmediainc.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: **LORRAINE GABBERT, AROSHI GHOSH, FRANK SHORTT, GINA TSOURIS, NIRBAN SINGH, SEAN EASTWOOD, SHUBHI ASTHANA, DENELLE FEDOR, APOORVA PANIDAPU**

ART DIRECTOR: **JEFF BAHAM**

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: **SANDY BELLOU**

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Election 2022: SJUSD school board races taking shape

By William Bellou
Publisher

This November, San Jose voters who live in some of the largest school districts will be voting for trustees with various levels of experience.

Candidates that are seeking school board seats, if successful, will oversee how millions of our tax dollars are spent from educational programs to infrastructure improvement projects.

Most school board candidates are addressing how they will specifically tackle hot issues, such as affordable teacher housing, police officers on school campuses and education disparity.

San Jose Unified School District

San Jose Unified School District, founded in 1853, is the city's largest district, with an enrollment of more than 30,000 students from elementary through high school encompassing more than 40 campuses.

There are two of the five school board seats up for grabs this fall, while the remaining seats do not term out until December 2024.

Incumbent Brian Wheatley is running unopposed for a second term in Area 4, which covers nine schools and encompasses parts of South and Central San Jose.

Incumbent Jose Magana is running for a second term, with Andres Macias challenging him for the Area 2 seat that covers five schools across North San Jose, downtown, The Alameda, Rose Garden, Airport and Newhall neighborhoods.



Incumbent **Jose Magana** has served on the San Jose Unified School District board since 2018. He is running for another term. Photo courtesy of Jose Magana.

Magana, elected in 2018, exults his experience as a teacher, nonprofit administrator and city commissioner on San Jose's library and education commission. He emphasizes the need to address declining enrollment, staff hiring and retention, as well as student mental health.

"As the only educator in this race, I have the relevant professional experience that is needed to be a champion for our children," said Magana.

Macias said his priorities include tackling the district's below-standard academic performance and ensuring parents and staff are heard. Macias emphasized his role as a father and is a construction manager, according to election documents.

"We need to take action and ensure safe, productive learning environments for stu-



Candidates that are seeking school board seats, if successful, will oversee how millions of our tax dollars are spent from educational programs to infrastructure improvement projects.

dents and staff. Parents deserve proper representation and that's what I will provide once I'm elected to the governing board of SJUSD," Macias said.

Left: **Andres Macias** is running for the first time for a seat in the San Jose Unified School District.

– Photo courtesy of Andres Macias.



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Times News

Antlion (an allegory)

Exploring use of a natural beneficial predator for ants in your garden

By Matthew Frazier

In the years I worked in retail garden centers and nurseries, I frequently heard about the

ongoing challenge of aphids on customers' citrus, gardenias, roses, and other botanicals.

As a nursery consultant/salesperson, I was expected to recommend potent insecticides as a default and remedy. This is in discord with my intuitions.

Somewhere along the way, I my brother – a conservation biologist – mentioned a lesser known insect that can remedy this dilemma: Antlion. Many have never heard of this insect. And rightfully so. Commercial insecticide manufacturers would frown upon the idea of integrated pest management which involves attracting natural predators to the landscapes. In this case ... A natural predator for ants.

Aphids impact many types of plants, shrubs, trees, vines etcetera. Ants enter via stalks, stems, and trunks – to harvest the aphids that produce honeydew, the ants' food source. The sweet secretion is a wealthy source of simple carbohydrates for the ants. Aphids will not necessarily harm the plant, feeding on new growth primarily. But they are a visual nuisance and an unwanted conduit for ants.

The Antlion traps and eats ants

The ants have predators. Among them ... Antlion. This insect uses a funneling technique to trap and eat the ants. What I suggested to customers is measuring the diameter of the canopy of their shrub, tree, and vine, so on. Take half this length, which is your radius. Measure that distance out from the stalk/stem/trunk with a length of rope/string/yarn... Draw a circle around the perimeter, much like a compass. This circle in the dirt is your template.

Leave the inside of this circle bare, given that 90% of the roots are close to the surface in clay soils. From



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

the circle outwards ... Pour a ¼ inch layer of play sand about 18 to 24 inches across the dirt. In this sand, The Antlion will find its home, funneling and trapping the ants which would seek out the aphids in your flowers/shrub/tree/vine.

The Antlion will trap and eat the ants. Now ... Further out ...

Past the sand layer ... Plant a blanket of sweet alyssum, the small flowering groundcover from garden centers and nurseries. Sweet alyssum will attract lady bird beetles (lady bugs) and other beneficial insects that will eat the aphids. No need to involve chemical deterrents or insecticides.

Ordering beneficial insects online

Online insectaries sell package cards with the eggs of lace wings and other beneficial predatory insects. The Antlion is one of these beneficial predatory insects. With the ants at bay and the aphids under control ... Fruits will reach their harvest point and we will not have to worry about the residuals of harmful and potent chemicals.

There are insectary plants, which

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Times **News**

I will discuss in a future article, that attract these beneficial insects who feed on the destructive and nuisance insects. Sweet alyssum is but one of many. But for this discussion ... Antlion (pictured, right) is a good starting point.

Natural methods to combat unwanted insects

There are many organisms which can pose a potential threat to botanicals. Aphids are one of the more common encountered by garden enthusiasts. There is another technique which builds upon this mechanical and natural technique.

With the rinds of your citrus ... Use a surform, a rasp, or a zester to grate the peels and rinds of eaten or fallen citrus. The enzymes in the citrus and their oils will dissolve the waxy coating on the bodies and the lungs of the insects.

Herbs are also effective in insect management. The oils of the herbs are a natural deterrent for destructive insects. By alternating herbs and insectary plants with your flower gardens and other groupings of botanicals ... You will create a natural control which does not involve insecticides or other chemicals.

Back to Antlion. There is no guarantee that they will arrive but they can be purchased



online from retail insectaries and introduced to your garden and landscape. In tandem with these beneficial insects and The Antlion ... Planting flowers which attract migratory and native birds can be very effective in managing the presence of unwanted insects.

In conclusion ... I encourage reading about The Antlion and the other beneficial predatory insects one can introduce to the garden and landscape.

Thank you for your time in reading this article; the very best with your gardening and landscaping endeavors.

Matthew Frazier is a CLCA Expert Certified Water Manager. You may contact him by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



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\$56k raised to assist children with disabilities in war-torn Ukraine

Hope Services celebrated its successful fundraising campaign to assist those with intellectual, developmental disabilities, and mental health needs in war-torn Ukraine on August 25.

From April 13-July 1, Hope Services' retail outlet, HopeTHRIFT, allocated 25% of every sale each Wednesday and Thursday at their three store locations (San Jose, Fremont, and Watsonville) to support nonprofit organizations providing on-the-ground services in Ukraine.

More than \$56,000 was raised, far exceeding the original fundraising goal. The money will be divided between two organizations, Save the Children and Humanity and Inclusion.

The campaign was the brainchild of Hope Services President and CEO, Chip Huggins. "In any conflict, those with disabilities and mental health needs face a disproportionate risk of abandonment and violence," he explained. "Watching the events unfold in Ukraine, we felt compelled to act and provide support however possible."

Once formulated, the plan was quickly put into action. Signage



Chip Huggins
CEO of Hope Services

went up, and text messages were sent out to regular HopeTHRIFT customers. Business grew steadily from April on, and there was a lot of positive feedback, according to HopeTHRIFT Retail District Manager Shawn Bailey. "It was a win-win: we got people into the stores and also helped spread the word about the work we do right here in our own community," he said.

The two organizations selected to receive the funds raised by the HopeTHRIFT Ukraine campaign,

Save the Children and Humanity and Inclusion, were both selected based on their sterling credentials and their ability to deliver assistance immediately to those in need. "It was important to partner with organizations whose missions match ours: serving children and individuals with intellectual disabilities and those with mental health needs," says Cathy Bouchard, Hope Services' Specialty Director, who was tasked with finding nonprofits that would effectively implement the funds being raised. "We decided to work with two organizations, one large and one small. We thought it would be important to utilize the power of a large organization as well as access the nimbleness and flexibility of a smaller group," she recalls.

A familiar name to many, Save the Children has worked tirelessly since its founding in 1919 to provide refugees with assistance, improve access to education and quality healthcare, and protect children from harm. Today, the group is supporting the most urgent needs of children and their families in Ukraine and the region, providing



Children with disabilities at risk in eastern Ukraine.

essential humanitarian assistance such as food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and cash assistance.

"Save the Children is deeply grateful for Hope Services' support and partnership in response to the devastating crisis in Ukraine," says Dori Ives, managing director of individual philanthropy for Save the Children. "The funds raised will

enable us to distribute critical emergency supplies and protect children from harm in Ukraine and neighboring countries."

Humanity & Inclusion is the second organization to receive monies from Hope Services. This organization is known for positive things it has done in connecting resources and services to help those with disabilities in Ukraine.

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Bills to help Californians with retirement are signed into law

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law two bills authored by Senator **Dave Cortese**, (D-San Jose, pictured), Chair of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, to help retirees and those saving for their retirement.

By expanding eligibility of the CalSavers Retirement Savings Program (formerly "Secure Choice"), SB 1126, sponsored by the California State Treasurer's Office, would reduce complexity for employers and expand access to CalSavers to those small businesses with one to four employees that are currently not covered; in doing so, this bill would improve employee recruitment and retention across California.

"SB 1126 will ensure that nearly every working Californian has access to a workplace retirement savings program," Cortese said. "By assisting both employers and



employees, this legislation will help millions of Californians save for their future so that they can retire with security and peace of mind."

Employers with one to four employees have regularly expressed their desire to have full access CalSavers. This program is currently only available to employees with five employees or more.

It is estimated that SB 1126 would expand access to CalSavers to approximately three quarters of a million California workers.

For more information, contact Tara Sreekrishnan, Office of Senator Dave Cortese at 408 480 7833 or tara.sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov.

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Times **Notebook**

San José Unified School District Meal Program for 2022-2023

The San José Unified School District has finalized its program for providing meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and/or California's Universal Meals Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

All students who attend a San José Unified school are eligible to receive one complimentary breakfast and one complimentary lunch each school day, regardless of household income. No application or form is needed to receive a breakfast and/or lunch at no cost.

To ensure that each school site receives all of the state and federal funding it is entitled to, as well as to ensure that individual students receive the benefits they are entitled to, such as college application waivers, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) testing fee waivers, and Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) benefits, San José Unified's meal program includes alternative income forms and meal applications.

Households that fall within specific income levels may be eligible for services and supports in addition to a breakfast and/or lunch at no cost. Eligibility is determined by household income being less than or equal to the Income Eligibility Guidelines identified below. These guidelines are effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Households determined to be free or reduced price based on the information provided on the alternative income form or the information provided on the meal application will receive confirmation of their eligibility.

All households receive a unique link for each student to complete the beginning of the year packet, which includes the alternate income form. Unless attending a Community Eligibility Provision school, see below for more information, all households should also complete the meal application. Students who are directly certified or categorically eligible do not need to complete the meal application.

One meal application for all children in the household can be completed at nutrition.sjsud.org. Households may submit a meal application at any time during the school year. Information provided on the meal application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. Households may contact Student Nutrition Services by phone at 408-535-6021 or by email at studentnutrition@sjsud.org to: receive further information or assistance on completing the alternative income form and/or meal application; request confirmation of eligibility status or for changes in household circumstances; discuss determination of eligibility status on an informal basis or request an appeal hearing with the Director.

San José Unified has nineteen schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision. The Community Eligibility Provision is one of the federal provisions established to increase access to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program while decreasing the administrative burden on the school district. Households with students attending one of the following nineteen schools do not need to complete a meal application:

Allen at Steinbeck Elementary; Almaden Elementary; Anne Darling Elementary; Broadway High; Canoas Elementary; Empire Gardens Elementary; Ernesto Galarza Elementary; Gardner Elementary; Grant Elementary; Herbert Hoover Middle; Horace Mann Elementary; Liberty Alternative; Lowell Elementary; Merritt Trace Elementary; Muwekma Ohlone Middle; San José High; Selma Olinder Elementary; Terrell Elementary; or Washington Elementary.

2022-2023	Free Eligibility Scale					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale				
Household Size	Annual	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Annual	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$17,667	\$1,473	\$737	\$680	\$340	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$1,048	\$967	\$484
2	\$23,803	\$1,984	\$992	\$916	\$458	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$1,303	\$652
3	\$29,939	\$2,495	\$1,248	\$1,152	\$576	\$42,606	\$3,551	\$1,776	\$1,639	\$820
4	\$36,075	\$3,007	\$1,504	\$1,388	\$694	\$51,338	\$4,279	\$2,140	\$1,975	\$988
5	\$42,211	\$3,518	\$1,759	\$1,624	\$812	\$60,070	\$5,006	\$2,503	\$2,311	\$1,156
6	\$48,347	\$4,029	\$2,015	\$1,860	\$930	\$68,802	\$5,734	\$2,867	\$2,647	\$1,324
7	\$54,483	\$4,541	\$2,271	\$2,096	\$1,048	\$77,534	\$6,462	\$3,231	\$2,983	\$1,492
8	\$60,619	\$5,052	\$2,526	\$2,332	\$1,166	\$86,266	\$7,189	\$3,595	\$3,318	\$1,659
For each additional household member,										
add:	\$6,136	\$512	\$256	\$236	\$118	\$8,732	\$728	\$364	\$336	\$168

San José State of the City 2022 to be held Sept. 22

Mayor Sam Liccardo will deliver the State of the City 2022 address on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at the California Theater.

Doors will open at 5:15 p.m., and the event will start at 6:00 p.m.

A reception with light refreshments will follow. Residents are strongly encouraged to RSVP before the event.

For more information and to RSVP, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yxtp58au>

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TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

DeepLens

By Shubhi Asthana

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

DeepLens

DeepLens is an intelligent device that can run deep learning algorithms on captured

images in real-time. The key difference between DeepLens and any other AI-powered camera lies in the horsepower that makes it possible to run machine learning inference models locally without ever sending the video frames to the cloud. This new device managed to grow its fanfare to build a vibrant ecosystem of developers and ISVs — just like how Amazon Alexa did it. It enables a developer to easily experiment with machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT). The DeepLens camera integrates with AI services hosted on the AWS public cloud.

Like Echo, DeepLens is an Amazon device suitable for at-home deployment. Unlike Echo, it’s an Intel Atom X5-based, Ubuntu Linux-

powered, quad-core computer, with an attached camera whose purpose is to scan for something or someone. Behind the device, on the server side of the system, Amazon’s servers run algorithms that scan the incoming contents of the video in search of something familiar: Any part of the image that its databases may have already tagged and identified.

DeepLens comes with multiple tutorials and sample projects to get started with a subset of machine learning technology called deep learning. A developer with limited deep learning or AI experience can use these programs to understand the basics of the technology. A developer who is more familiar with deep learning can use the device to deploy an application with

audio and visual recognition capabilities.

The device will have to go through multiple iterations before it becomes polished and sophisticated. Once the DeepLens platform becomes stable, original device manufacturers will start embedding that in their cameras.

DeepLens becomes an amazing playground to test how some of the emerging technologies such as IoT, edge computing, machine learning, and serverless computing come together to address powerful scenarios.

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

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Times **Feature**High-speed rail trains will share Caltrain lines in the future. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*

High-speed rail to San Jose passes another hurdle

Commuters will be able to connect San Jose with Fresno in one hour

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

The California High-Speed Rail Authority board voted unanimously August 18 to approve the environmental impact report along the 49-mile section from San Francisco to San Jose. Board member Nancy Miller was absent. This section of the project is estimated to cost more than \$5.3 billion.

Anthony Lopez, spokesperson for the California High-Speed Rail Authority, said the next steps are finalizing the design and preconstruction. Cost estimates for Phase 1 between San Francisco and Anaheim range from \$76.6 billion to \$113 billion. Lopez said the board's recent action extends environmental clearance to more than 420 miles. The environmental reports for the final two Southern California sections are planned for 2023-24.

Rod Diridon, chair emeritus of the California High-Speed Rail Authority board, said prior to the pandemic, almost 200,000 people commuted each day from the Central Valley to the Bay Area, driving two- to three-and-a-half hours each way.

"You arrive exhausted. You had to leave before the kids got up," he told San José Spotlight. "When you get home, it's after the kid's little league game and maybe you get there in time to tuck them in. That's not a fit lifestyle."

Once complete, high-speed rail will connect San Jose with Fresno in one hour, a huge time saver for people who chose to move out of the area in search of affordable housing, Diridon said. Trains traveling at 200 miles per hour will significantly shorten travel times for commuters from the Central Valley.

"The most serious impediment for high tech and employment in our area is a lack of housing," Diridon said. "It will give Silicon Valley a new lease on life because we gain access to the affordable homes in the Central Valley."

The high-speed rail line will feed into San Jose through Diridon Station, which is set to become a major transit hub with BART's expansion from the north. To connect the Central Valley to Gilroy, and then San Jose, the project will require tunneling through Pacheco Pass.

Years in the making

The rail authority was created by the state Legislature and Gov. Pete Wilson in 1996. In November 2008, voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond measure toward the construction of a high-speed train, with Phase 1 from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim. In 2015 the project broke ground in the Central Valley.

As cost overruns and delays extended the timeline, a rail line is anticipated to link Bakersfield to Merced by 2030, and the Bay Area by 2033. Completing the route from Los Angeles to San Francisco could cost \$105 billion, according to a state estimate.

State Assemblymember Ash Kalra said high-speed rail will be a critical connection from the Central Valley both to the Bay Area and Los Angeles. The project will be also a job generator and will provide environmental benefits with less cars on the road, he said.

"I look forward to San Jose's Diridon Station being a huge, essential point for high-speed rail to connect with transit throughout the Bay Area, and ultimately to connect us to the rest of the state," he told San José Spotlight.

Brian Schmidt, policy and advocacy director for Green Foothills, said it's concerning how high-speed rail will impact the migration of bobcats, mountain lions and elk in Coyote Valley and Pacheco Pass. Green Foothills wants to see this mitigated with wildlife-friendly crossings.

"Both of those areas are very important migration corridors," he said. "Coyote Valley is one of two corridors connecting the relatively isolated Santa Cruz Mountain Range to the rest of the natural habitats in the state."

With an eye to the environment, high-speed rail will share electrified Caltrain tracks. Overhead wiring is already in place at Diridon Station, with \$800 million of its funding paid through the high-speed rail budget, Diridon said.

Boris Lipkin, California High-Speed Rail Authority Northern California regional director, said if federal, state and regional funding was in place, high-speed rail could be completed between San Francisco and Los Angeles in just over 10 years. But getting the funding is the challenge. Lipkin said in the era of climate change, it's essential to have people use trains powered by renewable energy rather than cars and planes.

"Turning that into reality is a huge undertaking," he said. "The scale of this thing is massive... but the benefits are also massive."



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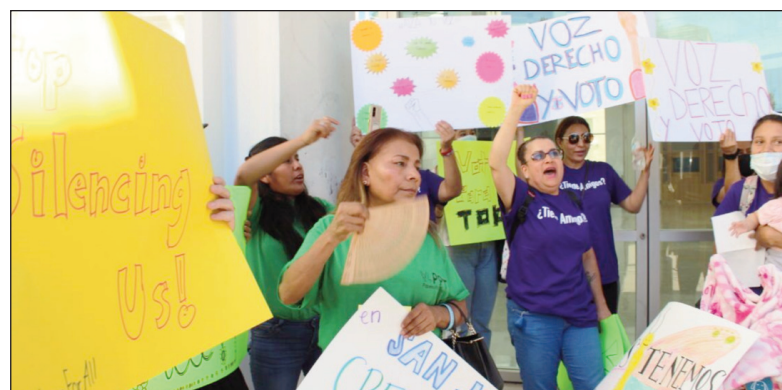


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More than 40 residents and advocates rally at San Jose City Hall on Aug. 23, 2022 to urge officials to expand voting rights to noncitizen residents. Photo by Jana Kadah.

San Jose officials question legality of letting noncitizens vote

By Jana Kadah

San José Spotlight

San Jose is exploring extending the right to vote for noncitizen residents, but it may not be constitutional in California.

At a San Jose City Council study session Tuesday, more than 100 residents spoke in favor of extending the right to vote in local elections to all residents, regardless of immigration status. The proposal, introduced by Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco and Sylvia Arenas earlier this year, would give about 100,000 noncitizen residents in San Jose a right to select new lawmakers and weigh in on different policies in future local elections.

While some councilmembers support extending voting rights to noncitizens, others said it may go against the state constitution—highlighting two related lawsuits in other Bay Area cities.

San Francisco passed a law in 2016 to allow noncitizen parents to vote in school board elections, and Oakland voters have a similar ballot measure coming before them in November.

Both cities are facing lawsuits centered around language in the state constitution. San Francisco's rule was struck down by a trial court and is expected to be appealed. Oakland has yet to be served with the lawsuit.

Mayor Sam Liccardo, as well as Councilmembers Matt Mahan and Dev Davis, said San Jose could be vulnerable to lawsuits, and that local efforts appear fruitless unless a legal pathway is determined.

'We're just spinning our wheels' – Mayor Liccardo

"There needs to be a vote by the voters of the state of California to change the constitution or we're just spinning our wheels here," Liccardo said. "I think this is a very interesting (and important) conversation, but one that is not going to get us to any results until there's a court somewhere that indicates that this is actually constitutional."

\$3 million to put measure on ballot

Davis said the cost to get a measure extending voting rights on the ballot would be roughly \$3 million, and noted it could be better spent elsewhere.

However, others argue noncitizen voting has several benefits and is not a new practice in the United States. San Francisco State political science professor Ron Hayduk, who spoke as an expert to council, said 40 states allowed immigrant voting at some point in time between 1776 and 1926.

"For the majority of our history, noncitizens could vote," Hayduk said. "But noncitizen voting was rolled back state by state, during periods of time with nativism and xenophobia."

Hayduk said the practice ended in 1926 until an expansion of voting rights in 2021 in New

York City, which resulted in an uptick in voter turnout.

'The fate of a whole community'

Supporters say extending the right to vote in local elections is only fair because noncitizens in San Jose who pay taxes, contribute to the economy and shape the city's culture deserve a say in policies affecting their community. In San Jose, immigrants including noncitizens paid \$20 billion in state and local taxes alone, according to a 2019 study by the New American Economy, a bipartisan immigration research and advocacy nonprofit.

"It just doesn't make sense for families who are here every single day to not be able to participate in the future," Jose Murillo, director of finance at Amigos de Guadalupe, told San José Spotlight. "I think about my parents who are not U.S. citizens. My mom works at the school district helping kids, but she herself cannot help determine the fate of a whole community."

Opponents argue voting should be reserved for citizens

However, opponents argue voting should be reserved for citizens and extending that right could lead to corruption.

"I'm sorry if people are waiting long to become a citizen, but this is a federal government issue so we should address it on a federal level—not on a local level," said longtime District 8 resident Mariela, who did not disclose her last name. She worries the local proposal could allow hundreds of non-American, non-residents to flood elections and negatively impact the outcomes.

More than 40 people rallied outside San Jose City Hall in support of expanding voting rights before the study session, including members of groups such as Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), the Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN) and Amigos de Guadalupe.

"My family will be one of the benefactors if this decision takes effect," said Yolanda Chavez, LUNA. "We will transform our schools and communities once we are able to choose who (is elected)."

Jose Servin, spokesperson for SIREN, said he's fighting to expand voting rights to give a voice to the immigrants in the city who can't cast ballots.

"We've been in these meetings, we've been taking to the streets, we've been out here making changes," Servin said. "If they can charge taxes, they can let us vote."

Carrasco and Arenas initially introduced the idea in January, hoping to get a ballot measure before voters this year. However, the city council would've had to approve a measure by Aug. 12 for it to be on the November ballot.

It's unclear if the proposal will come back to council, but some remain hopeful.

Beginning the first formal conversation

"We have some time, so I don't want to make it seem as though this is the last opportunity because it's not," Councilmember Raul Perez said. "We're merely beginning the first formal conversation in the form of a study session."

Times **Feature****'Governor Newsom's climate package will increase costs for housing, gas, electricity' says Gallagher**

Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher warned Californians last week of new last-minute proposals being pushed by Governor Gavin Newsom that are expected to significantly increase the cost of living in California.

"The Governor and his Democrat allies in the Legislature just don't get it. Inflation is at a 40-year high and yet they continue piling on new laws that make living in California more expensive," said Gallagher. "If Democrats go along with the Governor on this, understand that your rent, gas and electricity bills will go up even higher."

Early estimates show that the Governor's plan could cost taxpayers \$130 billion dollars, add \$50,000 to the median price of a home and eliminate 8,000 jobs.

"The plan to fight inflation can't simply be 'have a popsicle and buy a Tesla'. Families struggling to make ends meet in this crazy state deserve so much better than that," said Gallagher.

The Governor's climate proposals include:

- Codifying statewide carbon neutrality goal to dramatically reduce climate pollution
- Establishes a clear, legally binding, and achievable goal for California to achieve statewide carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045.
- Ramping up our 2030 climate ambition
- Adopts a more aggressive 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target – going from 40% to 55% below the 1990 level.
- Protecting communities from the harmful impacts of the oil industry
- Establishes a setback distance of 3,200 feet between any new oil well and homes, schools, or parks.
- Ensures comprehensive pollution controls for existing oil wells within 3,200 feet of these facilities.
- Establishing pathway toward state's clean energy future
- Creates clean electricity targets of 90% by 2035 and 95% by 2040 with the intent of advancing the state's trajectory to the existing 100% clean electricity retail sales by 2045 goal.
- Advancing natural and engineered tech-

nologies to remove carbon pollution

- Establishes a clear regulatory framework for carbon removal and carbon capture, utilization and sequestration.
- Requires the state to develop an achievable carbon removal target for natural and working lands.

Gallagher noted that the Governor's proposal will likely be met with resistance in the Legislature given the short timeframe until adjournment on August 31st and the reality that some of Newsom's concepts already stalled in the Legislature earlier this year.

**Gifts for Teens duffle bags and totes assembly Sept. 17**

Call for volunteers to help on Oct. 8, 15, and 19

By Cheryl Markman

The Gifts for Teens committee is extending its heart-felt thanks to everyone who donated Target and Walmart gift cards which will be included in the duffel bags for boys and sturdy totes for girls

The next step is to fill all 600 of those duffel bags and totes which will be distributed in December to low-income and homeless teens in the San Jose area.

Your help is needed to complete this final part of the project. It is a truly fun and rewarding endeavor. The first assembly date is September 17 when we will package hygiene and school supply kits.

The bags and totes will be filled on October 8, 15, 18 and 19. Shift times each day are 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The assembly will take place in the parking lot of the AAUW branch headquarters. The committee is grateful to the Branch for providing us with this space for the final phase of the Gifts for Teens project.

To volunteer, please contact Barb Purdy at barbnpurdy@gmail.com.

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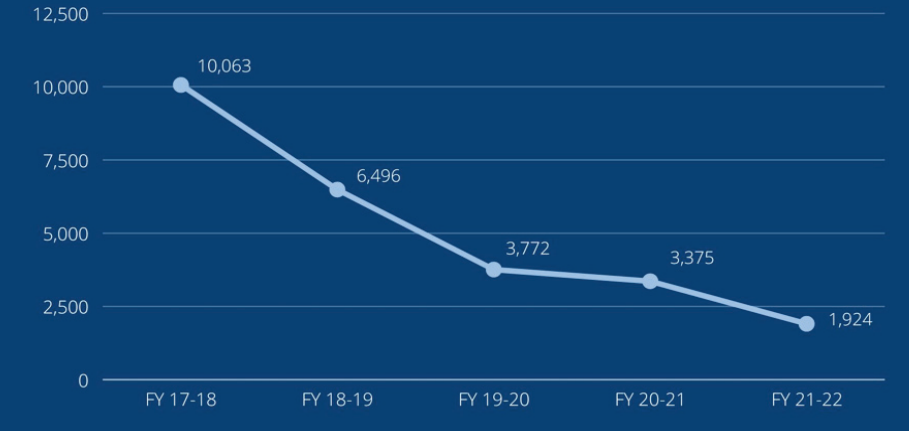
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Times Community News

Sworn Applicants



Fiscal Year	Sworn Applicants
FY 17-18	10,063
FY 18-19	6,496
FY 19-20	3,772
FY 20-21	3,375
FY 21-22	1,924

Concern over police staffing requires context

By Matt Mahan
Councilmember, District 10

Over the past week, a number of constituents reached out to our office to express concerns about staffing levels and morale in our Police Department, based on what they've recently read in the press.

In this letter, I'd like to provide some context on these issues so you have the information you need to understand how your city is performing and hold your City Council accountable for making the right budget tradeoffs. I'll do my very best to give you a balanced assessment rooted in the facts.

First, I want to note that the City's Employee Relations team and the Police Officers Association (our police union) are in the midst of bargaining over a multi-year contract, which tends to turn up the heat on these topics as both sides attempt to gain leverage in the negotiating process. That's normal and just something to be aware of as you're reading the news.

Next, let's start with the most important point: we have a severely understaffed Police Department, which means slower response times for our community, less capacity for follow up investigations, and harder jobs and longer days for our overworked officers. In fact, San Jose has just 11 officers for every 10,000 residents, whereas most large cities have two to three times that number of officers per capita. Our top priority as a city must be continuing to increase staffing in our core service areas, especially public safety.

Moreover, we and other departments across the country are seeing a very concerning decline in the number of people applying to become police officers. Labor markets are tight across most industries right now, but we should be especially concerned if we can't attract, hire and retain highly-qualified individuals as officers. We aren't at that point yet, but the trendline is very concerning (see chart at top of page).

We recently had a

lengthy discussion at our Public Safety Committee meeting about increasing our outreach and recruiting efforts to turn around this trend.

On the other hand, we should acknowledge the steady progress the department has made from a historic low point about a decade ago. For background, the Great Recession (which caused a drop in revenue for many years) and rapidly growing retirement costs (the City has accrued over \$4 billion in unfunded retirement obligations that consume roughly 15% of our General Fund each year), put a significant squeeze on the City's budget. Together, roughly a decade ago these factors led to layoffs, pay reductions, voluntary departures, and an overall staffing drop from about 1,400 officers to nearly 800 officers at our low point.


Since then, Mayor Liccardo, Council and the POA worked together to pass Measure F, which struck a compromise on unfunded retirement obligations and put us on a slow glidepath to paying them off over time (roughly 2040). They also passed Measure B in 2016, which was a sales tax increase that allowed the City to begin increasing officer headcount. Today, we are back to nearly 1,200 budgeted officers, which is still less than we had prior to the budget challenges we've faced. In this year's budget we funded an additional 20 full-time officers, which is progress, but of course slower than any of us would like.

Importantly, in line with most large cities, San Jose currently spends 50% of our annual General Fund budget on public safety (i.e. primarily police and fire staffing - see chart below).

Since the time of those very painful layoffs, pay cuts, and resignations, we have also been able to increase salaries, which is critical for

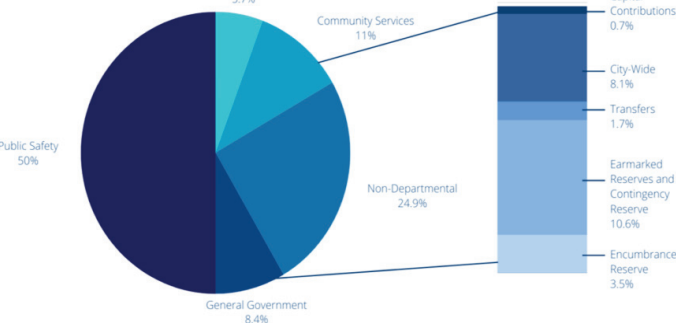
District 10 Report

Matt Mahan
Councilmember, District 10



2022-2023 Proposed Operating Budget

GENERAL FUND USES



Category	Percentage
Public Safety	50%
Non-Departmental	24.9%
General Government	8.4%
Community Services	11%
Capital Maintenance	5.7%
Earmarked Reserves and Contingency Reserve	10.6%
City-Wide	8.1%
Transfers	1.7%
Capital Contributions	0.7%
Encumbrance Reserve	3.5%

TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS USES: \$1,508,211,649

Times Community News

attracting and retaining excellent officers. Our officers' compensation is now in the top tier of Bay Area departments and we need to make sure we continue to be competitive with neighboring departments. Of the 16 largest departments in the Bay Area, we are currently 3rd in terms of compensation:

With overtime pay included, our average officer salary comes in at \$189,189 per year (excluding retirement benefits). That said, high rates of overtime can lead to officer burn out and greater risk of accidents, so that figure is not necessarily a sign of departmental health.

As we've become more competitive in pay, we've seen our vacancy rate (i.e. percentage of open and budgeted officer roles) drop to be the lowest of the largest departments in the Bay Area, hovering around 3%, compared with an over 10% vacancy rate across all city departments. The City and the POA have some disagreement over how to calculate the vacancy rate, but the numbers are not wildly divergent and the City's formula is aligned with how other cities measure vacancies.

Of course, as the POA rightly notes, whatever the exact rate, a low vacancy rate doesn't mean much to the community when response times are slow, the call center is overwhelmed, and there's not enough capacity for community policing, investigations and other critical proactive police work. I've spoken with dozens of our officers across the city and I hear their genuine frustration with frequently being in reactive mode due to our low staffing levels.

So all of this begs a key question: if we're spending the same portion of our budget on public safety as other cities but have one-half to one-third the number of officers they have, what

has gone wrong in San Jose?

Here we get into another can of worms, but one worth briefly outlining. While our economy has more than recovered from the Great Recession and we may be now just turning the corner on the annual cost of our unfunded liabilities, there is a third, critical factor that is arguably even more significant than the first two: we have a low ratio of jobs-to-residents. Our history as a residential bedroom community has translated into significantly fewer jobs within our city limits. Therefore we have significantly lower tax revenue per capita, which in turn means lower staffing levels across all of our city functions.

I wrote a fairly extensive summary of this issue a couple of years ago if you'd like to dive deeper into the data. SPUR also wrote an excellent, if now dated, report on the same topic back in 2016. The bottom line is that many cities have significantly greater revenue per capita to spend on city services because they have a larger tax base relative to population.

To wrap up, given the constraints imposed by historical land use decisions and poor fiscal management many years ago, there's no quick or easy solution to our staffing challenges. We live in a world of finite resources and difficult tradeoffs. More dollars for existing officers' salaries means less money for new officer head-

POA NEGOTIATIONS – CITY'S SALARY SURVEY (WITH LONGEVITY PAY)									
Agency	Classification	Maximum Base Salary (Annual)	Holiday In-Lieu	POST	Longevity Pay (@ 20 years)	Uniform Allowance	Non-Pensionable Pays for Entire Union	Total Pay	
Santa Clara (City)	Police Officer	\$ 173,412.00	\$ 8,670.60	\$ 8,670.60	\$ 8,698.56	\$ 600.08		\$	200,051.84
San Francisco	Police Officer II	\$ 136,526.00	\$ 11,814.75	\$ 10,374.00	\$ 8,626.30	\$ 1,100.00		\$	166,641.05
City of San Jose	Police Officer	\$ 141,627.20	-	\$ 11,445.25	-	\$ 675.00	\$ 10,976.11	\$	164,723.56
Oakland	Police Officer	\$ 137,112.36	\$ 11,865.49	\$ 9,597.87	\$ 4,918.30	\$ 1,200.00		\$	164,694.02
Berkeley	Police Officer	\$ 132,620.80	\$ 6,631.04	\$ 9,283.46	\$ 10,609.66	\$ 1,400.00		\$	160,544.96
Fremont	Police Officer	\$ 134,763.96	\$ 6,738.20	\$ 6,738.20	\$ 3,369.10	\$ 1,750.00		\$	153,359.46
Daly City	Police Officer	\$ 130,753.48	\$ 9,806.51	\$ 9,152.78	\$ 1,199.90	\$ 1,000.00		\$	151,912.67
Antioch	Police Officer	\$ 123,684.00	\$ 10,703.42	\$ 6,184.20	\$ 9,276.30	\$ 1,140.00		\$	150,987.92
San Mateo (City)	Police Officer	\$ 135,441.60	\$ 6,772.08	-	\$ 6,772.08	\$ 999.96		\$	149,985.72
Santa Clara County	Deputy Sheriff	\$ 127,953.28	\$ 11,072.88	\$ 9,596.50	-	\$ 1,235.00		\$	149,857.66
Alameda County	Deputy Sheriff II	\$ 128,315.20	\$ 8,143.08	\$ 7,698.91	-	\$ 1,250.00		\$	145,407.19
San Mateo County	Deputy Sheriff	\$ 121,513.60	\$ 5,608.32	\$ 9,113.52	\$ 6,075.68	\$ 1,017.00		\$	143,328.12
Contra Costa County	Deputy Sheriff	\$ 118,820.40	\$ 8,911.53	\$ 5,941.02	\$ 8,317.43	\$ 872.00		\$	142,862.38
Richmond	Police Officer	\$ 116,016.00	\$ 7,808.77	\$ 8,701.20	\$ 8,121.12	\$ 800.00		\$	141,447.09
Hayward	Police Officer	\$ 122,636.80	\$ 8,253.46	\$ 9,197.76	-	\$ 900.00		\$	140,988.02
Concord	Police Officer	\$ 112,465.60	\$ 9,732.60	-	\$ 5,623.28	\$ 1,400.00		\$	129,221.48
Sunnyvale	No Comparable Classification								
Average Without San Jose		\$ 130,135.67	\$ 8,835.52	\$ 7,875.00	\$ 5,320.51	\$ 1,110.94		\$	152,752.64
Average With San Jose		\$ 130,853.89	\$ 8,283.30	\$ 8,113.02	\$ 4,987.98	\$ 1,083.69		\$	153,500.82
San Jose vs. Average Without San		108.83%	0.00%	145.34%	0.00%	60.76%			107.84%
Additional Notes									
San Jose		Non-Pensionable Pay includes 4% Retention and 3.75% CIT							
San Mateo (City)		Longevity Pay reflects Master Officer II - Article 25(B) - which requires POST Advanced							
San Francisco		Q-4 is the scale for POST Advanced. The difference between top step Q-4 and Q-2 (Police Officer) is reflected in Post column							
Concord		POST Advanced is pre-requisite for Longevity Pay.							
Santa Clara (City)		Step 5 is Top Step. Difference between Step 5 and Step 7 is reflected in Longevity Pay							

as you know, I am always pushing for clear goals, performance measurement and other methods of increasing productivity and efficiency within City Hall so we can do more with our limited resources.

I'm sure we'll continue to hear a lot about these issues as the City and POA work to find common ground in our contract negotiation. You can follow the proposals and counter proposals, and find a wealth of background information on the City's Employee Relations site. Councilmembers are not directly involved in the negotiations, but I'll be sure to keep you updated as the process plays out. My general view on the right outcome is that the City should con-

tinue to pay in the top tier of large Bay Area departments so we can retain officers, but we should not agree to terms that are projected to meaningfully expand our unfunded liabilities, which inevitably reduce future staffing and service levels.

Thanks to everyone who reached out to our office about this important issue. I hope this longer-than-usual letter provided you with useful information. Send any additional questions or feedback my way! Please feel free to email my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov if you'd like more information on the upcoming Council meetings, including Council agendas, or have feedback for me on any of the items before the Council.

count, and vice versa. Meaningful increases to the department's budget mean meaningful decreases for roads, parks and libraries, which are already woefully underfunded.

In terms of budget priorities, my position continues to be to advocate first and foremost for increasing police and fire headcount in the annual budget cycle to improve service levels, followed by ensuring that we stay competitive in pay vis-a-vis other departments in the region to retain talented employees, and followed third by funding to expand other key city services, from roads to parks. I also focus on economic development and improving our permit and inspection services because growing our local economy is the single best way to grow city revenue and increase staffing levels faster without new taxes. Finally,

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Times **Feature**

San José awarded \$51.6 million from Homekey to develop city's largest quick-build housing community

City partners with LifeMoves to develop 204-unit site on Branham Ln.

The City of San José and LifeMoves, the City's development partner, have been awarded \$51,552,800 from the State of California's Homekey program.

The Homekey funds will go towards the City's largest quick-build community development with 204 units on city-owned land at the northwest corner of Branham Ln. and Monterey Rd., adding 20% to the City's goal of 1,000 quick-build interim housing units under construction, planned or completed by the end of 2022.

"These Homekey dollars will accelerate San José's efforts to meet the urgency of this homelessness crisis, by constructing our largest quick-build community so far. We appreciate the State's embrace of this nimble innovation as a means to house our most vulnerable residents," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "I am grateful for the partnership of Governor Newsom, the generosity of John A. and Sue Sobrato, and the life-saving work of LifeMoves in our collective fight against homelessness."

At the time of award, San José's Branham/Monterey Homekey Award was the third largest funding award and the State's second largest project statewide under the program.

"Homekey is empowering local jurisdictions to get thousands of vulnerable Californians off the streets in record time. I thank local lead-

ers in San José and across the state who are putting this transformative program to work with creative solutions that expand permanent, supportive housing in their communities," said Governor Gavin Newsom.

Donations

During a press conference today, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo also announced that John A. and Sue Sobrato will also donate \$5 million towards construction of the quick-build community. The new community will provide a dignified transitional step for unhoused San José residents on the path to stable housing.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to partner with LifeMoves and the City of San José on the Branham Lane site to develop 204 units for homeless and very low income individuals utilizing California Homekey funds," said John A. Sobrato. "I look forward to working on several other sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara County to house our most vulnerable neighbors."

1000 beds planned

The Branham/Monterey quick-build community will be the fifth interim housing project developed in San José, bringing the total to 717 quick-build interim housing beds completed, planned, or under development. Another 283 beds are planned across different publicly-owned sites throughout the City. The pandemic required more rapid rehousing of vulnerable unhoused in encampments, and in the

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Times **Feature**

spring of 2020, Mayor Liccardo proposed a new approach: using prefabricated, modular units on public land—such as underdeveloped City and Caltrans properties—to build faster and cheaper.

Creating dignified places

LifeMoves believes that people experiencing homelessness deserve a safe and dignified place to call home as soon as possible,” said Aubrey Merriman, CEO of LifeMoves. “Homekey has been life-changing for thousands of people. Our Homekey Branham Lane interim housing community will bring hundreds more people off the streets and into a supportive environment with the critical resources they need to chart their course to permanent housing. This project showcases Silicon Valley’s spirit of innovation, the political will of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, and City of San José, creative public and private partnerships, transformational investments from icons like John A. Sobrato, and most importantly, our determination to solving homelessness.”

Multistory

The Branham/Monterey community will become the City’s largest quick-build community and the only development so far that will be multistory, with three stories of modular units, allowing for many more individuals to be housed. Each unit includes a private bedroom and bathroom, with community-serving facilities onsite, including shared kitchen, laundry, and office spaces.

Community integration

“I am proud to lead the way for homeless housing solutions in San José, this will be the third emergency interim housing community that we welcome within District 2,”

said Councilmember Sergio Jimenez (D2). “I look forward to a successful housing community that will prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable residents while also dramatically improving the neighborhood through community integration and supportive services. Developments such as this bring us closer to resolving homelessness in our City.”

San José’s quick-build communities are built in a fraction of the time and cost of traditional apartments. Through this model, San José has already served over 663 unhoused residents, and halted the increase in unsheltered homeless residents for the first time since 2015.

- Of the total residents transitioned out of quick-build apts, 82% remained housed in some way, including 56% who transitioned to permanent housing;

- Based on the 2022 countywide point-in-time census (PIT) the percentage of homeless residents who are sheltered increased by 74% compared to 2019.

“This housing costs a fraction of what the County has been spending...” – Councilmember Matt Mahan

Branham/Monterey quick-build community has the potential to serve hundreds more than its capacity per year as residents transition to permanent housing.

“This housing costs a fraction of what the County has been spending on homeless solutions and—when combined with mental health services and job training programs—is a model for ending street homelessness in our city,” said Councilmember Matt Mahan (D10). “This is exactly the kind of innovation we need from state and local government.”

An award-winning team that includes real estate development firm Sares Regis Group of Northern California, DevCon Construction, the Office of Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA, and engineering firms BKF and Meyers+ will design and construct Branham/Monterey quick-build community.

Quick build opens summer 2023

Slated for completion in summer 2023, Branham/Monterey quick-build community will be operated by LifeMoves, who will provide intensive, customized case management for clients, including counseling, employment, and housing search services to pave a dignified roadmap to self-sufficiency.

To watch the full press conference, visit: <https://fb.watch/f7recdmM45/>

For more information on Homekey, visit <http://homekey.hcd.ca.gov>.

For more on LifeMoves, visit www.lifemoves.org.

Chat with Matt

Continued from page 4
with modular units.

There are about 6,739 unhoused people in San Jose currently, according to Applied Survey Research. Mahan said if an earthquake hit and more than 5,000 people were living on the streets, there would be FEMA trailers and tents at the fairgrounds with onsite services.

Mahan said the city and county need to work together, especially as the county is responsible for health and human services such as addiction and mental health treatment, job training and placement and the foster care system.

Mahan said foster care is a pipeline to homelessness and needs to include job placement and stable housing components.

He said the city needs to play its role including cost effective shelters as opposed to \$850,000 apartments. For those who get this housing, more than 95% stay housed years later, he said but it isn’t scalable.

Paist said some unhoused people haven’t had good experiences in San Jose shelters.

Mahan said cost effective, individual shelters have to be reimagined.

“We’ve got a crisis on our streets,” he said, “and it’s extremely expensive, unsafe and inhumane.”



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Times **Cover Stories**

Castillero

Continued from page 1

groups are a great way for students to socialize and learn more about each other. She also appreciates the chance to mentor younger students.

"I'm glad to be part of their lives now," she said.

Taytem Condit said having a friend in an older grade gives the new students someone they can look up to and introduce them to "the ways of middle school."

WEB leaders also shared advice with the sixth graders such as be on time for class, try their best, keep on top of schoolwork and make good friends.

To be a WEB leader, the eighth graders applied at the end of their seventh-grade school year. They received training on how to lead break-out sessions and be a mentor.

Andrew Hathaway, choir teacher and eighth grade leadership teacher, said if students are in an environment where they feel unsafe or

uncomfortable, it's harder to learn.

"You go from having... one class and one teacher, to having this big school with kids who are twice your height and six classes to manage," he said. "It can be overwhelming."

Hathaway said having an eighth grader they can talk to helps them feel welcome and makes the transmission a little smoother.

Amanda Henslee, an English Language Arts and social studies teacher and WEB coordinator, appreciates the WEB program.

"It's fantastic because they come to the first day of school and they already have a sense of pride of being a Castillero Cobra," she said. "It's all about building community."

Pictured, right: Castillero Middle School teacher and WEB Coordinator **Erika Vanecek** led the students through energetic and interactive fun exercises during orientation. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.*



Safety

Continued from page 1

San Vicente Open Space Reserve, a beautiful and highly active county park.

Equestrians, Liz Kehoe (horse Logan) and Jennifer Lien Gonzalaz (horse Bowtie) made their way around the parking lot to greet cyclists unloading their bikes. As they approached with their horses, conversation opened up quickly and easily. Many cyclists were glad to have the opportunity to ask questions directly and to learn that horses and their riders need to hear a voice (or trail bell) when approached, from the front or back, on a trail. Speeding by a horse and trying to quickly pass can put a rider in great danger if the horse startles. The recommended procedure in sharing trails with equestrians is to slow to a complete stop and let the rider communicate how they would like you to proceed. Jennifer Hodge, with Jenn's Pet TLC, concurred that hikers and those walking pets also greatly appreciate 'the call out' or bell ring. This allows them time to collect their pet(s) and move off the trail so cyclists can safely pass.

Rachael Parakh, Director of Public Relations for the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, passed out trail bells to cyclists and hikers and took photos for those wanting to pose with the horses. Carrots were brought for visitors to feed them and some even took selfies as the horses nibbled from their hands.

Park Rangers Kristy Barton and Zachary Vasquez, were able to speak on behalf of another trail user group - wildlife. The current coyote advisory had some hikers wondering how to handle an encounter on the trail. The rangers reminded everyone to be mindful not to hike alone at dawn or dusk and to carry a trail bell to keep from stumbling upon an unsuspecting coyote or rattlesnake.

Janice Frazier, Trail Watch Volunteer with experience in trail design, advised visitors on map routes while Michael Gokey, Trail Watch Volunteer with experience in mountain biking, passed out waters to those returning from the hillside with empty flasks. The community event allowed various types of park users to become aware, knowledgeable and in the end, more understanding towards other trail users' safety needs.

Editor's note: The next information table is planned for November at the Hacienda entrance of QuickSilver Park. A representative from a local cyclist group is encouraged to join the team. If you have any questions or interest in supporting this safety initiative, please reach out to Rachael Parakh at: sccha.1939@gmail.com and title the email: Trail Partnerships.

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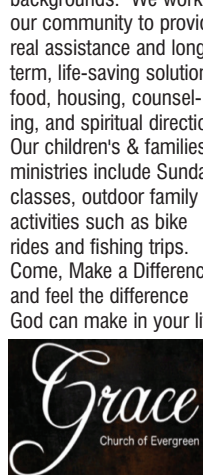
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We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243
Web: www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)
<http://www.eicsanjosel.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.
(408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilatakm" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchSJ.net
See you on Facebook
2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor
Christian Worship every

Sunday at 11:00 am
Together let us build lives toward excellence!
Music Institute
(408) 791-7772
After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute
PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection.

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



thepoint.church

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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring commu-

nity, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofoassisi.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs organized and run by members of the Association;
- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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(408) 270-6080
3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

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More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



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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