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Inaugural address
San Jose Mayor Mahan pledges to bring city back to basics **PAGE 13**

San José Chamber Orchestra presents 'SJCO Chamber Music' concert: **PAGE 5**



FEBRUARY 2023 ■ VOL. 19, NO. 2

Willow Glen Times

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The African American Community Service Agency (AACSA) hosted its 43rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy, including the work we're doing here in San Jose to ensure every member of our community has opportunities to thrive. "I'm committed to joining great organizations like AACSA to make positive change in our community," said Mayor Matt Mahan.

San Jose weathered recent storms as well as possible

By Mayor Matt Mahan

I'm sure we're all grateful to be on the other side of the recent atmospheric rivers that hit our state.

Thankfully, San José weathered these storms as well as we could hope, experiencing only limited flooding and damage.

Thank you to our Emergency Operations Center, SJ Police, SJ Fire, our various city departments, especially Housing and Parks & Rec, and our partners, including the American Red Cross and Destination:Home.

Together, we informed and empowered residents in areas with a high flood risk and successfully managed an evacuation order along our waterways that applied to hundreds of our homeless neighbors, many of whom found safe and supportive shelter at one of our evacuation centers.

In the spirit of making the most of an unexpected emergency, our team at the City pivoted quickly to establish additional shelter capacity at a few of our existing interim

See MAYOR, page 5



Panidapu named as one of America's top 300 teen scientists in Regeneron Science Talent Search

Selected for achievements in stem innovation and leadership in nation's oldest and most prestigious high school competition

Society for Science has announced that Apoorva Panidapu of San Jose has been named a top 300 scholar in the 82nd Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS). Regeneron Science is the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search scholars were selected from 1,949 applications from 627 high schools across 48 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and four other countries.

The 300 scholars hail from 194 American and international high schools in 35 states and China.

Scholars were chosen based on their outstanding research, leadership skills, community involvement, commitment to

academics, creativity in asking scientific questions and exceptional promise as STEM leaders demonstrated through the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations.

Apoorva will receive \$2,000 and her school will also receive \$2,000 to use towards STEM-related activities.

Forty of the 300 scholars will be named Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists on January 24. The finalists will then compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards during a week-long competition in Washington, D.C., taking place March 9-15. Each of the 40 finalists will receive \$25,000. The top prize for the most promising emerging STEM leader in the United States is \$250,000.

Apoorva was recently presented with a commendation from the California State Senate and was featured on the PBS NOVA series.

Apoorva is a columnist for the Almaden and Evergreen Times newspapers.

Willow Glen resident Chris McGugan to be honored with America Silver Beaver Award

By William Bellou
Publisher

Willow Glen resident Chris McGugan (inset) will be honored with the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award at a recognition dinner at the Monterey Hyatt Regency Hotel on February 25.

The recognition dinner is hosted by the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America serving Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties.

Of the 4,000 adults who volunteer for Scouting in our local area each year, only seven are selected by a peer panel for the "Silver Beaver Award." The Silver Beaver is the highest and most prestigious honor awarded to a volunteer by a local council.

The keynote address this year will be presented by Journalist, Author, TV Producer and Host, Mike Malone.

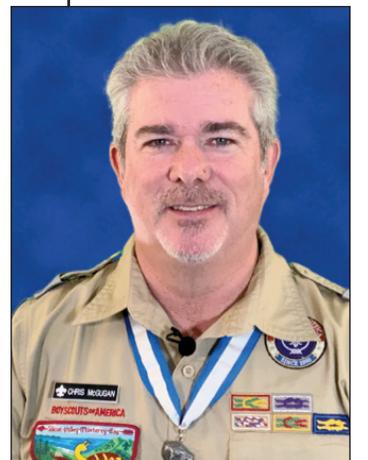
Chris' story

Chris learned the values of Scouting on his journey to Eagle, and he is passing that legacy on to his children and the Scouts with whom he volunteers.

Don Marselle, who served with him in Troop 340 and Pack 340, paid this tribute to Chris:

"Chris's home and his time are always open to Scouts. If it is Pinewood Derby season, Chris's garage will be a sea of supervised activity as Cubs get their cars ready for the big day.

If the Scouts in Troop 340 need swimming tests, Chris lines up sessions at the local swim club to help them with the tests. If there is a need, Chris steps



up to make it happen."

Chris has held many roles during his time as a volunteer with Boy Scouts. He has served as Den Leader, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, and SVMBC Board Member.

He is now serving as Council President, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council.

Professionally, Chris is CEO of Televerde, a global sales and marketing company. The company's unique business model provides career opportunities to individuals in disempowered communities, specifically incarcerated women.

Chris lives in San Jose with his wife Allison and their three children.

In addition to his volunteer work with Scouts, he is an advisor to Parents Helping Parents and to the Televerde Foundation.

SEE OUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE - PAGE 15



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The deadline for submitting audition applications is:
Thursday, March 15, 2023

QUESTIONS? Reach out to sjys@sjys.org.

SJYS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN 91-2166427) that has scholarships and financial aid offerings available based on a showing of need.

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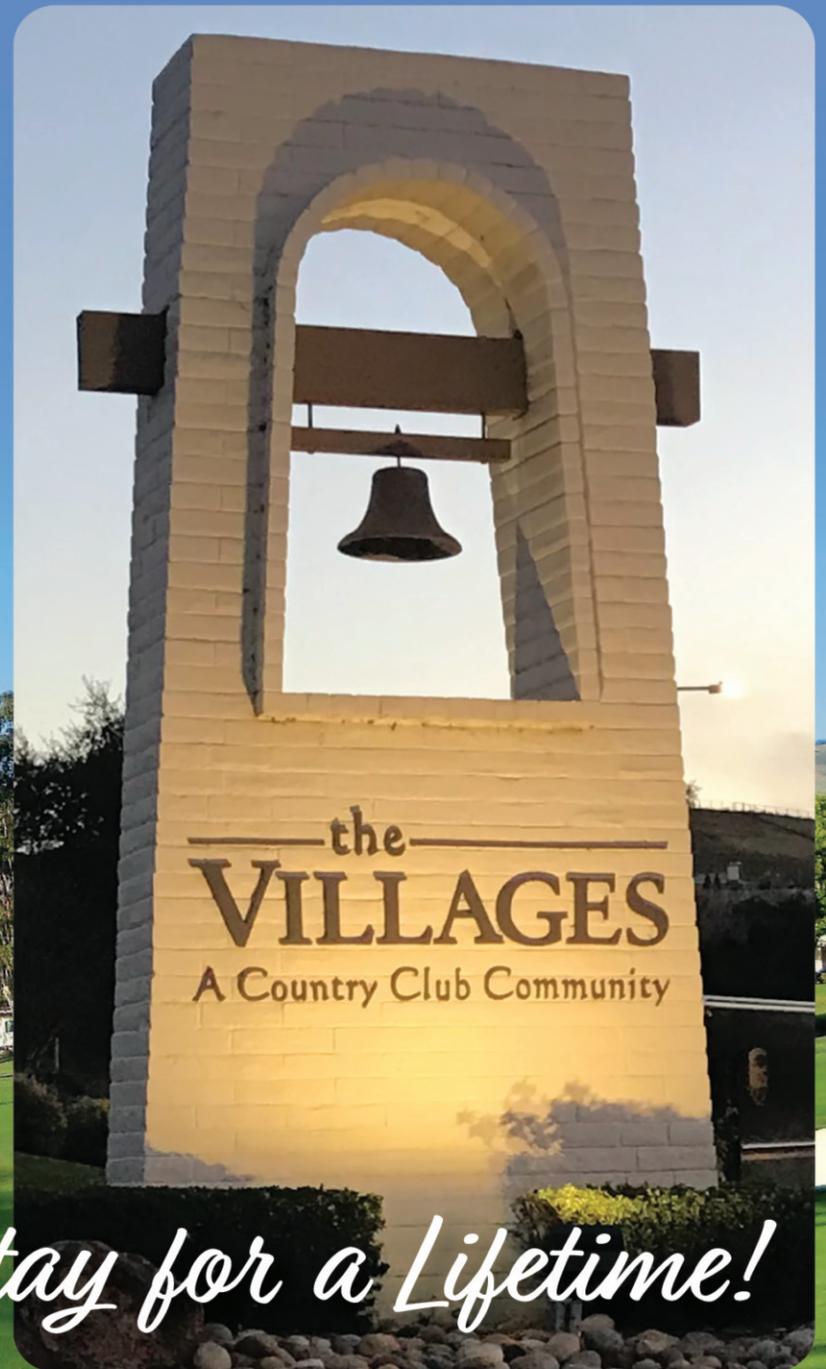
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NOTEBOOK



Mayor, City Council vote on Firearm Regulation Audit

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan and the City Council voted to accept the report on the Firearm Regulation Audit.

The report found that firearm-related crimes have risen by 25

percent over the past five years, from 990 incidents to 1,240.

In response to the City Auditor's findings and recommendations, SJPD commits to amplifying outreach to inform residents about gun violence restraining orders and how to request one.

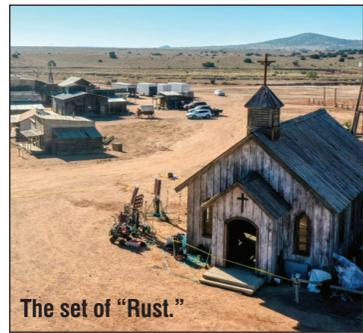
The department also commits to improving gun retailer inspection processes to ensure accurate reporting, documentation, and compliance with local laws.

State Senator Dave Cortese calls for increased safety on entertainment-related productions to prevent accidental gun shootings

Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose), chair of the California Senate's Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, has announced today his intention to again introduce legislation that would establish safety standards to protect workers in the entertainment industry.

In the wake of the tragic shooting on the set of the film "Rust," Senator Cortese introduced SB 831 in 2022 which would have established a first-in-the-nation regulatory process to keep entertainment workers safe on set. There are currently no state regulations around the use of firearms and live ammunition on theatrical sets.

Rust film crew protested condi-



The set of "Rust."

tions before fatal movie set shooting

"Over the past several months, I've been working with stakeholders and leaders in the industry, including many entertainment workers, to push these real reforms forward and to avoid yet another tragedy on set," Cortese said. "What we've learned is this is an issue that needs to be addressed across the industry, rather than incident-by-incident, to bolster safety as a whole and ensure we keep productions safe for everyone."

In his own district, Senator Cortese enacted Santa Clara County's "safe-storage ordinance" to prevent accidental shootings and suicides in homes.

Valley Currents

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



Supervisor Simitian recognizes Silicon Valley Reads for 20 years of service

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian recently recognized *Silicon Valley Reads* for 20 years of building community through the shared experience of reading.

Silicon Valley Reads is a community engagement program that annually features books tied to a theme and brings people together by providing more than 150 free, public events each year in February and March.

"For 20 years now, *Silicon Valley Reads* has been bringing the entire County together to take part in the shared experience of reading," said Simitian, who serves on the County Library Board and is an ardent supporter of the *Silicon Valley Reads* and *Celebrity Storytime* programs. "*Silicon Valley Reads* has built a reputation for excellence by bringing the community together to have interesting and thought-provoking conversations and first-hand experiences tied into the themes of the selected books."

Over the past 20 years, *Silicon Valley Reads* has partnered with 37 libraries, 31 school districts, countless community organizations, and donors to bring together more than 10,000 annual participants (with 30% new participants each year) and put on more than 100 free events annually. The program was awarded a 2022 Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association.

"The long-term success of *Silicon Valley Reads* is the result of schools, libraries, community partners,

and so many more coming together to engage every resident," said Reid Myers, *Silicon Valley Reads* Director. "Through engagement comes awareness, and through awareness comes stronger communities."

Silicon Valley Reads launched in 2003 under the guidance of Colleen Wilcox, then-Superintendent of the Santa Clara County Office of Education, as an American Leadership Forum project that was inspired by a city-wide reading program Wilcox sought to scale-up to include the entire County. The program provided an opportunity to collaborate with superintendents, librarians, bookstores, and community members throughout the County.

"What started as a one-book, one-community program in 2003, has grown over the past two decades to a program that brings every community together throughout the Silicon Valley around a single theme," said Jennifer Weeks, County Librarian for the Santa Clara County Library District. "We are very proud to be a part of this important reading engagement program."

Comprised of both organizations and individuals, *Silicon Valley Reads* strives to promote open dialogue about ideas and interests that are relevant to Silicon Valley residents; to promote reading and literacy among all members of the community; and to support education and lifelong learning, critical for Silicon Valley to maintain its leadership in creativity and innovation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Animal shelters needing rescue from layoff fallout

Dear Editor,

An unintended consequence of the massive Silicon Valley layoff is overwhelming overcrowding city and county animal shelters.

The CEO's of tech companies laying off employees to improve the bottom line failed to consider that many of those former employees have pets, mostly dogs and cats, that they are now unable to care for on their diminished income.

Many of those laid off will have to move in with parents, bunk with friends or be unable to pay for food, vet bills, etc. The result: local animal shelters are overflowing with surrendered dogs and cats needing rescue and adoption into new homes.

This is a call upon top executives of tech companies to accept their share of responsibility for the plight of our animal shelters and make significant financial contributions to the shelters and nonprofits that provide aid and comfort to homeless pets.

Shelters need funds for beds, blankets, toys, treats and all important veterinary assessments, shots and surgeries, all of which serve to

enrich and enhance the lives of these abandoned pets, easing their stress and making them more adoptable into forever homes for the care and love they deserve.

Nonprofits, such as the Silicon Valley Pet Project, provide assistance with adoptions, foster homes for shelter animals, and "dog day out" programs to enhance a shelter dogs potential for adoption.

Numerous individuals contribute money and time to assist these agencies. It is time for the large wealthy companies who have caused much of the misery to these abandoned pets to step up and be part of the solution.

Kristen Clause
Willow Glen

Willow Glen Times

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YOUR COMMUNITY



Mayor Mahan's team visited the emergency evacuation center at the Seven Trees Community Center.

Mayor

Continued from page 1 housing sites.

The last thing we wanted to do was simply send evacuated individuals right back into our creeks and streets. Instead, we're helping them transition from our temporary emergency evacuation centers to Evacuee Transition Facilities (ETFs) at San José's existing quick-build housing communities, including Rue Ferrari, Monterey/Bernal, and Mabury. Combined, the ETFs will accommodate up to 132 tents on pallets, with bathroom facilities and handwashing stations onsite. That means over 100 individuals who were recently living along a



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

creek will now live in a managed environment with on-site staffing and basic services.

City staff and our partners will be working hard to create an individualized plan for each person and help them identify stable housing, job training, and other services as quickly as possible. This is a small, but meaningful progress toward my goal of ending street homelessness in San Jose (which currently stands at over 5,000 individuals city-wide).

We need to continue to lower the barrier to getting people off the streets and into safe and stable environments if we are going to end homelessness in our community.

IN MEMORY

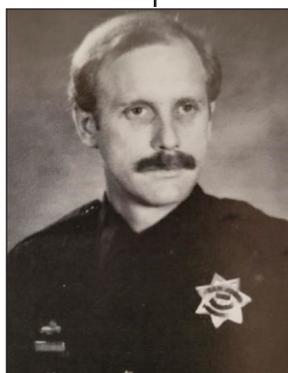
Thomas "Tom" Wheatley

Feb. 17, 1951 - Jan. 23, 2023

Tom Wheatley sadly passed away following a courageous and stubborn fight with multiple health challenges.

A lifelong resident of San Jose, he was born on Feb. 17, 1951 to Merlin and Charmaine Wheatley.

Tom was an avid cyclist with a wry sense of humor and a big heart. He was deeply proud of his work as



a police officer, retiring as the Acting Chief of Police of San Jose Police Department in 2004. His distinguished 30-year career included a Medal of Valor for bravery in the line of duty.

He is survived by his daughters Sarah (Nils) and Anne (Ryan); siblings Diana (Ron), Glynis (David), Charmaine, Terry (Pam), and Danielle (Brian); six nieces and

nephews; his beloved grandchildren Henry and Mabel; and his partner Nancy.

Funeral Mass at St. Christopher's Church, 2150 Booksin Ave., San Jose on Thurs. Feb. 2nd at 4:00 p.m. with reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the San Jose Police Chaplaincy or the American Cancer Society.



San José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) presents "SJCO Chamber Music" with the SJCO string quartet and the Dallas-based Julius Quartet (pictured above).

San José Chamber Orchestra presents 'SJCO Chamber Music'

San José Chamber Orchestra (SJCO) presents "SJCO Chamber Music" with the SJCO string quartet and the Dallas-based Julius Quartet, featuring the famed Octet by Felix Mendelssohn on Sunday, February 12, at 7 p.m. at St Francis Episcopal, 1205 Pine Avenue, San José.

Commended for leaving audiences "mesmerized by its resonant sounds." (The Collegiate Times) The Julius Quartet has cultivated a distinguished voice since its formation in 2012. As passionate chamber musicians, the quartet strives to spread the values of chamber music to diverse communities in addition to presenting their unique expression within the music.

The Program

- Fanny Mendelssohn: String Quartet in Eb Major
- Viktor Ullman: String Quartet String Quartet No. 3
- Felix Mendelssohn: String Octet in Eb Major

Conductor: Barbara Day Turner
Barbara Day Turner, conductor
Maestra Barbara Day Turner is the founder and music director of the San José Chamber Orchestra. An ardent advocate for new music, she has premiered more than 200 new works with San José Chamber Orchestra alone, as well as leading the

first performances of 5 American operas. Named a 2012 Silicon Valley Arts Council "On Stage" Artist Laureate, Maestra Day Turner completed 15 seasons as Music Administrator and Conductor of the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre.

The San José Chamber Orchestra, a professional string-based ensemble of 19+ players, presents a series of 7-9 programs per season. Many performances feature one or more commissions or world premieres by award-winning composers with critically acclaimed guest artists as featured soloists. San José Chamber Orchestra is the recipient of five ASCAP/League of American Orchestras Adventurous Programming Awards, has produced seven CDs of American music and commissioned and/or premiered over 200 new works in 30 seasons.

Ticket prices: \$65 to \$75; Senior \$55 to \$65 for ages 62 and above. Age 22 and under \$15/\$25. Note; Health Guidelines: Masks strongly recommended.

Tickets and information: sjco.org ; 408 295-4416; Email: sjco@sbcglobal.net

Editor's note: The San José Chamber Orchestra is funded in part by grants from the City of San José, Office of Cultural Affairs and Silicon Valley Creates in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY IS IN A SEVERE DROUGHT.



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Times Feature

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Just keep swimming... in deadly conditions (Part 1)

How Machine Learning can help save coastal dead zones

You're a goldfish in a special fishbowl. It's not a bad life, except that if you swim into certain spots of this bowl, you die. Whoops.

Yup, you get suffocated. Ya dead. It's like those messed up "Would You Rather?" games: would you rather stay in the same place for eternity or die of suffocation? Not going to lie, I'm not a fan of either choice.

Luckily, you're not actually a goldfish in a doomsday bowl! Phew, talk about a near-death experience. But, the real fish in our world's lakes and oceans aren't so lucky.

Introducing: dead zones. (What an ominous intro.)



What are Dead Zones?

Dead zones are exactly what they sound like: areas in bodies of water with near impossible living conditions. Specifically, dead zones are what we call hypoxic, meaning low-oxygen. Since most organisms need oxygen, marine life can't survive in these dead zones.

Okay, here's a solution: just don't live in dead zones. Easy, right?

Not so fast. While some dead zones occur naturally, most are created by, you guessed it, humans. Since the 1960s, the number of documented dead zones has increased from 10 to 415 worldwide because of human activity and interference.

How, what, why, when?

In one word: eutrophication. Eutrophication is when a body of water gets an excess of nutrients, usually phosphorus and nitrogen, which then leads to dangerous algal blooms and hypoxic conditions.



Algal blooms, also called "red tides," basically suffocate the sea life beneath them, thereby creating dead zones. These blooms stop light from penetrating the water, keeping oxygen from reaching the organisms underneath them. As expected, this leads to the mass death of marine mammals, fish, and even shore birds. The excess nutrients lead to rapid and unsustainable growth of algae and aquatic plants. Thus, they eventually use up all the oxygen and

die off. But even in death, the colonies of algae are nefarious. As the dead plants and algae sink to the bottom, their bacterial decomposition uses up whatever oxygen is left in the water.

Eutrophication typically occurs near inhabited coast lines because the excess of nutrients comes from things like fertilizers in lawns and agricultural fields, sewage, nitrogen produced by power plants and cars, urbanization, and other human activities. The levels of the nutrients vary around the world, and in some regions, atmospheric nitrogen can also worsen eutrophication via the water cycle.

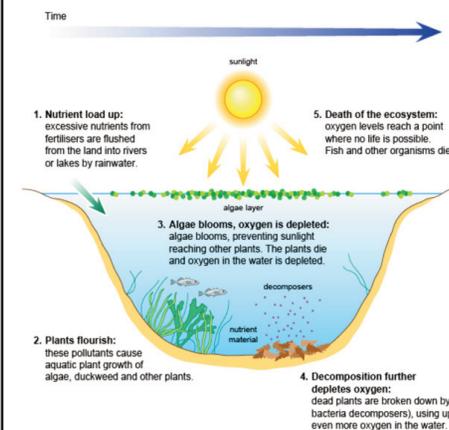
Eutrophication's most dangerous effect? Dead zones.

So while us goldfish can try to avoid the death spots in our fishbowl, these marine life are having their homes turned into dead zones because of massively inefficient agricultural practices. In fact, over half of the phosphorus and almost two-thirds of the nitrogen we use for crops becomes a pollutant.

I've got another "Would You



Gems in STEM By Apoorva Panidapu



Rather?" for you: would you rather have more crops or aquatic life?

Before you answer, let's talk about the big picture of dead zones.

What do dead zones mean for the future?

Literally, it's a bigger picture. Because of human activities like heavy commercial fertilizer use and factories and sewage facilities, dead zones have grown to cover 95,000 square miles—the size of the UK.

Even if these dead zones don't manage to kill off all the fish in the area, the hypoxic conditions can cause several reproductive problems for them, like low viable egg production, decreasing the size of their reproductive organs, perceived emasculation (i.e., less female fish), and decreased spawning.

But dead zones don't stop at hurting our only marine ecosystems, they also worsen climate change.

Since 1955, over 90% of excess heat trapped in the atmosphere has been absorbed by the ocean. As global warming heats our ocean and sea temperatures rise (by 0.13°C every decade), dead zones are expanding.

It's a vicious cycle that researchers call the feedback effect: as oxygen levels decrease in areas of coastal waters and approach 0, bacteria turn to nitrogen for energy. It then produces nitrous oxide, which eventually makes its way to the water's surface and into the atmosphere. But this "laughing gas" is no joke. Though it makes up 6% of emissions, nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It doesn't stop at that, these expanding dead zones also limit the ocean's ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

See GEMS, page 10



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Times **Community Notebook**

Working together for the West Valley and North County

By County Supervisor Joe Simitian

The beginning of a new year is an apt time to reflect on our bounty, as well as give thought to those who are in need – to the good works and kindnesses we can offer, and to what we can do to make the coming year an even better one, for all.

This is also a time when many of us stop to reflect on the year past and what we've been able to accomplish, setting the stage to pursue important goals in the year ahead.

At the County, 2022 kicked off with redistricting, moving Almaden Valley from our County's District One to District Five (the District I represent). I'm delighted to have the opportunity to reengage with this community, which I represented

for a brief time when I was in the California State Assembly. In addition to the North County area, I now represent four of the five West Valley cities (with Saratoga and Cupertino already in District Five), and portions of San Jose.

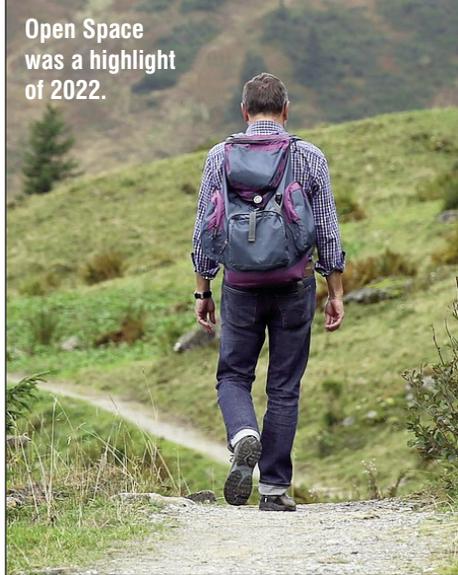
This year we've made lasting progress on issues related to health and safety, affordable housing, food security, land use, education, and recreation — for folks in my district, as well as Countywide. I'm grateful once again for the many civic and community partners who made it possible to tackle these, and other issues too big for one person, one group, or one city alone.

Challenges with mental health and addiction affect us all, and pandemic related stress continued to impact many individuals and families this past year. I'm proud that my office advanced improved access to mental health care on several fronts.

In September, our efforts to provide the County's first in-patient emergency psychiatric care for children and teens in crisis moved forward in a big way with demolition of a past-its-prime parking structure on the Valley Medical Center Campus. In its place the County will build a new state-of-the-art Youth Mental Health Care facility – a dual-purpose site that will also offer a major upgrade in services for adults.

In October the Board of Supervisors unanimously supported my proposal for a pilot program to ensure the "missing middle" has access to mental health treatment. These are residents who earn a bit too much to qualify for government-funded health care like Medi-Cal but can't afford to pay for care out of pocket or the high-quality insurance that would fully cover mental health care. The County's new effort, starting in 2023, adds these services to the County's existing Primary Care Access Program, and expands eligibility to include residents making up to 650% of the federal poverty level – e.g., \$180,375 annually for a family of four.

Mental health, however, was just one issue on our multi-faceted priority list in 2022. Highlights of our work this past year of inter-



Open Space was a highlight of 2022.

est to Almaden residents also included:

- Transportation Safety. The Board approved traffic and pedestrian safety improvements on Almaden Expressway at Camden, and the County has been working to replace the bridge over Alamos Creek in New Almaden. Though delayed due to weather-related reasons, when the new bridge is unveiled it will be named in honor of longtime New Almaden resident Kitty Monahan.

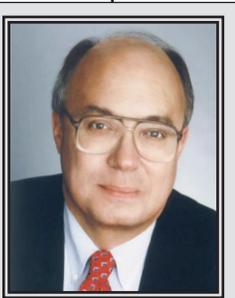
- MedAssist. To help combat high prescription drug costs, I led the County's effort to create and launch MedAssist, a new program that covers the cost of life-saving medications for qualifying residents who have been diagnosed with diabetes, asthma, and severe allergies. In September, I successfully proposed expanding the program to include all medications for diabetes care. When trying to make ends meet, we shouldn't have to choose between essential medicines and other life necessities.

- Open Space/Recreation. In June, the Board approved the purchase of a 47-acre property that will connect two popular County parks located near Almaden neighborhoods. When trails are completed, it will be possible to hike between Santa Teresa and Calero County Parks through this new corridor.

As I think about 2022, I'm mindful that so many of our efforts at the County come to fruition over time. Yes, on so many fronts, we still need to do more, and we need to do it faster.

There's much to look forward to in 2023! Many thanks.

Joe Simitian was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. He represents the Fifth District, which now includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, and portions of San Jose, including Almaden Valley. Joe's public service over the years includes stints as a member of the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, Mayor of Palo Alto, President of the Palo Alto School Board, as well as an earlier term on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. He served as an election observer/supervisor in El Salvador and Bosnia and participated in refugee relief and resettlement efforts in Albania and Kosovo.



County Report
By Joe Simitian
Supervisor



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Times **Community**

GEMS

Continued from page 6

So, global warming leads to bigger dead zones which then produce more greenhouse gases which worsens global warming. Wow, it's like the opposite of the circle of life.

Okay, this is a little depressing. But don't lose hope! Here comes the good part: we can do something about it. Enter: machine learning.

For your bi-weekly reminder that I am evil, I'm going to leave it at that cliffhanger! Next column, we'll talk more about how the

key to saving dead zones is by monitoring fertilizers in crops and water. To do this, we'll leverage machine learning to develop hyperspectral imaging and remote sensing—you won't want to miss it.

Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at apoorvap-writes@gmail.com.

As a recap: this column, Gems in STEM, is a place to learn about various STEM topics that I find exciting, and that I hope will excite you too. It will always be written to be fairly accessible, so you don't have to worry about not having background knowledge. However, it does occasionally get more advanced towards the end.



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2023's Best & worst states for singles

With Valentine's Day around the corner and high inflation making dates more expensive, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2023's Best & Worst States for Singles, as well as expert commentary.

To help unattached Americans improve their chances of finding love, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 30 key indicators of dating-friendliness. The data set ranges from the share of single adults to online-dating opportunities to restaurants per capita.

Dating in California (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 9th – % of Single Adults
- 4th – Online-Dating Opportunities
- 8th – Mobile-Dating Opportunities
- 1st – Restaurants per Capita
- 1st – Movie Theaters per Capita
- 8th – Percentage of Residents 12+ who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

For the full report, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-states-for-singles/31667>

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

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

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Times **Community**

San Jose Mayor Mahan pledges to bring city back to basics

Inaugural address focuses on Blight, Homelessness and Crime

In his first Inaugural address on February 1, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan announced his plan to “get back to the basics,” by focusing on the issues that matter most to residents: blight, homelessness and crime.

Mayor Mahan highlighted the importance of delivering results on key priorities and emphasized the over-complication of government that reduces the ability to deliver results on basic quality of life issues that impact San Jose’s residents daily.

Mayor announced several creative solutions to address blight, including:

- The launch of his Inaugur-Action series. Inaugur-Action is a 10-week program kicking off a new era of resident involvement, where San Joseans from across the city can join the Mayor by rolling up their sleeves to help beautify the place we all call home. The Inaugur-Action kicks off this Saturday, February 4th, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in District 7.

- Improvements to the San Jose 311 app, announcing the goal of faster response to blight reports—so they are addressed quickly and responded to with an “after photo” of the .

- The goal to fully staff the code enforcement department, which is 22% under-staffed, to address the backlog of nearly 4,000 Code cases.

Mayor Mahan also addressed the growing worry over the current homelessness crisis, announcing plans to:

- End San Jose’s era of unmanaged encampments— treating homelessness as the humanitarian crisis it is, and scale up basic, cost-effective and safe places for unhoused residents to live.

- Support permanent supportive housing as the ultimate goal, but take action now due to the scale of the crisis.

- Scale up shelter capacity and transition facilities in the meantime and dramatically reduce the barriers to getting our homeless neighbors into safe, managed spaces with bathrooms and basic services, pointing to the success of the response to the recent storm surges in which the city scaled up Emergency Transition Facilities which sheltered 126 homeless residents instead of turning them back out to the streets.

- Invest in prevention. The Mayor believes is just common sense that it is better to spend a few thousand dollars to keep someone stably housed while they look for a new job than to spend the \$65k



per year per person it costs us to manage unsheltered homelessness.

Mayor Mahan also addressed the growing safety concerns of residents. He proposes a number of solutions including:

- Reducing the average wait time of priority 1 and 2 calls by addressing staffing issues. Last year, our city council committed to adding 15 officers per year over the next five years. Mayor Mahan wants to double that rate to at least 30 officers per year.

- Investing in better reporting tools, digitizing forms, and working with our County partners to reduce in-take times at the County Jail.

- End the revolving door of justice by identifying the small number of people who need intervention and creating a system that intervenes early and appropriately. Police officers report arresting the same individuals a shocking number of times—between January 2020 and April 2022, SJPD arrested or cited 877 people 5 or more times, 103 people 10 or more times, and in that same time frame, one person was arrested 27 times.

- Our best crime fighting strategy in the long run is investing in our youth. As a former East Side public school teacher, I know the barriers and challenges our at-risk youth face. Life has not been fair to far too many of San Jose’s children, our children.

- Investing in the after school programs, tutoring, job opportunities, gang prevention strategies and other tools at our disposal to give our kids access to a better future. Mayor Mahan believes our best crime fighting strategy in the long run is investing in our youth.

In a reference to California’s failing mental health system, the Mayor signaled his support for Governor Newsom’s CARE Courts, and vowed to champion Senator Susan Eggman should she introduce new bills in the State Legislature that work to update California’s conservatorship laws and improve access to treatment so that the State’s most vulnerable residents receive the care they need.

Among the solutions proposed was a call for accountability on the basics with the launch of a public “Dashboard of Results,” where residents will be able to monitor exactly what progress is being made on blight, crime and homelessness.

Mayor Mahan ended his address with hope for the future of the city, stating that, “San Jose is a place where every resident, newly immigrated or fifth generation, blue collar or tech founder, son of a mailman or daughter of a Mayor, will find a brighter future and endless opportunity.”

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Times **Feature**

Ask the DMV

New Year, New ID!

Start your New Year off the right way by adding obtaining your REAL ID to your resolutions list!

Q1: When is the new REAL ID enforcement date?

A1: The REAL ID enforcement date has been extended until May 7, 2025. However,

there is no reason to delay getting your REAL ID. Why wait when you can check it off your to-do list for this year?

Q2: What type of documents are required to apply for my REAL ID?

A2: 1 original or certified proof of identity, and 2 different printed proofs of California residency are required.

One original or certified document*

• Examples: valid passport, birth certificate

*Legal name change document(s) is/are required if the name on the proof of identity is different from the name on the other documents (marriage certificate, adoption papers, etc.)

Two different printed proofs of California



residency

• Examples: utility bill, bank statement, insurance documents (vehicle, health, homeowner's, etc.), tax return, rental or lease agreement, school documents

Social Security number (exceptions may apply)

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Visit dmv.ca.gov/realid for a complete list of acceptable documents and to begin your online application.

For more information or answers to questions not listed here, please visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

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