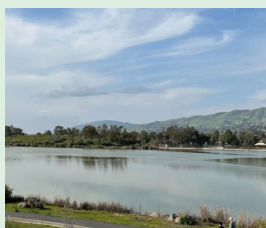
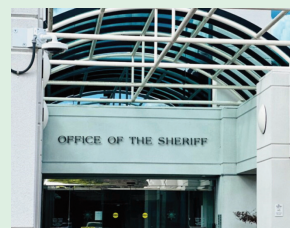


Lake Cunningham restoration loses millions in project funding  
**SEE PAGE 4**



**Monterey Highway danger zone**  
San Jose to address safety concerns along one of the region's deadliest roads — **SEE PAGE 13**

Santa Clara County concealed weapons applications skyrocket  
**SEE PAGE 4**



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MARCH 24 – APRIL 6, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 7

# EvergreenTimes

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## Congressman Jimmy Panetta reaches out to Evergreen Valley

*Congressman Jimmy Panetta visits groups in Evergreen including The American Sikhs of the Evergreen Gurdwara and Evergreen Valley College*

**By Kevin Larsen**  
Times staff writer

Every 10 years new congressional boundaries are redistricted.

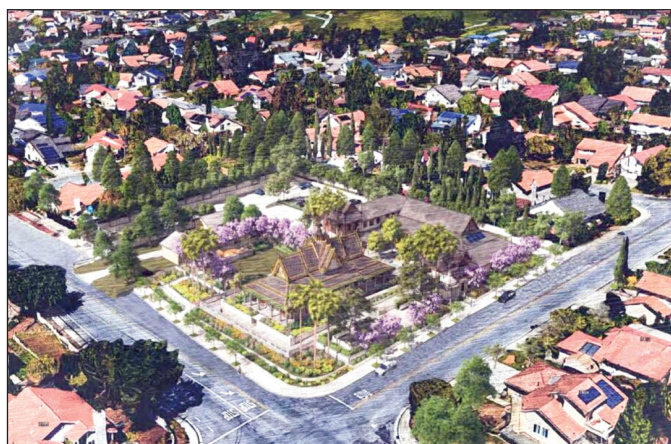
The new election of Jimmy Panetta as a member of Congress allows him to now help in some neighborhoods once overseen by Zoe Lofgren.

Panetta took the initiative to be proactive, reaching out to many groups in the Evergreen Valley community with face-to-face meetings to discuss how his office

*See PANETTA, page 20*



San Jose resident **Murali Pabbisetty** talks about his opposition to a Buddhist temple project proposed for a lot that backs up to his home in Evergreen. Photo by Joseph Geha. Below: A 13,900-square-foot Buddhist temple is proposed for a 1.86-acre vacant corner lot at the intersection of Ruby and Norwood avenues, which previously included a home and dilapidated barn. Image courtesy of San Jose Planning Department.



## Local residents say Buddhist temple will bring traffic, noise

**By Joseph Geha**  
*San José Spotlight*

Local residents are speaking out against plans for a Buddhist temple in the Evergreen area over concerns it will cause the neighborhood to be overrun with traffic and noise.

The 13,900-square-foot Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom Temple is planned for a 1.86-acre vacant corner lot at the intersection of Ruby and Norwood avenues, which previously included a home and dilapidated barn. While neighbors say they are not opposed to the Khmer community having a place to worship, they don't want the temple near their homes.

Murali Pabbisetty's home backs up to the proposed temple site. He worries the project is too big for the site and will decrease pedestrian safety and bring too many cars to the area that

could block the entrance to the cul-de-sac where he lives.

"A lot of people walk here, a lot of people bike," Pabbisetty told San José Spotlight. "(Drivers) are going to run into people." He also said accidents already happen in the area "regularly."

Another homeowner along Ruby Avenue, whose property sits in the middle of where the temple is proposed, refuses to sell. As a result, the project will wrap around the home on three sides.

Other neighbors are concerned about the temple's hours, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. during regular services, with cleanup until midnight, city reports show. Events could also have amplified sound under city rules.

The San Jose Planning Commission approved the project in February, and

*See TEMPLE, page 15*

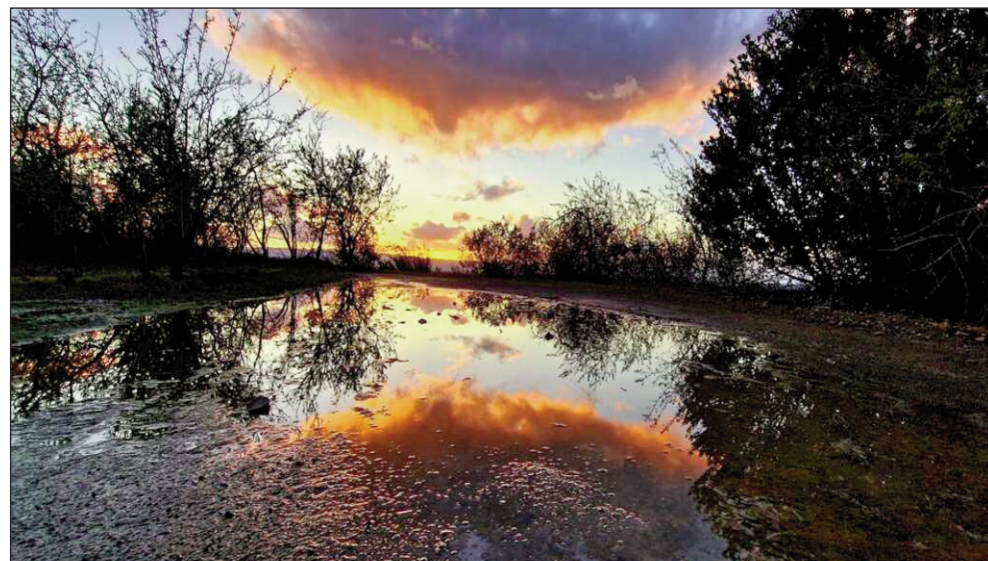
## 12th annual Hola Mohalla Festival postponed to Sunday, April 30

Hola Mohalla, the largest community event in Evergreen, has been postponed to April 30th due to the inclement weather.

The gathering will take place outside on the Gurdwara Sikh Temple grounds and Community Center Sunday, April 30th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in a gesture of friendship and camaraderie

Editor's note: The best way to enjoy the festival is to park at Evergreen Valley High School or Carolyn Clark Elementary School which will have shuttles going and coming all day starting at 10 a.m. The event is free and food is complementary.

For more information visit: [www.sanjosegurdwara.org](http://www.sanjosegurdwara.org) or contact Kirpal Atwal at (408) 835-7712. Stay connected and download the San Jose Gurdwara App.



## Spring has sprung

Evergreen photographer **Wes Lee** shot this photo of Montgomery Hill Park (located behind Evergreen Valley College) on the first day of spring, March 21.

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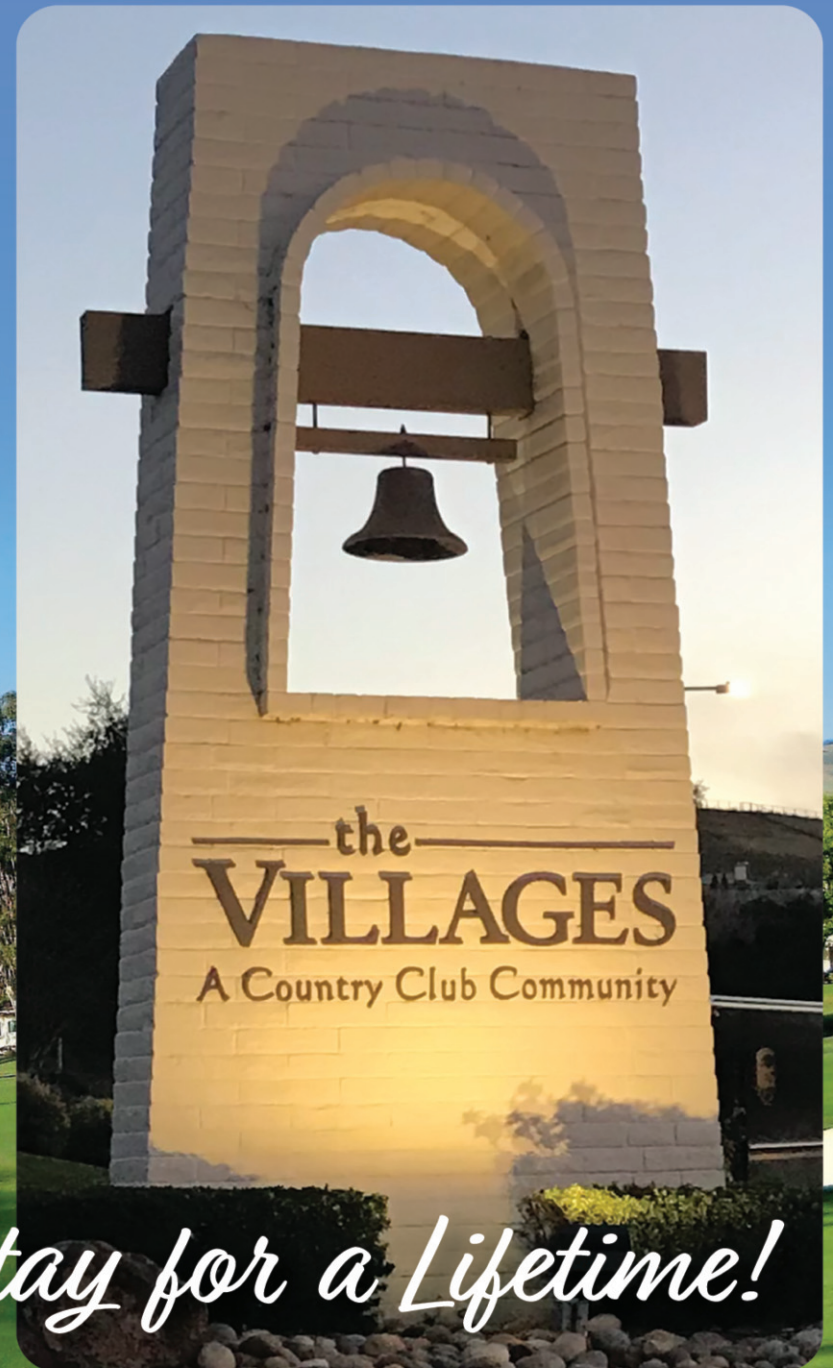
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NOTEBOOK

# Santa Clara County concealed weapons applications skyrocket

*‘Good cause’ requirement no longer in place*

A Supreme Court ruling last summer changed two words, starting a chain reaction across the nation for who can obtain a concealed carry weapons permit. In Santa Clara County, it means more residents will be able to carry concealed weapons on the streets.

The June 23, 2022 ruling struck down previous regulations that gave the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office and other local authorities the ability to deny gun permits if applicants didn’t have “good cause” to carry a firearm. With that language gone, the sheriff’s office has seen a flood of applications for concealed carry weapons permits, which allow individuals to carry firearms in public places.

Spokesperson Sgt. Michael Low said the sheriff’s office received 32 concealed carry weapons applications from Jan. 1 to May 31 last year. That number jumped dramatically from June through the end of 2022 after the court ruling, with 378 applications. In 2021, the office only received 32 applications the entire year. The department launched an online application por-



The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office has received hundreds of applications for concealed carry weapons permits since a June 2022 Supreme Court ruling. *Photo by Loan-Anh Pham.*

tal in February and within a month received hundreds of requests.

Santa Clara County Sheriff Bob Jonsen said he anticipated the increase. Prior to the ruling, the county and California at large generally took a “may issue” approach to approving permits, he said. Now, the county is more in line with a “shall issue” approach, he said.

“It’s a natural progression for people to say, ‘Hey, why not?’ and throw in an application,” Jonsen told San José Spotlight. “It is what it is now, and that will make it a little more challenging to deny (permits) because that ‘good cause’ requirement is no longer in place.”

Jonsen said the county implemented alternatives to replace the previous “good cause” measure, including a required psychological exam through a psychologist used by the sheriff’s office and more gun training hours. He said current county policy also prohibits guns in places that primarily sell alcohol. Concealed weapons are also not allowed in schools, airports, courthouses and federal buildings. Applicants need to go through a criminal background check and interview with the sheriff’s office, according to the county sheriff’s website.

John Donohue, a Stanford Law School professor and gun policy expert, said a rise in gun ownership correlates with a rise in violent crime. A 2022 county report revealed public sector responses to gun violence cost the county \$72 million annually.

“The evidence is now quite strong that when the state does allow more citizens to carry concealed handguns, the net effect is harmful,” Donohue told San José Spotlight.

Santa Clara County has not escaped such violence. San Jose received national attention after the May 2021 VTA mass shooting during which a disgruntled employee killed nine coworkers before turning the gun on himself. This

*See WEAPONS, page 8*

# Valley Currents

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



Lake Cunningham in San Jose. Councilmembers voted on March 14, 2023 to reverse a previous decision to allocate millions to restore the lake. *Photo by Jana Kadah.*

## Lake Cunningham restoration loses funding

*Councilmembers vote 8-3 to divert \$3.2 million in funds into the public safety reserve*

**By Jana Kadah**

*San José Spotlight*

Things got heated at last week’s San Jose City Council meeting when councilmembers reversed a prior decision to use more than \$3 million of Measure T funds for the restoration of Lake Cunningham in East San Jose.

This week, councilmembers voted 8-3 to divert the remaining \$3.2 million in funds from the environmental protection budget into the public safety reserve, with Councilmembers Domingo Candelas, Peter Ortiz and Omar Torres dissenting.

The money was previously allocated in 2021 to help improve Lake Cunningham’s water quality. Instead, the funds will be transferred for infrastructure projects like a new fire station. The councilmembers opposing the decision argued the \$3.2 million should be used toward the lake’s restoration.

“There’s an environmental disaster on Lake Cunningham with regards to the water quality,” said Candelas, who represents District 8 – Evergreen Valley. “We need to fulfill our commitment to environmental water quality projects as we promised to voters. Simply shifting the environmental funds to leave in the bank is not an action in good faith of the voters or taxpayers.”

Voters passed Measure T, a \$650 million disaster preparedness bond, in the 2018 for road improvements, emergency services and flood control. The environmental protection portion of the bond included nearly \$50 million for flood prevention and water quality contamination, according to city documents. The city used \$46 million of those funds in a \$93 million land deal to purchase and preserve 972 acres of Coyote Valley, which left about \$3.2 million. Councilmembers Candelas, Ortiz and Torres wanted to use these dollars to address the long-ignored issues at Lake Cunningham.

Residents once enjoyed the man-made lake off Tully Road for fishing and boating. Several years ago the lake was declared an unsafe; feces-and fungi-filled swamp after decades of neglect. Over the years, former Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, who represented the area, advocated for Measure T funding to clean the lake. Candelas wants to follow in his predecessor’s footsteps. More than 300 residents sent letters or spoke at the meeting in support of the lake’s restora-

tion.

“I’m worried that it will be even more years before we could see investments in Lake Cunningham,” Candelas said. “This is one of the most disadvantaged communities in San Jose, and if our equity conversation is more than talk, this is the opportunity to show it.”

Cleaning up the lake would be a massive undertaking. A recent study by city staff found it would take anywhere from \$3 million to \$20 million to restore the lake, depending on the level of infrastructure restoration.

However, the council majority said it would be a misuse of Measure T dollars.

“When we talk about the environmental component of the measure, it was strictly and solely related to Coyote Valley,” Councilmember Sergio Jimenez said. “Lake Cunningham wasn’t part of that.”

Councilmember Arjun Batra, who formerly served on the Measure T advisory committee that oversaw how dollars were spent, said the money was meant for disaster preparedness and public safety. To spend it on anything else would be “disrespectful” to voters.

“The question we should be spending our time on is how are we going to fund the rest of the money needed to get these safety projects done?” Batra said.

The city is planning to build out four different fire stations and three new facilities for the San Jose Police Department. Councilmember David Cohen said because it’s harder to get grant funding for public safety infrastructure projects than environmental projects, he would rather see the dollars put in the public safety reserve which acts as a bank for such projects.

“Economic challenges have changed since (the measure passed) and so therefore I’m more concerned about using any resources we have,” Cohen said. “I think it’s prudent for us at this time to put everything into the reserve for Measure T in general.”

Cohen also said \$3.2 million is not enough to restore Lake Cunningham for recreational use. He would rather wait until the city has a better analysis on a funding and restoration timeline. Candelas argued it’s better for the city to invest in cleaning now because it will make it easier to get state and federal grants, as well as buy in from private investors.

“We have had conversations with our partners at the federal and regional level. They’re aware of the historical neglect, and they are ready to support improvements,” Candelas said. “But that requires a city to have skin in the game.”

**EvergreenTimes**

**Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000**

**PUBLISHER / CEO**

**WILLIAM D. BELLOU**

[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

**WILLIAM D. BELLOU**

[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**

**WILLIAM D. BELLOU**

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**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM,  
SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD,  
NIRBAN SINGH, FRANK SHORTT,  
JUDY LY, EUGENE LUU,  
APOORVA PANIDAPU**

**ART DIRECTOR**

**JEFF BAHAM**

[graphics@timesmediainc.com](mailto:graphics@timesmediainc.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

**ROCCO SANTORO**

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**SANDY BELLOU**

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Times **Health and Wellness****85-year Harvard study on happiness found the No. 1 retirement challenge that 'no one talks about'***Ongoing Harvard study began in 1938*

By Times Media staff writers

People who cultivate connections fare the best in retirement, according to Harvard's 85-year happiness study.

Harvard researchers embarked on a study in 1938 that continues to this day to find out: What makes us happy in life?

The researchers gathered health records from more than 720 people from all over the world, asking detailed questions about their lives at two-year intervals.

As participants entered mid- and late-life, the Harvard Study often asked about retirement. Based on their responses, the No. 1 challenge people faced in retirement was not being able to replace the social connections that had sustained them for so long at work.

**Retirees don't miss working, they miss the people**

When it comes to retirement, we often stress about things like financial concerns, health problems and caregiving. But people who fare the best in retirement find ways to cultivate connections. And yet, almost no one talks about the importance of developing new sources of meaning and purpose.

One participant, when asked what he missed about being a doctor for nearly 50 years, answered: "Absolutely nothing about the work itself. I miss the people and the friendships."

Leo DeMarco, another participant, had a similar feeling: After he retired as a high school teacher, he found it hard to stay in touch with his colleagues.

"I need to work!" Keane told the researchers at age 65. "Nothing too substantial, but I'm learning that I just love being around people."

**To retire happy, invest in your relationships now**

Keane's realization teaches us an important lesson not only about retirement, but about work itself: We are often shrouded in financial concerns and the pressure of deadlines, so we don't notice how significant our work relationships are until they're gone.

To create more meaningful connections, ask yourself:

- Who are the people I most enjoy working with?
- What kinds of connections am I missing that I want more of?
- How can I make connections happen?
- Is there someone I'd like to know better?
- How can I reach out to more of my connections?
- If I'm having conflict with a coworker, what can I do to alleviate it?
- What can I learn from my connections?

Every workday is an important part of our personal experience, and the more we enrich it with relationships, the more we benefit. Work, too, is life!

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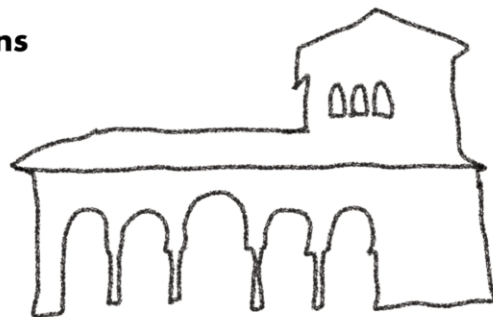
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## Times Local News



Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Joe!  
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## Happy 100th Birthday Joe!

Happy Birthday Joe R Arellano, Joe is the youngest of nine siblings, son to Doroteo & Brigida Arellano, married to Sara Arellano for 74 years, and is a father of three. He is a Grandfather, Great Grandfather, and Great Uncle. In 1943, he enlisted in the Air Force as a private at Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers in San Francisco, CA and was stationed in Italy with the 15th Air Force until 1945 and received a Soldier Medal for his service.

Joe has been an inspiration to many, he takes pride in that he served his country during a challenging time. Joe enjoys sharing old stories and he is the family historian. He thanks the man upstairs for all his blessings. Thank you for your service Joe! #District8 #SanJose #Community

## Emmanuelle Pappas of Evergreen makes Dean's List at Adelphi University in New York

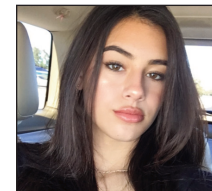
Emmanuelle Pappas of Evergreen Valley has been named to Adelphi University's Fall 2022 Semester Dean's List.

Pappas of San Jose was among a select group of outstanding students recognized by Adelphi's Deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Science, Business, Nursing and Public Health, Social Work and Psychology for superior academic performance.

Pappas, a graduate of Silver Creek High School, is working toward her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing/Registered Nurse.

The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester.

Adelphi University, New York, is a highly awarded, nationally ranked, powerfully connected doctoral research university dedicated to transforming students' lives through small classes with world-class faculty, hands-on learning and innovative ways to support academic and career success. Recognized as a Best College by



U.S. News & World Report, Adelphi is Long Island's oldest private coeducational university.

## Chloe Chow of Evergreen named to Dean's List at Biola University

Chloe Chow of Evergreen Valley has been named to the Dean's List at Biola University for fall 2022.

Chow, a graduate of Evergreen Valley High School, is a Communication Sciences & Disorders major and plans to become a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist.

Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Dr. Tamera Anderson, Associate Provost of Academic Effectiveness and Administration. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives."



## Weapons

*Continued from page 4*

followed on the heels of the 2019 Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting that killed three and injured more than a dozen people attending the annual festivities.

Margaret Petros, executive director of Mothers Against Murder, said gun violence has been real for too long. Petros said she's more concerned about tackling illegal gun use. San Jose approved a ban on ghost guns in 2022, which are homemade weapons without serial numbers, making them difficult to trace. San Jose is also the first city in the nation to require liability insurance for gun owners.

According to a San Jose Police Department spokesperson, San Jose also issues concealed

carry weapons permits to city residents and currently has 136 applications pending as of this year. In the past, SJPd only received a handful of applications per year, the spokesperson said.

"There's violence with guns. It didn't happen overnight, it has increased over the past two, three decades," Petros told San José Spotlight. "(But) I honestly never worry about someone who is carefully vetted, goes through background checks, goes through training to have a gun (and) is a law-abiding citizen."

Jonsen said the county is working through a backlog of hundreds of applications.

"It's a concerning time," Jonsen said. "There will be more (concealed carry weapons permits) issued throughout Santa Clara County and hopefully these individuals will be extremely responsible."





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Times **Community**

## Californians believe they will live three years above official life expectancy reveals study

*50% expressed willingness to participate in enhanced lifespan drug trials but 1 in 3 against people living forever*

A new study of 3,000 respondents by HelloPharmacist has found that the average Californian believes they will live until the age of 84 – a full three years above the state average of 81, and 6 years above the national life expectancy. Turns out, the people in The Golden State are among the most optimistic in America about their longevity.

When you delve a bit deeper, there are actually several reasons that Californians may be justified in being that confident of surpassing their state life expectancy: According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the life expectancy in California was 80.9 years in 2020, compared to the national average of 78.7 years.

California has a higher number of primary care physicians, lower rates of smoking and obesity, and a greater access to healthy food options, which all contribute to a higher life expectancy in the state. These factors, along with the state's investments in medical research and cutting-edge medical technologies, have resulted in a higher standard of living and a longer life expectancy for California residents.

Nationally, however, Americans predict they will live for 2 years longer than the average life expectancy of 78, at 80 years old.

Broken down by state, HelloPharmacist found that Rhode Islanders and Nevadans were equally the most optimistic about their longevity, saying they think they will live for 6 years above the state average (79.4 in Rhode Island, and 78.1 in Nevada), thus living to a ripe old age of 85 and 84. And New Mexicans were the least optimistic.

**Drug trials**

The study also uncovered intriguing insights - 50% of those surveyed expressed their willingness to participate in drug trials as a guinea pig if it was said to double their lifespan. This percentage appears surprisingly high as drug trials come with serious inherent risks and challenges.

Over a third - 38% - say they take supplements and medications for the specific purpose of living a longer life. However, it should be noted that vitamin supplements are not actually a proven way to increase lifespan. While some studies have suggested that certain vitamins, such as vitamin D and vitamin E, may have some beneficial effects on health and longevity, the majority of research does not support the idea that taking vitamin supplements will help people live longer.

## The challenge of clay laminar

By **Matthew Frazier**  
*Certified Water Manager  
Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper  
Qualified Stormwater Manager*

Good morning and happy rains!

For those who have followed my entries in this column, Water Wise, for some time, you have likely encountered my mention of the clay soil of Santa Clara Valley and the challenges it poses to those of us who are active and avid gardeners and landscapers. Slow to infiltrate and percolate through our heavy soils, water finds itself in a constant and unyielding battle to reach the root systems of the plants it encounters.

The structure of clay is such that when water does make its way into the medium, it moves elliptically and terrestrially throughout, covering a larger surface area but not going as deeply as its counterpart soil mediums such as loam, silt, or sand. The structure of clay particles is laminar and is hydrophobic by nature. With water scarcity facing us here in the valley and beyond, the application of landscape water is critical and crucial if we are to make the very best use of this precious resource.

In earlier entries, I have mentioned the three-and-three rule shared with me many years ago by an irrigation professional which has resonated with me and been the subject of many subsequent conversations I have had with clients and customers throughout San Jose and Santa Clara Valley. Being in late winter now, the rains have inundated us with an abundance of rainwater which hopefully is being captured and harvested for irrigation.

The laminar structure of our clay soil makes it slow to infiltrate water and even slower for this water to percolate down to the root systems of our plants. I have since made some adjustments to the irrigation schedules at my own home and those of my clients, as their water manager. For now, I have advised my clients and customers to leave their irrigation systems off while checking the three-day weather forecasts nightly to see how our conditions change hour to hour and day to day.

Given the laminar structure of our clay soil and the hydrophobic nature of this clay soil, and especially with residues from salt-based fertilizers and herbicides, it is critical that we capture and harvest this precious rainwater and apply it slowly over a longer period of time. Using a three-inch layer of compost and a one-inch layer of mulch in this rainy weather is optimal. A seasoned landscape professional will substantiate this advise and is hopefully implementing this practice as we speak.

In conclusion, I advise each and all to keep a close watch on the wetting patterns of these rains on the irrigation zones of your gardens and landscapes with special attention to the abundance and duration of the rain events. As a Qualified Stormwater Manager, I see vast opportunities for making good use of this rainwater and stormwater for irrigation from non-potable sources.

Best wishes with your irrigation and looking forward to hearing from you.

To comment on this column, you may reach Matthew Frazier, Certified Water Manager, via email: [kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)







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Times **Community**

# San Jose gearing up to address safety concerns along one of the region's deadliest roads

*\$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation*

**By Tran Nguyen**  
*San José Spotlight*

Congressmembers Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo and Jimmy Panetta announced San Jose will receive a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help convert Monterey Road from a highway into a boulevard in an effort to make it safer.

The grant is part of the federal agency's \$185 million investment to help cities improve roadway infrastructure. San Jose is among 45 cities that received funding.

City officials said the money will fund a design study that would reconstruct Monterey Road, increase pedestrian accessibility, and build out dedicated transit lanes and protected bike lanes, among other safety measures.

Monterey Road, an important transit corridor running through San Jose, has a deadly history in the South Bay. Once part of the El Camino Real in 1700s, the 9.6-mile stretch from Keyes Street to Metcalf Road has become increasingly dangerous in the past few decades, officials said.

The road currently has six lanes with vehicles going as fast as 50 mph. It also lacks sidewalks and crossings at intersections. Between 2019 and March 2022, San Jose recorded 42 deaths and severe injuries on Monterey Road. The street, known among locals as "Blood Alley," also saw more than 350 minor injuries and about 480 collisions over the same time period, according to city data.

A previous San José Spotlight analysis of the city data shows Monterey Road is the deadliest road in the city. The intersection of Monterey Road and Curtner Avenue recorded four traffic-related fatalities between 2017 and 2021.

"With high vehicle speeds, missing sidewalks, and a lack of safe crossings, the road is both hazardous and divides adjacent communities," the congressmembers said in a joint statement. "We welcome investments that will help transform this corridor so pedestrians and drivers alike stay safe and areas downtown are connected."

Councilmember Bien Doan, who represents the area, said the \$2 million is essential to start addressing longtime safety concerns. As a former fire captain, Doan has seen firsthand countless traffic collisions on Monterey Road.

"This will help us study and understand



how we can create a slower and safer street for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers," Doan told San José Spotlight. "And not only that, we need to beautify the Monterey corridor with more landscaping."

The federal grant comes as San Jose is scrambling to address a record number of traffic fatalities. During the last decade, traffic deaths more than doubled from 29 in 2010 to 60 in 2021. The city saw a record high with 65 deaths in 2022. San Jose has identified 17 most dangerous streets in the city, the majority of which are on the East Side, through an initiative called Vision Zero. Officials adopted the Vision Zero initiative in 2015 to analyze traffic data and eliminate deaths through safety programs.

City officials have worked on various piecemeal solutions along Monterey Road and surrounding streets over the years. The city spent roughly \$1 million last year on Senter Road, a nearby busy and dangerous street, to paint the intersections and install plastic barriers to slow down traffic, among other safety measures. San Jose also received \$10 million in state funding last August for more street lights, bike lanes and other protective measures around Senter Road. Last year on Monterey Road, San Jose installed pedestrian median fences, cameras and other safety measures. City officials hope to upgrade damaged guardrails along Monterey Road this

summer.

Colin Heyne, spokesperson for the city's transportation department, said the city expects to start the study by the end of the year. San Jose is planning a number of public engagement opportunities for residents to weigh in on the new design, he added.

Doan said San Jose will need more funding from the state and federal government to fully transform Monterey Road.

"This is going to be expensive," he said. "We're doing the best that we can with the budget we have, but we'll have to push for more funding."

## San Jose Police arrest man they say used explosives to damage PG&E transformers

San Jose police have arrested a man last week for allegedly having explosive materials at a home in the city that may have been used to attack PG&E transformers.

Peter Karasav, 35, was arrested in the 600

block of Potomac Court and investigators said they found explosive materials at this home where possible narcotics activity has been occurring. Federal agents were called in to assist in the investigation, including the FBI.

Police said Friday that the investigation began following an explosion early on the morning of Dec. 8 that damaged a transformer in the 5000 block of Thornwood Drive in South San Jose.

A second transformer was reported damaged in an explosion early on the morning of Jan. 5 in the 6000 block of Snell Avenue.

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Times Feature

# Animal shelters and nonprofits face uphill climb

**By Lorraine Gabbert**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

Animal shelters and rescue organizations are turning to the community for help in addressing the overpopulation of cats and dogs.

Representatives from these groups spoke at the Feb. 13 Almaden Valley Community Association meeting to encourage residents to spay and neuter pets, as well as adopt, foster or volunteer to help care for homeless animals.

There are an estimated 125,000 homeless cats in Santa Clara County and cats make up two-thirds of the animals in shelters, according to the Town Cats website. To break the breeding cycle, animal shelters and their partners favor a Trap-Neuter-Return approach, where cats are trapped, spayed or neutered and returned to their original locations.

“Overpopulation breeds suffering,” said Kim McIntyre, director of the St. Francis Animal Protection Society. “Unfixed animals and limited low-cost services mean more dogs and cats than there are homes and resources to ensure the quality of life for each,” she said.

McIntyre said the halt of non-essential veterinary services like spaying and neutering during the height of the pandemic further exacerbated the problem.

St. Francis Animal Protection Society helps unhoused people care for their pets. In order to be eligible for housing where pets are allowed,



Jay Terrado, deputy director of San Jose Animal Care and Services, said the animal shelter needs to find adoptive or foster homes for its cats and dogs.

people have to show proof of ownership, and vaccination and spay/neuter records. In the past year, the society fixed 100 animals and held numerous vaccine clinics at encampments.

“By helping the animals, we’re also helping the people,” McIntyre said. “We hope it relieves some of the strain from the shelters.”

Jay Terrado, deputy director of San Jose Animal Care and Services, said as cat and kitten intake increases during kitten season in March, the animal shelter will need to find adoptive or foster homes for them and are depending on its rescue partners for assistance. The animal shelter has many large dogs also in need of homes, he said.

Pre-pandemic, San Jose Animal Care and Services took in more than 18,000 animals annually, including rabbits. During the past year, it took in 15,632 animals. Of these, 1,494 cats and 1,074 dogs were adopted. Others were returned to owners, transferred, released after being spayed/neutered or died. In 2022, the animal shelter worked with over 90 rescue organiza-

tions and transferred over 5,400 animals to its partners.

Terrado said although the animal shelter wants to do trap and return spay and neutering services five to seven days a week, it faced staffing issues last year and continues to have two veterinarian vacancies. Working with partners, it has completed 119 spay or neuter surgeries since January. Pre-pandemic, in 2018-19, it completed more than 1,000 spay and neuter surgeries per quarter, with a total of 5,640 for the year.

Terrado said one of San Jose Animal Care and Services goals is to reduce the length of time the animals it cares for stay. He said shelter overpopulation affects the mental and emotional well-being of animals.

“There are a lot of pets in our shelter right now that need more support when it comes to their behavior, but it’s not something we can address,” he said, “...because the shelter is a stressful place for many of the animals we take in.”

San Jose Animal Care and Services is hoping to increase adoptions through postings on social media. It accepts financial donations as well as animal supplies like pet food, dog crates, blankets and newspapers.

“We definitely need more support from our community,” Terrado said. “We cannot do this alone.”

Vanessa Forney created Bay Area Cats to decrease the number of unfixed cats in the community. The organization helps with low-cost spaying and neutering and connects people with resources.

Forney said Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane way to control community cat populations. She said cats can reproduce as early as four-months-old and as often as every two to three months. One unspayed female can result in 200 to 400

cats in a couple of years, she said.

Kittens and their mothers should be taken to shelters for Trap-Neuter-Return, she said, but feral kittens less than four weeks old should be left for their mothers to care for if they’re clean, healthy and not in danger.

Dinah Hayse, a volunteer with the Dancing Cat adoption lounge and founder of District 10’s Community Cats Working Group, said one of biggest reasons for people giving up their pets to shelters is landlords not allowing pets.

“Help somebody have a place to live and keep their pets with them,” she said. “As a tenant, make sure pets are on your lease. Please don’t go adopt an animal if you aren’t allowed to.”

Hayse said another cause of animal surrender is a family member dying. She recommends people plan ahead as to who will take care of their pets. She suggests pet owners set aside savings for medical emergencies or get pet insurance and have their animals microchipped.

“A microchip can make a difference in an animal having a long shelter stay versus going back to its owner who loves it,” McIntyre added.



Kim McIntyre, director of the St. Francis Animal Protection Society, said overpopulation of cats and dogs breeds suffering.

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Times Feature

Temple

Continued from page 1

the City Council is set to weigh giving final approval to the project—which would include rezoning the property for public use—on March 28.

Lyna Lam, head of the A Khmer Buddhist Foundation that is backing the project, said the local Khmer community is a small population that settled in San Jose after spending years in refugee camps while fleeing wars and genocide in Vietnam and Cambodia.

“A temple is really the center of the community for Cambodians. It’s not just a religion for us, we go there to support each other,” Lam told San José Spotlight.

She said the new temple is needed because the existing one in a nearby converted home doesn’t adequately serve the needs of the local Khmer community. Lam is married to Bay Area tech billionaire Chris Larsen, and the couple is funding the foundation.

Temple touted as community benefit

Eight monks will live on the property full time, and the temple will be allowed to have a maximum of 300 visitors at any one time, plus event staff, custodians and security.

Erik Schoennauer, a lobbyist working for the project, said special events or holidays will draw the maximum number of people allowed like other faith centers. But worship services during the week will have about 20 people attending, while weekends might see about 50 people, he said.

The developer will add new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and will build a traffic calming circle at the intersection on behalf of the city, footing a portion of that bill.

The site will have 67 parking spaces, and backers said they are planning to work with other temples and schools nearby to accommodate overflow valet parking when needed. The developer downsized the project by 25% and eliminated plans for a 40,000-square-foot underground parking garage in response to resident concerns, Schoennauer said.

Lam said the temple should be in this neighborhood because it is close to where the local Khmer population lives. She told San José Spotlight there are some neighbors who likely will never support the project.

“I do believe that once it’s done, they’ll find it absolutely beautiful and it will actually make the neighborhood better,” Larsen said.

Michael Gabler, president of the Norwood Neighborhood Association, said he opposes the project.

“This is the right project in the wrong location. It really is a square peg in a round hole,” he said.

But not all neighbors have an issue with the temple.

Andre Robitaille, 33, who lives across the street from the proposed temple, supports it. With a temple so close to home, he said he’d be more likely to visit and learn about another culture.

“There’s a lot of other faiths around here that have temples, why would it be out of the ordinary to have a Buddhist temple?” he told San José Spotlight.

Mike Hang, a Cambodian resident, said he’s excited to have a temple that reflects his culture and beliefs.

“I believe this temple will provide a great resource as an education center for my three children who are attending nearby schools and other Khmer people around the area,” he said.

Planning Commissioner Chuck Cantrell said the question before the city is about land use, not religion. He said neighbors in the area should try to invite the temple into their community with their hearts, just before he cast a vote to approve the project.

*The developer downsized the project by 25% and eliminated plans for a 40,000-square-foot underground parking garage in response to resident concerns.*

Mayor Mahan launches city housing, homelessness program dashboard to improve transparency

By William Bellou  
Publisher

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan has announced the launch of a new dashboard on the City’s website showcasing San José’s homelessness programs and funding.

The dashboard was created so the public, policymakers, oversight agencies, non-profit partners, and the media have easy access to homelessness data in San Jose. Available data specific to the dashboard includes funding sources, expenditures, outcomes of San José’s direct spending on permanent and transitional housing, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and related services to improve transparency and understanding of how public money is being spent.

Mayor Mahan first proposed the dashboard while he was a Councilmember in District 10, in December 2022, along

with former Mayor Sam Liccardo, former Vice Mayor Chappie Jones (District 1), and current Councilmember David Cohen (District 4).

“We can’t expect to solve our residents’ most pressing problems if City Hall isn’t measuring the results of our work,” said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. “This is an important step towards the real-time, fully transparent data that policymakers and residents need to see in order to track our progress in reducing the level of street homelessness in San José.”

San José has increased its stock of emergency-interim housing communities and deployed other successful rehousing efforts including a hotel/motel voucher program, bridge housing safe-parking, rental assistance, and more. However, despite all of these solutions more needs to be done to bring all of our most vulnerable residents off the streets.

The dashboard will be updated regularly and focus on outcomes such as the number of people the city has served, how they received resources, and how many have stayed housed.

Bills aim to help vulnerable residents get mental illness care

By Mayor Matt Mahan

Last week, I traveled to Sacramento to stand alongside a bipartisan group of big-city mayors and state legislators in the fight for conservatorship reform bills authored by Senator Susan Eggman.

These bills would help ensure that our most vulnerable residents suffering from severe mental illness get the care that they need. You can watch the entire press conference on YouTube, but I’ll provide a brief summary in this letter and I hope you will also take a moment to watch my conversation with Kathryn, the mother of a son suffering from serious mental illness, below.

The backstory to the mental health crisis we see on our streets every day starts in the 1960s with a well-intended reform that failed. At the time, many Californians were concerned about the number of people who were held against their will in mental health institutions and the potential for violations of individuals’ civil liberties. And not without reason, as many of these facilities were underfunded and our understanding of mental illness was not what it is today. Many voters also felt that mental health care could be better managed through a more decentralized system of community-based solutions.

Growing calls for reform led to the passage of the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act in 1967, which significantly curtails the state’s ability to compel individuals into mental health institutions. As the state “de-institutionalized” (or began to shut down mental health hospitals, including Agnews

here in San Jose, which many of you may remember), what should have been a shift in funding to alternative solutions never fully took place – nor did those solutions work in the toughest cases without the ability to compel care. From this time to today, our mental health care system went from having over 300 psychiatric beds per 100,000 residents down to just 12 beds per 100,000 residents today.

The result is a system that allows far too many individuals suffering from serious mental illnesses to slip through the cracks, even when their family members fight to get them into care. While not the only or even the main cause of homelessness, we have all witnessed how this failure has contributed to the crisis today.

Almost daily, concerned residents ask me why the man yelling on the corner, running into traffic and living outside is not given the help he needs. I am asked by loved ones why their pleas for care go unanswered as they file the 6th missing persons report attempting to lift their family member in extreme mental distress out of homelessness. I hear from our police officers that they have arrested someone for the 16th time this year – but they don’t believe she can even tell right from wrong.

Thanks to Senator Susan Eggman (who is also one of the CARE court authors), we have the opportunity to support legislation like Senate Bill 43 (SB43) that will help us fill in the cracks.

SB43 ensures conservatorship court proceedings can consider vital testi-



mony about an individual’s circumstances and history from healthcare professionals and clarifies the definition of “gravely disabled” – the threshold needed for consideration of a public conservatorship – to include people whose severe mental health or substance abuse issues prevent them from meeting their basic needs. As you’ll hear below from Kathryn, this legislation could have saved her family years of heartbreak.

Conservatorships are the last line of defense. No one wants to take legal responsibility for another’s well being without compelling justification. But, for families like Kathryn’s and neighbors suffering on our streets without loved ones to advocate for them, we have a moral obligation to demand better from our system and facilitate their recovery.

Taking action now will help our entire community. I hope you stand with me as I advocate for our state to provide life-saving care to those in need. You can sign up right here to let us know you’d like to stay updated on the issues and do what you can to help.

*Editor’s note: You may send your comments and suggestions to Mayor Matt Mahan via email: mayoremail@san-joseca.gov, or call 408-535-4800*



From the Mayor  
Matt Mahan  
Mayor, San Jose



Times Feature

Tech Jargon of the week

Data Classification

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:

Data Classification

Data classification is the process of organizing data into categories that make it easy to retrieve, sort and store for future use.



A well-planned data classification system makes essential data easy to find and retrieve. This can be of particular importance for risk management, legal discovery, and compliance. Written procedures and guidelines for data classification policies should define what categories and criteria the organization will use to classify data and specify the roles and responsibilities of employees within the organization regarding data stewardship. Once a data-classification scheme has been created, security standards that specify appropriate handling practices for each category and storage standards that define the data’s lifecycle requirements need to be addressed.

Purpose of data classification

On top of making data easier to locate and retrieve, a carefully planned data classification system also makes essential data easy to manipulate and track. While some combination of all the following attributes may be achieved, most businesses and data pro-

fessionals focus on a particular goal when they approach a data classification project. The most common goals include but are not limited to the following:

- Confidentiality. A classification system that values confidentiality above other attributes will mostly focus on security measures, including user permissions and encryption.
- Integrity of data. A system that focuses on data integrity will require more storage, user permissions and proper channels of access.
- Availability of data. When security and integrity do not need to be perfected, it is easiest to make data more easily accessible to users.

Importance of data classification

Data classification is a way to be sure that a company or organization is compliant with company, local or federal guidelines for data handling and a way to improve and maximize data security.

Examples of data classification

Several different category lists can be applied to the information in a system. These lists of qualifications are also known as data classification schemes. One way to classify sensitivity categories might include classes such as secret, confidential, business-use only and public. An organization might also use a system that classifies information as based on the type of qualities it drills down into. For example, types of information might be content info that goes into the files looking for certain characteristics. Context-based classification examines applications, users, geographic location, or creator info about the application. User classification is based on what an end user chooses to create, edit, and review.

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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## IN MEMORY

# Agnes Fontaine

**10/10/1917 –  
03/01/2023**

Agnes M. Fontaine, who was born October 10th, 1917 in San Jose, went home to be with the Lord on March 1, 2023 at the age of 105.

Agnes was preceded in death by her loving husband of 72 years, George F. Fontaine Sr, who passed in 2009. Agnes is survived by her three children: George Fontaine Jr of Sonora, CA, Maureen A. Bell (Ron Bell) of Fallbrook, CA, and Janis Fontaine Christie of San Jose, CA.

Agnes was blessed to have the love of six grandchildren: Jeff Fontaine (Doreen) of San Jose, CA, Craig Fontaine of Draper, Utah, Brian Fontaine of Redding, CA, Dave Bell (Beth) of Laguna Niguel, CA, Keri Christie of San Jose, and Shannon Christie of Santa Clara.

Agnes is also survived by 10 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Agnes was dearly loved and will be missed by cousins, numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great nephews, neighbors and friends who knew her as loving, strong in mind and body, and deeply devoted to her family.

Visitation service will be held on Thursday, March 30th at Oak Hill Funeral Home at 1 p.m.-8 p.m. A private burial for immediate family members will be held on Friday, March 31.



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Times **Feature****Opera San José unveils line-up for 2023–24 season**

*40th anniversary season includes premiere, new productions, role debuts, and virtual production*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Opera San José General Director Shawna Lucey has unveiled plans for the company's gala 40th anniversary season, which will celebrate the organization's illustrious past, innovative present, and exciting future.

The 2023-24 season (September 9 – May 5) will feature four mainstage productions at the majestic California Theatre in downtown San José.

"We are proud to announce two brand-new productions and the revival of two beloved classics," Lucey said. "These operas will represent the very best of OSJ, featuring artist debuts that introduce Bay Area audiences to the stars of tomorrow, as well as an important Bay Area Premiere of Daniel Catán's masterpiece, *Florencia en el Amazonas*."

Lucey also announced plans to maintain Opera San José's international digital presence, utilizing its state-of-the-art Heiman Digital Media studio to produce works offered to audiences around the world, including a digital workshop of a new opera.

The season launches with Lucey directing an all-new production of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, with a diverse cast of rising young artists making their role debuts (Sept. 9 – 24, 2023), followed by a family-friendly romp with Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (Nov. 11 – 26, 2023)



Opera San Jose presents a family-friendly production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," Nov. 11 – 26, 2023 at the California Theatre. Seen here: OSJ's 2011 production of "The Barber of Seville." Photo by Bob Shomler

that will feature opera star Dale Travis.

The 40th Season continues with a thrilling revival of Verdi's *Rigoletto* (Feb. 17 – Mar. 3, 2024), followed by the Bay Area Premiere of the stunning magical-realism opera *Florencia en los Amazonas* by Mexican composer Daniel Catán (April 20 – May 5, 2024).

Opera San José also announces a planned digital workshop of the new opera *Zheng*, composed by Shinji Eshima with a libretto by Tony Asaro, based on the life of San Francisco mezzo-soprano Zheng Cao (Fall 2023, dates to be announced.)

For more information or to purchase subscriptions (\$150–\$585) the public can visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org) or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm). Subscriptions, including an all-new FLEX four-pack, are on sale now; single tickets will go on sale on July 1, 2023.

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## Times Cover story

### Panetta

*Continued from page 1*

can help communities, including The Villages Golf and Country Club, Yerba Buena, Silver Creek, Lake Cunningham Park, Almaden Valley, Coyote Valley, Monterey, all the way down to San Luis Obispo and more, are now being newly represented by Panetta.

#### Panetta visits with the Sikhs

On Sunday, March 5, Panetta took the time to visit with the leadership group of the American Sikhs at the San Jose Gurdwara, have tea, and make many key statements which resonated well with those in attendance.

"It's our job and it's my goal to make government work for the people," Panetta said. "We will try our best to be that bridge from federal government back here to our 19th district. I try to be a very 'local' Congress member and I show up!"

Bob Dhillon, President of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara stated, "Jimmy Panetta reached out to us which was very appreciated. We value the way he is very accessible and willing to help on any issues regarding the federal government."

#### Positive track record

Those attending the Panetta talk came away with the impression that the congressman has an in-depth understanding on how the Federal Government can help communities. At the American Sikhs meeting he stated in a down to earth way that his role was to stay in the framework of what the Federal Government can do to help the local

area.

His website states, "Having grown up on the central coast of California, Representative Panetta understands the importance of giving back to the community and country that gave his Italian immigrant grandparents, his family, and him so much opportunity. He was instilled with a sense of public service and its importance to our communities and democracy and his work is reflective of the values of the people who entrusted him to be their voice in our nation's capital."

#### Active duty in Afghanistan

In 2007, Congressman Panetta volunteered for active duty and was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. The experience has strengthened his zeal for communications.

During his time in Congress, Representative Panetta has fought for affordable housing, immigration reform, the continued protection of coastlines, accessible health care, agriculture industry including farmers and farmworkers, the reduction of gun violence, a fairer tax code, major infrastructure investment, sustainable conservation practices, military installations and security, and benefits to our veterans.

Through policy implementation in Congress and service to constituents, Panetta remains committed to being that bridge for the people of California's 19th Congressional District to the federal government and its resources. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he secured \$1.4 billion in relief for communities

*Continued, next page*



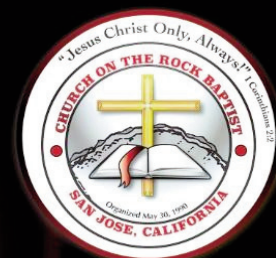
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Times **Cover story**

**Continued from previous page**  
and families in California's 19th Congressional District and ensured relief was available for schools, local small businesses, as well as farmers and farmworkers. Panetta has passed into law legislation to promote clean energy, protect California's forests and pollinators, support frontline health care workers, tackle hunger among military families, and provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.

**Panetta statement regarding redistricting**

"It's an honor to be the U.S. Representative for the Evergreen neighborhood as well as the many other neighborhoods of south San Jose that now lie in California's 19th Congressional District due to the recent redistricting," Panetta said. "As the Congressman for this part of San Jose, I have been showing up in many of its communities, meeting with my constituents, listening, and learning how best to serve them at the federal level. My recent roundtable meeting with the Sikh community was my fourth visit to the Gurdwara. That morning, I was at a meeting with some of San Jose's state assembly members, county supervisors, and city council members. The day before, I held office hours at Evergreen Valley Community College for three and a half hours. During that time, I met with nearly 30 constituents for one-on-one meetings and heard their concerns, which I will put into action to figure out how the federal government can best serve them. I then visited Lake Cunningham with Evergreen Councilman Domingo Candelas to discuss the opportunities for federal funding to improve that invaluable asset in our community. I also have visited the Evergreen Islamic Center on several occasions, conducted a ride-along with the San Jose Police, and held townhalls in the Evergreen neighborhood."

Panetta continued: "As a U.S. Representative for the past six years and now as the U.S. Representative for the 19th Congressional District, I've found that I can best serve my constituents by providing personal service through case work at the local level, providing federal funding for local projects, and fighting for legislation that bolsters our values and benefits the future of our communities. The only way to provide that type of service from the federal government is by ensuring that I can talk directly to the people in my district. Those conversations also give me the opportunity to explain our 19th Congressional District that stretches from south San Jose, to up over the hills into Santa Cruz County, down the Monterey County coastline, all the way to northern San Luis Obispo



On Sunday, March 5, Panetta took the time to visit with the leadership group of the American Sikhs at the San Jose Gurdwara,

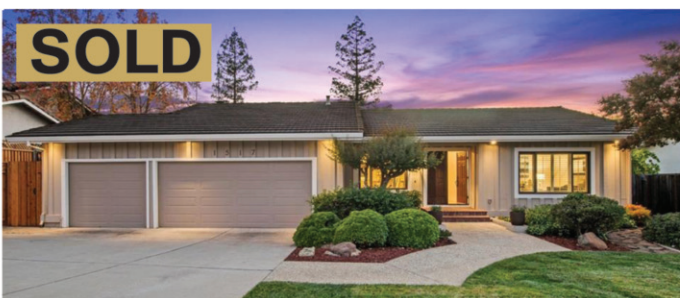
County. We live in a very large, diverse, and dynamic congressional district. That also means that I have a lot of driving to do up and down Highways 101 and 1. However, when I'm not working in our nation's capital, I am committed to being in the neighborhoods and communities of our district as much as possible. By showing up and listening, I believe I can best serve the people of our 19th Congressional District as their U.S. Representative."

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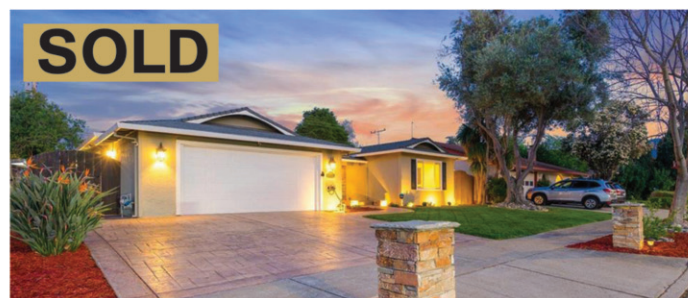
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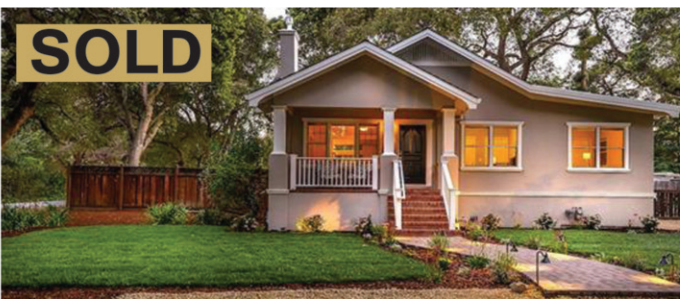
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3



**Get Etched!**

**THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES ARE CURRENT SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ETCH AND PROTECT PARTNERS. IF  
YOU ARE AN AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS OWNER WHO WISHES TO PARTNER WITH THE SAN JOSE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT ETCH AND PROTECT PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT CAPTAIN TRAYER: [3301@SANJOSECA.GOV](mailto:3301@SANJOSECA.GOV)**

**CAPITOL HONDA**  
745 CAPITOL EXPY,  
SAN JOSE  
408-445-4422

**STEVENS CREEK TOYOTA**  
4202 STEVENS CREEK BLVD.  
SAN JOSE  
408-984-1234

**SPEEDEE/MIDAS**  
1825 E. CAPITOL EXPY,  
SAN JOSE  
408-531-0701

Disclaimer: Etching the catalytic converter does not guarantee it will not be stolen, nor is it guarantee of recovery...but it could help!





**THERESE SWAN**  
408.656.8240  
tswan@tswan.com  
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com  
DRE 01355719



# 1135

# MOCKINGBIRD HILL LANE



**Offered at \$3,150,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | Bonus Room | 3675 Sq Ft | 19,000 Sq Ft Lot**

Almaden Valley Home with foothill views. Hardwood flooring, new fixtures, and hardware. Kitchen is laid out to maximize efficiency with center Island, plenty of storage, and a KitchenAid wall unit with microwave and convection oven. Butler's pantry, Two storage attics, fully wired for telephone, cable and security, gig speed internet. Two independent HVAC systems controlled through Wi-Fi thermostats. Multiple outdoor living areas, a motorized retractable awning to control sunlight and rain protection, over fifty roses and plenty of lush landscaping. Oversized 3-car garage. Graystone Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High Schools.



All information presented here is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but may not be verified. All measurements and square footage are approximate. If your property is currently listed for sale with another realtor, this is not a solicitation.

