

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley hosts Youth of the Year event **SEE PAGE 4**



Coming together
County YMCA partnership for affordable after school child care
— **SEE PAGE 10**

Nextdoor organization builds bridges: People helping people
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Almaden Times

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San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** gives his last State of the City address in front of a live crowd. *Photo by Jana Kadah.*

Ex-San Jose Mayor tells congressman he's likely running in the next election

By **Jana Kadah**
San José Spotlight

One San Jose congresswoman may be fending off a challenge from former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo in the next election.

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, up for reelection in 2024, said she received a call from Liccardo last week, letting her know he is considering running for her or Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's seat.

Lofgren represents the downtown and East San Jose areas, south past Morgan Hill and Salinas to King City. Eshoo represents parts of South San Jose and Willow Glen, as well as Los Gatos, Campbell, Santa Cruz and up the peninsula past San Mateo to Pacifica.

The call came after San José Spotlight reported on a poll gaging how Liccardo would fare if he ran for Congress. Lofgren said Liccardo also told her he paid for the poll.

"(Liccardo) said he was assessing his options. He wants to be in Congress... And I told him it's a free country. He can run if he wants," Lofgren told San José Spotlight. "But I plan to run and I don't usually run to lose."

Lofgren said she wasn't surprised Liccardo called her. He called her two years ago to ask if and when she was going to retire—expressing a desire for the seat.

See LICCARDO, page 21

Mayor Matt Mahan shares his city budget priorities

By **Lorraine Gabbert**
Senior Staff Writer

For Mayor Matt Mahan, focus is key. From his earliest days serving on San Jose's City Council, he urged the city to concentrate on delivering core services with transparent, measurable results.

Mahan stayed true to his vision in his proposed 2023-24 city budget, emphasizing community safety, homelessness, clean neighborhoods, jobs and housing.

"We can deliver great results if we focus on fewer things," he said. "We have to prioritize."

At the March 13 Almaden Valley Community Association meeting, Mahan said the community has expressed frustration with the city not carrying out its basic responsibilities.

"People are worried about crime and slow response times," he said. "They're worried about homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness and encampments. And they're really concerned about blight...from encampments to illegal dumping to graffiti to weeds that aren't abated. The basics. This feeling that we are failing at



Mayor **Matt Mahan** shared his 2023-24 budget priorities at the Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

the basics."

Following a review of the Mayor's March Budget Message by the City Council on March 21, the city manager will create a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. After further discussion and modification, the 2023-24 budget will come before the City Council for final approval in June. If passed, the new budget will go into effect July 1.

Ensuring Safety

Mahan said there has been a precipitous decline in the number of applicants to the police academy as the climate around policing has changed and the cost of living has increased.

"We are struggling to attract the applicant pool

that we want," he said, adding San Jose went from having 10,000 applicants per year to 1,000.

To reduce response time for calls, he wants the city to recruit 30 police officers per year for the next five years, doubling the current plan. To attract officers, he is requesting funding for marketing and a paid cadet program. He'd like 911 calls regarding mental health, homeless and youth issues to be diverted to specialists and investments made in crime solving technology like additional automatic license plate readers.

Ending Homelessness

Currently, about 5,000 people are living outside
See CITY BUDGET, page 21

Almaden Boys 8th Grade NJB Basketball All-Stars win tournament to cap a hot run

The Almaden Boys 8th Grade NJB Basketball All-Star team capped off an amazing run, winning the Hardwood Palace tournament in Rocklin. The kids from the 95120 ZIP code shocked the Sacramento Soldiers 47-40, an AAU program that regularly produces some of the top high school talent in the state. LA Lakers superstar LeBron James, once played for a Soldiers program in Oakland.

The group of 11 boys had 7 wins and won 3 different tournaments against some of the top competition in Northern California. The team is made up of kids from Bret Harte Middle School and Holy Spirit School. What makes their success so surprising is that this group of kids have only been playing together for six weeks.

NJB President James Montgomery said he never expected this type of



run when the team was formed. "This is a great achievement for Almaden Youth Basketball. With only two to three weeks of preparation, Almaden

Elite was able to beat any long-standing AAU programs to take first place in several tournaments."

With many of the boys attending

different high schools, this could be the last time the boys play together. Assistant Head Coach Zack Green is dreaming of being able to coach them again.

"If the stars align and the calendars work, Coach Jason Castillo and I would love to get a chance with this group one more time before they head their different ways," Green said. "If not, they will always have the memories of what they accomplished"



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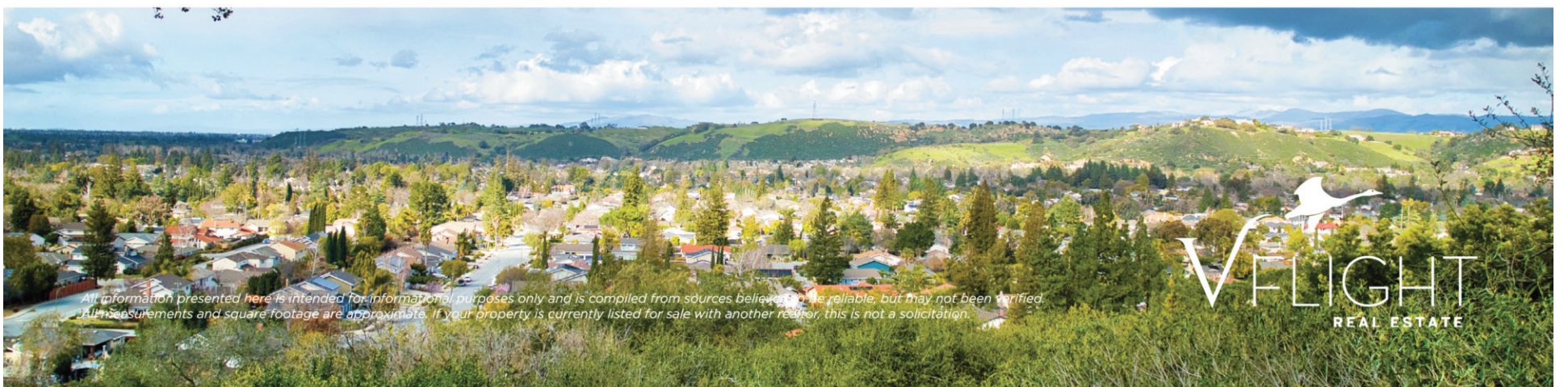
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All information presented here is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but may not be verified. All measurements and square footage are approximate. If your property is currently listed for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



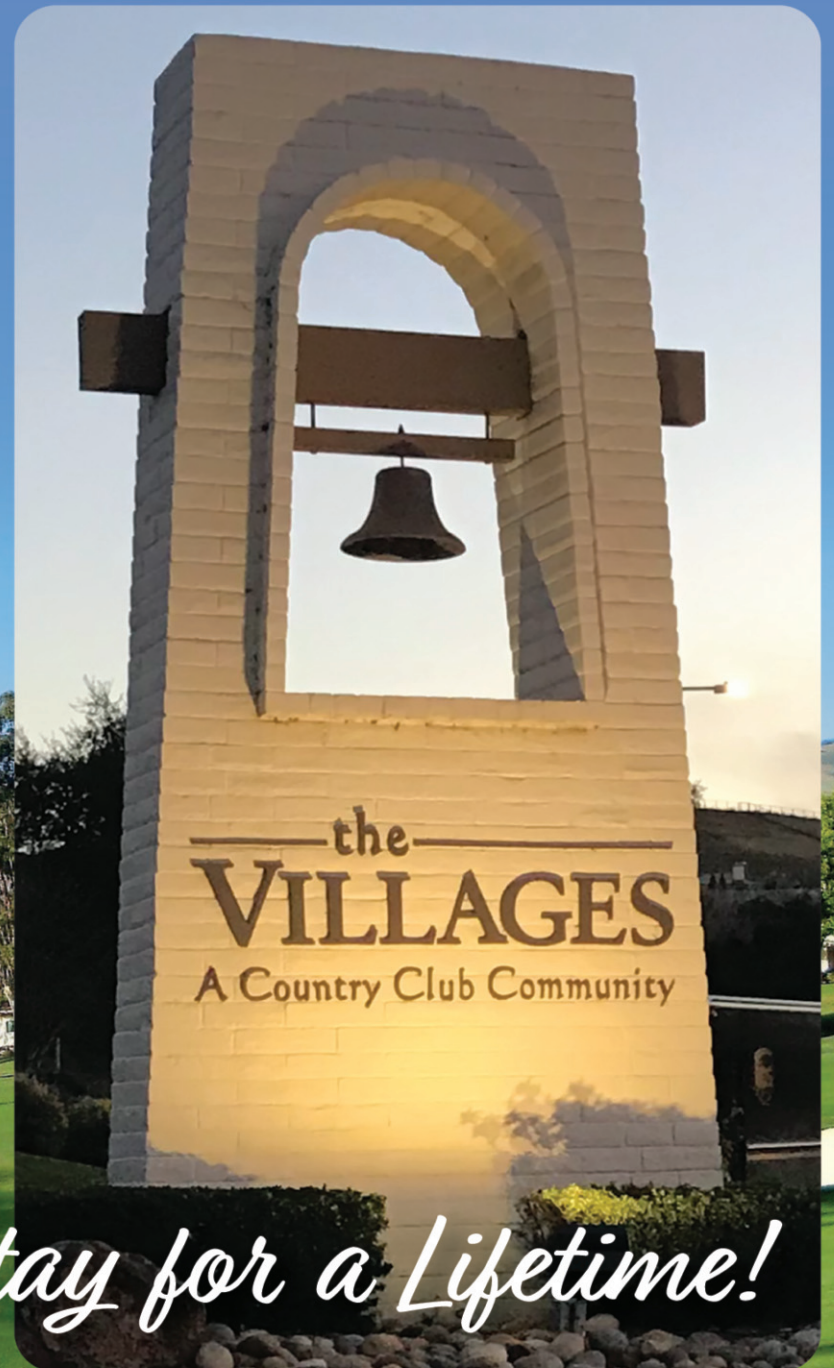
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FOCUS



Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley hosts NorCal Intra-State Youth of the Year event

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley, in collaboration with digital workflow company ServiceNow, hosted outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Clubs for the Northern California Intra-State Youth of the Year (YOY) competition - the next step towards the coveted National Youth of the Year title.

For more than a century, Boys & Girls Clubs have played a vital role in helping transform the lives of millions of young people across this country through positive interactions with caring adults and potentially life-enhancing programs.

The Youth of the Year program has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, offering these promising Club members an opportunity to hone their leadership skills, make valuable connections, and to gain access to more than \$1 million in scholarship funds.

"We really appreciate ServiceNow for hosting this important event. Youth of the Year is an amazing opportunity to celebrate some extraordinary young people," said BGCSV Chief Development Officer Machel Locsin. "We are thrilled to send one such member to

compete in the state, regional, and perhaps even the national (YOY) competition."

The event was held this past Thursday at ServiceNow headquarters. "We're happy to host the BGCSV for the annual Youth of the Year event," said Angelina Herrera, vice president, global diversity, equity, and inclusion at ServiceNow.

"ServiceNow is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion both within our own organization and within the broader community to contribute to a world that is more caring, fair, and just. Programs like Boys & Girls Clubs align to this mission, and we're thrilled to be able to provide a safe space where people can learn, connect, and grow."

Almaden Valley students honored on Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University

Four students from Almaden Valley have been named to the Fall 2022 Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University.

Students from Almaden Valley making the honor list are: Louise Herrington School of Nursing, Fiona Kong, Hankamer School of Business; Lakshmi Ramesh, College of Arts & Sciences, Kenzie Tesik, College of Arts & Sciences; and Izzy Valine, Louise Herrington School of Nursing.

Students honored on the Dean's List earned a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.70 with no grade lower than a "C" while enrolled in at least 12 graded semester hours.

As a preeminent Christian Research 1 university, Baylor's mission is to educate students for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community. Students are drawn to the University from all 50 states and more than 100 countries for the Baylor experience that combines Christian mission and academic excellence with a midsize university that maximizes opportunities and competes in Power 5 athletics.

Valley Currents

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



Sukhdev is shown on left far end of table with donations.

Nextdoor builds bridges

People helping people

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

There is a good feeling one can get by reaching out to help others whom are unknown to them.

The ability to freely connect is magnified by the advent of this social media application called *Nextdoor*.

It's easy, free to join and allows you to help members of your local community easily.

Example of care

One day a kind lady reached out on social media in our area to ask for a room to stay in. She was tired of the raindrops slapping down on the roof of her vehicle. This was posted.

"In need of a room to rent. I work full time and am desperately looking for a place. Living in van isn't suitable for us right now. If anyone has a room to rent, please reach out. I am a recovering person who found a new way of life through church. Please help me find a place to call home."

She was so honest and open in her post that she even posted her face.

Many began to ask for someone on *Nextdoor* to help offer her a room for she had the new job to pay for it and it was just too much for her to continue living in a movable metal machine. Just too much. One person posted, *"First off, may God bless you and your wonderful family. This is so touching you posting to get a room. maybe someone can offer you a room, I pray for that for you, you took time to come onto Nextdoor and please continue to post and ask for room, we will try to help you."*

Another person stated, *"You have brothers and sisters out here in Nextdoor-Land who care deeply for your plight and situation and will be there for you in prayer, maybe too, some kind Nextdoor reader will message you with help. Always know people love you and care for you and your family."*

Nextdoor assists others

One of many discussion groups is called "Depressed

but Hopeful" and these words posted by someone in the group resonate well in how the *Nextdoor* application has special connecting power to the people.

"Hello to all, this space is meant to give others like myself who struggles from depression an opportunity to move forward towards peace of mind from this life-altering, motivating, non-judgmental, and open-minded space to freely let emotions out from the mind, heart, and soul freely letting go of negative thoughts that can be overwhelming that keep our emotions from seeing the brighter side of life. To all that are experiencing difficulties overcoming depression, let's help each other get better. So please feel free to let go here, you're safe, and together we can get better!"

Good things begin to blossom

Then one day she announced to all: *"FOUND A PLACE TO CALL HOME..... Thanks everyone for your support!!! She is my saving grace!!!"*

This act of kindness from a person to let her move into the house and pay for a room was so wonderful and all brought about by *Nextdoor*. Some bad mouth the internet but while it has negative issues, it can also offer an oasis of hope and act in profound ways to help others.

Comforter, heater and pillow

A man from the Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose reached out with these new items and they were delivered. The response from the lovely lady was, *"Thank You, I appreciate everything that your group does. The heater will give me justice in the cold weather. I speak from my heart in saying the Sikhs are great people, very nice and non-judgmental. Thank you, Sukhdev."*

She went on to say, *"With faith and perseverance, those who are struggling can conquer anything. I do believe in a higher power."*

Message from Sukhdev Baniwal

"Helping those in need is one of the basic principles of Sikhism. American Sikhs have been contributing to the society by providing free hot meals, blankets, and other essential to those in need, whether it be serving our unhoused population or helping victims of natural disasters. I am glad we could help by providing small things for our neighbor in Evergreen. Let's all show compassion for those in need and give generously to make a difference in our city of San Jose."

Nextdoor geometrically increases giving

Speaking silently in typed letters, messages made on a keyboard electronically move through the internet from one tower to another and land quietly in the hands of those who clicked their mouse. One may not know their neighbors who live just next-door, but the *Nextdoor* electronically messaged neighbors within this application freely speak to anyone in the community on topics that fly all over the place due to ease of keying into dialogue and simple effective messaging platforms.

See NEXTDOOR, page 7

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12 sessions: \$180

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12 sessions 3x week: \$220

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1 session: \$40
8 sessions (2x/week): \$300
12 sessions (2x/week): \$420

Strength Training for Runners

1 session: \$40 - Drop in
8 sessions (2x/week): \$300
12 sessions (2x/week): \$420



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Times OpEd

Nextdoor

Continued from page 4

The call out to ask for help to urgently get a room and come out of the cold was met by a kind person on Nextdoor. Then something else happened, others began to message and giving was magnified.

'Although everyone can't always help with everything someone can always help with something'

Another ND neighbor, decided to drop off two bags of groceries freshly bought to help further. This neighbor not only bought the groceries for the person in need but also for her pet. She believes pets are an important part of family and a source of unconditional love and support, so addressing the needs of a pet companion are equally important when helping a person in need. When asked for a message to be delivered, while this Good Samaritan lady was giving the two big bags. She said, "I am not wealthy but I have a heart that feels for others! Although everyone can't always help with everything, someone can always help with something! It's the little act of kindness that makes the difference and brings brightness in the life of others. All living beings have the same light in them and there is inner oneness behind all the outward diversity." This Good Samaritan further said, "Please tell her she is loved! She is very important."

Perhaps the most wonderful thing that this free internet app. achieved is to deliver hope and kindness by creating beautiful and touching smiles for the ones in need and those that give. Each day, Nextdoor creates such warm feelings in one's heart.

Situations of kindness pop up all the time

Another lady who recently had surgery and was waiting for her disability check to arrive was stuck because social services was delaying it from, "kicking in." She posted up on Nextdoor for help. That day, over 40 neighbors reached out in kind ways to let her know of local nonprofits that help and also immediately offered her a bridge of assistance. So many posted to her that one person wrote, "Is there anything else you need? So many angels around you have come out to help, God almighty has his strong arms around you."

Our society is experiencing greater challenges

Difficult human situations are growing around us and Nextdoor builds bridges and bestows hope with very special communication connections. When this recent post below appeared, almost immediately, non-profit phone numbers were posted so that this family could reach out for new avenues of help. The posts contained special knowledge with love and by joining the people in a community with interactive internet word conversations, one just knew this situation too would get the help it needs through the use of Nextdoor.

"It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I ask you for your support. I have four kids and I'm currently homeless. We have been sleeping at various shelters in the community and I am steady looking for work every opportunity I have. All my belongings are packed into my pickup truck and it's extremely difficult to afford gas/transit money to and from the shelter and picking up and dropping off my kids to school every day. My registration and insurance are due as of yesterday and to be completely honest, I have \$7.62 in my pocket right now. I'm having to make the difficult decision whether I can afford to take the kids to school every day. They are honor roll students and they don't deserve to have every part of their life turned



upside down right now. Becoming homeless has taken a big toll on them including myself. I feel terrible asking for help like this, and I'm sorry if my post upsets you but for my kids I have to at least try for them. Can you please help us?"

Nextdoor discusses mission statement

Their website states, "Neighbors around the world turn to Nextdoor daily to receive trusted information, give and get help, get things done, and build real-world connections with those nearby — neighbors, businesses, and public services.

We believe connecting with others is a uni-

versal human need. That truth, and the reality that neighborhoods are among the most important communities in our lives, have been guiding principles for Nextdoor since the beginning.

Nextdoor by the numbers

11 countries

305,000 neighborhoods globally

1 in 3 U.S. households

60 million business recommendations from neighbors

Connecting the neighborhood

Nextdoor recognizes that thriving communities are made up of the neighbors and organizations that build stronger, more vibrant, and resilient neighborhoods.

Neighbors — Connect with the people you already wave to in your neighborhood, or those you have yet to meet.

Businesses — Instantly reach your most valuable customers — your neighbors — and become a trusted part of the neighborhood.

Nonprofits — Engage with the people who need you most and find support from donors

nearby with features like *Sell for Good*.

Public agencies — Share critical, real-time information directly at the neighborhood level.

Large brands — Provide locally relevant products and services that improve neighbors' daily lives.

How Nextdoor is different

Trust — Nextdoor ensures you're connected to real people in neighborhoods that matter to you.

Local perspective — Whether you need to find a local professional or a lost dog, your neighbors can help — and you can reach out to them instantly.

Proximity — You're automatically connected to everyone nearby so you can build real-world connections.

global neighborhood

Neighbors in the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, and Canada are using Nextdoor to meet, gather, exchange, and share.

Editor's Note: To join go to nextdoor.com.

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Times **Community News**

CAREER CORNER

Interview misconceptions

By **Angela Copeland**



One of the biggest misconceptions that we have about job interviews is that they're fair. Going through an interview feels a little like taking a test at school. And, we're taught to believe that enough preparation could help you to overcome any obstacles.

Being great at answering questions will help you put any objections to rest. I wish this were completely true, but there's more to the story.

Job interviews are like anything else in life. Sometimes they're fair. But often, you can't see the entire picture. Unfortunately, when you believe you're taking part in a fair process, you may put forth all of your energy in order to ace one interview. When the interview doesn't work out, we take it personally. We believe there must have been something we could have done differently. We assume it was our fault that we didn't get the job.

Sure, it's possible to mess up a job interview. It's possible to completely be rejected with the wrong attitude. But, you can also do everything right and not land the job. On the other extreme, you can land a job for virtually no real reason. I once

knew someone who landed a technical computer job because they were a great golfer. It's hard to compete when you didn't know golf was a requirement.

So, where does that leave you? Does it mean that you should just give up? No, it doesn't. But, it does mean that you have to try to separate yourself emotionally from the process. It's hard to do. I struggle with this myself. But so very often, there are things going on outside of your control that have nothing to do with you or your talent – and they often have little to do with your interview performance.

So, first, separate yourself emotionally as much as you can. Realize that job searching is a numbers game and consider changing your approach. Rather than applying online, look for creative ways to contact the hiring manager. When you land a job interview, you should do your best to prepare. You should know your elevator pitch, why you believe you are a fit for the role, and basic information about the company. If the interviewer likes you, this should be enough preparation to get you past the first screening.

For the sake of your mental health (and being able to sustain multiple first round interviews), you should avoid pouring your entire being into preparing for a first round interview. I know that this is somewhat counterintuitive. But, the more time you spend focused on one interview, the more devastated you will be if you don't get the job. And let's face it, you often have to get a number of rejections before you'll get to a yes.

Realize that the process is broken; not your resume. Keep pushing ahead. After all, winning at job search is in fact a numbers game.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at www.angelacopeland.com.



San Jose Postmaster **Aron Jones** addresses the crowd at the podium stating that there are hundreds of Postal Service positions open in San Jose.

New hiring ribbon cutting ceremony held at Willow Glen Post Office

There is an immediate need; great opportunities

The Postal Service celebrated the opening of its new hiring center at the Willow Glen Post Office with a ribbon cutting ceremony March 16.

"There has never been a better time to join the Postal Service with career opportunities for advancement, training, and federal benefits," said Postmaster Aron Jones. "There are nearly a thousand positions available across the Bay Area with hundreds of opportunities available directly in San Jose."

San Jose Letter Carrier Robert Esquivel knows first-hand how impactful a postal career can be for not just himself, his family. "I chose a career with the post office for several reasons; the benefits for myself and my family, the financial stability of determining how much I chose to make based on workload options, and the ability to grow with the post office and become a leader," said Esquivel.

San Jose Letter Carrier and on-the-job trainer Nahima Henriquez echoes that sentiment. "Working for the post office has given me not only financial freedom but also the ability to feel more independent. I started my career with the US Postal Service because it guaranteed me stability and job security something I really needed at the time."

"We're committed to serving the San Jose community and that starts with hiring individuals ready to provide an essential service in their own neighborhoods," Jones said. "Our hiring center brings the convenience to you to start your postal journey. If you're ready to not just start a job but a purposeful career the Postal Service is for you."

The new hiring center serves as a one-stop shop for applicants to take the first step towards their postal career, and they can submit their applications in real time Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome and there is no appointment necessary. Postal employees will be available to assist applicants through the process.

There is an immediate need for the following positions to be filled:

- Mail Processing: Clerks and Mail Handlers
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Applicants can submit their applications online at www.usps.com/careers Applicants must be 18 years of age, or 16 years of age with a high school diploma or GED. All applicants must be able to pass drug screening and a criminal background investigation. Some positions require an exam. Any position that has a driving requirement will also require a valid driver license and clean DMV 2-year driving history. Citizenship or permanent resident status of five years is also required.

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County YMCA partnership for affordable after school child care

By County Supervisor
Joe Simitian

When I authored Transitional Kindergarten (TK) legislation as a California State Senator more than a decade ago, I envisioned a new grade level for our schools that would help “young fives” develop the academic and social skills needed to transition to a full day of school.

Since then, TK has fulfilled its promise, growing into a vital “in between” grade for four-year-olds who do not turn five in time for the state’s age cut-off to start regular kindergarten.

Because school is usually half-days for our youngest students, pairing TK with supportive after school care—and making it accessible to all—is key. I’m gratified that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors agreed, unanimously supporting my proposal to partner with the YMCA of Silicon Valley to help our most vulnerable kids and families succeed.

This school year, the County and the YMCA are helping more than 30 families with kids under the age of five access after school care in the West Valley and North County communities of my district, District Five.

With County funding, the YMCA offered nearly six times more scholarships to the Y After School Program than last year to families needing financial assistance. This newly available County scholarship funding is particularly timely with so many working parents still struggling financially post-pandemic.

The opportunity to coordinate TK and YMCA after school programming meant my efforts have come full circle—at a crucial time. The legislation I authored—Senate Bill 1381, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010—was expanded by the Governor and the Legislature in 2021 to ensure all four year olds have the opportunity to enroll in TK.

This expansion of TK statewide means a



County Report

Joe Simitian
County Supervisor

growing number of kids under age five are eligible for TK this school year. That means working parents/caregivers have had to scramble to find safe, stable, and developmentally appropriate after school care for their children so they can focus on employment and housing stability.

The YMCA after school programs do exactly that, providing targeted childcare services that have a deep and deliberate integration with partner schools.

Running from the end of the TK school day until 6PM, five days a week for 180 school days each year, the Y After School Program is available for kids under the age of five at schools in the West Valley—in Almaden Valley, Cupertino, and Saratoga. Because the program is provided onsite at our schools, the YMCA has been able to reduce the challenges of cost, proximity, and transportation for many families.

Recently I had the opportunity to drop in on a Y After School Program in my district, where some of the youngsters were attending with support from the County’s scholarship funding. It made my day to see this quality program in action: kids engaged, laughing, and learning beyond the classroom; a public-private partnership that’s truly a win-win for kids and families.

Editor’s Note: Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. Stay up to date on news and events happening in District Five by signing up for Supervisor Simitian’s newsletter: district5.sccgov.org/newsletter



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Times **Community News**

Measure T projects are underway

By Arjun Batra

District 10 Councilmember

At the March 14th City Council Meeting, the Department of Public Works delivered a status report on the progress of Measure T Projects.

Passed by voters in November of 2018, the Measure T “Disaster Preparedness, Public Safety, and Infrastructure Bond” invests in various projects that will upgrade public safety facilities.

During the meeting, I successfully preserved Measure T funds and advocated that the funds be used for Public Safety projects such as a new fire station and police training & academy.

Projects that have already been completed include Fire Station 37 in the Willow Glen area, the purchase of land in Coyote Valley for flood control and to protect our drinking water, and pavement

projects covering 294 miles of streets.

In 2023, the city plans to pave 236 more miles of streets. (To check on the status of paving in your area, visit: <https://gis.sanjoseca.gov/maps/paveprojects>)

To review the complete Measure T Status Report delivered by Public Works at the City Council Meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/2023MeasureT>.

Another important project is the development of the 2023 – 2024 city budget.

You may have already heard a budget proposal presented by Mayor Matt Mahan. In the coming weeks, I will gather input from District 10 residents to provide recommendations for a balanced budget to serve your priorities.

I invite you to join me by Zoom on March 29th for a District 10 Budget Listening Session where I will provide an overview of the budget process and you will have an opportunity to express your feedback on what you would like to see prioritized in the coming fiscal year's budget.



District 10 Report
Arjun Batra
Councilmember,
District 10

Visit <https://bit.ly/D10March29> to register for the meeting.

Have a question for District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra? Email: district10@sanjoseca.gov, call 408-535-4910, or submit a report using the San José 311 platform.

Photo Op

ALMADEN DUMPSTER DAY AT COMANCHE PARK

Despite inclement weather, volunteers joined District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra for Almaden Dumpster Day at Comanche Park. San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and volunteers came together last month to make the district safer and cleaner. If you are interested in volunteering at future “Dumpster Days,” email district10@sanjoseca.gov.



Almaden Valley students Chock, Gibbons and Woovin named to Dean's List at Tufts University

Tufts University recently announced that three students from Almaden Valley have been named to the Dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester.

Among students earning Dean's List honors are: Sam Chock, Class of 2025; Noah Gibbons-Shapiro, Class of 2024;

Woovin Shin, Class of 2023.

Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions.

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Times **Community News**



IRISH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT CITY HALL – San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan and fellow Councilmembers held an Irish Dublin flag-raising ceremony March 8 to welcome the Lord Mayor of Dublin Carolyn Conroy and Dublin City Council delegation. Dublin has a long standing 37-year Sister City relationship with the City of San José and city lawmakers said they were honored to host the delegation.

Legislative audit committee approves state audit on San Jose homelessness spending

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved a bipartisan audit request last week by State Senator Dave Cortese that will examine public funding spent on homelessness in the City of San Jose.

Request made to evaluate approach to spending

Cortese’s audit request asked the California State Auditor to evaluate the City’s approach to homelessness spending and its efficacy in helping move unhoused people into shelter, housing, and supportive services. In addition to the City of San Jose, the State Auditor will select a second city to undergo a comparable evaluation.

Senator Cortese has requested the audit be published by September 2023 — in time to implement any recommended changes through legislation or through the state budget.

Transparency

“Adding transparency will help both local and state jurisdictions work together to figure out

how to best spend state homelessness funding,” Cortese said. “This audit is not to single out any city — it is to single out the fact that human suffering on our streets has persisted far too long. Let’s shine a light on homelessness spending, adopt best practices, and get more people off the street and into a better life.”

Bipartisan audit requested

The bipartisan audit request is authored by Senator Cortese and co-authored by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), Assemblymember Evan Low (D-San Jose), Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom).

While the 2021 state budget included \$12 billion over two years to address homelessness, the population of people living on the streets of San Jose continues to rise. In fact, San Jose has the highest number of unhoused youth in the nation, according to a recent report. Within the City of San Jose, the 2022 Point-In-Time Report on Homelessness counted 6,650 unhoused individuals.

Senator Cortese first called for the audit last year following a tour of the Columbus Park encampment in San Jose, which has been one of the largest homeless encampments in California. The audit request was encouraged by homeless advocates and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez.



MONTHLY ALMADEN SENIOR ASSOCIATION MEETING: The Almaden Senior Association (ASA) meets monthly at the Almaden Community Center on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5th, at 9:45 a.m. To learn more about ASA, visit almadenseniors.org.

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Times Feature



Notre Dame High School celebrates women's leadership

Notre Dame Class of 2026 honors 185 inspirational women in annual project

The freshman class of Notre Dame High School, Silicon Valley's oldest and most diverse Catholic school for girls, presented their Woman's Place Projects honoring 185 women across time, culture and industry in a special art exhibit March 20-22.

Notre Dame's Woman's Place Project was

inspired by the work of artist Judy Chicago and her iconic 1970s feminist project, The Dinner Party – a massive ceremonial banquet with each place-setting commemorating an important woman in history.

Twenty-eight years ago, the project was adapted for Notre Dame's freshman religious studies class. Over the years, the project has evolved into what it is today – an interdisciplinary study of the strength and contributions of women from centuries past to the modern day.

Each member of the freshman class designs a place-setting to honor a role model who has, in many cases, overcome obstacles and shattered preconceptions to become a woman of impact. As a result of this exploration, students often find the seeds of ideas that will guide them on their own journeys to becoming women of impact.



OP-ED 3 ways local leaders can navigate economic uncertainty to avoid another bank debacle

How business leaders can create a culture of accountability, transparency and growth in an ever-changing business landscape to build organizations that are resilient, adaptive and sustainable amid adversity

By Joe Hart

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) has highlighted the importance of leadership, relationships, and resilience in the startup world.

As CEOs and entrepreneurs seek to navigate our complex ecosystem, environment rife with uncertainty, leaders must communicate swiftly, with clarity, and confidence.

Local leaders must take command of their vision, their key relationships and their risk management, respectively. Here's his advice on how to do so:

This means developing a clear and compelling vision for your organization, and aligning your strategies, resources, and operations

to achieve that vision.

In the case of SVB, the bank's leadership failed to recognize the risks inherent in its lending practices and investments, and as a result, the institution crumbled under the weight of bad debt and poor management.

CEOs can learn from this by taking a proactive approach to risk management and by cultivating a culture of accountability and responsibility within their organizations. This means aligning their business strategies and operations with a clear and compelling vision that reflects their purpose, values, and aspirations.

Take Command of Your Relationships

The second principle of Take Command is to Take Command of Your Relationships. This means recognizing the importance of collaboration, communication, and trust in achieving success. In the case of SVB, the bank's collapse was not just the result of poor internal management but also of external pressures from the wider financial ecosystem. CEOs can learn from this by cultivating strong relationships with partners, investors, customers, and other stakeholders, and by maintaining open lines of communication and transparency. This means building a strong network of allies and advo-

cates who can provide support and guidance in times of need, and who can help to mitigate risks and amplify opportunities.

Take Command of Your Risk Management

The third principle of Take Command is to Take Command of Your Risk Management. This means developing strategies to identify and mitigate potential threats and vulnerabilities, as well as cultivating a culture of accountability and responsibility within the organization. In the case of SVB, the bank's leadership failed to adequately manage risk, which left the institution vulnerable to shocks and disruptions. CEOs can learn from this by taking a proactive approach to risk management, and by developing policies and procedures that promote transparency and

accountability. This means conducting regular assessments of potential threats and vulnerabilities, empowering employees to speak up about concerns, and maintaining a strong sense of purpose and vision that can guide decision-making even in difficult times.

Putting the Principles into Practice

To put these principles into practice, CEOs can start by developing a clear and compelling vision for their organization, and aligning their strategies, resources, and operations to achieve that vision. They can also invest in building

strong relationships with partners, investors, and other stakeholders, and by fostering a culture of open communication and transparency. Finally, they can take a proactive approach to risk management by conducting regular assessments of potential threats and vulnerabilities, developing strategies to mitigate risk, and ensuring that employees are held accountable for their actions.

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank serves as a reminder of the importance of leadership, relationships and risk management, in the startup world and beyond. By taking command of their entrepreneurial vision, relationships and risk management, CEOs and entrepreneurs can build organizations that are resilient, adaptive, and sustainable, even in the face of adversity. By embracing these principles, business leaders can create a culture of accountability, transparency, and growth that can help them succeed in an ever-changing business landscape.

About the author

Joe Hart, CEO of Dale Carnegie Training—the oldest (110 years) and largest training company in the world with operations in over 75 countries. He just released a new book "Take Command: Find Your Inner Strength, Build Enduring Relationships, and Live the Life You Want," co-authored by Michael Crom—grandson of the famed Dale Carnegie. It's a modern take on many of the principles from the time-tested bestseller "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



OpEd
Joe Hart
CEO, Dale Carnegie Training

Times Feature

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 road-

way 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 traf-

fic-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
See MONTEREY ROAD, page 17

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Times **Feature**

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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

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll
one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net 408-778-3567



San Jose's Neighborhoods Commission has been in limbo for months. Councilmembers want to find a way to get it back on track. Photo by Jana Kadah.

San Jose wants to revive Neighborhoods Commission

By **Jana Kadah**
San José Spotlight

A San Jose citizen commission, which represents a critical voice for neighborhoods, hasn't convened for more than six months due to a lack of members. One city councilmember has an idea how to revive it.

The San Jose Neighborhoods Commission has been in limbo because the 20-member body has only four sitting members. It lacks a quorum and hasn't been able to conduct business since last June, preventing residents and neighborhood groups from bringing their concerns to the City Council. A subcommittee of councilmembers voted last week to temporarily suspend and reshape the commission in an effort to save it from sunset.

Councilmember Bien Doan said the inability to meet quorum is artificially created and can be remedied. His solution is to cut the commission's membership in half. Doan suggests having one commissioner from each district instead of two, and one at-large commissioner. He said this would make it easier to fill seats and would require less time and resources from staff to train and aid commissioners.

"My goal is to reactivate the commission," Doan told San José Spotlight. "This is the only commission that addresses multiple issues (and does so from) the neighborhood lens. We must allow the neighborhood voice to be heard."

Unlike other city commissions that are filled by the council, the neighborhoods commissioners are elected by delegates from neighborhood groups through in-person caucuses in each of the 10 city districts. Without a quorum, the commission can't meet to appoint additional members.

City staff said the vacancy rate is due to a lack of civic engagement, as well as the convoluted process to appoint members. Several other city commissions also suffer from vacancies—but the neighborhood commission has the highest rate.

Jim Carter, neighborhood commissioner for District 6, said there are residents who are interested in filling the seats and the city has been slow to process their

applications. The commission also suffered after many of the sitting commissioners termed out in June, Carter said. Each commissioner is allowed to serve two four-year terms.

He said cutting the membership is not ideal, but he understands why it might be necessary.

"Some of us commissioners aren't necessarily opposed to that if it keeps the commission intact," Carter said. "But that would be like a last ditch effort because it also cuts the effectiveness in half."

He said commissioners attend several neighborhood, ad hoc committee and city meetings. It would be hard to put that all on one volunteer commissioner, he said, adding that cutting the commission reduces each district's voice.

"We bring up grassroots concerns from neighborhoods," Carter told San José Spotlight. "Instead of top down it is bottom up. We're going the other direction from what the council is looking at."

District 9 resident Brad Loos has been waiting several months for his application to be reviewed, he said. Loos served a partial term, filling in for a commissioner who left in November 2021. When his term ended in June, he reapplied and has been waiting since.

"There's always been a lot of interest in serving on the neighborhood commission," Loos told San José Spotlight. "There are a lot of us who are still very motivated and fired up. We're itching to get in there and get some work done. It's difficult to just be put on ice like this."

He said as long as the commission is suspended, the council is missing hearing from those in the neighborhood trenches.

"There's always room for improvement, but we have done a lot of good stuff," Loos said. "One of the more gratifying projects I took part in was the expansion of the mobile crisis response team from a pilot program, to a full on program. We provided critical insight on that topic."

The future of the commission will come back to the city council on April 11 for additional direction. The final decision will be made in September.



Want to submit a news item for the Almaden Times?

Publication day: April 12, 2023
 Deadline: April 9, 2023

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Almaden Times

Times **Feature**

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.sanjose-gurdwara.org or contact Kirpal Atwal at (408) 835-7712. Stay connected and download the San Jose Gurdwara App.

Monterey Road

Continued from page 15

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."



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Times **Feature**

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Season of the Salix

By Matthew Frazier
Qualified Stormwater Manager

For those who have been gracious enough to read my entries in *The Almaden Times* and *The Evergreen Times*, I thank you with full measure.

With the rains and the winds which are assaulting Santa Clara Valley as of recent, there is a flurry of activity in gardens and yards to preserve and protect our botanicals.

For the shrubs and trees, these elements of rain and wind are a gift in disguise. In particular, Weeping Willows. Known by their Latin name of *Salix Babylonica* ... This is a true treasure for any vast garden or landscape!

With the ability and capacity to pull up large volumes of water, Salix will counter the massive torrents of rain and wind with which we are being assaulted and battered this late winter and early spring season. Not just this valley is being affected but especially this valley. Throughout Santa Clara Valley, one can find heritage oaks but also a fair number of weeping willows which add a dimension of aesthetics to the environs and scapes of our terrain.

From June 2006 to July 2008 I worked for Almaden Valley Nursery, amongst master gardeners. As a salesperson, I advised customers about which trees fare well in the gardens and landscapes of this and the neighboring valleys of Santa Clara County. Among these, were weeping willow. With wisping foliage and bold branches, they can absorb the turbulent winds of winter and drink the

rains which the skies yield!

A vision of fantasy and majesty, the mighty willows of Willow Glen are no exception. Nestled deep within San Jose, Willow Glen is home to many alluring and beautiful trees. Among them are the weeping willows. Even the local cemeteries bear this wonderful tree. With a stout body and powerful presence, I recommend this wonderful addition to any garden and landscape impacted by excessive rains and high winds. They will protect your homes while giving the illusion of a wind-swept aerial ballet of myth to one and all who lay eyes upon them.

Our local garden centers and nurseries don't usually carry the weeping willows but this can change with the right amount or asking. With the flooding which has impacted San Jose and Santa Clara County twice now since February 2017, there is no better time than the present to welcome this majestic tree to your gardens and landscapes. It is only a matter of time until the rains and winds pick up again once more and lay claim to our properties. With the beauty and the protection of the mighty willows, we can mitigate such an attack.

Willow glen is home to many beautiful garden and landscapes for such a small region. What better way to usher in a rainy spring than with the addition of these beautiful willows. The time is now ... the season of the Salix.

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



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READ ACROSS AMERICA

Read Across America events are held at the Almaden Public Library. Read Across America is an annual national celebration of literacy and learning. Librarian Jo-Ann Wang and District 10 City Councilmember Arjun Batra had a great time reading "Lola at the Library" to a group of children recently. For more information about events and programs happening throughout the San José Public Library System, visit www.sjpl.org

Times Arts



New Executive Artistic and General Director **Robert Massey** took the helm of Symphony San Jose last June.

Symphony San Jose unveils first season under new director

New series to feature never-before performed works by the symphony; tickets available now for best seats

Symphony San Jose announces its 2023/2024 season, the first curated by new Executive Artistic and General Director Robert Massey, who took the helm of the organization last June. The season will include an array of offerings to include classical masterworks, new discoveries, popular programs, and movies performed with live orchestral accompaniment. The Symphony's flagship seven-concert Classics at the California Series will exclusively be comprised of works never-before performed by the Symphony.

"As I looked through our programs over the last 21 years, I started jotting down some iconic pieces we have yet to perform," said Massey. "As the list grew, I thought what better way to signal the start of a brand new chapter in the Symphony's history than to create an entire season filled with pieces being performed for the first time on our stage."

Masterworks of the classical canon

Symphonic masterpieces making their Symphony San Jose Classics Series premieres include Aaron Copland's Rodeo, Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, Richard Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra, Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, Paul Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice, and Richard Wagner's Prelude und Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde.

Symphonic music as a living art form

Just as one would never expect to walk into a museum and not see any works by living artists, one shouldn't expect the same at the concert hall. Of the 22 composers represented on the Classics at the California Series, eight of them are living, including Lera Auerbach, Michael-Thomas Foumai, Caroline Shaw, John Adams, Adam Schoenberg, Danny Elfman, and Arturo Márquez.

New faces on the podium

Symphony San Jose is unique among American orchestras as it uses a roster of interna-

tionally renowned "guest" conductors in lieu of a permanent music director. Returning to the podium in the 2023/2024 season are Carlos Vieu, Tatsuya Shimono, and Sarah Hicks. Four conductors will make their Symphony San Jose debut this season: Lidiya Yankovskaya, Nathan Aspinall, Christopher Rountree, and Vinay Parameswaran.

Virtuosic solo artists

Featured soloists on the 2023/2024 Classics at the California Series include mandolinist Jeff Midkiff, performing his own concerto (From the Blue Ridge), cellist/halldorophone Yves Dhar, violinist Sandy Cameron, soprano Jenny Schuler, tenor Ben Gulley, and San Jose's own Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Jon Nakamatsu. Symphony concertmaster Robin Mayforth and principal flute Myungju Yeo, along with Bay area harpsichordist Jonathan Salzedo, will be featured in J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5.

Symphony San Jose Chorale

The Chorale, under the direction of Elena Sharkova, will be featured in two programs, December's Christmas at the California and May's Passionate Puccini.

Other concerts

In addition to the Classics at the California Series, Symphony San Jose will present two pops concerts to be enjoyed by audiences of all ages. The first is the holiday pops concert, Christmas at the California, with the full Symphony, chorale, dancers, Santa, and more surprises. The second is Cirque Musica, featuring the most dazzling cirque program in the world. The Symphony will present two movies, each by a legendary director/composer duo. Psycho, by Alfred Hitchcock and Bernard Herrmann, and E.T. – the Extra-Terrestrial, by Steven Spielberg and John Williams. The region's flagship music education program, ArtSPARK, will return for three days to serve more than 6,000 area elementary students.

2023/2024 CLASSICS AT THE CALIFORNIA SERIES

All performed at the California Theatre, 345 S First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

MYTHS, FAIRY TALES, & LEGENDS

September 30 & October 1, 2023
Lidiya Yankovskaya, conductor
Lera Auerbach: Icarus
Richard Wagner: Prelude und Liebstod from Tristan und Isolde
Sergei Prokofiev: Cinderella

See SYMPHONY, next page



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Times Arts

Symphony

Continued from previous page

BACHTOBERFEST!

October 21 & 22, 2023
Nathan Aspinall, conductor
Jonathan Salzedo, harpsichord; MyungJu Yeo, flute; & Robin Mayforth, violin
J.S. Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 3
J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
Michael-Thomas Foumai: Music from the Castle of Heaven
Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 5 (Reformation)

AMERICAN PORTRAITS

December 2 & 3, 2023
Christopher Rountree, conductor
Jeff Midkiff, mandolin
Charles Ives: Variations on "America"
William Grant Still: Darker America
Jeff Midkiff: Mandolin Concerto (From the Blue Ridge)
Caroline Shaw: Valencia
Aaron Copland : Rodeo

AUTOMATION

January 27 & 28, 2024
Vinay Parameswaran, conductor
Yves Dhar, cello & halldorophone
A.G.N.E.S., AI learning algorithm & hologram
John Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine
Paul Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Adam Schoenberg: Automation
Richard Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra

FROM SCREEN TO STAGE

March 23 & 24, 2024
Sarah Hicks, conductor

Sandy Cameron, violin
Erich Korngold: Overture to The Sea Hawk
Danny Elfman: Violin Concerto
Dmitri Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1

PASSIONATE PUCCINI

May 11 & 12, 2024
Carol Vieu, conductor
Jennifer Schuler, soprano; Ben Gulley, tenor; & Symphony San Jose Chorale
Giacomo Puccini: Selections from ... (1858-1924)
Manon Lescaut: La Fanciulla del West
La Bohème
Madame Butterfly
Turandot

REMEMBER THE TITANS

June 1 & 2, 2024
Tatsuyo Shimono, conductor
Jon Nakamatsu, piano
Arturo Márquez: Danzon No. 2
W.A. Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21 (Elvira Madigan)
Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 1 (Titan)

Additional Concerts

All except Christmas at the California and ArtSPARK to be performed at the Center for the Performing Arts, 255 S Almaden Blvd, San Jose, CA 95113.

PSYCHO (Film with Orchestra)

October 28, 2023

CHRISTMAS AT THE CALIFORNIA

December 9 & 10, 2023

E.T.-THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (Film with Orchestra) March 9 & 10, 2024

ArtSPARK

March 26, 27, & 28, 2024

CIRQUE MUSICA

April 20 & 21, 2024



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Times **Cover Stories**

City budget

Continued from page 1

in tents and vehicles in the city, Mahan said. “We’re going to have to have places for people to go,” he said, “...the big debate has been how to create those places. I do believe that we can significantly bring down the number of people living in unsheltered, unmanaged conditions outside with a different approach.”

It costs \$65,000 per person per year for someone living outside, Mahan said, due to the cost of emergency rooms, police and fire response, trash pickup and environmental effects.

To house the homeless, Mahan favors building cost-effective modular units and leasing privately-owned properties like warehouses for shelters. He said housing for the homeless costs over \$850,000 per unit to build while using government owned land like the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds would cost \$85,000 per unit.

“We know that by using basic, pre-built modular units placed on government owned land, we can create safe homes for a fraction of the current cost,” he said in a statement.

Mahan wants the city to invest in strategies preventing people on the brink from becoming homeless, as well as mental health in-patient treatment centers.

City budget

Of the 2022-23 \$6 billion city budget, about \$2.34 billion went to special funds (business enterprises like the airport), \$1.93 billion to capital funds (investments in infrastructure like the sewer system) and \$1.72 billion to the General Fund, he said.

Mahan said the City Council’s greatest debate is budgeting \$20-30 million of the General Fund.

“If you want to know what our values are, what your city government is doing, the budget is the key,” he said. “The budget determines what we staff, what programs and strategies we believe in, and where your public resources go to affecting the outcomes that we care about.”

After setting aside reserves (16.52%), the majority of the 2022-23 General Fund’s operating budget went to the police and fire departments (41.6%) followed by housing and homelessness (12.8%) and city administration (9.6%). The remainder went to parks and recreation (6.8%), public works (4.0%), transportation (2.6%), the library (2.5%) and planning and building (1.0%).

Mahan said although San Jose has an estimated \$30 million surplus this coming fiscal year, the end of federal stimulus funds from the American Rescue Plan and inflation on the horizon will lead to a future shortfall.

He said San Jose lacks jobs and this results in relatively low revenue per capita in property and sales tax coming back to the city.

“We’ve got a 20% vacancy rate in commercial property downtown and desperately need jobs,” he said.

To meet this, he aims to grow the city’s tax base and make downtown more vibrant with popups in empty storefronts. To make San Jose’s permitting process faster and more flexible, Mahan is committed to hiring additional staff for the planning, building and code enforcement department, which has a 25% vacancy rate. He would like to raise salaries to make the department more competitive and have the city hire a dedicated project manager for key permits like affordable housing, as well as a downtown manager and business recruitment manager.

“We are a big city with a small budget on a per capita basis,” he said. “Higher revenue, higher staffing, better services.”

Liccardo

Continued from page 1

The 75-year-old congresswoman said she will retire in the near future, but has no plans yet. She’d like to follow through on immigration reform and allocating research funding to the energy fusion plant in Livermore before leaving public office.

Liccardo previously told San José Spotlight he wouldn’t run for Congress unless there was an open seat, but his conversation with Lofgren, and the recent poll, suggest otherwise. He said he hasn’t made any decisions yet.

“I’m considering several options right now about how to best serve our community,” Liccardo told San José Spotlight.

Larry Gerston, San Jose State University political science professor emeritus, said Liccardo is a “class act” for calling Lofgren and admitting he paid for the poll. But the former mayor has a hard road ahead of him if he tries to challenge her. He said Liccardo will have to consider which district he’d have more support in and who he could out-fundraise—a difficult feat because Lofgren and Eshoo are both well connected. Lofgren already has at least \$1 million on hand and Eshoo has around \$500,000, according to campaign filings. Liccardo has not filed to run.

“It’s always more likely that incumbents are able to hold on to their seats,” Gerston said. “But (what) we should consider (is): is he really running for one of those seats or is he running to get his name out?”

Lofgren said she isn’t worried about a Liccardo run because she’s confident in her support base. Lofgren previously beat out Liccardo’s mentor, former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnergy, when they faced off in 1994. She said she was an underdog at that point, but now it’s a different race.

“Obviously, I’m not an underdog at this point. I have a record to run on. I’m proud of what I’ve done,” Lofgren said.

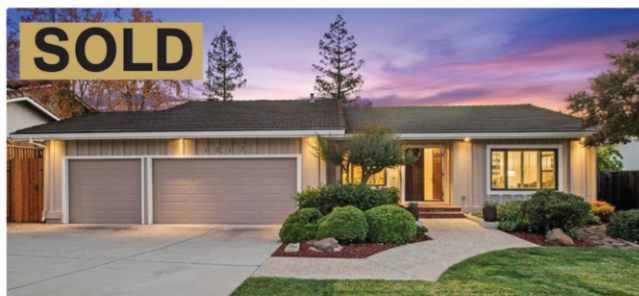
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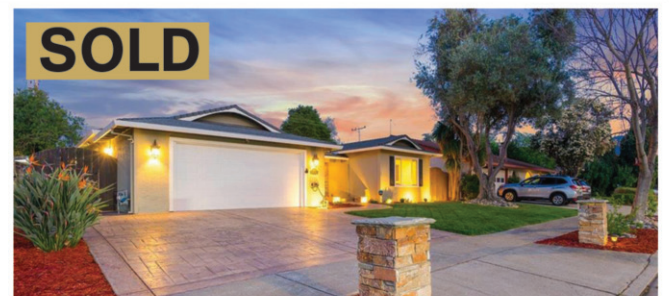
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Filoli Gardens is Tuesday, May 16, 2023 arriving by carpool or your own transportation by 11 a.m. The cost is \$31 per person including a short orientation, a Filoli book bag and guide book.

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Driving School



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Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;
Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182;
Email: info@advantagedriversed.com
Website: advantagedriversed.com

Clocks

GRANDFATHER Clock Repair



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M&L Watch & Clock Repair
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(408) 270-6080

Garden

13th Annual Heirloom Tomato Plant Sale
58 tomato varieties, bell peppers, hot peppers, zucchini, cucumbers & more



700 S. Monroe St. San Jose 95128
4/1, 4/2, 4/8, 4/9 while supplies last!
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Employment

Lead Database Administrator

Sify Technologies North America Corporation seeks Lead Database Administrator in Santa Clara, CA and Philadelphia, PA. Partner with architects of different engineering/application teams to engineer complex technical product in order to provide business solutions to various business divisions as a part of DBA Engineering project activities. Implement and administer Oracle streams for live reporting server, database consolidation, zero downtime migration. Travel to unanticipated client sites within the US. May need to relocate. Work from home is an option. **Send resume to: katta.reddy@sifycorp.com**

Notices

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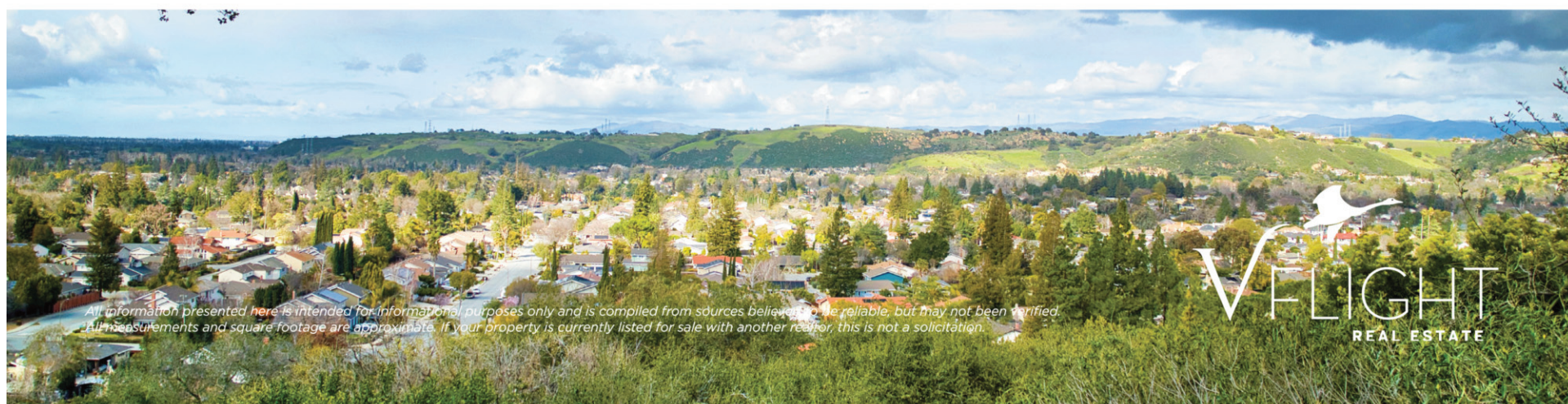
5 Bedrooms

3.5 Full Baths

4760 Sq Ft

.75 Acre Lot

This distinctive multi-level home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac with spectacular panoramic views including the Mt. Hamilton range. Five covered porches/balconies, recessed lights throughout, 96 oversized double pane Low E coated windows. Remodeled kitchen has white Quartz slab counters and soft-close European style cabinets. Enormous primary bedroom oasis with access to a balcony with fabulous views. Atrium and bonus room. Massive but private backyard utilizes the natural landscape, mature oak trees and boulders of the land around the home. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.



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.

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