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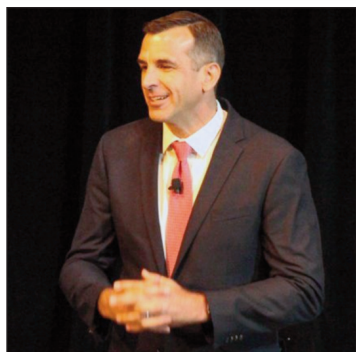
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APRIL 2023 ■ VOL. 19, NO. 4

# Willow Glen 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 LICCARDIO, page 6*

## Ribbon cutting ceremony held for new hiring center at Willow Glen Post Office

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 reason; 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 senti-



ment. "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
- Delivery: City and Rural Carriers
- Transportation: Tractor Trailer Operators
- Maintenance: Mechanics, Laborer Custodian and Automotive Technician

Applicants can submit their applications online at [www.usps.com/careers](http://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.



San Jose Postmaster **Aron Jones** is shown cutting the ribbon along with Human Resources Manager **Celestina Buckley**.

## Kevin Puorro of Willow Glen honored on the Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University

Arts and Science major **Kevin Puorro** of Willow Glen was recently honored on the Dean's Academic Honor List at Baylor University

Students honored on the Dean's List earned a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.70.

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## IN MEMORY

### Bettina "Tina" Patricia Gervase

March 16, 1932 - Feb. 24, 2023  
Resident of Willow Glen; member of the St. Christopher's choir

**B**ettina (Tina) Patricia Gervase, beloved wife, mother, sister, nonnie and friend, passed away peacefully at her home on February 24th.

She was born on March 16, 1932, in Chicago Heights, Illinois, to Ralph and Lydia Guidotti and was the middle child of three.

Tina grew up in a large Italian family, surrounded by her grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends. She attended Bosse High School in Evansville, Indiana and went on to attend Indiana University.

Upon leaving college, she pursued her lifelong dream of becoming a flight attendant and supervisor, working for United Airlines. After years of travel and adventure, she met the love of her life, Nick. The two married in 1963 and embarked on a new chapter as newlyweds by moving to California, settling in San Jose where they would raise their family.

In addition to being a mother to three children, Tina worked in the offices of Canoas Elementary School and continued to have an administrative career, working for John Hancock Insurance Company and Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Tina was a devout catholic and was a proud member of the St. Christopher's choir,



singing every Sunday at 11:00am mass for almost 50 years. In addition, one of her great joys was being a Eucharistic minister, bringing communion and leading prayer with her "little people" at Herman Sanitarium Nursing Home where she visited every week for many years.

She loved to travel, lunch with her friends, swim at the Timpany Center and crochet scrubbies for everyone she met. A faithful fan, Tina never missed a San Francisco Giants or 49ers game, always cheering for her home teams. She enjoyed watching Jeopardy, and the only treat she asked for on the weekends was a single 2-hour gin martini. She began each day with a crossword puzzle and made sure to always eat dinner by candlelight.

Her beautiful smile, positive attitude and infectious laughter lit up every room she entered. She lived for her family and was happiest when surrounded by her husband,

children and grandchildren. She was a gift to us all and she will forever be in our hearts.

Tina is survived by her husband of 60 years, Nick, her daughter Gabrielle (Mark), her son Nick, her daughter Francesca (Ray), grandchildren Alexandra, Marcus, Kyle, Sophia, Ray, Anthony, and Ava, her sister Lois and her many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A mass in her honor was held Friday, March 31st at St. Christopher's Catholic Church.

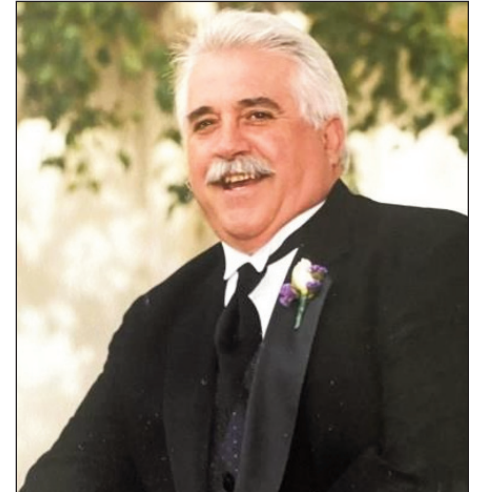
### Robert "Bob" A. Romeo

July 7, 1947 - March 16, 2023  
Resident of Willow Glen

**R**obert "Bob" A. Romeo a longtime resident of Willow Glen passed peacefully, on March 16th, 2023, after an extended illness.

Bob is survived by Lill, his wife of 30 years. Over those 30 years Bob and Lill shared many things including travel, watching the family grow and expand. Ultimately enjoying a rewarding life.

Bob grew up in San Jose along with his sister Pam Reinke (Joseph), and his brother Frank Romeo (pre-deceased). He graduated from Willow Glen High School in 1965. Bob is also survived by his children Kimberlee Teleco (John), Joseph 'Rob' Romeo (Aimee) and his grandchildren, Brittany, Brianna, Connor and Jacob and Niece and Nephew Joseph and Andrea Reinke. Bob was surrounded by his extended family including Michelle Dover (Nick) and Mike Tobar (Coolie), their chil-



dren Steven, Chelsie (Josh), Tyler (Damaris), Lola and a growing list of great grandchildren.

Bob was a proud and honored Air Force Veteran stationed stateside, England and Libya.

Bob lived his best life enjoying his favorite teams, the Giants and 49ers, Golf, and was very proud of Bowling 300 at Fiesta Lanes.

He made lots of friends delivering cool treats to his (B & R Ice Cream) customers and moved toward retirement bringing smiles and the best cuts as a butcher at Whole Foods.

Lill and the family offer a heartfelt thank you to the VA for their commitment to Bob's health as well as our newest friend Miss Ruby Martinez, his loving care giver for two years.

Private graveside services will be held at California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at time of internment.

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

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

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NOTEBOOK



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."

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 11

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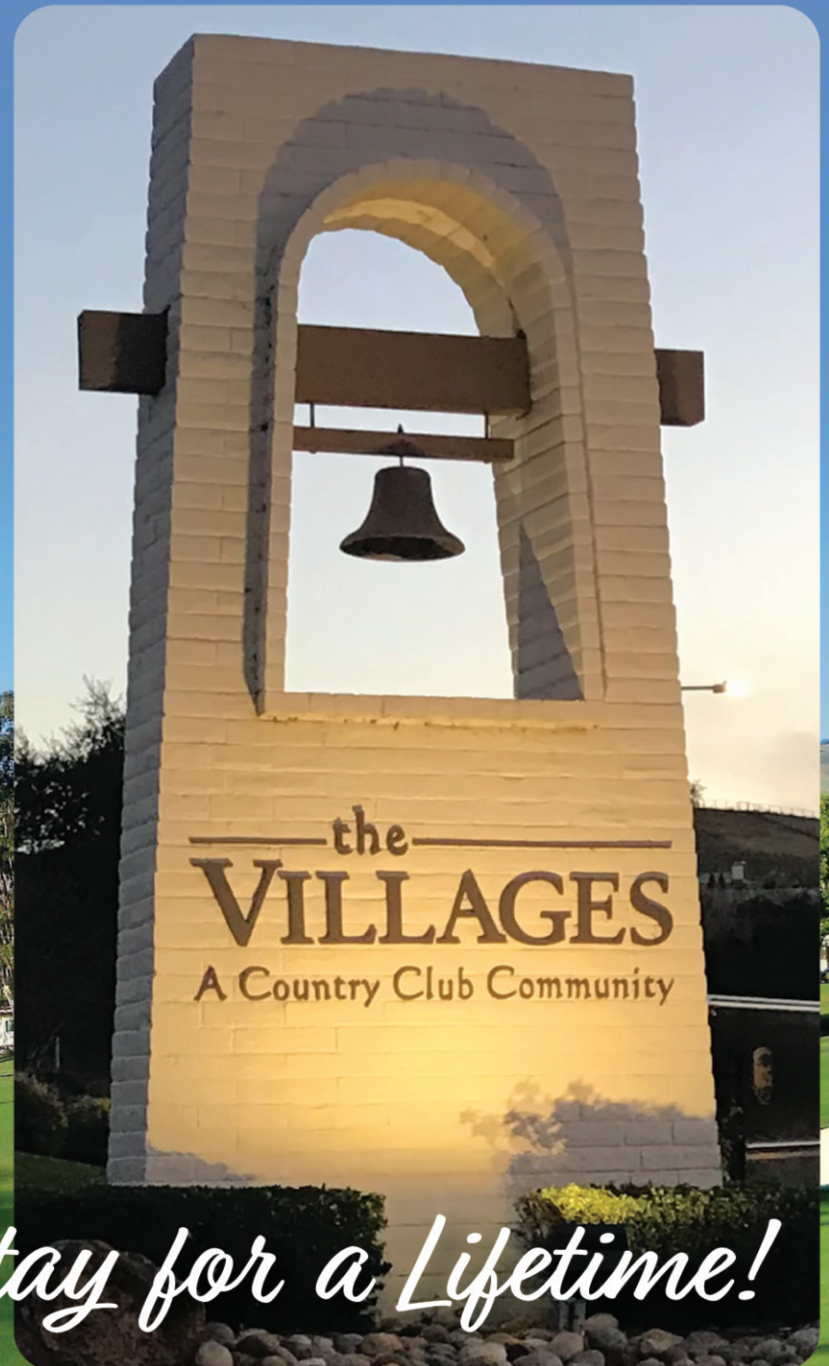
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## County YMCA partnership for affordable after school child care

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 postpandemic.

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](https://district5.sccgov.org/newsletter)*

## 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 McEnery, 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.



Times **Feature**



**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 law-makers 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

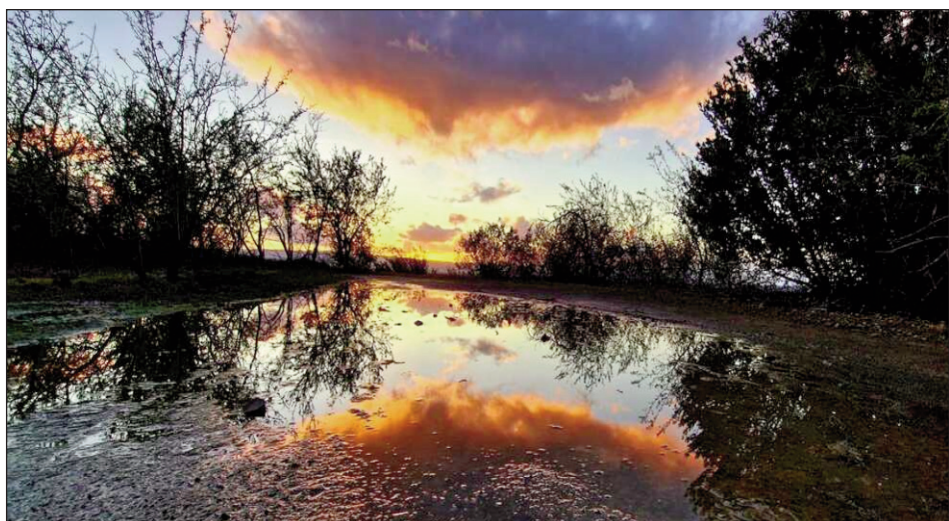
out how to best spend state homelessness funding," Cortese said. "This audit is not to single out any city — it is to single out the fact that human suffering on our streets has persisted far too long. Let's shine a light on homelessness spending, adopt best practices, and get more people off the street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



## Spring has sprung

San Jose 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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# Just keep swimming...in deadly conditions (Part 3)

## How Machine Learning with Remote Sensing can save coastal dead zones

By Apoorva Panidapu

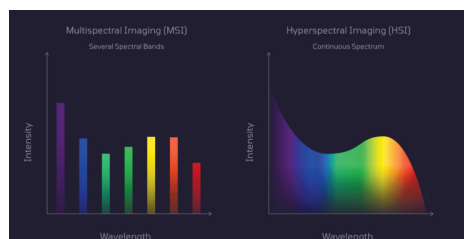
In the last two articles, we talked about how human activity is increasing eutrophication (aka an excess of nutrients), thereby causing the alarming expansion of dead zones (low-oxygen areas of water). This is killing our aquatic life and worsening climate change. But don't lose hope yet! Here comes the good part: we can do something about it.

Last column, we discussed how a machine learning approach with remote sensing can improve predictions about how natural systems behave, improve data analysis automation, and use these insights to better manage our resources to stop dead zones. With agricultural activity steadily increasing, it's time to go all in on what's called precision agriculture to find exactly where we need fertilizers the most and to achieve this ideal fertilization point using machine learning.

How do we do this? Simply put, remote sensing can detect the energy reflected from ground surfaces. The chemical composition of leaves, including their nitrogen levels, changes how much energy is reflected, but we need high sensitivity to monitor this minute change.

### Airborne Hyperspectral Sensors to Measure Crop Traits

Introducing: hyperspectral sensors! Operating on the nanoscale, hyperspectral sensors can detect differences as small as 3-5 nanometers across their entire range and offer hundreds of wavelengths across the full range of visible, near-infrared, and shortwave infrared with high spatial resolution (<1 m). For comparison, other airborne remote sensing technologies can only pick up the visible spectrum and potentially near-infrared, i.e., some small number of spectral bands.



Earlier this year, a research team from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign put powerful hyperspectral sensors on a plane and flew it over an Illinois corn field three times. These sensors let them scan fields incredibly quickly, taking only a few seconds per acre. Since the sensors obtain much higher spectral and spatial resolution compared to satellites, the team was able to detect the



**Gems in STEM**  
By Apoorva Panidapu



crops' nitrogen status efficiency with up to 85% accuracy, close to "ground-truth quality." So these airborne sensors are not only a powerfully precise tool for remote sensing, they also allow us to monitor larger areas quickly and at low cost, without sacrificing too much accuracy.

This study by UIUC was the first attempt ever to use full-range (400–2400 nanometers) optical airborne hyperspectral sensors to measure a bunch of important crop traits, like photosynthetic capacity and nitrogen content/concentration, at both leaf and canopy scales. This is science, baby!

For their research, the UIUC team ALSO developed the current best algorithm for detecting nitrogen reflectance data from the hyperspectral sensors, which they expect will be used in upcoming detection technologies.

Sheng Wang, assistant professor in the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center of UIUC, says,

"Our approach fills a gap between field measurements and satellites and provides a cost-effective and highly accurate approach to crop nitrogen management in sustainable precision agriculture."

Their end goal is to equip satellites with this technology of hyperspectral sensors, thereby allowing farmers to monitor their fields' nutrient status early on in the growing season to make better-informed decisions about how to use fertilizers sustainably and efficiently.

Okay, so we've talked a lot about crops, crops, and more crops. But we started out this article talking about dead zones, i.e., areas in water. Turns out we can tag team this problem by monitoring nutrients in both crops and coastal waters.



### Deep Learning for Spatiotemporal Assessments of Nutrients in Coastal Waters

Two important limiting nutrients in coastal waters are dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP). High DIP and DIN can trigger eutrophication and all its gruesome effects that we talked about before, leading to water quality deterioration. To make sure this doesn't happen, we need to monitor DIN and DIP in coastal waters, just like we monitored the nitrogen levels in crops.

Unfortunately, most field survey techniques for monitoring these nutrients in water are expensive and time-consuming. Not only that, current site-based monitoring techniques only really give us the regional water quality status. Considering how much water we would need to monitor constantly, both of these are probably not the Goldilocks monitoring method we want. :( The search continues!

What we do want is a big picture understanding of water quality in the context of both time and space, or what we call its spatiotemporal patterns, at a large scale, but we want to obtain this understanding at a low cost. If we

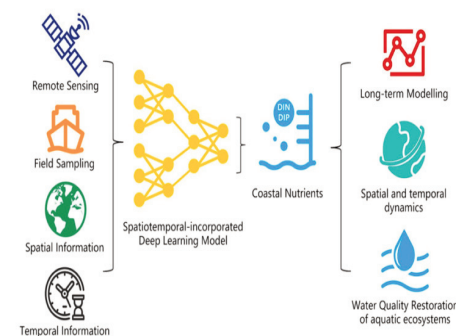
can do this, we can understand our coastal waters and how to effectively treat them.

Wait, why do we want spatiotemporal patterns? Seems like more trouble than it's worth, no? Well, we can intuitively see that water (especially off coasts) is a pretty complex environment. Say we're trying to model a wave and how each of its water droplets behave. We can imagine that this behavior changes depending on the specific location and coast, not to mention the changing seasons. If we only took into account one of these factors, we probably wouldn't get an accurate picture! Indeed, coastal waters usually have highly seasonal changes in short time intervals, and even more complex factors depending on its coast. So, it makes sense that the relationship between nutrients in water and remote sensing varies with space and time. That's why we care about spatiotemporal patterns—they enable us to make better predictions.

To find this big picture understanding, researchers Wu et al. (2022) from Zhejiang University and UIUC developed a spatiotemporal deep-learning model (ST-DBN) to estimate large-scale nutrients. Using remote sensing, they achieved very strong predictions, established relationships between measured environmental factors and satellite maps, and reduced estimation errors by over 40% compared to non-spatiotemporal models!

How?

For their study, these researchers used satellite



lite data to explore the spatiotemporal distributions of DIN and DIP over the region of Zhejiang Coastal Sea (ZCS) from 2010-2018. Using the spatiotemporal patterns of nutrients based on the annual, seasonal, monthly, and 8-day average distributions, they wanted to answer three main questions:

1. Can the long-term and large-scale DIN and DIP distribution be accurately estimated by a nonlinear ST-DBN?

2. How did the spatiotemporal distributions of DIN, DIP, and water quality in ZCS change in the period 2010-2018?

3. How can the government control nutrients and improve water quality in the future?

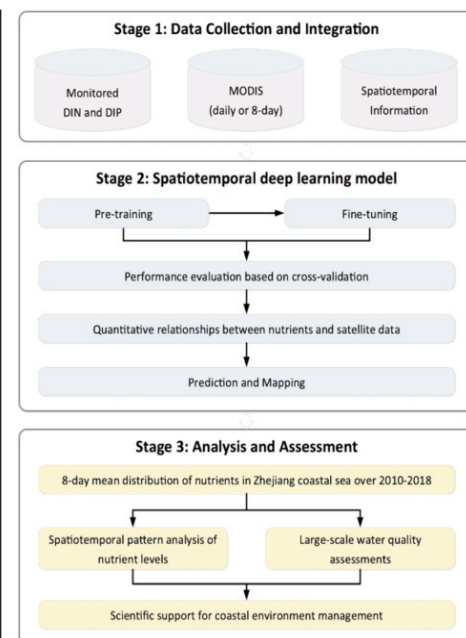
In their study, they found that

- It's a yes to Question #1! We can accurately estimate the long-term and large-scale DIN and DIP distribution with a spatiotemporal model.

- The water quality was better in spring and summer and poorer in fall and winter.

- The concentration of DIN and DIP decreased by 24% and 19% in the period 2010-2018, respectively. But, the water quality didn't significantly improve. Even though the DIN concentration was lower, it still greatly exceeded the worst quality level's critical value.

- DIN contributed 93.9% to the worst quality, while DIP only accounted for 37.8%. This goes to show that the eutrophication of DIP in the ZCS has gotten much better compared to that of DIN.



The researchers concluded that the Zhejiang Province government should monitor the runoff, velocity, and DIN concentration more frequently in their waters. They should especially try to control DIN more effectively, particularly in fall and winter when the water quality is worse.

This study proves that using spatiotemporal-incorporated deep learning models with remote sensing technology works to monitor nutrients and water quality in coastal areas! But, there's a reason we haven't hit the ground running yet—there's a few challenges left to conquer.

### Challenges in the Long-Term and Large-Scale

In order to scale and implement these machine learning models to all our coastal waters, we need data. Unfortunately, we can't do much if we don't have accessible and current data sets to train our model. In particular, we would need Analysis Ready Data (ARD) to be readily available, which requires a lot of time and computational power (not to mention smart people) to prepare. We also have technical mountains to climb in preprocessing, extracting, synthesizing, analyzing, storing, transferring, and basically just wrangling these large data sets more efficiently to end up with an accurate and well-developed training data set, which can get hard when we're talking about complex environments like coastal waters and multi-scale, multi-sensor and multi-platform, and multi-temporal earth observation. Phew, that's a lot of multi's.

As our climate changes, accurate projections are increasingly important. With machine learning and close to real-time data from satellites and ocean exploration from remote sensing, we can dive head-first into monitoring dead zones and fertilizer pollutant levels to predict and respond to eutrophication quickly. We can stop the expansion of dead zones, and protect our aquatic life and ecosystems from the doomsday fishbowl.

Before you go, I have one last question for you: Do you like spatiotemporal patterns? Because I love & appreciate you across space and time. <3

Until next time! If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [apoorvap-writes@gmail.com](mailto:apoorvap-writes@gmail.com).

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





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

**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.

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 unsprayed 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.



## Times Feature

## 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, nonprofit 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 universal 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 **Feature**

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 wondrous 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 of 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](mailto:kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com)*



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## Almaden Community Center

# Almaden Senior Association


We are excited to announce that we are offering some trips planned for the coming months.

Graton Casino Bus Trip is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 leaving the Almaden Community Center at 8 a.m. and returning about 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person which includes \$20 free play!

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.

1776 Play at the San Jose Center for Performing Arts Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 2 p.m. cost is \$85 per person. Transportation is on your own, carpool, or LightRail.

For more information or to make reservations, email Donna Smith at [dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsmith95118@sbcglobal.net) or call 408-266-4938.



independent • engaged • connected



Times **Community**

### 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 Catan (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.

It's Time for the 13th Annual

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Tomato Plant Sale!

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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.angela-copeland.com](http://www.angela-copeland.com).

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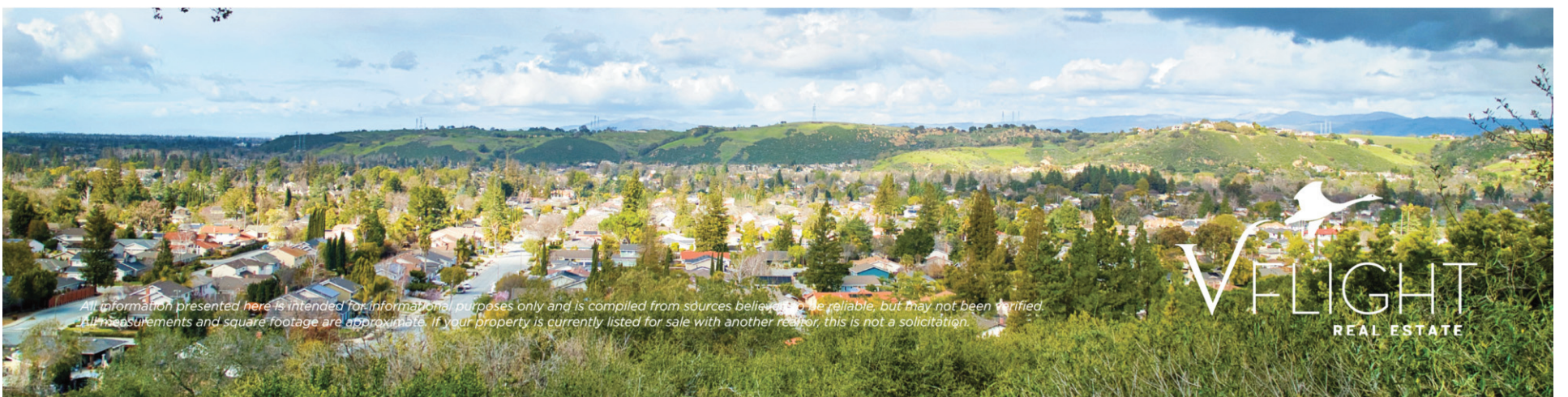
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FLIGHT  
REAL ESTATE

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