

NEXTDOOR
builds bridges:
People helping
people
SEE PAGE 4



Providing solutions
San Jose celebrates opening of
quick-build community which will
house homeless residents: **PAGE 13**

Longtime local
radio station
set to be
demolished
SEE PAGE 6



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EvergreenTimes

MAY 5 – MAY 18, 2023 ■ VOL. 40, NO. 10

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Yerba Buena Upper Pedestrian Bridge closed forever

Bridge built in 1946 suffers earthquake and storm damage

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

After 77 years, a walking bridge located in Evergreen Valley has been closed by the City of San Jose on January 6, 2023.

This bridge, named by the City of San Jose as the Yerba Buena Upper Pedestrian Bridge, is located across from the parking lot of Evergreen Valley College and is used primarily by the residents of the Estates housing tract.

In response to several emails, District 8 City Councilmember Domingo Candelas stated, "I have heard from numerous residents
See BRIDGE, page 19

TREAT MOM TO Something Sweet

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Evergreen high schoolers' endeavor to bridge the digital divide goes global

Facilitates the donation of 40 Chromebooks to Ukraine

By William Bellou
Publisher

Evergreen Valley students (pictured: **Gaurish Agrawal, Abhinav Bellapu, Zakaria Kortam, and Nishanth Tharakan**) have been working towards bridging the 'digital divide' - the unequal distribution of access to technology and the internet between members of society.

Since the invention of the household computer, there has been an inequality in technological access. Even in Silicon Valley, the epicenter of technological innovation, thousands of families have no devices or internet access.

The lack of technology results in

the reduction of opportunities and resources for future success.

ClosingTheDivide was established to tackle this very problem: combating the digital divide through providing low-income families with computing devices. Run by students, ClosingTheDivide, abbreviated to CTD, collects discarded devices, refurbishes them, and distributes them to the underprivileged.

Having started locally in San Jose, ClosingTheDivide has raised more than \$210,000, donated over 1200 working devices across 29 countries, worked with 50+ partners, and expanded to over 16 branches with 160 active volunteers.

See DIGITAL DIVIDE, page 20



Above: **Gaurish Agrawal** and **Abhinav Bellapu** are pictured in front of a storage facility, just before meeting volunteers from Nova Ukraine. The boxes each contain 15 brand new computers, along with power adapters.

Right: **Zakaria Kortam** and **Nishanth Tharakan** attend a meeting with representatives from Sewa International.



CA Announces \$46.6M Light Rail grant to connect Eastridge Center to Milpitas BART

By William Bellou
Publisher

\$46.6 million grant to extend VTA light rail service into East San Jose, creating a direct rail link between VTA's second-busiest bus transit center at Eastridge Center in Evergreen Valley was announced last week.

The extension, connecting the Milpitas BART Station and the rest of the VTA light rail system, is expected to be completed in 2029. The extension also includes an elevated light rail station at Story Road with a pedestrian overcrossing and a ground level station at the Eastridge Transit Center.

When the project is complete, VTA riders will be able to get on light rail at the Eastridge Transit Center and connect directly with BART at Milpitas Station.

The announcement came with the presentation of a giant check by California Transportation Secretary



VTA light rail trains in San Jose (Photo by Tarmo Hannula)

Toks Omishakin in East San Jose, flanked by San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Santa Clara County Supervisors Sylvia Arenas and Cindy Chavez, Sen. Dave Cortese and others.

After the event, Mahan tweeted: "I'm so excited for this project to break ground and to one day be able to get on board that light rail and go connect to BART and the larger regions!"

The award represents the final piece to bring rail into the Eastridge Transit center and is matched by "significant local funding", according to the announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom's office.

"The congested, transit-dependent neighborhoods of East San Jose are all classified as low-income communities and these residents will be able to travel on protected rail right-of-way through some of the Bay

Area's most congested corridors to the major regional job centers," said the state announcement.

"California is making a multiyear, multibillion-dollar investment to transform and modernize our transportation infrastructure, creating jobs, alternatives to driving, and reducing pollution," said Newsom in a statement. "Our state is placing a high priority on investing in public transportation projects that aim to shift away from fossil fuels while making public travel more rider friendly. Today's announcement not only provides better travel alternatives but also helps to speed up our transition to a cleaner, healthier transportation future for all Californians."

The larger, multiyear, multibillion-dollar investment to upgrade the state's transit system aims "to support equity, enhance mobility options, improve service and reduce overdependence on driving," the governor's office also said in the statement.

The grants are administered by the California State Transportation Agency.

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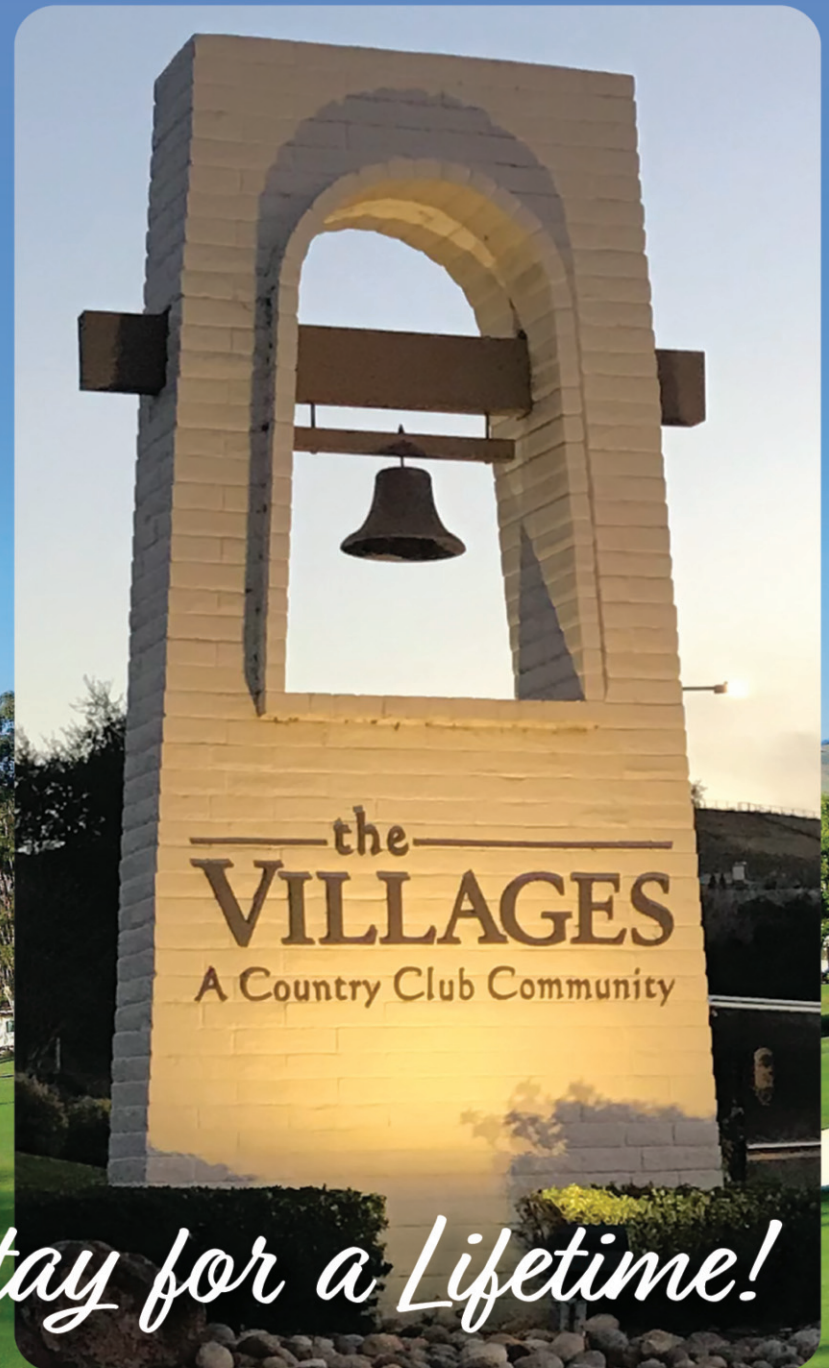
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NOTEBOOK



Nothing Bundt Cakes now available on Uber Eats and DoorDash

Sweet option makes sending joy to loved ones near and far a piece of cake

Giving the gift of joy is easier than ever now that Nothing Bundt Cakes is offering its Bundt Cakes for delivery through Uber Eats and DoorDash locally. More than 90 percent of Nothing Bundt Cakes bakeries nationwide now offer delivery through DoorDash and Uber Eats just in time for Mother's Day, one of the company's busiest holidays.

"Providing a third-party delivery option gives our guests a more convenient way to celebrate life's spe-

cial occasions and everyday moments," said Nothing Bundt Cakes Chief Operating Officer Julie Klinger. "Whether guests want to send a sweet treat to loved ones who live far away or simply indulge in a personal Bundtlet, third-party delivery provides a quick and convenient way to bring joy."

The brand's cakes are now offered through third-party delivery in all nine flavors plus the current Featured Flavor, Blueberry Bliss, available through May 21 at participating bakeries while supplies last.

Customers can place an order directly through the DoorDash or Uber Eats apps, or contact the two closest Nothing Bundt Cakes locations to Evergreen Valley:

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Silicon Valley's Central Bikeway could be a game changer

By Sonya Herrera
San José Spotlight

Santa Clara County residents could soon ride on the region's first bicycle superhighway. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority could approve the basic design of the Central Bikeway—a 10-mile stretch of protected bike lanes between San Jose and Santa Clara—as soon as next month. VTA's bicycle advisory committee voted unanimously Wednesday to recommend the transit agency's board approve the concept for the project. The VTA board will consider the Central Bikeway on May 4.

"This is a really precedent-setting project," VTA land-use planner Brent Pearse said during the meeting. "We're going to use this when we work with cities (and) we're going to use this when we work on future bike superhighways."

VTA initially had about a dozen routes to choose from, and eventually narrowed the choice down to three. More than 1,400 residents gave

See BIKEWAY, page 7

Valley Currents

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



NEXTDOOR recognizes that thriving communities are made up of the neighbors and organizations that build stronger, more vibrant, and resilient neighborhoods. Sukhdev is pictured at the far end of the table.

NEXTDOOR builds bridges: People helping people

By Kevin Larsen
Times Media Writer

There is a good feeling one can get by reaching out to help others who are unknown to them. The ability to freely connect is magnified by the advent of the social media application called NEXTDOOR.

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

Example of care

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

The post stated, "In need of a room to rent. I work full time and am desperately looking for a place. Living in a 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.com to help find a room for her, especially since she had just obtained a new job to pay for lodging. 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 a room, we will try to help you."

Another on the internet site wrote, "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 helps

A posted message in a discussion group called "Depressed But Hopeful" expressed these words by someone in the group which resonate. "Hello to all, this space is meant to give others like myself who struggle 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 TO (PERSON'S NAME) ... Thanks everyone for your support!!! She is my saving grace!!!"

This act of kindness from a person to let her move into her house and pay for a room was so wonderful and all brought about by NEXTDOOR. Some bad mouth the internet, and while it many times gets negative press, stories like this can 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 some 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,

See NEXTDOOR, page 21

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Times **Local News**

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hayley.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov

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DOMINGO CANDELAS

Evergreen • Southeast San José



Former KLIV and KRTY owner **Bob Kieve** during an airing on the radio. Photo courtesy of Lenoir Kieve.

Longtime local radio station set to be demolished

By Joseph Geha
San José Spotlight

A building that once housed legendary San Jose radio stations KLIV and KRTY is set to be demolished and replaced with a warehouse.

City planning officials greenlighted a proposal during a hearing on Wednesday from Scottsdale-based developer GO Industrial to demolish the 10,552 square-foot building at 750 Story Road in the city's Little Saigon district.

Plans call for construction of an industrial building, with 65,126 square feet of warehouse space and 5,867 square feet of office space on the roughly 3.6-acre site.

Robert Guarena, managing partner of GO Industrial, told San José Spotlight that real estate investment giant Clarion Partners, which is behind the current development plan, bought the property last year. New York-based Clarion is a private equity firm with more than \$80 billion in assets, according to its website, and one of the largest real estate management groups in North America.

Several residents spoke against the project at the hearing, and shared concerns the warehouse would become an Amazon operation and bring more traffic and safety risks to an already congested, dangerous road.

However, Preston Pruett, representing the developer, said the project doesn't have a tenant yet and it has no connection to Amazon.

Guarena told San José Spotlight the project is being designed to attract high-quality tech manufacturing and distribution tenants.

The area's land use designation and zoning allows for industrial and commercial properties, city staff said, and the project proposal complies with city building guidelines. The existing building's current tenants include a private COVID-19 testing facility.

City reports said there will not be a significant impact on traffic as a result of the new project, but noted that stretch of Story Road-Keyes Street is an area with a long history of congestion and crashes. The San Jose City Council unanimously voted on Tuesday to secure the final funding needed to make a range of safety improvements for bicyclists, pedestrians and drivers along a 2.3-mile stretch of the Story-Keyes corridor from Third Street to King Road. The area is one of 17 most dangerous corridors in San Jose, officials said.

In addition to traffic and safety concerns, one man named Orlando called in to say the building is a landmark because of its affiliation with local radio. He did not provide a last name. The building does not have landmark or historical status in the city.

The building was put up in the late 1980s to replace a 1940s-era building on the same spot. It served as a home for 1590 KLIV, an AM station that ran for more than seven decades in Silicon Valley beginning in the mid-1940s, and becoming a Top 40 music station in the early 1960s.

Empire Broadcasting, headed up by San Jose community stalwart Bob Kieve, purchased the property in 1967. After cycling through other music formats, the station eventually became a local news outlet from 1991 to 2016. It later transitioned to classic country music, before being shut down entirely in 2019 when Kieve sold the building.

Kieve, a huge supporter of San Jose and a proponent of civic engagement and the arts who previously served on the speech writing team for President Dwight Eisenhower, died in 2020 at the age of 98.

The building also housed KRTY, an iconic country music station that operated out of a different building, after relocating in 2019. KRTY now streams online only, and its spectrum, 95.3 FM, was sold to Educational Media Foundation, a nonprofit Christian media organization, according to Nate Deaton, general manager of KRTY.

Deaton told San José Spotlight the building at 750 Story Road has seen a lot of Silicon Valley history, as KLIV News Radio reported on its growth. The building has also seen a lot of music history.

"There are a lot of great memories in that building, that's for sure. From a KRTY and country music standpoint, so many of the big artists of the day played in that conference room," Deaton said.

Deaton worked in the building for 25 years and said country artists often put on small shows for station staff when they were in the area touring.

"You go back to Brad Paisley, Dixie Chicks, to Lady Antebellum, you name it. Anybody who's anybody in the last 25 years, played that conference room," he said.

Guarena said demolition of the building could begin this fall, though an exact timeline isn't clear yet. Construction of the warehouse could take about a year once started, he said.



This digital rendering shows what a warehouse building could look like when complete at 750 Story Road in San Jose. Image courtesy of San Jose.

Councilmember Domingo Candelas

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Times **Local News**

A man rides his bicycle in a leisurely manner in downtown San Jose on April 13, 2023. VTA could approve construction of the Central Bikeway—a 10-mile stretch of protected bike lanes between San Jose and Santa Clara—as soon as next month. *Photo by Sonya Herrera.*

Bikeway

Continued from page 4

their input on the best route for the super-highway, 30% of whom don't currently ride a bicycle or only ride for recreation. Resident feedback was gathered through social media, surveys and VTA pop-ups at events like Viva Calle for almost two years.

VTA planners ultimately landed on the route dubbed The Shortliner, which goes from Penitencia Creek County Park past the Berryessa BART Station on Mabury Road, continuing on Taylor Street. The route turns north on Fourth Street and west on Hedding Street, finally turning on The Alameda and continuing north on El Camino Real. The Shortliner ends at Lawrence Expressway, about a mile and a half south of the Lawrence Caltrain station in Santa Clara.

Construction of this unprecedented bicycle highway system—including the landscaping and materials to raise the path above street-level—is estimated to cost \$213 million. The project design is about 10% complete. Funding is expected to come from multiple sources but has yet to be determined.

Santa Clara aims to double biking infrastructure in new plan

Pearse acknowledged the cost is intimidating for a bike path. But it's a much longer and more welcoming bike path than has ever been built in Santa Clara County before, he added.

"It is a lot of money, but it's a very high-quality, long distance bike facility," Pearse said. "It's transformational, it's regional..."

It's also on par, cost-wise, with some of our other large projects. So we don't feel like that cost is super extreme."

He said the cost is comparable to a roadway interchange project or a new light rail corridor.

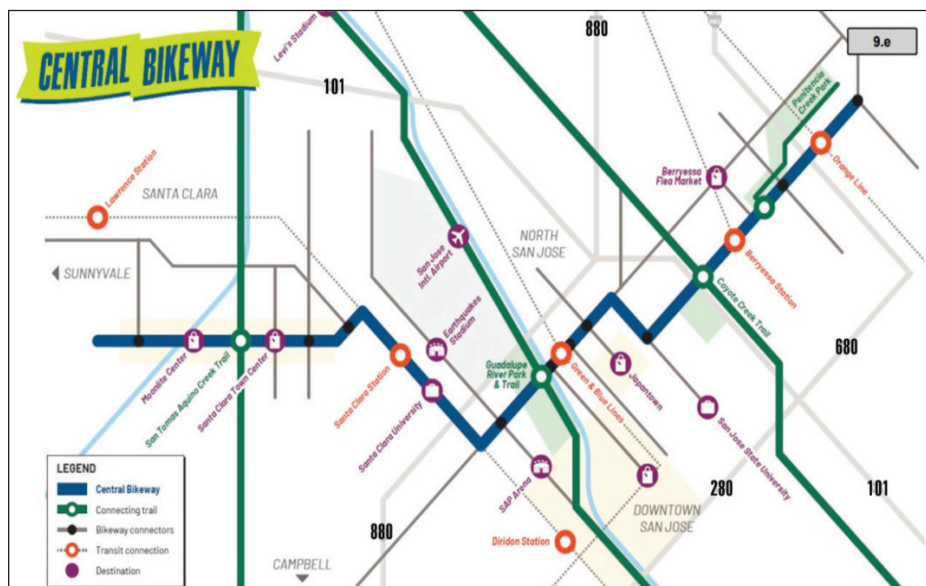
Aside from cost, at least one member of the bicycle committee was concerned that commuter cyclists would be sharing the path with recreational cyclists, which could deter commuters from using the bikeway at all.

"I think that's going to encourage a lot more of the (experienced) bicyclists to ride on the street, and not in the bikeway," said committee member Herman Wadler.


The idea of a superhighway stems from VTA's Santa Clara Countywide Bike Plan released in 2018. Santa Clara County already has 800 miles of bikeways, including dedicated bike lanes on roads such as San Fernando Street in downtown San Jose. In addition to bike lanes, there are 200 miles of dedicated bike trails, but many are not connected through a continuous, uninterrupted path.

Sandhya Laddha, policy director for the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, said the group supports construction of The Shortliner route for the region's first bike superhighway.

"We look forward to the Central Bikeway project to lay a great example of what a bicycle superhighway could look like, changing the experience of bicycling on our arterials," Laddha told San José Spotlight. "Hence inviting more people to experience the joy of biking."



The route for the proposed Central Bikeway extends from Penitencia Creek County Park in North San Jose to El Camino Real in Santa Clara. *Image courtesy of VTA.*



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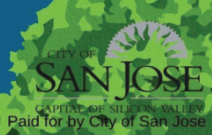
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Cortese proposed bill would create civil penalties for social media platforms that circulate child sex

A bill by State Senator Dave Cortese that creates civil penalties for social media platforms that circulate child sex abuse material passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week.

Under SB 646, social media companies would have two days to remove child sex abuse material — commonly known as child pornography — after it is reported by the victim or their legal guardian. Failure to remove the material after two days would make the social media platform liable for up to \$200,000 in civil damages.

“It’s time to stop waiting around for social media companies to put an end to digitized child sex abuse. Victims are further traumatized every minute that exploitative photos and videos are viewed online,” said Cortese. “Under SB 646, social media companies would finally be forced to remove child sex abuse material from their platforms. This bill is critical to protecting young people and holding social media platforms accountable.”

Despite advances in technology, online child sexual exploitation is on the rise. In 2021, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s CyberTipline received over 29 million reports of child sexual

exploitation — a jump of 35 percent from the previous year. Nearly all those reports related to suspected child sexual abuse materials. A recent survey showed that 85 percent of respondents wanted policy-makers to do more to stop this trend.

Victims of child sex abuse have a greater likelihood of suffering from self-harm, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, eating disorders and substance abuse. Victims have also reported insomnia and panic attacks, which can create challenges with concentrating in school or sustaining employment.

In 2006, Congress passed Masha’s Law, which allowed child victims to recover civil damages against anyone who produces, possesses, or distributes any visual depictions of child sex abuse. Then in 2017, Congress passed the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA), which closed a legal loophole that shielded social media platforms from liability for distribution of child sex abuse materials on their platforms. SB 646 holds social media platforms accountable for their culpability under FOSTA and allows victims to sue in state court under the civil remedies created by Masha’s Law.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority honored for innovation in BART to Silicon Valley Phase II Project

VTA Selected as “Owner of the Year” by Engineering News-Record

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has been named the California 2023 “Owner of the Year” by Engineering News Record (ENR) for its innovative work on the BART to Silicon Valley Phase II project and its Transit Capital Program.

“Recognizing numerous agency accomplishments, most notable to VTA’s selection

is bringing innovation to the forefront with VTA’s 6-mile extension of the regional Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system and working collaboratively with industry partners,” the magazine wrote in announcing the award.

ENR is an internationally renowned engineering and construction news publication reporting on the top design firms, construction companies, and projects across the globe. Each year ENR honors project owners for prestige in planning, design, construction, and managing projects.

“We are honored to be recognized for our work. We thank Santa Clara County residents and our numerous delivery partners for their efforts to enhance mobility in an environmentally positive way and improve the quality of life in our region,” said Carolyn Gonot, VTA General Manager and CEO upon learning of the honor.



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Children's Business Fair to be held June 10 at Evergreen Village Square

Evergreen-West Kumon is sponsoring a Children's Business Fair on Saturday June 10th at Evergreen Circle located at the Ever-

green Village Square from 11a.m.-2 p.m. The purpose of the Children's Business Fair is to help young minds apply what they are learning to the real world. The Fair has inspired young entrepreneurs to understand the way they see the world!

To order a booth, visit Evergreen Children's Business Fair: www.childrensbusinessfair.org/evergreen-sanjose



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Times Community News

San José Mayor **Matt Mahan**, was joined by former **Mayor Sam Liccardo**, and community partners at LifeMoves, Goodwill of Silicon Valley, Sand Hill Foundation Co-founders Peter and Susanna Pau, and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to celebrate the opening of the City's newest emergency interim housing (EIH) site.

San Jose celebrates opening of quick-build community which will house homeless residents working to beautify the city

By **William Bellou**
Publisher

San José Mayor Matt Mahan, was joined by former Mayor Sam Liccardo, and community partners at LifeMoves, Goodwill of Silicon Valley, Sand Hill Foundation Co-founders Peter and Susanna Pau, and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) to celebrate the opening of the City's newest emergency interim housing (EIH) site, or quick-build community April 19.

The Guadalupe Interim Housing Community, located near San José Police Department Headquarters on Guadalupe Parkway, will provide 96 private rooms for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and bring the city closer towards Mayor Mahan's goal of ending the era of encampments. Half of the units will be dedicated for members of San José Bridge, a program for homeless San José residents that provides them with employment; job training, the development of long-term career goals and job placement; and assists in finding housing and placement in San José.

"No one should live in encampments," said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. "Sites like Guadalupe, which cost a fraction of traditional housing, offer a safe and dignified alternative to the streets. I'm especially excited that we are reserving half of these units for residents enrolled in our work program that employs homeless neighbors in jobs cleaning up our city. Offering people work and stable shelter is the path we need to take to end unsheltered homelessness."

San Jose Bridge has employed 137 unhoused residents since March 2022 and 46 participants have secured permanent jobs at various companies and organizations, including Tesla, Goodwill, the Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center, and the San José Airport. San Jose Bridge participants have removed 351,450 pounds of trash from city streets and trails.

Including Guadalupe and the new Monterey/Branham quick build community, which broke ground in April, San José now has 697 units operating or under construction, with another 300 in the pipeline. San José is also set to receive 200 small homes from Governor Gavin Newsom, which will

get San Jose 20% of the way to Mayor Mahan's goal to create new capacity to move 1,000 unhoused residents out of unmanaged encampments by the end of this calendar year.

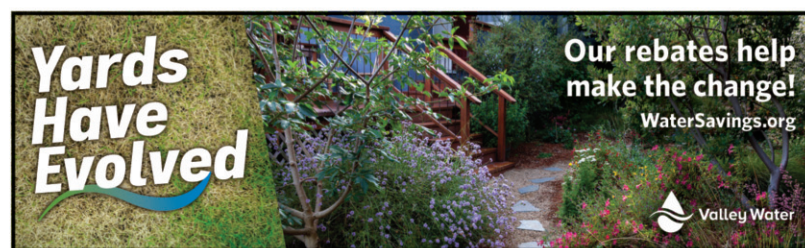
San Jose's quick-build community model has led to a halt in the increase of unsheltered homeless residents for the first time since 2015. Based on the 2022 countywide point-in-time census (PIT), 75% of homeless residents are unsheltered in San José compared to 84% in 2019.

The Guadalupe site is a \$16.95 million undertaking, with funding for construction through federal American Rescue Plan funds, City of San José Housing Department funds, and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funds from the state. The City also received generous donations from community partners, including \$1 million from Destination: Home, \$500k from All Home, and \$25k from Housing Trust of Silicon Valley. Peter and Susanna Pau donated the living units through their Sand Hill Foundation saving the city millions in development costs. SHP Foundation previously contributed to the construction of the city's first quick build apartment community at Evans Lane and the Pau's continued support for this housing model is generating ongoing interest in philanthropic support.

"Homelessness is a crisis. The City of San Jose, Mayor Matt Mahan, and former Mayor Sam Liccardo act and not just talk," said Peter and Susanna Pau, Co-founders of Sand Hill Property Foundation. "This project is not the whole answer, but it is an effective solution. We hope more will follow. Our Christian Foundation is helping because this is God's work"

The Guadalupe quick-build community is being developed by Bay Area-based firm DevCon Construction, Inc. and will include onsite laundry, community kitchen, dog runs, computer rooms, community programming space, and case management offices. The site operator, LifeMoves, will provide wrap-around services to connect residents with a case manager and transition them to permanent housing. Each prefab unit also comes with a bed, heating and air conditioning, as well as a personal bathroom complete with a shower.

See **QUICKBUILD**, page 15

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There is a wealth of information on the Parks’ webpage: <https://parks.sccgov.org>

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Times Feature

Philharmonic Orchestra performs Elgar and Britten in a concert dedicated to youth and families

By William Bellou
Publisher

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2022-23 Season Finale Concert to be held on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, 2 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA.

This premier orchestra, made up of the most advanced students in the San Jose Youth Symphony, will open the concert with Elgar's Wand of Youth Suites, which feature his earliest musical works composed for a family play, spirited and lively, and full of childlike charm.

The orchestra will also perform Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, an intricate theme

and variations, that is meant to teach children about all the different instruments of the orchestra, as a narrator takes the audience



Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet



through this instrumental journey.

The performance culminates in a musical work of extreme power as all the instruments join to play together at the end. This is a great treat for the whole family!

Editor's note: Tickets now on sale online, visit: <https://sjys.org/product-category/tickets> You can also purchase tickets on Concert Day at the Box Office, one hour before the concert at 1 p.m.

Quickbuild

Continued from page 13

"The need, in our community, to bring our unhoused neighbors indoors has never been higher," said LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merriman. "LifeMoves believes it takes us all coming together to build a thriving community. Close teamwork, partnership, collaboration, a sense of urgency, and a unified vision have brought us together to celebrate this ribbon-cutting milestone. Opening San Jose's Guadalupe Interim Housing site will provide a supportive transitional step toward stable housing for people, along with the resources and customized, intensive services to help chart their course to permanent housing."

The Guadalupe quick-build site will be the home of numerous residents who were originally living

in the Guadalupe Gardens encampment – the city's largest before being decommissioned in 2022. Several residents that moved from the encampment into hotels and motels will be able to move into the Guadalupe quick-build community. Going forward, outreach teams will prioritize SJ Bridge participants and unhoused residents living in the nearby neighborhood to live at the site.

"When we began discussing this site back in 2020, we knew there was a real opportunity to both expand our community's shelter capacity and create a new model for how lived experience can influence the design and operations," said Jennifer Loving, CEO of Destination: Home. "We are so glad to see this vision come to fruition and are proud to be a partner of a project that has been meaningfully shaped by leaders who've experienced homelessness."

Increasing the city's supply of emergency interim housing and identifying new sites to support them was a focal point of addressing unsheltered homelessness in Mayor Mahan's budget proposal. The Mayor's core budget priorities include homelessness, public safety, blight, and bringing jobs and housing back to San José. Mayor Mahan continues to push the City to narrow its focus and make meaningful progress in these areas using practical, cost-effective solutions.

"The Guadalupe EIH site should be used as a model for interim shelter sites moving forward," said Gabriela Gabrian, of the Santa Clara County Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB). "From the conception of the project and throughout the development process, we were given decision-making power and were able to offer our lived experience of homelessness to help set this site up for success."

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The Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) invites you to provide your input on 2000 Measure A expenditures, including the results of the annual compliance audit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022.

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Webinar ID: 872 0770 0818

Contact the Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-5680 or email board.secretary@vta.org for questions or to confirm the meeting date, time, and location. Sign language and interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting the Board Office at least five days prior to the meeting. Written comments are accepted until 10:00 a.m. on May 10 by email.

The Audit Results are In!

The Committee commissioned an audit of the Measure A Program financial records and schedule for FY 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Crowe LLP, an independent certified public accounting firm, conducted the compliance audit and issued an unqualified ("clean") opinion, indicating that VTA complied, in all material respects, with the requirements for the measure. This is the 17th consecutive audit receiving a clean opinion.

The Audit results are available on VTA's website at vta.org/cwc-fy22audit and at the VTA Administrative Office at 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134 in the Building B Main Lobby.

Here's the Back Story!

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a half-cent sales tax for specific public transit capital improvement projects and operations. Revenue collection began in April 2006. Highlights for FY 2022 include key activities for VTA's BART Silicon Valley Extension project, Eastridge to BART Regional Connector project, and Caltrain Electrification efforts.



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Times Career Corner

Fake job postings
frustrating propositions

By Angela Copeland

Although April Fools' Day is over, this is no joke. If we didn't have enough to wade through, now we have to consider fake job postings.

An increasing number of job seekers are noticing this trend. But, unfortunately, it's one that has been around for quite some time.

According to The Wall Street Journal, a survey of more than 1,000 hiring managers conducted by Clarify Capital found that 27 percent reported having job postings up for more than four months. Of those, almost half were left up



to give the impression that the company was doing well.

Other employers left job postings up for different reasons. They may want to give the impression to overworked employees that help is on the way. Or, they may be hedging their bets that they will need employees in the future.

If this sounds frustrating for a job seeker, it is. Job seeking is a grueling process that takes a considerable amount of time and energy. It requires job seekers to sneak out of work for a series of interviews. If the job seeker were to be caught in this process, it could put their current job at risk.

Some companies will delay hiring as they search for the perfect candidate. After some time, they decide not to fill the role at all. Other companies delay hiring to save money. In some

situations, the hiring process can take so long that the hiring manager may change. And, the new hiring manager may want to reevaluate the role.

Companies often look at job candidates like a product. Imagine going shopping at a store like Target. You can look at every item, and in the end, if you don't want to buy anything, no one will care. But, with a job seeker, this isn't a fair experience. Job seekers are people, not products. These decisions have a real impact on their lives.

I once interviewed for a role at a large financial services company. The company put me through roughly 12 rounds of interviews over a five month period, including in person interviews in another state. Near the end of the process, they assured me that I would get an

offer. I stopped looking for other jobs, and started packing my things to move. A few weeks went by and the hiring manger called. The role had been on hold since the beginning. He continued to interview me in hopes that he would eventually gain approval. He did not.

If you're a job seeker, remember that your job search is a numbers game. If you aren't hearing back from a company or if they're going slowly, hedge your bets. Apply for more roles. Keep things moving, so that you will find an employer who is truly hiring. Look for job postings that haven't been up for months, and that contain specific details about the role. Eventually, you'll find a real opportunity that's a great fit.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at www.angela-copeland.com.

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Rains, winds of April yielded proper hydration

By Matthew Frazier

Expert Certified Water Manager

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The rains and winds of April have yielded proper hydration for the environs which grace the valleys of Santa Clara County. Not the least of which are Evergreen Valley and Santa Clara Valley.

These torrential rains and winds were almost immediately followed by sunshine and substantial heat.

With the proliferation of wildflowers and grasses, there is much to admire in these valleys of our county. One new practice I and my family have adopted is letting our turf lawn in our front yard grow wild, Essentially transforming a manicured turf lawn into a meadow adorned by wildflowers and wild grasses.

The turf grass blends we use as well as the sod rolls yield a variety of grasses of various lengths and thicknesses. Among the grasses are volunteers or weeds which flower profusely and bring us an array of colors which rival those seen along the boulevards and streets. Many of these wildflowers and wild grasses attract both migratory and native birds and insects.

Just yesterday, I watched a troupe of warblers forage for seeds among the tufts of the dandelions growing wild in our front yard. Along with these small birds come others with a similar intent, foraging for food and nesting materials. Sparrows and a plethora of other birds of various sizes appeared and took full advantage of the flowering weeds which had emerged in the front yard.

While driving to and from work, I see

through the chain linked fences, wildflowers and grasses of various types with an abundance of wild birds and insects congregating and flurrying about. In earlier column entries, I have made mention of beneficial weeds which draw beneficial insects with their blooms. There have been many occasions while working in the garden centers and nurseries in my past to have witnessed the waves of birds and insects arriving and searching.

With the drought now seemingly under control, we can return to irrigating our turf lawns at night within the parameters set by our water agencies and water districts. Checking the forecast and irrigating accordingly is still highly recommended. With late spring upon us now, running our sprinklers at 9:00 p.m. for 15 minutes two nights per week is plenty of irrigation for our turf lawns.

We can now relax and let our turf lawns grow long and let the flowering weeds emerge and thrive as well. We will see birds and insects which we would normally not. Abstaining from the use of herbicides and insecticides in conjunction with this is also highly recommended. In a future entry, I will mention some native insectary flowers.

Along with letting our turf lawn grow long and letting wild flowering weeds emerge and thrive, there will be a substantial reduction in our water bills. Watering at night and letting the lawns grow wild will be well worth the effort as we see wave after wave of birds and insects. The culmination of our lawns as meadows will bring us into a new frontier ... The Meadowverse®. Carpe Verde ... Seize The Green!

Editor's note: Matthew Frazier is a Certified Water Manager, Qualified Stormwater Manager, and Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper. You may reach Matthew at (408) 656-5622 – Mobile; or by email: kitchenfrazier@hotmail.com



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

Times **Cover Story****Bridge***Continued from page 1*

about the bridge since I assumed my role a little over three months ago. I am committed to ensuring a safe crossing for the residents of this neighborhood and working to explore all the options. Unfortunately, for safety reasons the bridge is closed for public use. One of the first things I did was reach out to City Staff and I am working to identify funding and feasibility options for an updated bridge that meets today's seismic safety standards as soon as possible, while also looking at temporary options to safely access and cross Yerba Buena Avenue."

Many site studies have been done regarding installing a possible future replacement bridge in years past however, it is unclear if such a new bridge would be approved by the City of San Jose.

The following statement was emailed by San Jose Parks and Recreation and Neighborhood Services Trail Manager-Capital improvement

representative, Liz Sewell, "Unfortunately, this bridge will not be reopened. We have had a tough year full of natural disasters. The bridge is an older feature that was inherited by the City, and the structural damage incurred by the recent earthquakes was exacerbated by recent storms. There is a major canyon that formed in the creek channel which is eroding the bridge abutments that support the foundation of the structure. The Department of Public Works has conducted a few studies to explore the bridge and assess its structural condition and has found that the bridge's structural integrity has been compromised to the point of no repair. For the time being we recommend routing them to Evergreen Park where the pedestrian bridge can provide safe access across the creek."

There are other statements in studies that discuss the need for a pedestrian bridge replacement over the creek which would connect the residential neighborhood to the Evergreen Valley Community College as part of the Yerba Buena Trail System. Such future decisions will be in the hands of the city.

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Times Cover Story

Digital Divide

Continued from page 1

The organization has also constructed six computer labs in Tanzania, three in California, one in Cambodia, one in India, and one in Kenya.

One of CTD's recent ventures included a partnership with Nova Ukraine. During the school year, most classes in Ukraine were remote as children found themselves in red and orange zones, prone to strikes.

With millions of people forced to leave their homes, and thousands of schools affected by bombings and shelling, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science predicted that more than 3.7 million students will be forced to learn remotely.

To help ameliorate this situation, ClosingTheDivide CIO/CTO Gaurish Agrawal coacted with Oleg Kritsun and Alexei Kononenko, representatives from Nova Ukraine, to facilitate the donation of 40 Chromebooks. Working in conjunction with the World Computer Exchange, Ukrainian First-Responders, and the Deputy of the Department of Education in the Chernihiv region, these computers were brought to Ukraine and successfully distributed to lyceums in the Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Khmelnytsky regions of the country. The donation was a significant step towards providing educational opportunities to children, especially those orphaned or displaced, and those learning remotely due to the ongoing conflict. Agrawal's efforts demonstrate the dedication and commitment ClosingTheDivide holds in improving access to technology and education in underprivileged communities.

In addition to their work in Ukraine, Clos-



In Ukraine, students and their families line up at a shelter to receive the first round of care packages; each equipped with a Chromebook from ClosingTheDivide.

ingTheDivide has also launched a digital course pathway to promote basic computer literacy, amongst other initiatives. One of their most exciting endeavors is taking place in Morocco, where they are developing multilingual digital literacy courses to educate local households on the basics of computing.

The impact of ClosingTheDivide isn't limited to Morocco. Branches across the world, such as those in Georgia, California, Egypt and beyond, are also deeply invested in a wide range of projects. From hosting virtual hardware repair lessons at orphanages in India to working with local businesses to collect spare parts, creating school clubs to recruit members, and even holding local fundraisers, the team is dedicated to making a real difference.

"CTD was created to change lives in our community, but I never imagined that my work would extend to giving children in war-torn areas, and across the world, a brighter future. Knowing that our efforts have touched the lives of those facing unimaginable challenges is gratifying and propels us to continue to work even harder," says Gaurish.

Note: If you want to donate your old electronics towards a positive cause or volunteer, visit www.closingthedivide.foundation.



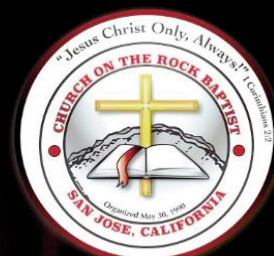
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Times Community News

NEXTDOOR

Continued from page 4

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 essentials 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

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

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 communicate by messaging each other and the giving was magnified!

Someone decided to deliver two bags of freshly purchased groceries, not only for the person, but also her pet. She believes pets are an important part of the family and a source of unconditional love and support, so addressing the needs of a pet companion is equally important when helping a person in need.

When asked for a message to be delivered, while this Good Samaritan lady was giving 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 that when hope and kindness was delivered, it created beautiful and touching smiles for the one in need and those that gave. NEXTDOOR helped create that warm feeling in one’s heart.

Situations of kindness pop up

Another lady who recently had surgery and was waiting for her disability check to arrive was stuck because social services was delaying it, “kicking in.” She posted for help on NEXTDOOR. That day, over 40 neighbors reached out in kind ways to let her know of local nonprofits that help and also to immediately offer her a bridge of assistance. After so many posted to her that they would help, a 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.”

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.

SHAWN ANSARI GROUP PRESENTS

shawn ansari

Scan for property tour:

1607 Dorcey Lane | San Jose 95120

4 bed | 2.5 bath | 2,530± SF | 7,437± SF Lot | \$1,999,888

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Shawn Ansari
DRE # 01088988
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shawn.ansari@compass.com

Bahareh Taebi
DRE # 02081188
REALTOR®
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days.
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ond and fourth Wednes-
day of every month, at
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ty.
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and refreshments. 1st
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2nd Sunday in Worship:
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Sunday.
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participate in our Youth
Groups. During the
school year we have joint
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"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the
English meaning is "Peace
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Q) What is Islam, who are
Muslims, and what is the
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A) Islam is a faith and way
of life. Islam began in the
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follow Islam are known as
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God is One ਬੈਕਿ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

3636 Gurdwara Ave.
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word Sikh (see-kh) means
"disciple" or "student." A
Sikh is a practitioner of the
faith founded in the 15th
century by Guru Nanak in
Punjab of old British India.
A Guru who is a "teacher"
or "enlightener" completes
the relationship of teach-
ing and learning. Sikhism
is monotheistic and
stresses the equality of all
men and women. Sikhs
believe in three basic prin-
ciples; meditating on the
name of God (praying),
earning a living by honest
means and sharing the
fruits of one's labor with
others. Currently there are
close to one million Sikhs
living in the USA and
Canada and 25 million
Sikhs living around the
world. Sikhism is the 5th
largest religion in the
world. At the Gurdwara
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Jose we welcome all. We
pray daily for peace and
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day 11:00AM, Igbo Mass -
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AND IT'S FREE!

1



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2



Register your vehicle for the program.

3



Get Etched!

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SAN JOSE
408-984-1234

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1825 E. CAPITOL EXPY,
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4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2213 Sq Ft | 9770 Sq Ft Lot



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3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1827 Sq Ft | 6461 Sq Ft Lot



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1367 Shelby Creek Lane

Offered at \$1,299,000

3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1155 Sq Ft | 4055 Sq Ft Lot



Therese Swan

408.656.8240 | tswan@tswan.com

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