

Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi's Family Literacy Festival to be held June 10: **PAGE 4**



Homeless numbers improve
San José Mayor announces success of Quick-Build Communities as homelessness drops
SEE PAGE 6

San Jose leads nation in hiring new college grads:
PAGE 17



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JUNE 9 – JUNE 22, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 12



District 10 Councilmember **Arjun Batra** appreciates community input.

Town Hall with District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Housing the homeless and city beautification were the focus of District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra's recent Town Hall.

Batra said the City Council will review and vote on issues affecting the unhoused at its June 6 meeting.

San Jose will receive 200 tiny homes as part of Gov. Gavin Newsom's State Small Home Initiative. A location at Monterey and Bernal roads is being considered. California's cities and counties became eligible for \$1 billion in state funding in March after
See BATRA, page 16

Save the Date for July 4 Fireworks!

Celebrate the 4th of July at Almaden Lake Park with a spectacular Fireworks Show! Festival at Almaden Lake Park begins at 3 p.m. Fireworks Spectacular starts about 9:15 p.m. (See ad on page 3.)

Almaden students showcase their science fair projects

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Almaden students shared science projects, educating the community at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

Middle and high school students who participated in the Synopsys Science & Technology Championship showcased their project-based research, sharing complex theories and scholarly vocabulary with an eager audience. Students animatedly conversed with interested residents who studied posters describing the students' concepts, procedures and conclusions.

Among those in attendance were San Jose District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra and Congressman Jimmy Panetta, who gave students warm handshakes and certificates.

Jeanelle, a Stratford San Jose Middle School eighth grader, showed



Almaden students shared their science fair projects with the community.

off two works: FilterEye, an electronic alert for when air filters need changing and CONDUITS, a welcome mat device designed to unlock doors. The latter uses algorithms and custom printed circuit boards inside a compact, waterproof touchpad.

"I was helping my dad change out a filter for an HVAC system. We got the ladder, did all the work and realized the filter wasn't dirty," Jeanelle said of her inspiration for FilterEye, which uses light and pressure sensors to determine the optimal time to change a filter.

Motivated by stories of her grandfather, who suffered from arthritis, struggling to open doors, she created CONDUITS, which use a foot-controlled rhythmic pattern to unlock them.

Leland High School 10th grader Shreyas believes a high-mass ninth planet exists in the deep edges of the solar system, based upon numerous comets coming toward Earth with irregular trajectories. Using computer programming language Visual Python, he simulated the solar system, applying Newton's law of universal gravitation.

Neil, a Harker Upper School 10th grader passionate about the environment, explored the effects of freshwater acidification on hydra (small freshwater organisms) and daphnia (water flea) populations. He said due to climate change and pollution, fresh water has become

See SCIENCE FAIR, page 15

Almaden hilltop development moves forward after delays

By Joseph Geha
San José Spotlight

A hilltop in Almaden Valley is set to be developed with 10 single-family homes following years of delays.

Sridhar Pillarisetty, a Fremont resident who owns and is developing the land, plans to put the homes up on a nearly 8-acre parcel near the corner of Coleman Avenue and Almaden Expressway, across from Almaden Lake Park. His proposal for 5827 Brasilia Way earned a renewed approval from the city's planning director Wednesday.

The project dates back nearly a decade, as the San Jose City Council approved a zoning change to clear a path for the homes in June 2014, according to city staff reports. While a significant portion of the project's approvals and permits are still valid following several extensions, an expired project map needed to be updated for the potential development move ahead.

Pillarisetty said the property was under dif-

ferent ownership until fall 2021, when he purchased it. Since then, some delays occurred when there were miscommunications between Pillarisetty and his former business partner in charge of working with the city on moving the development forward, he said.

Now, the project is back on track, he said.

"I want this to be done yesterday," Pillarisetty told San José Spotlight. "There are not going to be any more delays on my side."

Despite the significant hurdles—including an environmental review and zoning change—being approved in 2014, some neighbors spoke out against the project at the recent hearing.

A man named Tejus, who said he lives nearby and did not give a last name, thinks the project should be reduced to six or eight



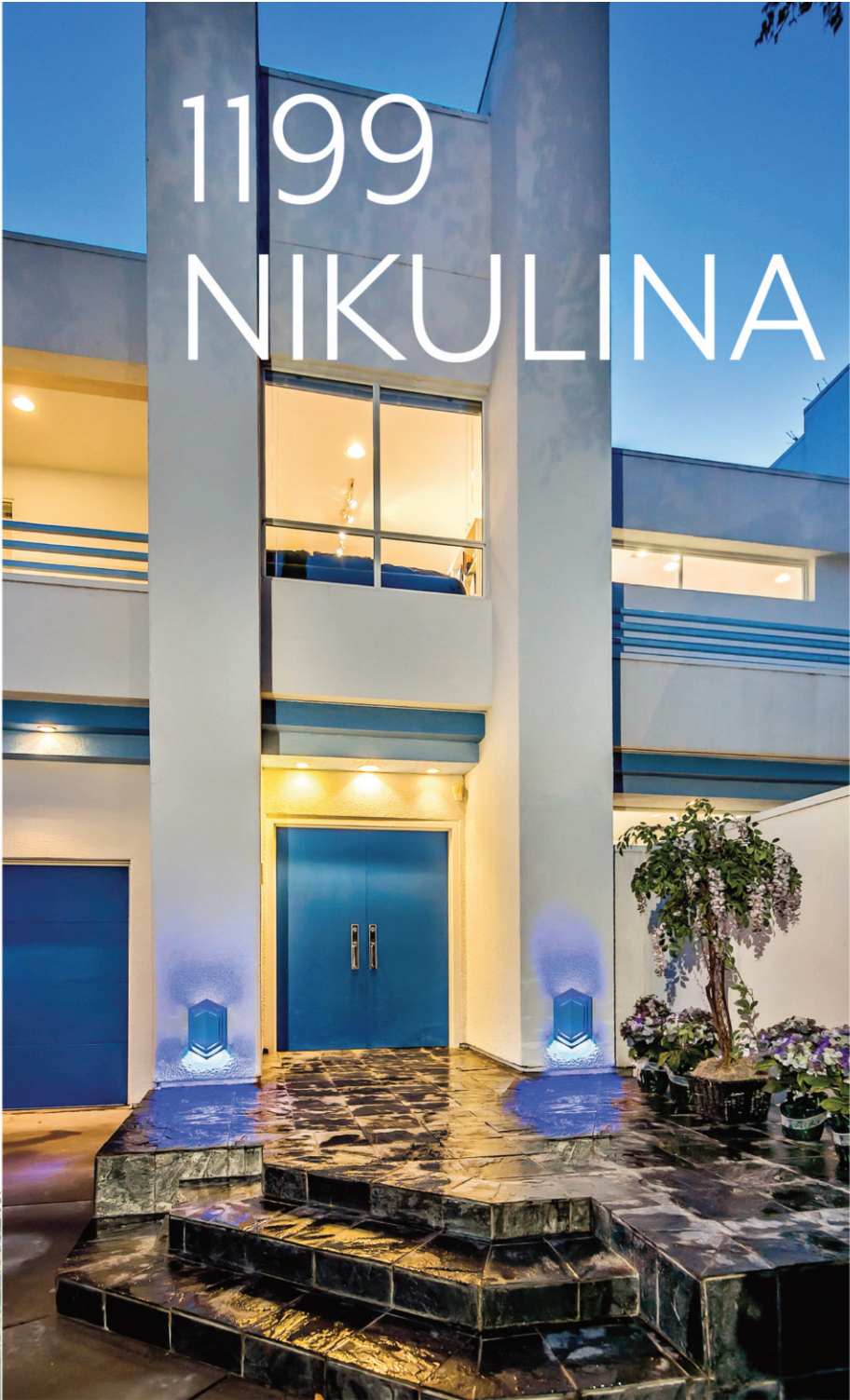
This hilltop in San Jose's Almaden Valley is slated to be developed with 10 homes after years of delays. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

homes instead of 10, and is concerned the environmental review is incorrect about impacts from the project, though he didn't elaborate.

A neighbor named Evan, who said he lives at the base of the hill, said the project would be an "eyesore," and he is concerned about privacy. He also did not give a last name.

See DEVELOPMENT, page 12

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NOTEBOOK



A mother stands over her dead cub in Yosemite National Park. The CDFW warns to be cautious of orphaned cubs and yearlings which are often skinny or small for their age and do not fear people, which can pose a risk to everyone who approaches them. *Photo courtesy of Yosemite National Park.*

Wildlife officials warn: 'Be careful outdoors as wildlife surges'

By William Bellou
Publisher

Restorative nature is occurring in California's wildlands, after an unusual number of winter storms which followed years of drought and forest fires.

With nature's restoration comes a warning from wildlife officials, "Be careful outdoors as wildlife is surging across California."

Some wildlife to be careful of include bears, coyotes, mountain lions, rattle snakes, and even rare plant species that hadn't been seen for decades such as the Santa Ynez Groundstar. "So, be careful where

you put your hands and feet."

A CDFW spokesperson explained that many vernal pool plant species have seeds that can remain dormant for many years, an adaptation that allows them to survive extended drought periods and "flourish in wet years like the one we had earlier this year."

"Storms resulted in a boost of native plant and wildlife species, and what's good for the ecosystem can also pose dangers and threats to those who are getting ready to explore nature again," said Ken Paglia, a spokesperson for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

While now is an incredible time to get out and explore a replenished California, the first things to remember are to be aware and to exercise caution.

"It's a time to be mindful if you're planning on heading out there," he said. "We want to remind people who are getting out there this weekend and beyond to be a little extra vigilant. Make small adjustments to the way you're using and interacting with nature."

Hungry bears are waking up!

Bears faced an extra-long, extra snowy winter that could change the bears' behavior, including pushing them to places that could result in more interaction with humans in the Lake Tahoe and Yosemite regions of California, and according to statements released by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) earlier this year, that bears "will be emerging soon, and they will be hungry!"

Valley Currents

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

Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi's Family Literacy Festival to be held June 10

Event offers celebrity and author story readings as well as family-friendly entertainment

By William Bellou
Publisher

Celebrities, Olympic athletes and Grammy award-winning musicians will come together Saturday, June 10 for the inaugural Family Literacy Festival hosted by the San José Public Library Foundation, Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream, and Children's Discovery Museum.

The event will feature readings by Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, U.S. Silver Figure Skating Champion Polina Edmunds, Olympic Bronze Medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani (ShibSibs) and children's book authors New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Fosberry, Tim McCanna, and Maggie Tokuda Hall, as well as performances from Grammy-winners Alphabet Rockers and children's musician AndyZ.

The event is the brainchild of Olympic Gold Medalist, mother, and children's book author Kristi Yamaguchi who established Always Dream to increase early childhood literacy rates among underserved communities. "By collaborating with Children's Discovery Museum and the San Jose Public Library Foundation, we can align our resources and create a day-long celebration highlighting the importance of literacy in a fun, interactive environment, it's all about the power of one," she said.

The festival will take place at Children's Discovery Museum located at 180 Woz Way, San Jose, CA 95110 on Saturday, June 10 from 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. for the morning session or 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. for the afternoon session. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door on June 10.

"We know from decades of research that reading to children opens the door to a brighter future by improving academic performance and supporting brain development. The San Jose Public Library Foundation is thrilled to co-host the Family Literacy Festival and hopes it will inspire more families to discover the joys and immense benefits of reading together. It's going to be a terrific event," said Dawn Copin, chief executive officer of the San Jose Public Library Foundation.

Families will be able to enjoy all the Museum has to offer along with celebrity and author story readings, hands-on activities, art projects, and family-friendly entertainment. In addition, there will be an interactive Mobile Learning Adventure in the museum's West Wing Gallery showing parents the importance of early childhood education, while they and their children engage in fun activities that explore future occupations, including costumes, passports, and a photo booth.

"Literacy is so essential for children to succeed in school and life," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "The Always Dream and San Jose Public Library Foundation have both transformed the lives of many young



The inaugural Family Literacy Festival hosted by the San José Public Library Foundation, **Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream**, and Children's Discovery Museum features readings by Olympic Gold Medalist **Kristi Yamaguchi**.

readers, especially those from disadvantaged families, a community that the museum cares deeply about. Kristi and the San Jose Public Library Foundation have been friends of the museum for many years - we're proud to partner with them to open more doors for more children."

Capacity is limited so interested families should reserve their spot now.

Always Dream

Kristi Yamaguchi's *Always Dream* ensures children and families from underserved communities have access to high-quality books in the home environment and extensive family engagement support.

San Jose Public Library Foundation

The San José Public Library Foundation provides advocacy, financial support, and leadership to San Jose public libraries and educational programs throughout the city to create an educated, equitable, and engaged community.

Children's Discovery Museum

Kids lead the way at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 hands-on exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, the arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence.

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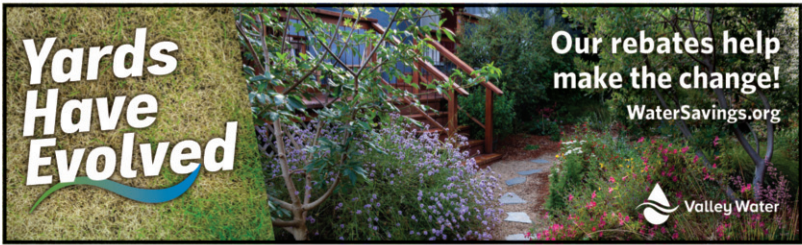
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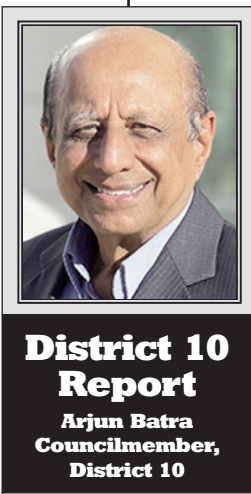
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Times **Community News**

Strokes awareness is important in both our region and the nation

By Arjun Batra
District 10

Strokes are the leading cause of disability and the 5th leading cause of death in our region and nation. In the US, nearly 1 million strokes are reported annually, with about 4,000 occurring in Santa Clara County alone. I recently proclaimed Stroke Awareness Month; and as we continue to shed light on stroke awareness, it is important to highlight an individual who has played a pivotal role in stroke awareness - our very own previous District 10 Councilmember and Vice Mayor, Pat Dando. I thank Bob Dando, Pat's husband, for joining us in the council chambers for the proclamation. In 2001, Pat Dando experienced a stroke and was fortunate to receive immediate medical attention at San José's Good Samaritan Hospital, which had an active stroke



program and a 24-hour stroke team. Thanks to the quick assessment, state-of-the-art technology, and quality treatment she received, Pat made a complete recovery. Her personal experience led her to realize the lack of stroke awareness and the importance of timely treatment for a full recovery. Motivated by her own journey, Pat co-founded the Stroke Awareness Foundation (SAF) with stroke survivors Charles Toeniskoetter and Charles E. Hoffman in 2002. Their aim was to reduce the occurrence of stroke and ensure optimal medical care for stroke patients in Santa Clara County. Despite advice to keep her story private, Pat chose to share her experience, viewing it as an opportunity to improve the quality of life in her community. Her advocacy led to important changes in stroke care, including improvements to the Santa Clara County EMS Triage System for stroke patients. Pat Dando's impact extended beyond stroke awareness; she became an icon for the City of San José and a true champion of Stroke Care. Her influence even altered the direction of careers, inspiring individuals to focus on stroke causes and treatments. To learn more about her impacts, visit www.strokeinfo.org.

San José Mayor announces success of Quick-Build Communities as homelessness drops

San José Mayor Matt Mahan joined Councilmember Pam Foley (D9), LifeMoves, and formerly unhoused individuals to reveal encouraging new data from the most recent Santa Clara County Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on June 1. The PIT count marks a 10.7% reduction in unsheltered homelessness and a 4.7% reduction in overall homelessness in the City of San José from 2022 to 2023. This is the second year in a row that homelessness has been reduced after almost a decade of climbing rates. These reductions correspond to the city's Emergency Interim Housing or Quick-Build Communities coming online. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a tally of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The United States Department of Hous-

ing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuums of Care to conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness – those sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens and those sleeping outdoors on a single night. The count provides data used for federal funding allocations and national estimates of homelessness. While the data captured is a snapshot of the wider homelessness crisis, the demonstrable progress reflects San José's increased investments into quick-build developments, the fastest and most cost-effective means of providing housing to homeless residents. "This data proves that changing status quo policies can change our results for the better," said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. "These numbers show for the second year in a row that our increased investments in quick-build communities are working. It's long past time to put more dollars toward housing-now solutions that move people from our streets and creeks into safe, dignified housing faster and more cost-effectively than what we've been doing." The data being released today is considered preliminary; data for other cities within Santa Clara County and the full report are currently being analyzed and will be released later this year.

Preliminary data from the 2022 Point-in-Time Count for San José

	2022	2023	% Change
Overall	6,650	6,340	-4.7%
Sheltered	1,675	1,929	12.9%
Unsheltered	4,975	4,411	-10.7%
Chronic	1,906	1,971	3.4%
Vets	336	342	1.8%
Youth	801	646	-19.4%
Families (individuals)	401	891	122.2%

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Times **Community News****Update: Bills advance out of the Senate**By **Dave Cortese***District 15 State Senator*

In the beginning of the year, I introduced a 2023 package of bills that lift up Californians from all walks of life — from working families, to educators, to young people facing unique challenges. My bills will keep people safe, protect civil rights, and open opportunity for young people to find professional success.

At the end of May, my colleagues passed my legislation off the Senate floor. The bills now advance to policy committees in the State Assembly. The Assembly will then pass bills to the Governor for his signature. Here are some of my bills that passed off the Senate floor last month:

Establishing opioid prevention and education programs in California schools:

SB 10 gives school staff, students, and their families information about the growing fentanyl crisis. It would also give educators and other school staff the knowledge and tools to save a child who overdoses on campus by requiring that school safety plans include strategies for addressing drug overdoses. School safety plans are comprehensive documents that cover a range of emergencies and dangerous activity that can occur at school, including active shooters, hate crimes, bullying and discrimination, and natural disasters. Yet the plans are not required to address overdoses. Meanwhile, fentanyl is killing 18 Californians a day and is responsible for one in every five deaths of young people. In Santa Clara County, the number of youth who died of fentanyl has increased by 365 percent in recent years, killing 135 young people in 2021, the latest year that data is available. We must take action now and protect students from this lethal drug that is laced into many types of recreational drugs.

Establishing a statewide guaranteed income program for homeless students: SB 333 would give unhoused students finishing high school \$1,000 a month for five months to help them enroll in college or enter the workforce. High schools offer homeless students a support network that can include free counseling, school supplies, transportation, and

meals. But when these students exit high school, all that school support goes away. It's the worst time to rip away a young person's support system. Why are we graduating approximately 15,000 kids each year into life on the streets? Let's break the cycle of poverty with guaranteed income for those few crucial months when young people have the energy, optimism and passion to get into a good college or career.

Creating high-quality jobs in Green Industry: SB 740 would require workers in emerging green industries to belong to a 'skilled and trained' workforce, meaning they work in apprenticeable occupations. This would extend the same labor requirements to industries like hydrogen and biofuels manufacturing that are currently applied to petroleum refineries. SB 740 is focused on protecting communities from industrial disasters, because a skilled and trained workforce operates with a greater knowledge base and can better prevent factory mishaps. We want to safeguard the environment, protect communities and workers, and build the economy by ensuring that the jobs of the future also provide for workers and their families.

Removing child sex abuse material from social media: SB 646 would give social media companies 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. Every second that photos and videos depicting child sex abuse are available on social media, the people exploited and victimized by that content can be further traumatized. Child sex abuse material is not protected speech — it is digitized rape, and it's time to require social media companies to take it down.

I applaud my Senate colleagues for supporting this legislation, and my constituents who inspire me each day. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns. I can be reached at senator.cortese@sen.ca.gov

Editor's note: Senator Dave Cortese represents State Senate District 15, which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. He chairs the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee. Visit Senator Cortese's website: <https://sd15.senate.ca.gov>

**Senate Report**By **Dave Cortese**
State Senator



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Times **Feature**

Scouts honor American heroes

Flags placed on headstones at Oak Hill Cemetery

By William Bellou
Publisher

In a heartfelt display of patriotism and respect, a group of dedicated Scouts embarked on a mission to honor American heroes by placing American flags on the headstones at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose.

The solemn act, carried out on Saturday, May 27, serves as a poignant tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for the ideals of our great nation. Oak Hill Cemetery is a revered location that holds the memories of countless servicemen and women, has become a focal point for this remarkable initiative.

Led by the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America, a team of enthusiastic Scouts, along with their committed leaders, meticulously adorned the final resting places of veterans and fallen soldiers with the iconic Stars and Stripes.

With unwavering determination and a deep sense of gratitude, the Scouts demonstrated their com-

mitment to honoring the brave men and women who selflessly defended the United States. As they meticulously placed each flag with care and reverence, they acknowledged the sacrifice made by these courageous individuals and the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to them.

The impact of the Scouts' efforts extends beyond the physical act itself. By engaging in this solemn tradition, they encourage the community to join them in paying tribute to the fallen, reminding us all of the enduring legacy left by those who dedicated their lives to protect the values we hold dear.

For more information about Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, please visit www.svmc.org



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iCode to open four new California locations, offers discounted STEM summer camps for kids

Hands-on coding classes and STEM education are uniquely positioned to help students beat the "summer slide"

iCode, a leading innovator in STEM education for K-12 students around the world, announced the opening of four additional locations in California.

Students living in or near San Jose, Cupertino, and Palo Alto, will soon be able to enjoy the company's renowned instructor-led lessons and hands-on applications, as well as a host of summer programming designed to keep kids engaged and having fun throughout the extended break.

"Teaching kids how to code is the language of the future," iCode Founder Abid Abedi recently told The Jeff Crilley Show. "Regardless of what profession they want to go in, they have to understand tech. We have more than 28 camps we're offering this summer that serve a variety of interests."

To celebrate iCode's expansion, franchise owners are rolling out a series of STEM camps for kids from June 13 through August 16, at locations in all four cities. Discounted pricing is available and program offerings include:

Creative Lab: 3D Printing & Design
Game Builder : Creating with Construct 3

Game Master : Multiplayer Game Development with Construct 3
Drone Code : Programming with Python 3
Lego EV3: Robot Squads : Engineering

Team Challenge

Minecraft: Modding Adventure
YouTube Creator : Learn Production Basics

Lego EV3 - Battle of the Bots : Tournament of Champions

Digital DJ: Creating Music with Sonic Pi

Jr Programmer: Intro to 2D Game Development with Scratch
Unreal Designer: 3D Game Development with UE5

State standardized test scores released last October show fewer than 3 in 10 of California's children meet state standards for science. Research shows that children can lose up to 40% of their learning over summer break. This is the perfect time to strengthen those skills and have fun doing it!

iCode's unique and researched approach prepares students to compete in a digital and global workforce. In addition to STEM skills, the curriculum also teaches a host of soft skills like time management, teamwork, presentation and communication skills, and strategic thinking.

Campus Directors are available for remote or in-person interviews to talk more about iCode's summer programming options, the new California locations, as well as the growing demand for STEM education and skills-based learning.

For more information, contact Mia Kim; (408) 320-6098; mia.kim@icodeschool.com; <https://icodeschool.com/sanjos-e-southeast>

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Times **Feature**



This landscape plan image shows the approximate layout of where 10 homes would be built on an 8-acre hilltop parcel in San Jose’s Almaden Valley. *Image courtesy of San Jose.*

Development

Continued from page 1

“The largest property that’s being built faces down directly into our homes, into our shower, through the glass windows at the back of our home,” he said. Other neighbors also shared the same concern.

However, city staff and past city documents said existing homes would be screened from the new homes by dozens of existing trees, and additional live oak trees the developer will plant.

Some neighbors said there was a fire on the hill last year and they are concerned the property owner hasn’t properly maintained the weeds and grass. Pillarisetty said a maintenance worker would be sent to the property this week to begin addressing the weeds, and pledged the property would be maintained going forward.

The project could begin grading soon, and construction could start in about six months, Pillarisetty said. He estimates the project could be complete in a little more than two years.



Times **Feature**

The Meadowverse

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's Almaden Valley.

These torrential rains and winds were almost immediately followed by sunshine and substantial heat. With the proliferation of wild flowers 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 wild flowers 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 wild flowers 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 have emerged in the front yard.

While driving to and from work, I see through the chain linked fences, wild flowers 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 con-

trol, 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 9:00pm for 15 minutes two nights per week is plenty of irrigation for our turf lawns. We can relax and let our turf lawns grow long and let the flowering weeds emerge and thrive as well.



Water Wise

Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

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!



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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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Senate passes Senator Cortese's film safety bill spurred by 'Rust' movie tragedy

The State Senate on Wednesday passed legislation by Senator Dave Cortese establishing landmark safety rules on motion picture productions.

SB 735, a bill that was spurred by the 2021 death of a cinematographer on the 'Rust' film set, establishes a first-in-the-nation regulatory process for keeping workers safe. The bipartisan

tisan bill reflects months of negotiations between studios and labor representatives.

"SB 735 is a case of progress rising out of tragedy. While our discussions with film studios and their unions followed a heart-breaking death on a movie set, the legislation evolved into a greater effort to protect television and film workers from serious injury and death," Cortese said. "SB 735 will bring great uniformity to film and television in this prolific era of streaming by reducing threats and keeping workers safe."

The bill protects film and television workers by establishing clear, mandatory guide-



The "Rust" movie set where an accidental shooting took place in 2021.

lines around the use of firearms and ammunition on sets, among other provisions. It establishes training requirements and safety stan-

dards to ensure that prop firearms and blanks are handled safely, and prohibits the use of live ammunition except in the most limited circumstances.

SB 735 also creates the five-year Safety on Set pilot program requiring any employer who receives a motion picture tax credit to hire an independent safety advisor to conduct preproduction risk assessments, and oversee safety practices and procedures in motion picture, television, and streaming productions.

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Times **Cover Story**

Science Fair

Continued from page 1

more acidic, creating imbalances in ecosystem populations. Using various pH conditions, he found in more acidic conditions, daphnia populations increase while hydra populations decrease.

Katarina, a 10th grade Presentation High School student, used an artificial intelligence image classifier to sort recyclables. She envisions the scanner as a phone app to help people tell what can be recycled.

“Pollution is an increasing problem in our world today as more and more waste ends up in the environment,” she said. “A lot of it is caused by the improper disposal of materials.”

Pioneer High School 10th grader Jinwo investigated whether transferring stem cells into cells producing insulin could help children suffering from diabetes. Jinwo said the next step would be considering what kind of stem cells are the most effective and efficient.

“Finding out 1.1 million children (globally) suffer from diabetes,” he said, “I feel that this is the right topic for me.”

Haripriya, an eighth grader at Challenger School, Almaden, studied how smart responsive polymers can be used to artificially create organic materials compatible to the human body.

Mahika, a ninth grader at Leland High School, researched how to identify harmful space junk. She said this debris can harm satellites and the International Space Station. In May 2021, NASA said more than 27,000 pieces of orbital debris were tracked. Mahika said materials should be used which can burn up upon reentry. She created an image processing computer system able to determine if an image taken from space is a planet, star or space debris.

Harker School eighth grader Heather investigated the effect of different frequencies of traffic noise on the mating attraction of *Gryllodes sigillatus* (crickets), which communicate by chirping. They found as traffic noise frequency increased, crickets were less attracted to each other.

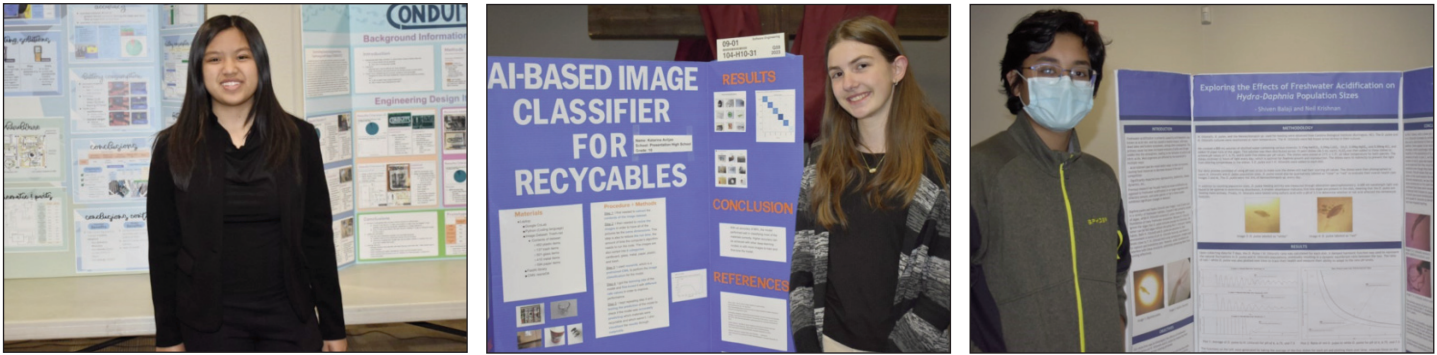
“Our experiment has shown higher frequencies are having a more detrimental impact on the environment,” she said. “We can work to create more effective traffic noise barriers to improve our environment and lessen our impact.”

Vedant, an 11th grader at Silver Creek High School, worked to create a predictive model for wetland eutrophication, the process by which a body of water becomes enriched with minerals and nutrients. He said the drive for his project came when he was volunteering at the Elkhorn Slough and observed bodies of water covered with algae. He used data to create a model pinpointing the highest concentration of nutrients, which he said are increased by fertilizers.

Bellarmine College Preparatory School ninth grader Viraj researched how crop yields could be enhanced and crop disease minimized. He said Graphene Quantum Dots act as fertilizer and determine the dryness of soil.

“There’s already hunger in the world and it’s only going to get worse,” he said, adding he hopes his project will show how useful

See SCIENCE FAIR, page 17



Jeanelle (left), a Stratford San Jose Middle School eighth grader, showed off two works: FilterEye and CONDUITS. **Katarina** (center), a 10th grade Presentation High School student, used an artificial intelligence image classifier to sort recyclables. **Neil** (right), a Harker Upper School 10th grader, explored the effects of freshwater acidification on hydra (small freshwater organisms) and daphnia (water fleas).

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Batra

Continued from page 1
committing to reducing homelessness by 15% statewide by 2025. To assist in this effort, Gov. Gavin Newsom is deploying 1,200 small homes throughout the state.

An Emergency Interim Housing movable sleeping cabin community is being considered by the City at Via Del Oro and San Ignacio Avenue. Batra said Dignity Moves would provide cabins on land donated for five years by John Sobrato. Batra said the city would have to pay for installation and moving the cabins. Staff recommends conditional approval of the site pending a cost-benefit evaluation.

Referring to a BeautifySJ vehicle blight report, Batra said the city is working to improve vehicle compliance. Batra said as the city tows about 3,600 vehicles a year at a high cost to owners, it will issue courtesy warning notices to owners first. He said the owners should bring nonworking vehicles to junk yards or come into compliance with those in use.

According to the San Jose Police Department, a vehicle may not be parked on a public street for more than 72 hours without moving, parked in violation of posted rules, abandoned or have an expired registration for more than six months.

Traffic calming measures are in the works for both Via Valiente and Elmwood Drive. Protected bike lanes on Via Valiente are being considered, as well as speed bumps for Choc-taw, Elwood and Hampton drives.

Among D10 beautification projects are new murals for Almaden Community Center and Santa Teresa and Vineland Branch Libraries. Park projects are underway throughout the district from repairs to weed abatement. Trees and native plants were installed at Glenview Park with bark to come and gopher wire was installed at Jeffrey Fontana Park with sod to follow.

Housing advocate Martha O'Connell asked Batra to vote for a new land use designation for Villa Teresa Mobile Community and Imperial San Jose Mobile Estates. This designation limits the development of high density, market rate housing as it requires the City Council to approve requests to convert a mobile home park for alternative use. O'Connell said Mayor Matt Mahan kept his word, acting on behalf of the mobile home parks by including them in the budget.

"Your previous councilmember, now mayor, has kept his word," Batra said, "and we are here to support those kinds of actions."

Resident Emily Becker objected to a plan to remove 129 trees due to Kaiser Permanente's new hospital project at Santa Teresa Boulevard and Cottle Road. She said 76

trees are healthy and 31 are on the perimeter of the construction site.

"I know San Jose has a strong commitment both to Our City Forest and taking action against climate change," she said, asking Batra to see if some of the trees can be preserved.

Resident Koshy George shared his frustration with the abuse, bullying and bigotry his family receives from a next-door neighbor. In addition to racial slurs, the neighbor harasses their guests and obstructs the city from picking up their garbage and recycling. George said it is traumatizing for them to endure this day in and day out.

"Nobody should suffer like this," he said, adding other minority families also live in fear because of this man.

Batra said he was sorry to hear it, especially in San Jose which takes pride in its diversity.

"I'll try my best to get some breakthrough," Batra said.

Resident Roberta Howe also sympathized with what the George family is going through.

"I'm so sorry your family has been dealing with this," she said. "This is not what I think our neighborhood is about."

Howe said weeds growing along Camden Avenue, Royalwood and Queenswood Way need to be addressed. She said rather than mowing down foxtails, an abatement program is needed to remove them. She said the Los Alamitos Creek trail is now a weed patch. Batra said the city and county are working on it.

Resident David Osugi expressed his concern regarding cars

speeding every eve-ning along Almaden Expressway from Via Valiente to Harry Road. He said tire marks are evident, but police don't seem to respond to this reckless behavior.

Resident Martin Stuczynski asked Batra to help ban gas leaf blowers in San Jose. He said they create noise and air pollution, affecting residents' quality of life.

Resident Edesa Bitbadal complained of issues she's had arranging for bulk item pickup by Garden City Sanitation.

"They do everything possible not to pick up your items with every kind of excuse," she said, adding that the city pays for its contract so people don't dump things on the street.

Batra said he takes every comment seriously and appreciates residents' input.

"That's how we'll make the City of San Jose a better city," he said.

Batra's Town Halls are online at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month and in-person at 9 a.m. the third Saturday of the month at the food court at Oakridge Mall.

An Emergency Interim Housing movable sleeping cabin community is being considered by the City at Via Del Oro and San Ignacio Avenue. Batra said Dignity Moves would provide cabins on land donated for five years by John Sobrato.

San Jose leads nation in hiring new college grads

By Joan-Anh Pham
San José Spotlight

San Jose ranked No. 1 on a national list for hiring the most new college graduates. But students shouldn't toss their caps in the air just yet.

The San Jose metro area, which includes the cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara, hired the highest number of new graduates last year, outpacing other major U.S. metro areas, according to a May report by Gusto, a payroll and HR software company. Yet while some new graduates can look to a six-figure salary, they'll still have to contend with an overall cooling job market and Silicon Valley's steep cost of living.



A recent study found that San Jose had the highest increase in new graduate hiring on average at 9.6% for April 2022-23. *File photo.*

The study found that San Jose had the highest increase in new graduate hiring on average at 9.6% from April 2022-23, ahead of other major cities like Houston at 8.5%, New York City at 8.0% and Miami at 7.9%. The report

found that while San Jose was the sole area nationally to offer new grads a six-figure salary at an average of \$102,839, that number plummeted to an average salary of \$57,580 when adjusted for living expenses.

San Jose State University Associate Director of Career Education Anita Manuel said the city's high cost of living comes at no surprise to the region's graduates. She said the area is rich in universities graduating students who are willing to work in and around San Jose, so tackling the high cost of living needs to be a priority for local leaders.

"If you look at historical trends, Silicon Valley always comes out on top," Manuel told San José Spotlight. "If government or society wants to improve anything, it would be on those infrastructure things: affordable housing, supportive transportation if people want to commute... Those are the things that are going to help keep our talent here."

Despite recent tech layoffs dominating the headlines, Gusto economist and study author Luke Pardue said smaller tech companies are actively looking to hire graduates.

The report found that May 2023 hiring for 20-24 year olds is at 5.4%, which is still significantly lower compared to 7.2% this time last year. But there are upticks in hiring across industries like retail, with the study pointing to nontraditional jobs such as e-commerce roles in food businesses on the rise. In San Jose, tech still reigns supreme as the leading industry for new graduates.

"Even if overall we're seeing this growth in personal services and retail and food and beverage, we actually are seeing a lot of growth in software and tech in San Jose," Pardue told San José Spotlight.

SJSU Assistant Director of Employer Engagement Lisa Trikofski said the university is seeing an increase in employers looking to hire, especially in education and local government. The city of San Jose reported hundreds of job vacancies, an issue throughout Santa Clara County. Meanwhile, local school districts are working tirelessly to hire hundreds of teachers who have left the expensive Bay Area.

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley executive director Gabriela Chavez-Lopez said while robust hiring isn't surprising given San Jose's diverse array of industries, students of color need additional advocacy and support to obtain better, higher-paying opportunities to keep them in the city. The nonprofit provides career development through its Latina Economic Advancement Program.

"Particularly around new grads of color, they aren't as much tied into really supportive social networks of professionals that they can lean in on," Chavez-Lopez told San José Spotlight.

Pardue said local leaders should keep an eye on new graduate hiring rates, especially since these workers contribute heavily to the economy now and in the future.

"Attracting this pool of talent sets the city up for a foundation of success down the line," he said. "They create new ideas that raise productivity, and they also often go on to form their own businesses which create new jobs. They form the first part of this cycle of growth for a city."

Science Fair

Continued from page 15

technology is to increase food production.

Viraj's mother, Rachna Pandey, said by doing these projects students learned scientific topics in detail.

"They independently work on the solution they are trying to solve and become subject matter experts," she said.

Pandey said the Synopsys Science Fair, with its hall packed with students, brought her son an immense sense of pride. She said his having the opportunity to share his concept with the Almaden community, Councilmember Batra and Congressman Panetta was an extraordinary experience.

"Seeing my otherwise shy son presenting with all his vigor and pride gives me immense joy," Pandey said.

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At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.



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<http://www.eicsanjose.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148.
(408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam. "Hufazik Allah Waeayilataku" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!



Grace Church of Evergreen
GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com
408 274 1200
See you on Facebook.
2650 Aborn Rd at Kettmann, across from the Public Library.
Serving Evergreen for over 55 years.
John Goldstein Pastor.
john@GraceChurchEvergreen.com. Christian

worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community.
Music Institute (408) 791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments.
PreSchool, Ages 2-6
Caring for your child with God's love and affection. Check our website for current activities.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.



thepoint.church

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148
(408) 270-7646
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
We invite you to become a part of our hospitable,

intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and wherever you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148
The 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 teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; 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 (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encour-

age you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road
Sunday 9:30 AM
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com



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Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182;

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ALMADEN VALLEY



THERESE SWAN

408.656.8240

tswan@tswan.com

AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com

DRE 01355719



This distinctive multi-level home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac with spectacular panoramic views including the Mt. Hamilton range. Five covered porches/balconies, recessed lights throughout, 96 oversized double pane Low E coated windows. Remodeled kitchen with as white Quartz slab counters and soft-close European style cabinets, Enormous primary bedroom oasis with balcony, atrium, and bonus room. San Jose Unified School District: Williams Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Leland High School.

\$3,650,000

5 Bedrooms

3.5 Full Baths

4760 Sq Ft

.75 Acre Lot



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

VFLIGHT