

'It's just a matter of time': How Santa Clara County is preparing for fires:  
**SEE PAGE 4**



An 'incredible work force'  
Mayor Mahan discusses the city's ongoing labor negotiations  
**SEE PAGE 4**

Burt the war hero: A look back at wartime initiative  
**SEE PAGE 15**



YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR  
**OVER 36 YEARS**

# Almaden

# Times

AUG. 4 – AUG. 17, 2023 ■ VOL. 36, NO. 16

SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ■ [ALMADENTIMES.COM](http://ALMADENTIMES.COM)



Mountain View Communications Director **Lenka Wright** is running for San Jose City Council in District 10. Photo courtesy of Lenka Wright.

## Longtime San Jose leader first to enter District 10 race

By **Jana Kadah**  
*San José Spotlight*

**L**ongtime government leader and media specialist Lenka Wright is running to represent South San Jose.

Wright, a former broadcast journalist turned communications director for Mountain View, is eyeing the District 10 San Jose City Council seat to represent the Almaden and Santa Teresa area. She is the first to announce her candidacy for the 2024 election, although incumbent Councilmember Arjun Batra is intending to run as well.

Wright, 52, worked as assistant director of communications for San Jose from 2011 to 2016. After a short stint in Washington, she worked as communications director in Santa Clara for two years and has been in Mountain View for two years. She said if elected, her priorities will be public safety, quality of life and homelessness.

When she first moved to San Jose in 2010, she said it was known as the safest big city in the nation where residents could afford to live. Her goal: to bring back San Jose to its former glory.

"I felt like I had hit the jackpot. The city was so amazing, with  
*See WRIGHT, page 19*



## 30,000 celebrate 4th of July at Almaden Lake Park

*Event continues to be community favorite*

By **William Bellou**  
*Publisher*

**M**ore than 30,000 people celebrated Independence Day at the 8th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park.

Presented by the Office of Councilmember Arjun Batra, the Almaden Valley Women's Club, and the Kiwanis Club of Almaden, the annual event has become a tradition for San Jose residents to watch the fireworks as well as to enjoy a pre-firework festival with entertainment, food trucks, community booths and games.

"This annual patriotic event has become a tradition for our community offering a safe place to

watch amazing fireworks, to honor those who have served our Country, to enjoy great entertainment and to enjoy playing games with family and friends," said Councilmember Batra.

**Fireworks amaze all**

The spectacular fireworks show was produced by Craig Cutright of Devastating Pyrotechnics. Craig and Devastating Pyrotechnics never disappoint the large enthusiastic crowd with their amazing show. Prior to the fireworks, attendees enjoyed visiting the Community booths, participated in a Most Patriotic Attire contest, enjoyed the various food trucks, a magic show, music, and games.

This year's event started at 3 p.m. with a welcome from Councilmember Batra, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, and Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, followed by the vintage rock sounds of Snarky Cats, former Almaden Valley residents George and Cindy Nowicki's live band. Magician Perry Yan of PY Magic strolled around the park wowing guests with magic tricks and performed a magic show at the stage. Scouts from Troop 294 performed the flag ceremony, and students from Vivace Youth Chorus sang the National Anthem.

**Most Patriotic Getup Contest a hit**

A Most Patriotic Attire Contest was held at this year's event, where prizes were awarded for the Most Patriotic Dressed Family, Most Patriotic Dressed Teen, and Most Patriotic Dressed Child. Keeping things running smoothly at the stage was the fabulous emcee, Corinna Girard, Campus Pastor at WestGate Church, and Stage Manager, Shirley Cannon from the District 10 Council office.

A variety of food was available from food trucks Citlaly's Catering,  
*See FIREWORKS, page 20*

## Leland High School says goodbye to Principal Peter Park

*As a former Leland student himself, Park sees the school as a 'centerpiece' of Almaden*

By **Claire Chen**

*Almaden Times staff writer*

**A**fter six years of dedicated service, Peter Park is stepping down as Principal to become the Director of Human Resources for San José Unified School District.

Harveen Bal, the current Assistant Principal of Instruction & Curriculum, will replace Park this coming fall.

I sat down with both Mr. Park and Ms. Bal to hear their take on what this upcoming transition means for Leland.

**The Student Who Became Principal**

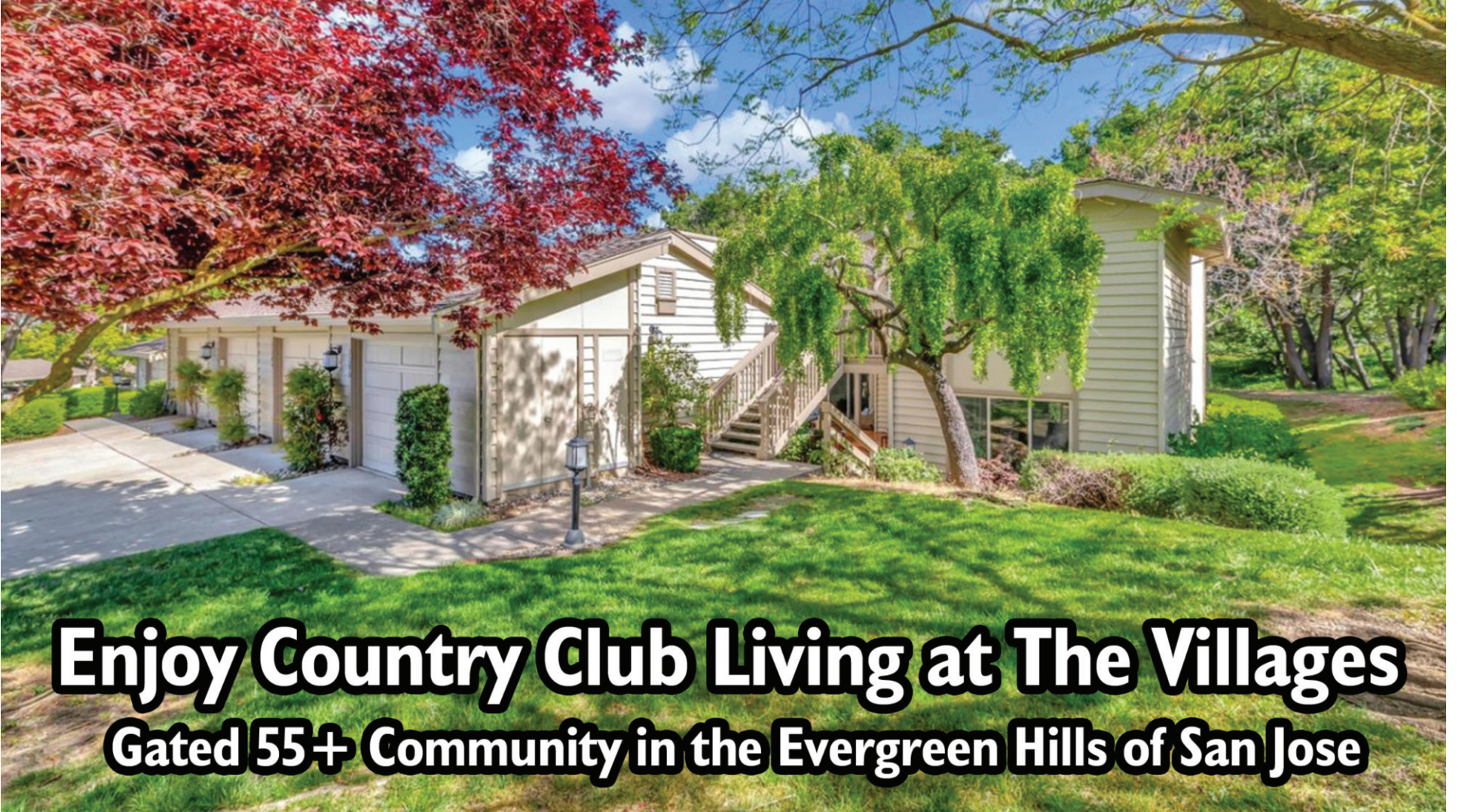
"I'm extremely proud of the community we've built," Park said. "If you come to our events, you see parents whose kids have long since graduated — but they still come to support this generation of Chargers. Our community is the source of our strength."

*See PRINCIPAL page 21*



**Peter Park** is stepping down as Principal of Leland High School to become the Director of Human Resources for San José Unified School District.

**SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER**

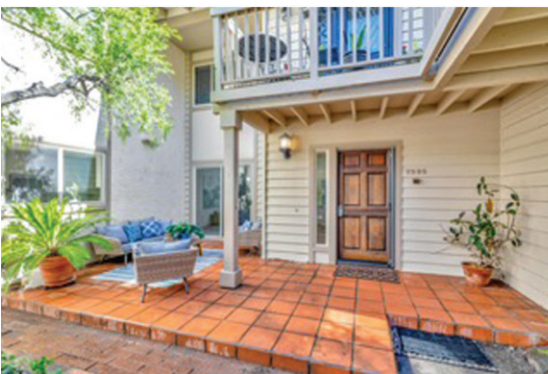


# Enjoy Country Club Living at The Villages

## Gated 55+ Community in the Evergreen Hills of San Jose



Now is your time to enjoy everyday luxury living in The Villages Golf & Country Club: A Gated, Active, Senior Community located in the Evergreen Hills of Silicon Valley - near Silver Creek Valley Country Club. Are you 55+ ???? Downsizing? Retired? or Still working? If you want to enjoy life at its best -- be sure to preview this home with an inviting Front Courtyard and Nature from EVERY window!



1568sf - 2 Bedroom - 2 Bath home with spacious Living & Dining Rooms - Kitchen with attached Family room or Nook - Sliders from Living & Family room opening to Screened Back Patio overlooking a private & beautiful Wooded Meadow. Now that you've Relaxed -- Want to have FUN? Choose one or all of these amenities: 2 Golf courses (9 & 18 hole), 4 Swimming Pools/Spa, Tennis, Pickleball & Bocce courts, Billiards & Ping Pong Rooms plus miles of Hiking Trails. Now enjoy Fine Clubhouse Dining or Casual dining in Bistro or Patio. Come enjoy the Lifestyle You Deserve! \$798,000



**Dee Ramirez**  
The Villages Realty Team

Lic# 00683945 ■ REALTOR

**408.440.7617**

Dee@RamirezRealtyTeam.com

www.DeeRamirez.com

2925 The Villages Parkway ■ San Jose ■ CA ■ 95135

Please note: I have not and will not be verifying or investigating any information supplied by others.

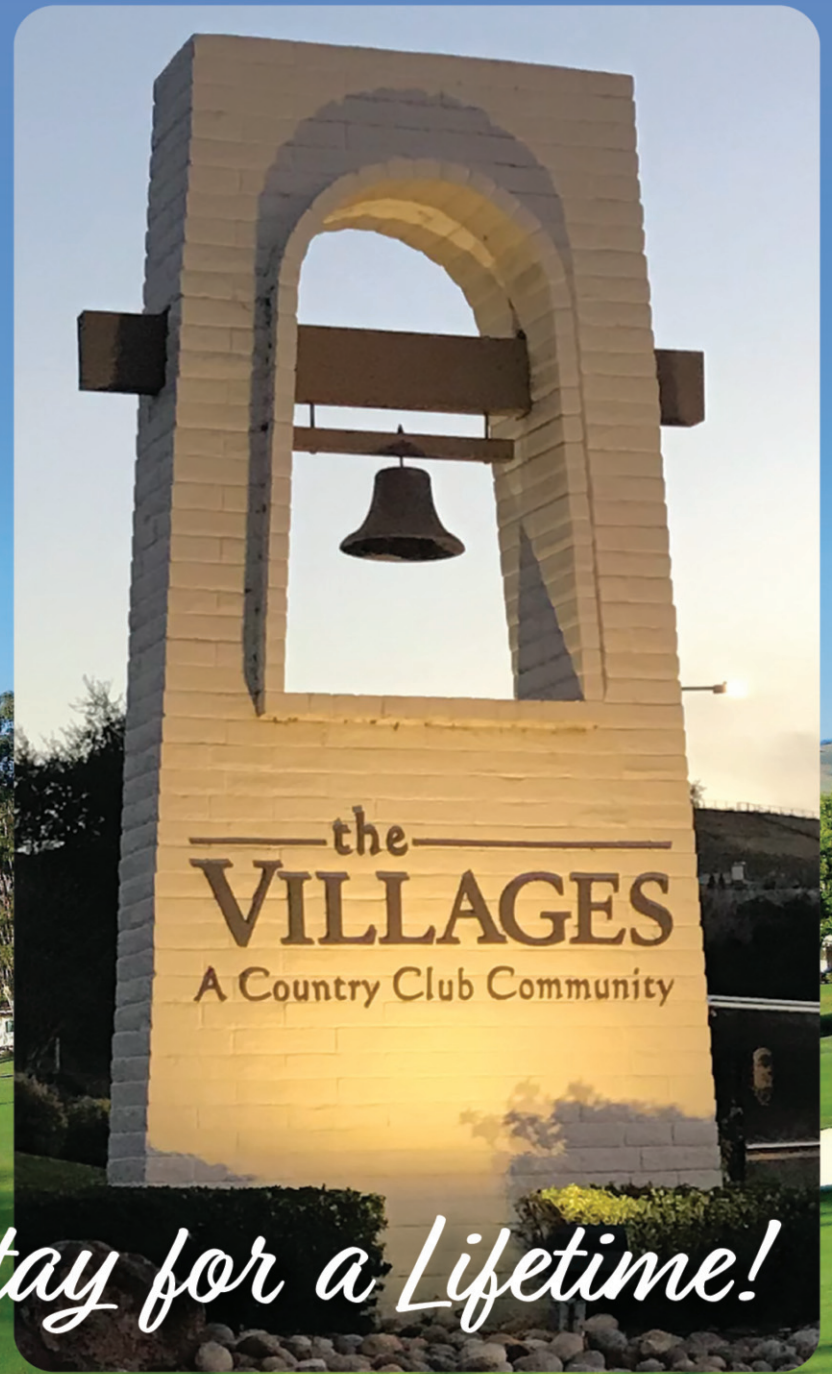
# THE VILLAGES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

*55+ Adult Living*

## The Best Kept Secret in Silicon Valley

Homes from \$450k to \$1.5 Million

- Country Club Living
- 18 and 9 Hole Golf Courses
- Tennis, Bocce and Pickle Ball
- Fitness Center
- 4 Swimming Pools with Spa
- Library & Post Office
- Many Clubs & Organizations
- Clubhouse for Fine Dining
- Bistro Pub with Patio Service



*Come for a Tour - Stay for a Lifetime!*



**Dee Ramirez**

Realtor Lic # 00683945

**408.440.7617**

Email: [Dee@DeeRamirez.com](mailto:Dee@DeeRamirez.com)

Website: [www.DeeRamirez.com](http://www.DeeRamirez.com)

Office: 2925 The Villages Parkway • San Jose • CA • 95135

NEWS DESK



## The incredible San Jose workforce is at the negotiating table

By Matt Mahan  
Mayor, San Jose

Our City has an incredible workforce. And I'm not just saying that as a proud San Josean.

We have over 6,000 people who come to work every day to serve our one million residents. Over 6,000 people who use their skills to make our city a better place.

They deserve to be fairly compensated for their hard work. And during our union negotiations, we offered them just that – a deal with the highest compensation we as a city could afford without sacrificing the services our one million residents rely on.

The truth is, as you all know, times are tough, for our families and for our city. The experts are telling us

to expect a nationwide recession and our budget office has forecast a \$19 million budget deficit next year.

So we need to make sure that we negotiate in a way that's fair to everyone – workers and residents.

The good news is we do have an offer on the table which rewards our workers for their hard work without having to cut services or ask for any new taxes.

Our offer includes a guaranteed 12% raise over the next three years. It includes an additional 4 weeks of paid family leave. Our offer is the same or better than the average proposal offered by public employers across the Bay Area, and we are proud to have a lower vacancy rate than a majority of comparative cities and counties.

And of the bargaining units negotiating this year, three have accepted this generous offer, and a fourth has agreed to a contract extension with the same terms. Unfortunately, we have four bargaining units who have so far rejected our offer, and these unions are asking for raises that far outstrip what San Jose can afford. As of last week, these groups ended mediation after one meeting and with no agreement in place.

We continue to hope for a resolution that is fair both to our workers and the city at large. And in the meantime, we will continue to be responsible with your tax dollars so that we can reward our workers without punishing our residents.

You may send your comments and suggestions to Mayor Matt Mahan via email: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408-535-4800.



**From the Mayor**  
Matt Mahan  
Mayor, San Jose

# Valley Currents

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



Firefighters from the Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit with their new Firehawk helicopter. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

## 'It's just a matter of time': How Santa Clara County is preparing for fires

By Annalise Freimarck  
San José Spotlight

A few embers from a fire can become catastrophic in minutes, igniting new blazes that can rip through homes, businesses and acres of land. That's why Ali Tohidi, mechanical engineering assistant professor at San Jose State University, and his team are studying how embers, also known as firebrand showers, spread. The team at SJSU's Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center is attempting to better understand fire behavior.

Due to the effects of climate change, Cal Fire looks at the whole year as a fire season, spokesperson Chelsea Burkett said. The agency prepares more in the warmer months, but there is no specific peak season because it's dependent on weather, she added.

Local researchers and firefighters are worried the next few months could be worse than years past.

Tohidi, who testified at Capitol Hill in front of the

House Science Committee earlier this month, said fires started by embers are responsible for approximately 50% of houses lost in urban environments such as San Jose. To prevent this, his team is working toward incorporating an understanding of ember behavior into current fire models.

"If we have a model that doesn't account for this, what are we doing, right?" he told San José Spotlight.

SJSU's wildfire research center—one of the nation's largest academic wildfire research centers—launched in 2020 following the Santa Cruz lightning complex fires, which burned nearly 400,000 acres across six counties, including Santa Clara. The center aims to conduct wildfire research that will improve tools and policies to prevent and fight fires.

Tohidi and local firefighters said the large amount of vegetation growth spurred by the torrents of winter rain is cause for concern because plants can act as fuel.

See FIRE, next page



Inside Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit's Firehawk helicopter. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.

## Almaden Times

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

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU  
williamb@timesmediainc.com

SENIOR STAFF WRITER: LORRAINE GABBERT

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: SHUBHI ASTHANA  
CLAIRE CHEN, KEIRAH CHEN, SEAN EASTWOOD,  
MATTHEW FRAZIER, KEVIN LARSEN,  
EUGENE LUU, SUNAY SANGHANI,  
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY,  
APOORVA PANIDAPU, DENELLE FEDOR

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM

PHOTOGRAPHER: ROCCO SANTORO

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

Copyright © 2023 Times Media, Inc. All rights reserved. The Almaden Times prefers letters to the editor and submissions of guest articles and columns for consideration and possible publication to be sent by email to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com). All submitted materials become the property of Times Media, Inc., and receipt of unsolicited materials cannot be acknowledged.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed by guest authors and columnists in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions and viewpoints of the staff and management of the Almaden Times and Times Media, Inc.

# RED DOG SHRED



RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS PAPER SHREDDING

DROP-OFF SHREDDING SERVICE

**WATCH IT SHRED!**

RECYCLE  
ELECTRONICS

MULTI MEDIA



65 Gallon Container



PAPER SHREDDING  
\$10.00 PER BOX  
10" x 12" x 15"

HARD DRIVE  
SHREDDING

**JUNK IT!**



- OFFICE CONTENT CLEANOUT
- DOCUMENT PURGES
- PICK UP DOGS
- ON-SITE SHREDDING

Executive Console



**RED DOG SHRED PICKS UP**

[www.RedDogShred.com](http://www.RedDogShred.com)

**408-377-2925**

BAY AREA - SAN JOSE • 14944 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 (Cambrian Plaza)

## ADVERTISEMENT



## Goodbye water thirsty lawns and hello beautiful water-wise landscapes!



Did you know that at least half of the water in a typical Santa Clara County home is used outdoors? You could save money on your water bill by transforming your lawn with the help of Valley Water's (Santa Clara Valley Water District) Landscape Rebate Program.

As you walk through your neighborhood, you may have noticed that a growing number of homes in Santa Clara County have already traded their front lawns for a gorgeous water-wise landscape. Residents in Santa Clara County are discovering the many benefits of replacing lawns with the help of Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program. In fact, nearly 13,500 residents and businesses have already participated in the program!



**Our Landscape Rebate Program** can help you transform your thirsty yard into a beautiful water-wise landscape and make your irrigation equipment more efficient.

Get \$200 for every 100 square feet of lawn you convert, for a maximum of \$3,000 for residential sites, and \$100,000 for commercial and institutional sites.

Some cost sharing areas may be eligible for even more! Start the application process online at [watersavings.org](http://watersavings.org) to request a pre-inspection or call us at 408-630-2554 for more information.

Please note that application approval is required before starting any project.

With warmer weather approaching, consider letting us help you replace your water thirsty lawn into an 'evolved yard' using plants that are drought-tolerant, need less water and are native to California. An 'evolved yard' delivers a functional, attractive and easily maintained landscape, which will not only help to save you money but will help make water conservation a way of life.

Visit [WaterSavings.org](http://WaterSavings.org), to learn more about our rebate programs, book an inspection for pre-approval of a rebate project, or request water-saving equipment. To inquire about how you can save water in your home and landscaping, email [conservation@valleywater.org](mailto:conservation@valleywater.org) or call 408-630-2554.

Times **Community News**

## Spot a vehicle transport scam before you move your car, truck or motorcycle

Moving is stressful, expensive, and time-consuming! That makes it a perfect opportunity for scammers. If you are relocating and need help transporting your vehicle, watch out for this scam.

### How this scam works

You search the internet for a vehicle transport service, hoping to get a quote. After browsing a few companies, you find one offering a great deal. All you have to do is send them a deposit of a few hundred dollars, usually via a digital wallet service.

Once the deposit is made, you get a pick-up date, but no one shows up when the date rolls around. The company may tell you that the driver was held up, but any attempts to contact that person are fruitless. Ultimately, you'll have lost any money you paid to a fake company with no intention of transporting anything.

However, some versions of this scam are more extreme. A few consumers reported to BBB Scam Tracker a variation where the "company" did transport their vehicles.

The problems began when they wanted to pick up the car at their destination. The company asked for more money than previously agreed, essentially holding the car, truck, or motorcycle hostage.

One consumer reported this experience: "I booked a shipment to have a motorcycle transported. The motorcycle was picked up at the location and never delivered to me. I had already made payment with PayPal for the cost of the transport, but the representative told me the funds were kicked back. I checked my PayPal account and did not receive a credit... I told him I didn't feel comfortable with this and refused to send him any funds. He then stated the bike would be placed in a storage unit and it would cost

\$900 to have it released." The consumer continued to receive Cash App requests for payments, which he refused to pay. The consumer has not been able to locate his motorcycle.

### How to avoid vehicle transport scams

Do thorough research to find a reputable shipping company. When it comes to expensive services and important, high-dollar possessions, doing research is critical. Look for companies with verifiable contact information, good customer service, and reviews on third-party websites. Avoid companies without a website, have poor or no reviews, or are difficult to contact. A good place to start your research is on BBB.org.

Watch out for deals that sound too good to be true. If a company quotes you a price significantly lower than the market value for a service or product, consider it a red flag. In this scam (and many others), scammers try to lure their victims with unrealistic prices.

Think about how you make payments. Making payments through digital wallet apps are essentially cash payments. These services are designed to be used with people you trust. Also, never make payments for services by wiring money or with prepaid debit cards. Anyone who requests payment this way is probably a scammer. Paying with a credit card makes it easier to contest fraudulent charges.

### For more information

Have a successful move with these resources and BBB tips at [BBB.org/all/moving](http://BBB.org/all/moving). With technology and scammers tactics continuing to change, visit BBB's Scams HQ at [BBB.org/all/scamtips](http://BBB.org/all/scamtips) for information and resources on the various types of scams and warning signs.

## Fire

*Continued from previous page*

Even though the summer has been relatively quiet, Burkett said fires are inevitable as the weather heats up.

"It's just a matter of time," she told San José Spotlight.

Cal Fire SCU fights fires across five counties: all of Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties, and parts of San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

To prepare for the possibility of fires due to hot weather, firefighters are training with a new Firehawk helicopter they received in November, which will eventually allow them to fight fires and make rescues at night, something they can't do now.

The team is training in Sacramento next February to master the helicopter's night vision.

"It's all about learning the aircraft, learning the capabilities, being comfortable with it," Fire Capt. Mike Young, member of Cal Fire SCU since 2003, told San José Spotlight.

Young said the reason there haven't been many fires this year is because, with the exception of two units, every Cal Fire unit has a Firehawk—which is more advanced than the Huey helicopter firefighters have

been flying, which was developed in the 1960s.

The Firehawk is equipped with a 1,000-gallon water tank compared to the Huey's 370-gallon tank. It has two engines instead of one and can fly at a maximum forward flight speed of 140 knots—30 more than the Huey. The helicopter also has a pre-installed rig for air rescue operations, so teams can conduct rescues faster, rather than having to manually attach the gear.

Burkett said the team can prepare as much as possible and increase technology to understand fire behavior, but that doesn't account for the unpredictable human element.

"You could sit there and project it all day long on a computer, but at the end of the day, what it comes down to is... how people are preventing (fires) or working to try to prepare themselves," she said.

Tohidi recommends homeowners seal any crevices and remove dry vegetation around their home that embers could land in, also known as home hardening. He also recommends following safety guidelines, knowing evacuation routes and being aware of the hotter weather.

"Not all wildfires are bad or harmful. It's actually a way that nature chooses to keep the hygiene of the forest," he said.



# ALMADEN LAW GROUP

Amy L. Horowitz Attorney at Law

## Almaden Law Group provides estate planning and probate services.

*Amy is committed to delivering high value services at a reasonable price. She establishes a comfortable, compassionate and trusting relationship with her clients.*

Contact Almaden Law Group  
to schedule a free initial  
office consultation.

### Almaden Law Group

6501 Crown Boulevard, Suite 200

Phone: 408-268-8530

Email: [amy@almadenlawgroup.com](mailto:amy@almadenlawgroup.com)

[www.almadenlawgroup.com](http://www.almadenlawgroup.com)

Now accepting all major credit cards





# BEST

## Physical Therapy & Performance

Your Fitness & Rehabilitation Partners

# Training & Classes

Serving San Jose Since 1995  
6155 Almaden Expy.  
San Jose, CA 95120

- ✓ build strength
- ✓ increase flexibility
- ✓ improve balance
- ✓ improve posture
- ✓ injury prevention
- ✓ boost mood

**!** RSVP required and for more information, email: [info@bestphysicaltherapy.com](mailto:info@bestphysicaltherapy.com)  
**Group Rates Available!**

### BEST Performance Training

(6155 Almaden Expressway)

**1:1 training**  
1 session = \$70  
4 sessions = \$270  
8 sessions = \$520  
12 sessions = \$720

**Small group Training (2-3 participants)**  
1 session = \$50  
4 sessions = \$190  
8 sessions = \$360  
12 sessions = \$480

\* Sessions are 55 minutes

### ! Featured Specials

**Strength & Conditioning for  
Golf  
Runners  
Tennis  
Soccer**

#### Special Introductory Pricing:

1 session: \$40  
8 sessions: \$300  
12 sessions: \$420

#### BEST CORE Level 1

(6155 Almaden Expressway)  
Monday, Thursday 10:00am-10:50am

\$23 per session  
8 sessions: \$140  
12 sessions: \$180

#### BEST CORE Level 2

(6155 Almaden Expressway)  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-9:50am  
Tuesday, Thursday 6:15pm-7:05pm

\$23 per session  
8 sessions: \$140  
12 sessions: \$180

#### BEST CORE Level 3

(6155 Almaden Expressway)  
Monday, Wednesday 5:45pm-6:35pm  
Friday 4:00pm-4:50pm

\$23 per session  
8 sessions: \$140  
12 sessions: \$180

#### BEST Balance

(6155 Almaden Expressway)  
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs  
11:30am-12:15pm

\$25 per session  
8 sessions 2x week: \$170  
12 sessions 3x week: \$220

#### Boot Camp

Every Saturday: 9:00-10:00am  
Class Minimum: 3 participants

1 session: \$35  
8 sessions: \$240  
12 sessions: \$300

#### Youth Strength and Conditioning

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



For Class Details visit:  
[www.bestphysicaltherapy.com/bestclasses](http://www.bestphysicaltherapy.com/bestclasses)

Info & Questions?  
[info@bestphysicaltherapy.com](mailto:info@bestphysicaltherapy.com)



**FREE ADMISSION**

# 41<sup>ST</sup> ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA!

## AUGUST 5 & 6 • HISTORY PARK SAN JOSE

1650 SENTER ROAD, SAN JOSE 95112

**SATURDAY 11 AM TO 8 PM • SUNDAY 11 AM TO 6 PM**

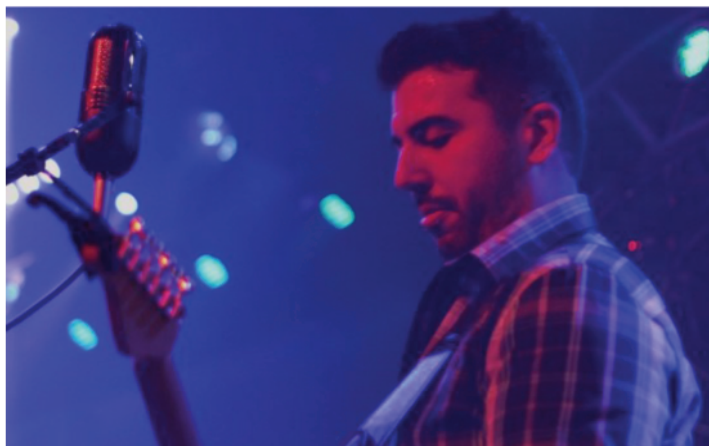


**FEATURING: *LIVEWIRE*, SAT, AUG 5<sup>th</sup>  
FUN FOR ALL! GREAT FOOD!  
ENTERTAINMENT & LIVE MUSIC!**

**Limited Free Parking Volunteer & info at [ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org](http://ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org)**



Michela Musollino, Aug 5th



Mike Annuzzi. Aug 6, Sun.



Gold Money Band, Sat. & Sun.



Anthony "Nino" Lane Band, Aug 6, Sun.



Roman Encampment & Legionaries Parade

**Clean Slate**  
**FREE TATTOO REMOVAL**  
 Hands, Wrist, Neck & Face  
 Ages 14 - 25

For more info, call 408-794-1660 or email [cleanslate@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:cleanslate@sanjoseca.gov)

Times **Feature**



Samantha 'Sam' Chock



Noah Gibbins-Shapiro

**Tufts University names Almaden Valley residents Chock, Gibbins-Shapiro and Shin to 'Dean's List'**

Tufts University recently announced that three Almaden Valley residents have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

The following Almaden residents have received Dean's List honors: Sam Chock, Noah Gibbins-Shapiro, and Woovin Shin.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is



Woovin Shin

recognized among the premier research universities in the United States.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Help the passengers find their way around Mineta San José International Airport (SJC)!

The Airport is looking for information booth volunteers to answer questions related to flight information, concessions, ground transportation, and much more.

Apply today! <https://www.flysanjose.com/volunteer>

## CATALYTIC CONVERTER ETCH AND PROTECT PROGRAM

In memory of The Nguyen and the Nguyen Family

Please join the San Jose Police Department and the San Jose Police Foundation for the Catalytic Converter Etching Program.

Etching a converter with your license plate or VIN number will assist police to help track the converter in the event it is stolen and recovered.

### EASY AS 1-2-3! AND IT'S FREE!

- 1
- 2
- 3

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

CAPITOL HONDA 745 CAPITOL EXPY, SAN JOSE 408-445-4422	STEVENS CREEK TOYOTA 4202 STEVENS CREEK BLVD. SAN JOSE 408-984-1234	SPEEDEE/MIDAS 1825 E. CAPITOL EXPY, SAN JOSE 408-531-0701
--	--	--

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

Times **Community News**

# Traffic, community events highlighted in District 10

By **Arjun Batra**  
District 10 Councilmember

I hope you are all having a fantastic summer and continuing to engage in and enjoy the many outdoor, in-person community events taking place in our neighborhoods and parks so far!

My office has been working with the City's Department of Transportation to find effective solutions to the traffic and pedestrian safety issues that you write to our office about and often tell us in our meetings.

Here is an update on the various traffic calming measures that have either been implemented or are in progress in our district to address safety concerns.

### Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Projects in D10

Thank you for the input that has been received by my office. If you are interested in joining a Neighborhood Traffic Committee to provide input for your local streets, contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov).

Also, as a Vision Zero city, San José is aiming to reduce and eventually eliminate traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries through traffic safety enhancements and community input.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the city plans to embark on a new multi-year traffic safety program, named "Safe Routes to Schools", to improve safety around all 260 schools in San Jose (here) through expected additional funding of \$6.8 million from the Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Measure B. The City's Department of Transportation expects to present their proposed implementation plan to the City Council after VTA formally authorizes the funding in fall 2023.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has attended the community events that took place this month. It has been a pleasure meeting and interact-

ing with you all. I look forward to meeting more of you at future community events and my regular "Talk with Batra" series.

### 4th of July

What a night! I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all who joined at the extraordinary July 4th Fireworks Festival!

The night was filled with enchantment and unforgettable moments. I deeply appreciate your unwavering support and hope to have the pleasure of your company once again next year for another sensational celebration!



**District 10 Report**  
**Arjun Batra**  
Councilmember,  
District 10

I would like to thank Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, Representative Jimmy Panetta, and Assemblymember Ash Kalra for joining us at Almaden Lake in the early afternoon to greet our esteemed guests at the festival's commencement. Furthermore, we express our heartfelt appreciation to Mayor Matt for joining me and previous District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis in the evening to present a well-deserved commendation to our J4FF co-founder, Bob Vonderwerth.

Bob's unwavering dedication and visionary leadership have made this event possible, and we are forever grateful for his invaluable contributions.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge our exceptional sponsors, the Almaden Valley Women's Club, Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley, and the hundreds of volunteers whose ardent efforts and unwavering commitment made this festival a resounding success.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to create more cherished memories together at our 2024 July 4th Fireworks Festival. Please save the date and mark your calendars, for we are eagerly counting down the days until we can gather once again to celebrate in grandeur!

### Senior Safari at Happy Hollow and Zoo - Free!

I would like to cordially invite all residents, aged 50 and up, to an exclusive Senior Safari event at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo on Thursday, August 24. As an esteemed guest at this event, you'll have the chance to relive the joy of youth amidst the captivating surroundings of San Jose's iconic zoo.

Event Highlights:  
Early entry from 9:00 am to 10:00 am  
Animal meet-and-greets



Thank you to all the friends and families who have joined us at Greystone Park so far at the 20th Annual Almaden Valley Summer Concert Series.

Zookeeper chats  
10,000-step challenge  
Various engaging activities

Delight in the natural wonders, connect with wildlife, and enjoy invigorating experiences with like-minded individuals. Breakfast options and coffee will be available for purchase.

Join us for a memorable Senior Safari at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo!

### Almaden Summer Concerts

Thank you to all the friends and families who have joined us at Greystone Park so far at the 20th Annual Almaden Valley Summer Concert Series. It was a pleasure meeting each and every one of you! If you missed out the last three times, make sure to mark your calendars for the last concert of the series, featuring the Snarky Cats!

Swing by our D10 office table for an array of useful city information and say hi as we close out this series together.

### Viva Parks

It was great meeting all of our neighbors at our recent Viva Parks event. Thank you to the city departments, organizers, and volunteers that made this event happen. The next Viva Parks event in our district will be Thursday, August 24th at La Colina Park! I hope to see you all there for a spectacular movie night. The Movie will be Dora and the Lost City of Gold.

### Almaden Community Center Luau

Mahalo to the amazing Almaden Seniors Association for inviting me to their Hawaiian Luau at the Almaden Community Center! The island music, Polynesian food, and vibrant atmosphere made it an unforgettable summer experience.

### Representative Jimmy Panetta opens up office in our district

Congratulations to Representative Jimmy Panetta on his office's grand opening in our district.  
*See District 10, next page*



Mahalo to the amazing Almaden Seniors Association for inviting me to their Hawaiian Luau at the Almaden Community Center!



**Drive home the savings.**

**Al Olseen**  
State Farm Agent

3267 S White Road,  
San Jose, CA 95148  
Phone: (408) 274-4900  
Hours: 9 am – 6 pm  
(Lunch 1-2 pm)

Call for competitive Auto Insurance rates.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.<sup>®</sup>  
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm General Insurance Company  
Bloomington, IL

**Erica Alvarez**  
Real Estate Agent  
DRE#01743455  
209-799-7315  
[ericaayourealtor@gmail.com](mailto:ericaayourealtor@gmail.com)  
[www.ericaalvarezrealestate.com](http://www.ericaalvarezrealestate.com)  
1133 N Carpenter Rd Ste 3, Modesto, CA 95351

Times Feature



Thank you to everyone that traveled across the Bay Area to join at the second day of the incredible Water Lantern Festival!

## District 10

*Continued from previous page*

District. I was honored to attend the grand opening of his new office at 841 Blossom Hill Road yesterday afternoon. This new office will serve as a hub for constituent services, residents will get help with a wide range of federal matters, such as veteran affairs, social security, immigration, small business support, and more.

### Water Lantern Festival

Thank you to everyone that traveled across the Bay Area to join at the second day of the incredible Water Lantern Festival! As the councilmember of this district, I am thrilled to be part of an event that brings our community together. It was heartwarming to see this space being utilized to foster connections and friendships among people from all walks of life by creating lasting memories and forging meaningful relationships. I hope everyone was able to create some unforgettable experiences.

### Composting Workshop

Saturday August 5, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM In-Person at San Jose Conservation Corps 1560 Berger Dr., San Jose, CA 95112

Please join us on August 5th for our composting workshop. We have already collected scraps. This is an opportunity to learn about the efforts the San Jose Conservation Corps is making to help the community while learning skills that could help you as well. This would be a great opportunity if you were thinking of creating a compost bin in your area.

- We ask volunteers to wear gardening appropriate attire

- Tools and direction will be provided

### Career Vision: Choosing a College and Major

Saturday August 5, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM In-Person at Almaden Branch Library 6445 Camden Ave., San Jose CA 95120

This interactive workshop will help teens and parents navigate difficult conversations around college and major selection. Students and parents will have the opportunity to spend time chatting in small groups with other families whose students have similar interests and tackle hard questions in a relaxed setting away from the hustle and bustle of school. Some of the topics that will be discussed during the lecture and small group discussions are:

- In vs Out of State
- Community vs State vs UC vs Private Schools
- Choosing a College by Ranking vs Research interests vs Future Job Market Connections

- Commuter vs Suitcase vs On Campus Schools
  - Broad vs Niche Majors
  - Work vs Internships vs Volunteer Work vs Clubs
  - Campus Visits
  - Litmus Tests for potential Majors
- Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Admissions will not be discussed. Open to all families 9th-12th grade.

**Math Festival at Almaden Branch Library**  
Saturday August 12, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
In-Person at Almaden Branch Library  
6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120

The Julia Robinson Math Festival is an event that provides students with fun and meaningful math experiences to develop their mathematical confidence, joy, and problem solving skills. At the festival, there will be a variety of play-based, manipulative-based math puzzles and games for students in grades K - 8 and their parents/caregiver. Each activity will be led by at least one trained volunteer who will introduce the activity and keep students engaged and excited as they explore. The festival will be open for 1 hour, during which time kids will get to explore the festival at their own pace, choosing where they want to go and for how long they want to do each activity.

First 69 participants to arrive will be admitted. Free. No registration required.

### Street Smart: Pedestrian and Bike Safety with Officer Bailey

Saturday August 12, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
In-Person at Vineland Branch Library  
1450 Blossom Hill Rd. San Jose, CA 95118  
Hosted by the Vineland Branch Library.

Have fun and learn about pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety with Officer Cordell Bailey, a Traffic Safety Education Officer from San Jose's Department of Transportation. This program is focused on providing pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety education to children who are at greatest risk of injury and fatalities in pedestrian and bicycle related accidents. Learn more about the "Street Smarts" student pedestrian safety program.

### #StartExploring local parks in our district!

District 10 is home to many amazing parks, and the first park my office is excited to showcase is Greystone Park.

This park is also the host of the Annual Almaden Valley Summer Concert Series, which featured amazing bands each Thursday evening in the month of July! If you missed out the last three weeks, make sure to mark your calendars for the last concert of the series, featuring Snarky Cats!

*If you have a question or a comment, please send us an email at district10@sanjoseca.gov.*

Even from a distance,  
please support this paper  
by supporting our  
advertisers.

Please support our  
advertisers! They make the  
ALMADEN TIMES possible.

- ADT
- Almaden Law
- Almaden Senior Association
- Anderson's Windows
- Shawn Ansari – Compass Real Estate
- Best Physical Therapy
- Color with Faith Painting
- Guaranteed Life Insurance
- Inogen
- Jackie Jones – Coldwell Banker
- Kindercare
- Leaf Filter
- Minetta San Jose International Airport
- New West Limousine
- San Jose Youth Symphony
- Silver Creek Academy
- Joe Simitian
- SOS Auto Repair
- Steinway Society
- Symphony San Jose
- Therese Swan – Compass Real Estate
- Donna Tam Real Estate
- Valley Transportation Authority
- Valley Water

Times **Feature**

# Santa Clara County to fight meth addiction with gift cards

California first state in the nation to win approval for contingency management program under Medicaid

By Marisa Kendall

Faced with rising death tolls from cocaine and methamphetamine abuse, California will try a new approach to stimulant addiction: Paying people with gift cards to reward them for staying sober.

In San Francisco, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital recently launched a six-month contingency management program as part of the statewide pilot.

The hospital opened enrollment on July 17, serving up to 50 people. Clinicians will test participants for stimulants once or twice a week.

Each time patients test negative, they'll get a \$10 gift card to Walmart or another retailer. The amount of the gift card gradually will increase, for a maximum of \$26.50 per test. If they test positive, they get nothing.

Participants can earn a maximum of \$599 over the course of the program. That's because payments of \$600 or more must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

## Santa Clara responds to meth deaths

Santa Clara County hopes to launch a similar program within the next few weeks. So far this year, 70% of the 120 drug deaths recorded in the county involved methamphetamine, according to the Office of the Medical Examiner-Coroner.

"We're all excited to try it and see if it does help retain people in treatment for longer periods of time so they are more successful," said Tammy Ramsey, program manager for the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System in the county's behavioral health department.

Other programs in counties throughout California — including Alameda, Fresno, Nevada, Sacramento and Los Angeles — plan to follow the same model.

If the trials are successful in San Francisco, Dr. Brad Shapiro, medical director of the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program at Zuckerberg said he hopes the state will allow them to expand and serve everyone on Medi-Cal.

The model already has proven effective for the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to Dominick DePhilippis, the department's deputy national mental health director for substance use disorders. The VA started using contingency management in 2011, and as of the beginning of July, the program has treated more than 6,300 veterans. Those veterans have attended about half of their appointments and produced nearly 82,000 urine samples — of which more than 92% were negative for the targeted drug, DePhilippis said.

## Program reports success

It's not just the VA. Of 22 studies testing contingency management's impact on stimulant addiction, 82% reported "significant increases" in participants' abstinence, according to a 2021 meta-analysis published in JAMA Psychiatry.

Shapiro believes the model works because it replaces the reward a patient's brain craves

(the drug) with a different type of prize.

"It's a little bit like winning something," Shapiro said. "It triggers that reward place in the brain that otherwise they would be turning to the drug for."

But Tom Wolf, who has battled addiction and homelessness himself and now advocates for drug policy reform, said he worries using Medi-Cal to fund contingency management will create bureaucratic hurdles to treatment as patients wait for the state to decide if they are eligible. Still, he said, the program is worth a shot.

"At this point I'm willing to try it, basically because we have such a dearth of options for people that are struggling with addictions in California," he said.

Because of how difficult it is to treat his patients that use stimulants — many of them use methamphetamine every day — Shapiro would be happy if even a quarter of participants significantly reduced or stopped using.

There is also concern, as with any type of treatment, that patients will relapse once the program is over, he said. To help prevent that, the hospital will provide six additional months of counseling after the contingency

management program ends.

## Medicaid now covers costs

The model, known as "contingency management," rewards people with financial incentives each time their drug tests are negative for stimulants. It's been shown to have success in clinical trials — and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been using it for more than a decade — but it hasn't taken off in California. Medicaid previously wouldn't cover it, so there was no funding to expand its use.

The program is expanding now, thanks to a recent waiver by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that allows the agency to cover its costs.

California was the first state in the nation to win approval for a contingency management program under Medicaid. The Golden State is launching pilot programs in 24 counties, including San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles. Costs for what collectively is called the Recovery Incentives Program will be reimbursed by CalAIM — the state's recent expansion of Medi-Cal services.

Methamphetamine is among the most difficult addictions to witness: It leaves users tearing at their skin and unable to eat, sleep or sign up for help.

Clinic workers say they are largely powerless because unlike with opioid addiction, for which doctors prescribe medications such as methadone, there is no medicine for stimulant use disorder.

"We live day in and day out watching people suffer in a way that's hard to imagine," said Shapiro. "They're just dying in front of us."

"It's actually, in my opinion, really quite criminal that we've gone decades knowing this is an effective treatment and the powers that be have failed to make a pathway for treatment for people," he said.

"All of a sudden we have money to provide this incredibly effective intervention," said Shapiro, whose clinic is launching one of three pilot programs coming to San Francisco. "So it makes a huge difference."

Shapiro's clinic focuses primarily on opioid addiction, but more than half of their patients also have a stimulant use disorder, he said.

## Death toll is rising

While the deadly opioid fentanyl gets most of the attention in the drug epidemic in

See GIFT CARDS, next page



One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding presents

**G.R.I.T.**

An Equine-Assisted-Learning Program for Women

**SELF-CONFIDENCE**

**RESILIENCE**

**LIFE SKILLS**

**SAFE BOUNDARIES**

*"It is deeply healing to tap into the power of the centuries old bond between horse and human. It's truly profound that our two species, with such diametrically different views of predator vs prey, can come together in partnership and trust. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to learn what these incredible teachers have to offer us." - GRIT Participant*

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

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead.

The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll  
[one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net) 408-778-3567

# SOS AUTO REPAIR

We are open as an essential service and taking all recommended CDC precautions.



**408-477-2242**

3519 San Felipe Rd.

San Jose, CA 95135

[www.sosautorepair.com](http://www.sosautorepair.com)

Times Feature

**Gift cards, continued**

California and across the country, experts say stimulant use is a major — and growing — concern.

In 2021, 65% of drug-related deaths in California involved cocaine, methamphetamine or other stimulants — up from 22% in 2011, according to the California Department of Health Care Services. Nationally, there were 15,489 overdose deaths involving stimulants other than cocaine (largely methamphetamine) in 2019, up 180% from 2015, according to a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

And with California in the midst of a dire homelessness crisis, stimulants are wreaking havoc on the state's unhoused community.

Among unhoused residents who use drugs, amphetamines are by far the most common choice, according to a recent study by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. Nearly one-third of people surveyed reported using amphetamines three or more times a week, compared to just 11% who used opioids with the same frequency. Some people who live on the street reported using stimulants to stay alert at night, when they fear being attacked if they fall asleep.

**It's not a perfect solution**

Rewarding people for staying sober doesn't work for everyone.

One of the participants in a program at Zuckerberg San Francisco General, 54-year-old J.W., ended up in the emergency room with heart fail-

ure after two decades of methamphetamine use.

After his hospital stay, he enrolled in a 12-week program called Heart Plus, which caters to cardiac patients with a history of stimulant use. Every time J.W. did something positive, such as show up to an appointment, take his medication or get a negative drug test, he got to draw a Safeway gift card out of a hat. The cards' value ranged from \$5 to the "elusive" \$20, and J.W. — who asked to go by his initials out of fear of being stigmatized for his drug use — estimates he earned about \$180 throughout the entire program. He wasn't working at the time, so the cards helped him get treats such as deli sandwiches and fancy bottles of kombucha.

"It was definitely something to look forward to," he said. "And it was something fun to spend."

But it wasn't enough to get J.W. off drugs. Now that the program has ended, he's still using methamphetamine — sometimes as often as three times a day — though he says he's taking smaller doses. And he said he feels much healthier than when he showed up in the emergency room last year, out of breath after the slightest amount of exertion.

J.W. isn't sure why he didn't quit using during the program. But methamphetamine has become an entrenched routine in his daily life. He uses upon waking up, in a ritual he compares to having a morning cup of coffee.

"I still kick myself wondering why I didn't quit altogether," he said. "There's no better opportunity."

*Marisa Kendall is a reporter with CalMatters.*

AlmadenTimes Real Estate

AlmadenTimes Real Estate



**Your Realtor  
Ad Here:  
Just \$89!**

**Call now to place your ad  
by phone: (408) 494-7000**



**SHAWN  
ANSARI**

**COMPASS**

[shawn.ansari@compass.com](mailto:shawn.ansari@compass.com)

[www.ShawnAnsari.com](http://www.ShawnAnsari.com)

DRE #01088988

**(408) 529-4574**



**JACKIE  
JONES**



**(408) 315-6186**

[www.jackiejonesells.com](http://www.jackiejonesells.com)

[jjones@cbnorcal.com](mailto:jjones@cbnorcal.com)



**THERESE  
SWAN**

**COMPASS**

[tswan@tswan.com](mailto:tswan@tswan.com)

[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com)

DRE: 01355719

**(408) 656-8240**



**DONNA TAM**

[donnatam@sereno.com](mailto:donnatam@sereno.com)



**(408) 398-4024**

214 Los Gatos-Saratoga  
Road, Los Gatos, CA 95030

DRE 02119119



**DEE RAMIREZ**

Realtor Lic. #00683945



**(408) 440-7617**

[Dee@DeeRamirez.com](mailto:Dee@DeeRamirez.com)

[www.DeeRamirez.com](http://www.DeeRamirez.com)

# Burt the war hero

## A look back at wartime thinking and initiative

By Kevin Larsen  
Times Media writer

This is a chapter of a look into a window of time in the life of Burton Victor Smith during his heroic earning of the meritorious recognition medal, at war time.

When you meet Burt, you instantly know he is a man of great substance, honor and integrity. He's well-known as a community helper in our area and other cities too.

### Volunteer

Believe it or not, while in civilian clothing, without anyone knowing, he is often asked, "Could you take on the role of Santa Claus in our event," with the person not even knowing that he does professionally represent Santa.

He just has that "Santa look." During Christmas time he regularly volunteers at many places to raise spirits and has done so for many decades performing in Christmas vignettes for underprivileged children and brightening the spirits of the little ones who face battles in hospitals. In recent times, in addition to helping kids, he also, on occasion has helped the houseless by visiting sketchy areas (under overpasses) visiting tents and giving food items with help of nonprofits and also giving a joyful uplifting moment to those less fortunate.

His warm beaming grin and joyful soft spoken fatherly voice is sure to make you smile as is what happens with every person he speaks with. Yes, without a doubt he's related to Chris Cringle because he has that special something in how he acts and effortlessly exudes elements of goodness to all people.

Perhaps all great galvanizers can disarm and inspire others in the way they act. Burt is a strong involved leader in the community and helps at Senior Community Centers with supreme graciousness, introducing speakers to the retired crowd. He knows how to chair and guide important gatherings, assemblies, conferences, and summits while

always equally respecting every person's individual point of view. Daily, he eats a healthy nutritious lunch at a Senior Center which is a great way to meet others. Almaden has many such Senior Centers and the suggested donation for a nice lunch is \$3 per day. It's a special place for seniors to get out of the house and network with friends and neighborhoods.

This man is of great substance and most all politiciansglom onto him because he's a quiet influencer, knows so many and welcomes all in working on key areas of change with the political shaping of our city. Be it mayors, city council persons, state senators and more, if you bump into Burt, be sure to ask him to show you a selfie of himself and those in the limelight. He often provides a good-natured story and it's wonderful to instantly communicate through showing others all the people he meets by use of phone photo display.

### He's Americana

Every sentence he states is solid. These qualities he owes to his mom and dad and his vast experiences including serving during times of war.

Perhaps the toughest men who walk amongst us do so with soft spoken words and quiet smiles in ways that radiate righteous truth which genuinely affect people and shore up our world in meaningful and peaceful ways. Burt transmits this powerful quality in the realm where action speaks louder than words!

This guy is Americana and of such high integrity one wonders what things he did in his past to command such a gracious limelight to all who come near or into contact with him.

### Combat on Navy ship

He's quiet about his awards and had to be prodded to share out his battle engagement experience during the Vietnam war.

In 1966, with combat in full swing, Burt served on Naval Attack Squadron 113 aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise and a challenge presented itself to the ship. He wore a green outfit in his job as he worked on the flight deck each day. It was very dangerous. He states, "My job was to go below the plane and ensure it was correctly in place to be catapulted."

Suddenly, he began to learn there was a backlog of needed avionics equipment due to faulty electronic parts inside key components which were occasionally going out and not working due to many factors. This hindered the effective strength of attacks and it became apparent that the situation was so great that aircraft availability would soon face a problem unless some kind of action was taken immediately.

Burt states, "The shortage of avionics equipment became noticeable. In my off time I went to the avionic shops on board the ship



Above: **Burton Victor Smith**, war hero. Below: Burt dressed as Santa Claus.



and helped repair navigation and communication equipment. Over a short period of time our aircraft availability of fully assembled working electronic equipment became the best in the fleet." Burt states, "So for a while, I was spending time on the flightdeck and also, I began to help out in the avionics shops on the ship. As I begin fixing components, within weeks, they moved me into electronic repair full time."

### 'Petty officer Smith, front and center'

Burt explained, "Each night while serving on ship I would crawl into a kind of small box which was my bed. My belongings were kept in a compartment under the mattress and I would sleep along with all my fellow Navy sailors with a wool blanket that covered me displaying the all capital initials USN. Over a bit of time, after I had been working to help the ship and all crew, one day, without notice, the entire squadron was mustered to have a meeting on the hanger deck. I was standing in a crowd of men when, without warning, the Master of Arms who stood next to the captain announced in front of the entire crew, 'Petty Officer Smith, front and center!'"

"You can see by the look on my face in the photo that when I walked out on flightdeck, I thought maybe I was in trouble and had done something wrong. I said to myself, 'Oh S\*\*\*,' then to my surprise the following letter was read to the entire crew!"

### 'Can Do' quality of Burt

This is the actual verbatim letter from the Secretary of U.S. Navy, Vice Admiral Bringle, which explains the "Can Do!" qualities of Burt and the power inside the man.

Burton Victor SMITH, Aviation Electronics Technician First Class, "For meritorious achievement while attached to the Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN

EMBARKED IN USS ENTERPRISE (CVA (N) 65) as an Electronics Technician from 14 January 1968 to 12 July 1968 during combat operations against the enemy. Petty Officer SMITH performed his duties in the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department in a professional manner. He continually sought other technical and supervisory responsibilities within his parent squadron. When the squadron was faced with unique and complex problems with new IFF transponder and UHF transceiver equipment, he voluntarily researched the problem, determined the cause and expertly corrected the difficulties. His technical competence and effective management techniques were confirmed by the amount of reliable electronic equipment processed by his assigned shop during the deployment. Petty officer's SMITH devotion to duty, professionalism and effective leadership reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Services." Petty Officer SMITH is authorized to wear the combat "V." (You can view the medal he received that day in this article, bottom left).

### Taking initiative

Burt used self-gained knowledge of all the avionics equipment which made him a unique asset to the repair facility. It was apparent that a backlog of damaged avionics equipment was in need of parts and trouble shooting. If the equipment was not to function, then aircraft availability would be diminished.

He quickly determined the problems and took action by determining issues in the inner workings of each nonfunctioning component. Over time he went from shop to shop to fix and train.

As an expert trouble shooter technician, he began using new repair strategies and techniques which caused the backlog to be "liquidated." In addition, he spent vast hours working with new and experienced technicians to show and train them in unique ways of repair. His GUNG-HO attitude affected the war situation for Navy ships, helicopters and planes in a very short period of time.

Undoubtedly the direct result of his enthusiasm for working with electronic equipment resulted in key component availability in this war effort. Also, in addition to being the squadron's BULLPUP trainer (this was a missile training device that Burt maintained in the ready room), during his spare time he continued to work on and figure out how to improvise to make components work when suitable parts were not available.

### Russian trawler

Always with a smile, Burt shared a true combat story. Not unlike today when the balloons from China fly over our country to collect information, during the Vietnam War, Russian so called fishing trawlers were seen following our ships (ghosting them) in the South China Sea. It was stated by one Vietnam veteran that, "They weren't fishing at all, they didn't even have nets, but they had all kinds of electronic gathering gear strung up on their masts so everyone knew what they were up to."

Burt explains, "One time, on a helicopter trip from the U.S.S Enterprise in the war zone, the pilot played a joke on the Russians. Before the flight, he took a waterproof tube and placed in it two rolled up Scientific American

See BURT, next page



Times **Local News**

## Trust Mexico Lindo for your next group outing or private party!



Experience the taste of authentic made from scratch Mexican food while dining at Mexico Lindo for your next group outing or private party! We offer an indoor and/or outdoor dining experience and a full bar. Our location is the perfect venue for all of your small and large private dining events including birthday parties, school reunions, anniversaries, work outings, and more!



**5635 Silver Creek Valley Road  
San Jose, CA 95123**

**Reservations: 408.270.5463**

Sun - Thursday 11am - 9pm

Friday - Saturday 11am - 10pm

For event info contact: [Michelle@MexicoLindoSJ.com](mailto:Michelle@MexicoLindoSJ.com)

Follow us on Instagram for updates & weekly specials: @mexicolindosc

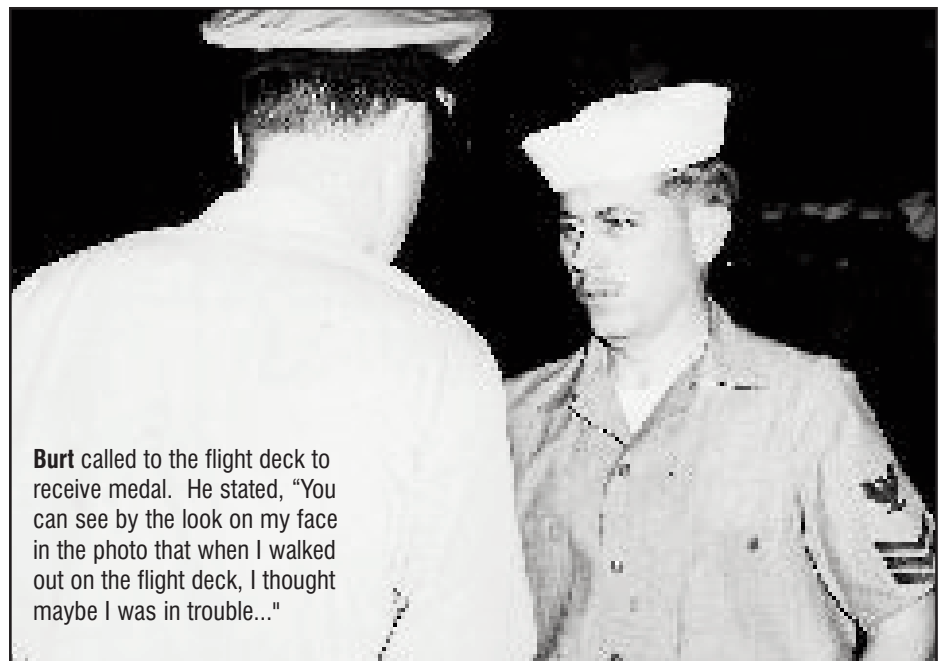
# WHEN JOURNALISM IS NOT PRESENT TO SERVE COMMUNITIES, BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

Trained journalists report authentic, credible information. And we fight for those who produce genuine news!

**Almaden Times**  
Serving the community since 1986

- Times Media, Inc.
- Almaden Times
- Evergreen Times
- Willow Glen Times

Source: University of North Carolina School of Media & Journalism



Burt called to the flight deck to receive medal. He stated, "You can see by the look on my face in the photo that when I walked out on the flight deck, I thought maybe I was in trouble..."

## Burt

*Continued from previous page*  
magazines, two National Geographic magazines and two magazines of models in swimsuits (a publication invented by a man named Hugh). As they were flying by the pest Russian Fishing boat the pilot asked Burt (who had no idea what was in it) to toss the tube with red floating buoy and as it hit the water near the boat, they all pointed to the Russian so called fishermen to retrieve the gift and flew away on their trip to the Ticonderoga.

Later, they flew back to the Enterprise and as they looked down at the same Russian trawler and one of the Russians held up the magazine centerfold in the air spread out between his two hands as a gesture of war time thanks.

### Tet Offensive begins

A week later, he went on a secret mission aboard a C1A cargo plane. they got to the main landing strip in Danang and were resting in the EM (Enlisted Men) Club when all of a sudden, the pilot ran into the room yelling, "We got to go, let's get out of here quick!" He would find out that secret intelligence stated it was the start of the Tet offensive that day, so best to be back on ship.

Another time he went on a mission ride on the Admirals helicopter to try to solve a critical combat control component instrument issue. A top-secret instrument needed some figuring out to help the aircraft determine if "friendlies" aircraft were approaching.

Burt stated, "Each jet pilot created a secret four-digit code that was assigned before takeoff. I was tasked with troubleshooting this IFF (IDENTIFICATION FRIEND OR FOE) system on the carrier Ticonderoga."

The carrier sends out a pulse to airplanes to see if the 4-digit code is sent back accordingly to know if the aircraft is friend or foe. This system was not working properly on the carrier. Burt stated, "Upon arrival on the carrier, I trouble shot the situation and determined, being an older ship, the Ticonderoga did not have the capability to use the IFF system. The old system of IFF on the ship was not compatible with the newer systems on the jets in the CIC (COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER)." Burt explained, "The CIC was a very special place on the car-

rier where all communications of battle took place. When working in that area on the ship everyone had to be quiet." Burt helped figure out this situation and later, steps would be taken to correct the communication circumstances on the Navy carrier.

### Veterans of America

Just recently, after many decades, Burt was asked if he was in the VA System (Veterans Administration). He stated, "I never thought of myself as being a veteran but after learning more about it, I realized, that's who I am." Burt did not consider hearing bullets shot through the air during helicopter missions enough to call himself a veteran. He encourages all who were in wars to find out more about this important organization and what it does for veterans. "The VA has done so much for me," Burt states.

### A call back from retirement

As the years progressed and Burt entered civilian work, his keen ability to work on instrumentation components found its way into the private sector. One day he decided to pay off his house with the private corporation's retirement buy-out package. To no one's surprise, a while later he received a phone call at home from a key supervisor where he used to work. "Burt, we need you, can you come back," said his previous manager. So, Burt did go back to help and worked in the same capacity only this time as a paid contractor. Today he is happily retired.

Burton Victor SMITH, the war hero, is an all-around great man, who teaches us what is means to be tough! If you get a chance, drop into the Evergreen Community Center to have lunch and sit at his table.

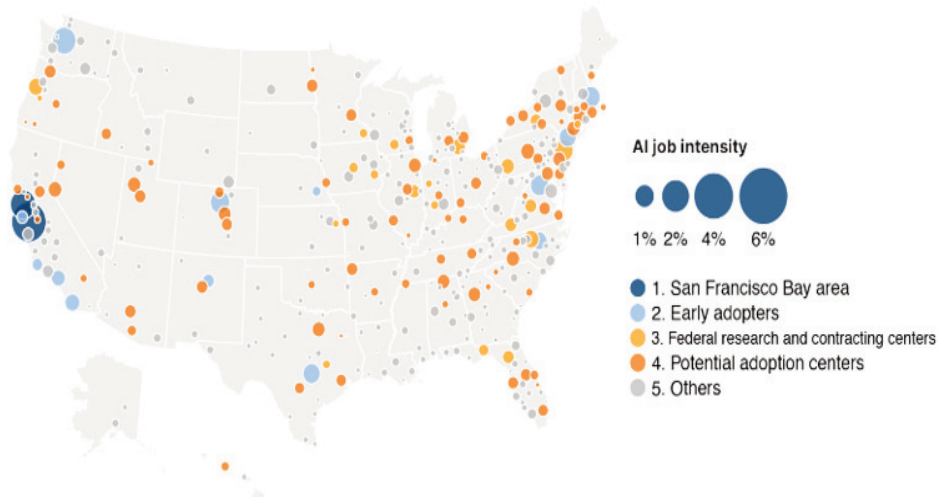
• *Editor's note: If you wish to join Burt's table for lunch at the Evergreen Community Center you can do so. Each weekday the San Jose Senior Nutritional Center offers delicious lunch with daily suggested lunch donations of \$3 per senior over 60. If anyone under 60 wishes a lunch they can reserve and pay \$9. Lots of activities and smart and savvy information for seniors can be found at all Senior Nutritional Centers in San Jose. Almaden Senior Nutrition Program: In partnership with TRiO, provides meals to Older Adults 60+ at 13 community centers throughout the City. All meals served at community centers meet county health standards.*

- ☐ Hours: 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- ☐ Contact: (408) 268-1133



Times **Community News**

**AI employment concentration by U.S. metropolitan area**  
Share of job postings with AI skills by five types of AI metro clusters



San Jose and San Francisco accounted for about 25% of AI conference papers, patents and companies in 2021. Data from the source: Brookings analysis of Stanford HAI, Crunchbase, STAR METRICS, USPTO and Emsi data.

**Silicon Valley's AI boom could widen disparities**

By **Julia Forrest**  
*San José Spotlight*

Silicon Valley has long been recognized as the center of tech innovation. Now artificial intelligence is pushing the region into its next iteration. The outcome could end up driving a greater wedge between the haves and have nots.

San Jose and the Bay Area have become the nationwide hub for the AI industry, according to a 2023 report by the Brookings Institution, a D.C. based think tank. But, while artificial intelligence may boost the local economy's productivity and bring more workers to the area, some advocacy groups worry the high concentration of AI jobs could exacerbate existing regional disparities.

Julian Jacobs, a research consultant at Brookings Institution who coauthored the report, said the data shows AI is leaning toward a concentration of opportunity, wealth, income and innovation in the same cities that previously benefited from tech innovations. He said the technology could lead to further stagnation for middle and lower income individuals.

"It almost certainly does have the capacity to widen disparities," Jacobs told San José Spotlight. "The purpose of the report was to show that those inequalities are very geographic in nature."

San Jose and San Francisco alone have about four times more AI companies, job postings and job profiles compared to the next 13 U.S. metro areas in 2023, according to the report. The two Bay Area cities were also home to about 25% of AI conference papers, patents and companies in 2021.

For 10 months prior to May 2023, San Jose and five other metro areas—San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Boston and Seattle—made up 47% of all AI job postings. The researchers also found a quarter of the 2,200 generative AI postings throughout the last year were in the Bay Area. They analyzed 380 metro areas in the nation.

San Jose also has two of the top 50 AI companies in 2023, Coactive AI and Vectra AI, according to Forbes. Coactive AI and Vectra AI did not respond to requests for comment.

Catherine Bracy, CEO and cofounder of Tech Equity Collaborative, said California lawmakers need to fend off disparities that could be caused by the industry. The advocacy group reviews structural inequity in the tech sector.

"We as the region, all of us who live here, and especially the elected officials and policymakers who are trying to figure out how to welcome tech growth, need to answer the question of: 'How, when tech grows, (is) everybody, whether they work for a tech company or not, benefiting from that growth?'" Bracy told San José Spotlight.

**Tech has done this before**

According to the 2023 Silicon Valley Pain Index, which focuses on racial and wealth disparity in the region, there are already inequities present in Silicon Valley's tech sector. Only 2% of Latinas work in the sector, while they make up about 13% of Santa Clara County's population. Women are about 13% less likely to be interviewed for a tech position than a man, and about 33% of tech jobs interview men only. From September to December 2022, 47% of the tech layoffs were women, even though they made up about 39% of tech workers.

Russell Hancock, CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, which focuses on issues affecting quality of life in Silicon Valley, said he hopes AI jobs make the area more equitable. Hancock is paying attention to how AI transforms high-paying jobs, which he said are commonly held by white and Asian employees.

"It's eliminating high-end (jobs in the tech sector)," Hancock told San José Spotlight. "(White and Asian employees) are over-represented in those kinds of jobs. Now, here comes this level effect and that's going to be interesting."

Peter Leroe-Muñoz, senior vice president of technology and innovation at Silicon Valley Leadership Group, said the artificial intelligence boom in the region will lead to additional resources for the area, an influx of workers moving here and venture capital companies investing in AI companies.

Leroe-Muñoz also said the nonprofit formed the Working Group on Responsible AI in May. It is steered by local executives from Google and Johnson & Johnson to analyze the industry's emergence. He said it will be important for AI companies to learn from Silicon Valley's past mistakes. They need to find ways to diversify the workforce.

"This technology has so much potential to transform many different industries," Leroe-Muñoz told San José Spotlight. "Any industry is going to potentially be affected by the use of AI going forward and really, we're just seeing the very beginning."

**Mr. Peabody's**  
The Most Powerful Green Cleaning On the Planet



**Complete Carpet Cleaning,  
Stone Polishing and Repair**  
**(408) 444-9437**  
**Serving Evergreen Valley since 1995**



**Want to  
submit a  
news item  
for the  
Almaden Times?**

Publication day: August 16, 2023

Deadline: August 13, 2023

**Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com**

**Almaden Times**

# Free live concerts at the 'Festa' August 5 and 6

3 Bay Area mayors to participate in 'Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp'

From an international singing sensation to a Bay Area country music star, there's entertainment for everyone at the 2023 Italian Family Festa San Jose on Saturday and Sunday August 5-6.

And it's all free!

World Folk & Roots singer, Michela Musolino will be performing on Saturday August 5th, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The Sicilian-American singer has been internationally lauded for her unique ability to reimagine Sicilian folk and roots music. Her songs make your heart sing and your feet dance!

On Sunday August 6th, we'll get a little bit country with the Silicon Valley's own, Mike Annuzzi.

He takes the stage from 1:30pm-3:30pm. You've heard his hits on country radio, including "Just Getting Started" and "New Boots On."

The Anthony "Nino" Lane Band brings its classic Italian sound to the Festa Sunday August 6th from 4pm-6pm. Anthony has been performing since he was 10 years old. His credits over the past few decades are long and impressive.

Also joining a weekend of excellent entertainment are: Bay Area Sinatra - John DeMers, Gold Money Band, Blue House, Livewire, The Fratello Marionettes and Nadejda (Nadia) Poskatcheva.

Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp  
New this year, the Festa Celebrity Grape Stomp! Three Bay Area mayors will face



Michela Musolino (Photo by Nino Di Maio)  
At right: Anthony "Nino" Lane Band



off—with their feet!

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor and Milpitas Mayor Carmen Montano will battle in this first of its kind competition.

These distinguished city leaders will hop into barrels full of grapes and crush out the juice with their bare feet. You won't want to miss the fancy footwork of this messy competition... come out and root for your city's mayor!

The Celebrity Grape Stomp takes place Saturday, August 5th at 2pm at History Park—don't be late, the mayors have just one minute to stomp their way to victory!

We're also pleased to announce longtime

94.5 KBAY morning radio host, Lissa Kreisler, will emcee the event.

More great news... you don't have to be a celebrity to compete in Grape Stomping! Anyone can try their hand (or foot) at it. All you have to do is sign up in person at the Grape Stomp Stage. There will be multiple heats Saturday August 5th from 2:30-3pm and Sunday August 6th from 2-3pm. There is a prize for the winner!

*Editor's note: The Italian Family Festa is presented by the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). All proceeds support the preservation of Italian culture and the Italian American Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program.*

**Are you at risk?**  
Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease

Screenings are easy, painless and non-invasive

**Special Screening Package for \$149**

**Call 833-334-0139**

LIFE LINE SCREENING  
The Power of Prevention

Contactless consultations, installations and delivery available!

**Don't let the stairs limit your mobility.**

Discover the safe and affordable way to regain access to all of your home and allow you to use your stairs safely.

**The Rave 2 stair lift is the ideal solution for anyone:**

- Who struggles using the stairs
- That is worried about risking a fall on the stairs
- Who wants to access *all* of their home

**Call now to save on a Rave 2 stair lift!**

**1-866-419-3281**

**AmeriGlide**  
ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS

Times Feature

**Wright**

*Continued from page 1*

beautiful parks and trails and perfect weather, combined with cultural diversity and opportunity to flourish,” Wright told San José Spotlight. “However, in recent years, I’ve seen growing concerns in San Jose with residents feeling less safe and homelessness growing.”

When examining the issue through a political lens, Wright said she believes the solution to homelessness is a multi-pronged approach that combines affordable housing as well as quick-fix, temporary solutions to alleviate what she says is a “humanitarian crisis.” A safe parking site to house dozens of homeless people living in their vehicles opened this month in her district, and Wright said she is eager to see its effects to determine if the city should open more.

In terms of public safety, Wright said she wants to ensure the police and fire departments are fully staffed, a problem plaguing the city in recent years. San Jose has one of the smallest police departments with roughly 1,173 sworn officers for a city of approximately 1 million residents. By comparison, San Francisco employs approximately 2,100 sworn officers with a population of about 875,000.

She also wants the city to invest in more emergency services to prepare for a worst case scenario—like an earthquakes or and wildfires.

Rosemary Barnes, former spokesperson for the San Jose Mineta International Airport, met Wright when they worked in the city in 2011 and over the years have become close friends. She said Wright was always the best at handling crises—quickly responding to residents and stakeholders in difficult situations. She said Wright would be perfect for council primarily because she already understands the nuances of local government and knows how to use her skills to accomplish day-to-day tasks and achieve her long-term goals.

“She’s innovative. She’s tenacious. She has an incredibly collaborative style. She listens and she has a big heart,” Barnes told San José Spotlight. “I’m thrilled for her, I’m thrilled for the D10 community and I’m thrilled for the city because of how lucky we will be with her representing us.”

Wright said another priority will be to increase community engagement within her district, which she says empowers residents to collaborate with elected officials on addressing critical issues.

“Ensuring that the community is informed when there are changes being proposed that they are aware of that. That is something that I can

help with,” Wright said.

Wright said her decade-long career as a broadcast journalist and communications director in local cities lends her a fresh perspective that longtime politicians may no longer have.

“I’ve lived and worked in a lot of places around the country. I’ve seen what has worked and what hasn’t with policy decisions and the long-term impacts of them,” Wright said. “But I am someone who is focused on outcomes and what the data tells us.”

**Beetlejuice the Musical in San Jose**

**B**eetlejuice, a musical based on the hit movie, is coming to town via Broadway San Jose this August 1-6 at the Center for Performing Arts.

Based on Tim Burton’s beloved 1988 film, the play tells the story of “a demon with a thing for stripes” who is summoned from the “Netherworld” to wreak havoc on one very unlucky pair of new homeowners.

With an irreverent book, an astonishing set, and a score that’s out of this Netherworld, Beetlejuice is “screaming-

ly good fun!” (- Variety). And under its uproarious surface (six feet under, to be exact), it’s a remarkably touching show about family, love, and making the most of every Day-O!

Upon the film’s release, Vincent Canby of The New York Times declared it “a farce for our time.”

To order tickets, visit: <https://www.ticketmaster.com/beetlejuice-touring/event/1C005E84AE65267C?refArtist=K8vZ917Q8I7> Performances recommended for those 10 years and older.



Silver Creek Academy  
INSPIRE EXPLORE CHALLENGE

**AN AWARD-WINNING LEARNING CENTER IN SAN JOSE**



- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematics
- Writing & Grammar
- Public Speaking & Debate
- Logic & Critical Thinking
- Competitive Debate
- HSPT, PSAT & SAT Test Prep
- Study Skills for Academic Success
- Test-Taking Strategies

**Academic Courses!**

**Grades K -12**

**\*Online & In-Person**

**Now Enrolling!**

**2023/24 School Year Courses!**

**(408)839-5905**

**Visit: SCAASanJose.com**  
for the complete schedule  
of camps & classes!



**Silver Creek Academy**  
**5619 Silver Creek Valley Road**  
**San Jose, CA 95138**



Times **Community News**

## Fireworks

*Continued from page 1*

Grill Zillas, Junior's Roaster, Waffle Amore, Indian Express, and Road Dogs. Cold, sweet treats were provided by Dippin' Dots, as well as Tea Up, offering boba tea and shaved ice.

The Fun Zone had a new addition that was a huge hit: Axe throwing! In addition, families and friends enjoyed giant versions of favorite table games Jenga and Connect Four, ring-toss and corn-hole, as well as face painting. This year's Letters to Soldiers booth was hosted by the Almaden Super Lion's Club. Vendor Alley, with over 30 booths, provided many activities and games. In addition, vendors sold honey, event t-shirts, commemorative wine glasses, as well as decorating hands with henna, and providing information about their clubs, businesses, and non-profits. Communications was again provided by the volunteers from San Jose Neighborhood CERT (sjncert.org) and San Jose R.A.C.E.S. (sjraces.org), working together to provide coordinated communications for this major event.

### Sponsors gratefully thanked

This annual event is made possible through many generous corporate and community donations. Major sponsors this year include Summerhill Housing Group, Devastating Pyrotechnics, Brandenburg Foundation and Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, Green Waste, Jackie Jones, Home Depot, Star One Credit Union, Westfield Oakridge, San Jose Earthquakes, Good Samaritan Hospital, Dignity Memorial (Oak Hill), Kaiser Permanente, Almaden Times, 1776 Apartments, and Golden Wheel Storage. Additional funding was also received from these generous donors: California Apartment Association, Harker School, Republic



Services, Sutter Health, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Westgate Church, Chicago Title, DT Strategies, Keypoint Credit Union, Almaden Senior Association, Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, San Jose Water Company, The Schoennauer Company, Myrick Estate Team, and Taps Termite.

"We are grateful for the continued support of the Community Grant from Santa Clara County, the Festival Grant from the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, as well as this year's Abierto funding approved by Mayor Matt Mahan" said Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff from the District 10 Council Office.

### Youth and resident volunteers critical to success of event

In addition to funding, volunteers are critical to the success of this event. Over 100 residents volunteered their time for 4 and 12-hour shifts. A number of youth volunteers came from Boys Team Charity, the Leland High School Key Club and the Pioneer High School Key Club. The event would not be possible for the dedication of one extraordinary volunteer, Bob Vonderwerth, VP of the Playa del Rey Neighborhood Association who worked tirelessly with Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff from the District 10 Council Office.

Volunteer Bob Vonderwerth saves the day

"Bob's vast knowledge and experience with fireworks festivals makes the difference and sets our fireworks event apart from others in the area," Dexter said.

This event continues to be a community favorite. Planning for next year's event will begin this fall.

*Editor's note: If you would like to volunteer for events and be part of the team, please contact the District 10 Council office at [district10@sanjose-ca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjose-ca.gov).*

**Now Open and Enrolling**

**Call for more information**

**KinderCare®**  
LEARNING CENTERS

**Virtual Tours Available**

1081 Foxworthy Avenue,  
San Jose, CA 95118  
**(408) 265-7380**  
[www.Kindercare.com](http://www.Kindercare.com)

KinderCare offers unique, expertly designed early education programs for infants as young as 6 weeks to school-age children up to age 12, which includes preschool and pre-kindergarten programs.

Times **Community News**

# Principal

*Continued from page 1*

And indeed, the enduring ties that Leland High School builds between students, parents, and staff have been a recurring theme in Park's professional career. As a former Leland student himself, he sees the school as a "centerpiece" of Almaden.

"My family moved to Almaden Valley in the eighties when there were still cattle farms on Rajkovich Way, where I lived," said Park.

Park said he fondly remembers his student days, full of football games (at Leland, of course) and biking around Almaden, culminating in the high school graduation ceremony he describes as "one of the best days ever."

After obtaining his teaching credentials, Park returned to Leland as a teacher. "Even though," he says, "I'm sure there were better qualified people out there, I got the job because I was an alum: I was one of their own."

From teaching, Park received the opportunity to become Assistant Principal for five years, then Principal. In total, he has spent 24 years at Leland High School, and today, his two children are also proud Leland alumni.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this is the apex of my professional career," Mr. Park explains. "The chance to be a principal and serve my community — there is no greater honor."

### Community reactions

Park's enthusiasm for the community that he led was recognized and expressed in equal measure by Leland students. Parsa Ansari, Leland alum '23, says that he can "only hear our slogan 'Charge On!' in the voice of Mr. Park, the hallmark of our school announcements. He stresses that "no matter how unspirited we might feel at the moment, the conviction with which he encourages us to 'Charge On' instills pride and energy in the student body."

Incoming junior Dominic Vu told me his perspective as a leader in Leland's speech and debate team that "Mr. Park has been the backbone of Leland — always dependable and very supportive of our clubs and programs."

Catherine Wang ('26), despite having only known Mr. Park for a year, attests that "he is a great principal who impacted his students; I hope Ms. Bal will follow in his footsteps."

### A Desire to Serve

And it seems that Catherine's wishes will be granted.

"I worked closely with Mr. Park in the last couple years to bring Leland students back in-person," Ms. Bal explains, "and I have to say, I look forward to continuing the work that Mr. Park has done for our school — keeping it stable, and engaging students so they can succeed and feel a sense of belonging on campus."

Despite the fact that Leland students

*"There is no doubt in my mind that this is the apex of my professional career," Mr. Park explains. "The chance to be a principal and serve my community — there is no greater honor."*

have yet to see Ms. Bal in action as Principal, enthusiasm is in the air. Parsa Ansari remarked, "Whenever I went to Ms. Bal to voice my opinion, I truly felt heard. She is a great listener, but more importantly, Ms. Bal takes action. I remember how she immediately grabbed a post-it note and wrote my concerns at the top of her list. Under Ms. Bal's leadership, I am extremely optimistic about the future of Leland High School."

Like Mr. Park, Ms. Bal shares strong ties to the school and surrounding community.

"My kids graduated from Leland, and I live in the surrounding area," said Bal. "Even before coming to Leland, I was a teacher at Graystone Elementary."

What drove Ms. Bal to switch from teaching to administration, she recalls, was seeing the toll that the pandemic took on high school kids — everything from online learning to social isolation.

"I decided that if I ever get into administration, I want to work and serve our high school community," said Bal.

And indeed, the work Ms. Bal has done in the last two years for Leland has now led to the opportunity she hoped for.

While it's a bittersweet moment for Leland, watching Mr. Park go, Leland students and faculty are excited for what's coming next.

Mr. Park and Ms. Bal are proof that every end is a new beginning — but we know: once a Charger, always a Charger!

SHAWN ANSARI GROUP

# JUST SOLD

One Week, Multiple Offers, Over the Asking



shawn ansari

Scan for property tour:



**1607 Dorcey Lane | San Jose 95120**  
4 bed | 2.5 bath | 2,530± SF | 7,437± SF Lot

## SELLER'S TESTIMONIAL

“Shawn and his team were wonderful to work with. His local area knowledge, his contacts with contractors, painters, handymen, and staging options were all top notch! Shawn was on top of the entire process, keeping me updated as things progressed and responding quickly whenever I contacted him. I'm 100% sure he did everything possible to help me sell my home for the best price, in a difficult market where rates were rising/fluctuating and buyers were concerned about banking crisis. My highest possible recommendation for him, his associate Bahareh, and the rest of his team.” **-K.G.**”

 <p><b>Shawn Ansari</b> DRE # 01088988 REALTOR® M: 408.529.4574 shawn.ansari@compass.com</p>	<p><b>Bahareh Taebi</b> DRE # 02081188 REALTOR® M: 408.831.8944 bahareh.taebi@compass.com</p>	
---	---	---

www.ShawnAnsari.com

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California operating under multiple entities. License Numbers 01991628, 1527235, 1527365, 1356742, 1443761, 1997075, 1935359, 1961027, 1842987, 1869607, 1866771, 1527205, 1079009, 1272467. All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.



**CAMPBELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
400 W. Campbell Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 378-4418  
Pastor: Rev. Naomi Schulz  
No Matter Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!  
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and celebrate members of the LGBTQ+ Community. Joy-filled worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM, with communion open to all. Join Pastor Naomi for tea/coffee at Orchard Valley cafe in Campbell during community drop-in office hours from 11 AM to 1 PM on most Tuesdays.  
Our ministries/activities include:  
• Bible study on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, at 6PM.  
• A Food Pantry serving anyone in need--open Tu/Th/ Sa 10:00 AM to Noon.  
• Lighted Window Productions featuring uplifting concerts, thought-provoking theater productions, informative lec-

tures, and even an occasional karaoke night--all in a wholesome environment. Our activities flow from our core values:  
• Extravagant Joy  
• Passionate Faith  
• Loving Respect  
• Deep Connectedness  
• Intentional Growth  
• Shared Laughter  
Visit us at our web site at: church@campbellucc.org or better yet, visit us at our worship services on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Coffee, refreshments, and conversation always, right after service.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC**  
6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.  
www.cavucc.org.  
We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second

Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.  
Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.  
Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM.  
Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118  
408.265.5837  
www.bibleroad.org  
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM  
Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN**  
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243  
Web:www.eca-sj.org  
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.



**EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)**  
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 Waeayi-latak" 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**  
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.

**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-

**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.churchsanthony.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 adults 50+ who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences and new adventures. Join us today. Meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.*

**Membership offers opportunities to enjoy...**

- Exercise Classes for all levels & abilities.
- Lunch events with entertainment run by members of the association.
- Trips to local and not so local places of interest.

Stop by the front desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application. Currently Membership is free. Membership includes a copy of the newsletter and offers you discounts on classes through San Jose PRNS.

**Current Events and Trips:**  
**Hawaiian Luau Lunch**, Saturday July 22d @ 12:00pm. \$22.00. Ticket sales MWF, 8am-10am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.  
**Chardonnay Cruise**: Sail on a 70' sailing yacht out of Santa Cruz Harbor, Wednesday August 16th., Price \$75.00 pp. Sign up MWF, 8:00- 10:00am in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

**For more information, go to [Almadenseniors1@gmail.com](mailto:Almadenseniors1@gmail.com) or call Donna @408 266-4938 or Rich @408 219-8641**

Almaden Senior Association  
at the Almaden Community Center  
6445 Camden Avenue  
San Jose, ca 95120

# Times Classifieds



Call to place your ad today!  
408-494-7000

**LIMOUSINE SERVICE**

**New West Limousine**  
SERVING THE BAY AREA SINCE 1989

**FROM \$125 PER HOUR**  
Lincoln Stretch Limo  
Lincoln Town Car  
Mercedes Grand Sedan  
Mercedes Limo Van  
Cadillac Escalade SUV  
Ford Expedition SUV

**(888) 582-9987**  
reserve@newwestlimo.com  
NewWestLimo.com

**Jewelry**

**M & L Jewelers**  
Jewelers & Watch Repair  
Ring sizing - Watch bands  
Watch batteries - Engraving  
Stone replacement & More!  
Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!

**(408) 270-6080**  
3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

**Shoe Repair**

**ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR**  
408-270-0850  
No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

**Hours:**  
**Mon-Fri**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

2850 Quimby Rd. Suite 100 • 270-0850

**Driving School**

**advantage DRIVING SCHOOL**

**Advantage Driving School** is the premier driving school in northern California. Advantage Driving School has trained more than 300,000 students to drive safely since 1994. We offer complete programs for both traditional classroom and online courses. Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

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

**Limousine Service**

**New West LIMOUSINE**  
SERVING THE BAY AREA SINCE 1989

**FROM \$125 PER HOUR**  
Lincoln Stretch Limo – Lincoln Town Car  
Mercedes Grand Sedan – Mercedes Limo Van  
Cadillac Escalade SUV – Ford Expedition SUV

**(888) 582-9987**  
reserve@newwestlimo.com  
NewWestLimo.com

**Painting**

**LOOK!!! FREE!!!**  
Spring Special!

**Free Window Cleaning w/ Ext. Paint Job!**  
**Free Pressure Wash w/Ext. Paint Job!**  
**Free Estimate & Color Consultation w/Job!**

- Residential & Commercial
- Interior & Exterior
- Drywall Repairs
- Handyman Services

**We'll Beat Any Reasonable Price!**  
**30+ Years Experience**  
**CA. ST. LIC #651686**  
**Insured & Bonded**  
**TEL: (408) 281-7500**  
[www.faithpainting.com](http://www.faithpainting.com)

**Faith Painting** DIAMOND CERTIFIED

**It's easy & FREE to get rid of your junk**

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY  
Environmental Services

**Make appointment · Set out · We'll pick up**

**SJenvironment.org/junkpickup**  
Help keep our neighborhood clean! Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500

**Employment**

**Lead Database Administrator**

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

**Software Development**

**Software Development**  
Manage cloud-based software development.  
2 years exp. \$123,885/yr.  
Supermove Inc. 178 Bluxome St #202, San Francisco, CA 94107.

**Notices**

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$64.99/mo plus taxes for 12months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. W/ 24-mo. agmt TV price higher in 2nd year. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49/mo. is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-408-688-5490

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-988-1663

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-866-603-1640 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/evergreen>

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-877-920-0653

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-977-5344

# 1199 NIKULINA COURT

ALMADEN VALLEY



**THERESE SWAN**

408.656.8240

[tswan@tswan.com](mailto:tswan@tswan.com)

[AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com](http://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**