Rising cyber threats to seniors spark community response from 'Cyber-Knights' See Page 4


Getting off the streets
VTA plan for new development will make 200 homeless people safer - See Page 5

San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra Season Opener Concert Dec. 2 See Page 10

## Fall Family Festival raises community spirit

San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas keeps the tradition alive!

## By Kevin Larsen

 Special to the Times0n a sunny Saturday, Octo ber 28, the local community enjoyed a restful get together at the annual Fall Family Festival at Lake Cunningham in Evergreen Valley.
Food, information booths and activities were everywhere, and the kids ran free.
District 8 San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas stated, "Our Fall Family Festival was a resounding success. These events are about building stronger neighborhoods through fun. I hope families had unforgettable moments to cherish. We can't wait to bring it back even bigger and better next year."
The annual pumpkin patch, full of hay bales, did not disappoint along with the numerous kid's games set out on a clean well-kept field. One parent asked how much they cost and was kindly informed it's free for the kids!
Enormous Bounce Houses were there to lift spirits along with uplifting music played that enchanted both young and old.



Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate at the Fall Family Festival at Lake Cunningham on October 28.

## Cunningham Lake maintenance crew

It is joyous for families to walk on wide open spacious green fields. The Cunningham Lake maintenance crew were out in full
force getting the event ready and preparing the area for the festival. The grass was well trimmed and extra care was taken to make the space clean and special for the

See FESTIVAL, page 8

## Dee Ramirez of Evergreen Valley featured in October edition of Top Agent Magazine

Evergreen resident Dee $\begin{aligned} & \text { Top Agent Magazine, all profes- }\end{aligned}$ Ramirez, owner of TheVillages sionals in the real estate industry Realty - Keller Williams SJ Gateway located atthe Villages Parkway in San Jose, was featured in the October 2023 Top Agent Magazine, described as the premier real estate magazine.
Top Agent Magazine features real estate agents and mortgage professionals in the USA, Europe, Canada,Australia, and New Zealand.
"Dee Ramirez is a stellar example of the kind of prominent leader of real estate we are proud to feature in our magazine," said a spokesperson for Top Agent Magazine. To be considered for a feature in
 must go through an extensive nomination and interview process. Candidates are evaluated upon production, professionalism, as well as industry and community involvement.
"I'm so honored and grateful for this prestigious nomination in Top Agent Magazine and want to thank all the great agents I've worked with over the years plus all my fantastic clients within the Villages Golf and Country Club."
Editor's note: For more information about Dee Ramirez, call (408) 440-7617,oremail:Dee@DeeRamirez. com, or visit DeeRamirez.com.


Melenie Richardson, Assistant CEO, Valley Water, District 8 San Jose City Councilmember Domingo Candelas, and Valley Water Director Barbara Keagon discuss the importance of staying informed about predicted increased precipitation in the upcoming December, January, and February.

## Valley Water and Emergency Operations Managers urge County residents to prepare for potential winter flooding

Valley Water, the County of Santa Clara, and the City of San Jose are preparing for a strong El Niño and the possibility of extreme winter storms.
Valley Water held a news conference during last week's Flood Preparedness Week to feature a winter outlook forecast discussion by the National Weather Service and outline our joint flood emergency preparedness efforts.
The news conference was held at Lower Silver Creek in Evergreen Valley, one of 50 sites where Valley Water has been removing sediment following the past winter's significant storm events as part of our efforts to reduce flood risk. District 8 San Jose City Councilmember Domingo Candelas, said that last winter, Valley Water partnered with the County of Santa Clara and local cities to help residents stay safe during storms by operating an around-the-clock emergency operation center and
distributing 97,000 sandbags. "The City of San Jose values its productive working relationship with Valley Water in making strides in upgrading our infrastructure for flood preparedness. The City has a duty to ensure that the safety and well-being of our residents is paramount.
Valley Water stream maintenance crews helped protect our community from flooding by clearing blockages, repairing levees, and removing sediment before, during and after storms. We are committed to working with local agencies and the community to help everyone be prepared and safe during the upcoming winter. Valley Water urges residents to prepare for an uncertain winter by finding out if their home or business is at high risk of flooding, signing up for Santa Clara County's emergency alert system and locating free sandbag distribution centers.

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## Season Opener Concert

Featuring
Isaac Chan and Dylan Nguyen, violas An-Po Chen, violin
Winners of the 2023 Young Artist Competition*
Yair Samet, Music Director and Conductor

Brahms - Academic Festival Overture
Wranitzky - Concerto for Two Violas and Orchestra Mendelssohn - Violin Concerto
Blacher - Orchestral Variations on a Theme of Paganini


## SATURDAY

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## N OTEBOOK



## Evergreen Valley College and Arizona State University partner to offer college students transfer pathways with MyPath2ASU collaboration

Evergreen Valley College announced a new alliance with Arizona State University to provide students a seamless transfer experience with the MyPath2 ASU® program.
MyPath2ASU allows students to successfully plan their transfer to ASU by taking the necessary steps at the start of their college experience, thus ensuring a smooth transition process and student success.
MyPath2ASU is a set of customized tools available to transfer students from accredited, U.S. regional institutions. These tools ensure a seamless transfer experience to ASU after earning credits or an associate degree from a U.S. community college or university and shortening the time to degree completion.
"We know that the longer it takes a student to complete their degree or certificate program, the less likely they are to persist and graduate," said Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson, EVC president. "Anything we can do to shorten the time to completion and decrease the total cost of earning a degree will benefit our students. This partnership with ASU accomplishes both."

Through this partnership, EVC students using MyPath2ASU will find their transfer experience simplified. They will have access to personalized benefits to help them navigate the transfer experience, including:

- ensure course applicability by assisting students with taking courses that apply to both their associate and bachelor's degree
- guaranteed general admission to ASU and admission into MyPath2ASU major choice if all requirements are satisfied; some majors have additional or higher admission requirements
- more than 400 course-bycourse guided pathways into immersion and online ASU degree programs
- self-service, degree progress tracking through My Transfer Guide to minimize loss of credit
ASU and Evergreen Valley College will work collaboratively to promote educational degree pathways containing ground and online course offerings. These pathways will ensure each student's courses are applicable toward their degree in their chosen major while minimizing credit loss.


## EvergreenTimes

Times Media, Inc. (408) 494-7000

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com
ADVERTIIING SALES
WILLIAM D. BELLOU 408-494-7000
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: DIANE BLUM, SUNAY SANGHANI, SEAN EASTWOOD, NIRBAN SINGH, FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE

LUU, APOORVA PANIDAPU

## ART DIRECTOR

JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

## PUBLISHER / CEO

WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SANDY BELLOU
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## ValleyCurrents

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

## Rising Cyber threats to seniors spark community response: The birth and journey of Cyber-Knights

Shreyas Kapavarapu presented with 'The Congressional Award', an honor celebrating young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments By William Bellou Publisher

Congressman Jimmy Panetta has awarded San Jose resident Shreyas Kapavarapu The Congressional Award, an honor celebrating America's young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments.
Kapavarapu, a senior at Basis Independent Silicon Valley High School and a representative of Cyber-Knights, was recognized for its work enhancing cybersecurity awareness among seniors in San Jose in just 20 months' time.
Through strategic collaborations and extensive outreach, the organization educates seniors on crucial cyber safety topics.
Reacting to the alarming rise in cybercrimes driven by personal experiences, local advocates shifted their focus from debate forums to real-world problems.
Last year, a local resident's grandmother became a victim of a cyber scam, losing her private banking information. Sadly, her ordeal was not unique.
The 2022 FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center Report disclosed alarming statistics: a sharp 84 percent increase in cyber threats targeting seniors from the previous


Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) awarded Shreyas Kapavarapu of San Jose The Congressional Award, an honor celebrating young people's initiative, service, and accomplishments.
year, affecting over 88,000 elderly individuals and causing a financial blow of $\$ 3.1$ billion.
Recognizing the acute vulnerability of seniors in an increasingly digital society, they took upon the mission of cybersecurity education for the elderly. Preliminary research indicated that awareness programs might slash the susceptibility of seniors to cyberattacks by a notable 45 percent.

Backed by a tech caregiver cer tification from the distinguished American Air Force Association's cybersecurity division, the CyberKnights initiative was born. What began as a small-scale neighborhood awareness campaign swiftly morphed into a community-wide movement.
Over the span of 20 months, with strategic collaborations with the See CYBERCRIME, next page


## Times Local News

## VTA plan will make 200 homeless people safer

outside VTA's Cerone Maintenance Yard in North San Jose. VTA will also evaluate other sites for some of these units or future units so we can continue to expand our network of safe, transitional housing that gets people out of the streets and creeks faster and more cost effectively.
I want to thank my colleagues and the dozens of residents who came out to speak in support of this plan. Special shoutout to Councilmembers Jimenez, Foley, Davis, and Gilroy Mayor Blankley - who stood strong and spoke up on behalf of their constituents. And thank you to Councilmember Cohen, whohas championed this ideal site in See MAYOR, page 9

ABy Matt Mahan ter 3.5 hours of debate at the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) board meeting, we took an important step in the long road to ending homelessness.
We voted to move forward with a plan to move 200 homeless neighbors off our streets and into a safer place.
Because we didn't back down in October VTA staff and the City of San Jose will bring back a draft agreement to place 200 tiny homes from the State just


> From the Mayor
> Matt Mahan Mayor, San Jose

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Times Local News


The Gucci Store in WestField Valley Fair was robbed by an organized retail theft ring on Oct. 5. Photo by Jason Torres Iraheta

## San Jose targets retail theft with new police unit

Thieves hoping to snatch items off the shelves of San Jose retailers may have a tougher time this holiday season.
City policymakers this week launched a new police team to stop retail theft after the city saw a $25 \%$ spike in the crime from 2021 to 2022.
The San Jose City Council unanimously approved creating the Organized Retail Theft Detail, an investigative team within the San Jose Police Department to gather intelligence and track crime statistics and patterns to identify hotspots, catch crimi-
nals and reduce the rate of retail crimes. The team will include one full time and four part-time investigators.
Some shop owners say the timing is perfect with holiday shopping already underway. Jack Meir, manager of Yeti in Santana Row, said the store has lost almost \$1,000 worth of merchandise after being open only two months.
"All we have talked about in our holiday meeting so far was trying to hire more seasonal workers in order to have more See THEFT, next page


Bay Area Horse Associations Will Host Events

## DECEMBER 16

San Martin Horsemen will host in December at Harvey Bear Park:
Harvey Bear Ranch entrance at $E$. San Martin Avenue and New Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046. Ride, lead or join without a horse along a flat, paved 2 mile loop and jingle all the way with bells on the horses! A great time spreading holiday cheer interacting with children and families along the route. Event begins at 12 noon. RSVP or questions:
toni.whedon@cbnorcal.com.

## Times Local News

## Theft

Continued from previous page personnel on the floor and have more look outs," Meir told San José Spotlight. "Safety is the most important thing that we value."
In San Jose, 5,756 retail theft crimes were reported lastyear. And it's a national trend.
Retail theft across the country has cost $\$ 125.7$ billion in economic losses and $\$ 39.2$ billion in lost wages, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In California, \$19 billion in economic losses were reported The state created the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program in 2022 through Senate Bill 154 to prevent and respond to organized retail theft.
San Jose's police department received nearly $\$ 8.5$ million from the state to launch a three-year program. It was one of 38 law enforcement agencies in California to receive the funding. More than half the funds will pay for analyst salaries and overtime for sworn officers to proactively patrol shopping centers to deter crime.
Officers will partner with the district attorney to support prosecutions and work with retailers to arrest criminals.
"One of the big aspects is sharing knowledge and best practices," SJPD Lt. Brent McKim said during Tuesday's council meeting. "So if somebody hits Walmart, and we know that, then we can and we will alert the Target down the street that they might be hit as well."
Nearly $\$ 3.5$ million will fund technolo-
gy including fingerprint scanners, forensic software and additional cars and radios. SJPD is also purchasing 300 license plate readers to help catch thieves at hotspots. San Jose uses 72 license plate readers currently that councilmembers approved in 2021 in response to the spike in retail crimes.
"It's a two prong approach: prevention and then investigation," McKim said. "I think the money in this grant will help us attack from both sides."
Councilmember Peter Ortiz urged police to focus on smaller, family-owned businesses in East San Jose - and not just major retailers like Westfield's Oakridge and Valley Fair malls. He said theft at mom-and-pop shops often goes unreported and forces business owners to lock their stores during the day or move to other parts of the city.
"They're starting to lock their doors to protect them from potential robberies or shoplifting, which gives the impression to the public that the business is not open," Ortiz said. "But it also creates an unwelcoming shopping experience."
McKim said the police department will scope out hotspots at smaller businesses. Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmember Bien Doan applauded efforts to work with prosecutors to ensure thieves are held accountable
"We want to let people know that the city of San Jose is a safe place to visit, to shop, to live," Doan said. "And to let the criminals know we are going to prosecute."


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Thanksgiving Celebration: Saturday November $18^{\text {th }} 3-5 \mathrm{pm}$ at the Almaden Community Center. Tickets on sale, Wednesday October $25^{\text {th }}$. MWF $8-10 \mathrm{am}$ in the Almaden Community Center lobby. $\$ 22.00$ pp, cash or check.

For more information, go to Almadenseniors1@gmail.com, or cal Events: Jeanne @408-425-5723
Trips: Donna @408 266-4938 or Rich @408 219-8641
Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120


## Festival

Continued from page 1 little ones.
Domingo's team pulled it all together
It can be tough to organize a big event. Putting everything in place takes tactical planning and putting aside any differences of opinion of what goes where and how things are set up. It was very noticeable how pleasant they treat the general public along with the Councilmember Candelas.
Some of the booths included: Crunch Gym, Evergreen Leadership, Our City Forest, Action Sports Park, Evergreen Valley College, Kipp Public Schools, U.S. Senator Jimmy Panetta,


Councilmember Domingo Candelas gets the pumpkin patch ready for the kids.

Supervisor City Chavez, District 8 Domingo Candelas, All Bay Photos, Alpha Public Schools, Walk and Roll, West Valley College, My Shake Earthquake Warning, Valley Water Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Tully Road Eastridge Business Association, and more.
Smiling children are our community

## treasure

Being close to Halloween many kids were dressed in their Halloween costumes and an effort was made to place little bowls of candy at each booth. Swirling around were so many children that one had to watch where to step at times. This brought out the happiness in all who attended.
Community spirit was nurtured by the


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great event. Some of the quotes from families were;
"I think it is very great fun when the community has a family friendly event. You see, my 4-year-old daughter has been asking me for a pumpkin and I just didn't have the chance to buy her one but then this event came along and she could choose one from the pumpkin patch, what could be better!"
"Domingo is very involved and cares about his community."
"Wonderful, we're thankful for the jumpers!"
"Nice for the high school kids to learn about junior college resources."
"Families getting to go on the weekend is important notjust with theirfamily but with the children of other families that come for that is healthy fun."
Softly the event came to a close
On a Saturday well spent, the community visited and meandered. Parking was no charge and snacks were offered along with handmade tortillas on a specialty food truck.
The face painting went on by a dedicated artist for four full hours and balloon animals were made and sometimes lost rolling on the grass. It's good to get out to these events. Sylvia Arenas' booth had a free 360 degrees photo spin, and a camera spun around as people stood capturing photos to send to their phone.
Friends are made and adults need to nurture new acquaintances. The entire event was full of sunshine and calmness then like clockwork Mother Nature came to visit with gusty winds at 2 p.m. Fond farewells were given by all.
As one family walked to their car a young child refused to go and jumped up and down as the family entered the car saying, "I don't want to go, I want bouncy (referring to the jumper house)."
This event seemed to have nourished everyone in the community.


Times Feature

## Symphony San Jose presents 'Christmas at the California' December 9 and 10

Symphony San Jose and the Symphony San Jose Chorale celebrate "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" with holiday classics including carols, audience sing-alongs, and the famous Silicon Valley version of the Twelve Days of Christmas.
This family-friendly program makes for an unforgettable holiday experience at the California Theatre Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, downtown San Jose. Convenient, inexpensive parking is available at a city-owned garage one-and-a-half blocks from the theater at San Carlos Street with entrances on Second and Third streets.

## ARTISTS

Elena Sharkova, conductor
Symphony San Jose
Symphony San Jose Chorale
SINGLE TICKET PRICES: \$55-\$115
TICKETS: Phone: 408.286.2600 ext. 1; Website: www.symphonysanjose.org; Email: jmeyers@symphonysanjose.org; Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5 pm .
Artwork: "Santa" courtesy of Symphony San Jose.

## Mayor

Continued from page 5
his district.
This site would increase by $40 \%$ our stock of interim housing for those living outside. Currently, we have just over 500 units spread across our six Quick Build Com-munities-units that have already helped more than 1500 people transition off the streets.
This solution has proven to be our most promising approach to ending the era of encampments - and it's good to see it supported by electeds across the South Bay, partner agencies like VTA and residents from every corner of the city.
By pushing for these solutions together, we can change the lives of our neighbors suffering on the streets today and increase the quality of life for the entire community.


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## San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra Season Opener Concert Dec. 2

Orchestra performs Brahms, Wranitzky, Mendelssohn and Blacher; Ticket purchases now available online

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2023-24 Season Opener Concert to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, 7 pm, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA.
The orchestra will open with Brahms's light and engaging Academic Festival Overture, and close with Blacher's big, beautiful and exciting Orchestral Variations on a Theme of Paganini.
This concert will also feature three winners from the 2023 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation*. Outstanding young soloists, Isaac Chan \& Dylan Nguyen, violists, will perform Wranitzky's Concerto for Two Violas and Orchestra; and An-Po Chen, violinist, will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto.
Isaac Chan is a high school senior at Milpitas High School and has been playing viola since he was 7 years old. He has been with the San Jose Youth Symphony since 2019 and is currently in his third year with the Philhar monic Orchestra.



Dylan Nguyen is also a student at Milpitas High School and started to learn piano at age 5 first and then viola at age 8 , with private teacher, Hien Ngo. He has been with the San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra for the past two years.
An-Po Chen, violinist, is 16 years old and currently attending Archbishop Mitty High School. This is his second season with the San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra.
The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orches-
 tras on the West Coast of the U.S. Founded over seven decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.
The musicians of SJYS, all school-age youth, are chosen from more than 650 applicants through our annual auditions. The SJYS comprises 12 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a Chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, as well as winds, harp, saxophone, percussion, and jazz ensembles.
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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 Waeayilatak"'" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.
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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.


God is One Јॅघ ट्टिर गै Rab Ik Hai

## SAN JOSE

 GURDWARA 3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148The 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 encourage 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

 CHURCH5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.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, Sunday11:00AM, 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!


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