Philharmonic Youth
Orchestra to perform Chaminade, Reinecke, Chausson and Poulenc See Page 8


Hello from Japan! at Children's
Discovery Museum of San Jose
See Page 9


South Bay transit leaders have approved a major contract to construct a longplanned light rail extension project in East San Jose. Photo by Jana Kadah.

## East San Jose to get long overdue light rail extension

By Joseph Geha San José Spotlight

South Bay transit leaders have approved a major contract to get construction underway on a long-planned light rail extension project in East San Jose.
The VTA board of directors on Thursday unanimously approved awarding a $\$ 437$ million construction contract to a joint venture of two companies to build the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector.
The 2.4-mile project will create an elevated track along East Capitol Expressway from new ground level station at VTA's revamped Eastridge Transit Center north to

a new elevated station at Story Road, and on to the Alum Rock Station, offering a link to the Milpitas BART Station.
"We are sending a clear message today that East San Jose deserves an equitable transportation system. We cannot wait any longer," VTA Board Member and District 3 San Jose Councilmember Omar Torres said.
The project has been in the making for more than two decades, leaving the lower-income, largely Latino East San Jose community without a long-promised piece of critical infrastructure, leaders and advocates say.
San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, a member of the VTA board, said the board approving costs for the major construction phase represents a historic investment.
"Our east side in San Jose has waited far too long, and has been truly underserved," Mahan said. "It's an intergenerational investment, it's a sacrifice we make as a contribution toward an overall regional network that one day is going to all fit together at the service levels we want."
The $\$ 437$ million joint bid from Sacramento-based MCM Construction Inc. and New York Citybased RailWorks Corporation came in about $\$ 122$ million over VTA's estimates, largely due to a See LIGHT RAIL, page 9

## San Jose Councilmember Candelas leads for District 8

By Annalise Freimarck San José Spotlight

San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas is celebrating his election lead in the race for District 8 San Jose City Council seat.
The incumbent is leading the race for the District 8 seat on the San Jose City Council with 39.4\% of the vote. Tam Truong is in second with 32.5\% of the vote, Sukhdev Bainiwal is trailing with $25.6 \%$ of the vote and Surinder "Suri" Kaur Dhaliwal has $2.3 \%$.
The results include a voter turnout of about $37.3 \%$, according to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. The registrar's office is expecting turnout for this primary election to land at about $35 \%$ to $45 \%$, officials said on Election Day. There are approximately 1,400 unprocessed ballots remaining.
The top two candidates in the primary will face each other in a runoff during the general election


San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas is pictured at his election night party. Photo courtesy of Domingo Candelas campaign.

## in November.

Three candidates are challenging Candelas to represent District 8, which includes Evergreen, Silver Creek and the Lake Cunningham area. Candelas was appointed to San Jose City Council in 2023 and hopes to keep his seat for a regular four-year term.
Candelas has been busy since his
appointment more than a year ago to replace Sylvia Arenas, who took a higher position with the county's Board of Supervisors. Candelas did not respond to requests for comment.
Last month, Candelas helped reopen San Jose's beloved waterpark, Raging Waters. During his See CANDELAS, page 4
 ferring and graduating from San Francisco State with a degree in English.
"It was a great way for me to transition into a fouryear institution," said Yosimar. "I remember having my first English classes here and having the opportunity to perform. I had amazing educators who supported and uplifted me in my passion, which is what I do now."
He wanted to think beyond being "undocumented" and chose San Francisco State because it allowed him to be himself, step out, and grow.
While at EVC, he worked at an elementary school and helped third graders with math. As a DACA student, he worked in a library, surrounded by one of
his great loves, books.
Yosimar's writings have appeared in multiple online journals and poetry compilations, including Mariposas: A Modern Anthology of Queer Latino Poetry,Somewhere we are Human: Authentic Voices on Migration, Survival, and New Beginnings, and the forthcoming UndocuPoetics: An Introduction. Yosimar is the eighth poet laureate to be appoint ed by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. Nils Peterson was the County's first Poet Laureate (2009-2011), followed by Sally Ashton (201213), David Perez (2014-2015), Arlene Biala (201617), Mike McGee (2018-19), Janice Lobo Sapigao (2020-21), and Tshaka Campbell (2022-23).


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Lyria Zhu, flute

## Saarthak Shankavaram, violin

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Yair Samet, Music Director and Conductor

Chaminade - Callirhoë - Ballet Symphonique
Reinecke - Flute Concerto in D Major
Chausson - Poème for Violin \& Orchestra
Poulenc - Les Biches Suite


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## Candelas

Continued from page 1 appointment, he hosted more than 15 community cleanups, secured $\$ 100,000$ for a pedestrian bridge in Yerba Buena and led efforts to revitalize Lake Cunningham.
Truong, in second place, spent his nightwatching the results flood in at San Jose's AK Restaurant, in the dining room filled with supporters. He lost the council appointment to Candelas and was accused of mortgage fraud last year. He has served as a sworn officer with the San Jose Police Department for more than 15 years and said he's grateful for the support from the community.
"The night's still young but it looks like our neighbors, our community really takes public safety to their heart as a number one priority," he told San José Spotlight on election night.

San Jose City Council District 8 candidate Tam Truong speaks to supporters at his election night party on Tuesday. Photo by Annalise Freimarck.
Mai Nguyen, resident of District 8 since 1985, said she has supported Truong's campaign since the beginning because of his commitment to public safety.
"I'm sure he will keep that promise (of safety), so my kids can play and we feel safe," she told San José Spotlight.
Bainiwal, a former airport commissioner, engineer and longtime director on the board of the Sikh Gurdwara of San Jose, is trailing behind in third. He also sought the District 8 appointment last year and wants to bring his neighborhood back to what it used to be.
He said he's hopeful the numbers will change as they're updated, but he was expecting different results.
"We gave it all, the right message and that's what I stand for," he told San José Spotlight. "I guess the community wants something different than what I stand for."
Dhaliwal, a mom with a background in giant tech corporations Meta and Google, is far behind in last place. She said she's not disappointed with the results and supports Candelas and Truong, who she said both have strong campaigns.
"My goal was not to win, city council is not my dream job," she told San José Spotlight.

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Candelas has raised the most money during the race with $\$ 116,586$ in total contributions as of Dec. 31, 2023. Bainiwal follows with $\$ 89,260$, Truong has raised $\$ 66,805$ and Dhaliwal has not reported any contributions.

## Valley Water Board of Directors censures Director Rebecca Eisenberg; approves additional disciplinary actions

During a special board meeting on March 14, 2024, the Valley Water Board of Directors voted to censure Director Rebecca Eisenberg for misconductand imposed other disciplinary actions. The Board of Directors voted 6-1 to censure Director Eisenberg for mishandling confidential information. The Board also voted 6-1 to censure Director Eisenberg for discriminatory harassment, abusive conduct, and improper directionto staff, allegations substantiated in an independent investigation.
In addition, in a 5-2 vote the Board of Directors approved the following disciplinary actions against Director Eisenberg:

- Remove Director Eisenberg from all roles and responsibilities representing the Boardand District, including participating on any Board Committees.
- Director Eisenberg must attend and participate in appropriate anti-discrimination training and behavioral management training within two months as a result of the finding regarding discrimination on the basis of national origin.
- Director Eisenberg should not be allowed to meet with any employees who object to meeting with her.
- Director Eisenberg should not be allowed to request any information directly from employees and must make any such request from a Board Appointed Officer.
- The Board of Directors also requested that Director Eisenberg return the investigation reports to the Clerk of the Board.
"We look forward to moving past this issue and putting all our efforts toward our agency's mission to provideSantaClaraCounty with safe clean water, flood protection and environmental stewardship," Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh said.
The censure regarding the mishandling of confidential information stems from an incident on Jan. 29, 2024, when Director Eisenberg removed about 2,000 pages of the unredacted confidential investigation regarding her behaviors from Valley Water headquarters.


## 'LifeMoves' to celebrate Easter thanks to

 generous donationsBy William Bellou Publisher
Generous donations are having a positive impact in the community.
For the first time, an Easter Celebration is being scheduled at LifeMoves homeless facility in San Jose.
Non-profit Blvd Bombs' volunteers constructed more than twenty Easter Baskets and one golden egg with a \$25.00 Target gift card for a seventeen-year-old who lives at the facility with his mom.
Four Easter Bunny costumes for three children and one adult will pass out baskets filled with Easter Bunnies, toys, and stuffed animals.
The private event's photos will be shared on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
If you would like to help the community funding efforts of Blvd. Bomb, visit their website: blvdbombs@gmail.com or call (408) 218-9729, or message them on Instagram or Facebook.

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## 2023-24 Spring San Jose Youth Concert

## Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Chaminade, Reinecke, Chausson and Poulenc Saturday, March 23

over six years. She has been with the San Jose Youth Symphony for four years total, three of those as part of the Philharmonic Orchestra.
Saarthak Shankavaram, 16, is a sophomore at Prospect High School. In Singapore, where he was born, he learned signing in the Indian Hindustani classical tradition. After moving to the US in 3rd grade, he began violinlessons with Gretchen Mieschke, and has been with the San Jose Youth Symphony for several years, the last two of those as part of the Philharmonic Orchestra.

The San Jose Youth Sympho ny's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2024 Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, 2 pm at the California Theatre, 345 S 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
The concert opens with female composer Cécile Chaminade's lovely and romantic work, Callirhoë BalletSymphonique, and will conclude with Poulenc's Les Biches Suite. This concert will also feature winners from the 2023 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation*. Outstanding young soloists, Lyria Zhu (right, below), flute, will perform Reinecke's Flute Concerto in D Major; and Saarthak Shankavaram (right, above), violin, will perform Chausson's Poème


The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldestand finest youth orchestras 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 schoolage 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.
"San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation and its use in all its variations is by license.

Online ticket purchases are available through the San Jose Youth Symphony website: https:// Lyria Zhu is a senior at Lynbrook High School www.sjys.org/product-category/tickets


## Times Feature

## Light Rail

Continued from page 1
differing view on potential inflation on materials like concrete and electrical components.
The board, in approving the contract award, gave the go-ahead for VTA to dip into its reserves to cover the bulk of the additional cost.
District 8 San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas, who represents a portion of the area where
the new tracks will run, said the project goes beyond the immediate benefits of offering improved transit access for the area.
"Its realization will bring change and opportunities for this historically disadvantaged area of our valley," Candelas said. "This light rail extension holds the promise of revitalizing our neighborhoods and attracting new investments."
The total project cost from start to finish is expected to be $\$ 653$ million. This includes pedestrian and
bus improvements in the area dating back to 2007, as well as the reconstruction of the Eastridge bus hub in 2015 and utility relocation and land acquisition work that has been done over the past three years. Angel Madero, who serves as chief ofstaff for District 5 San Jose Councilmember Peter Ortiz, said the lack of investment in public transportation in East San Jose has caused significant hardships for residents.
"Without reliable options for tran-

## Hello from Japan! at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

## New Multimedia Exhibition presents contemporary and ancient traditions of Japanese culture

The new multimedia exhibit, Hello from Japan!, sponsored by CEFCU will run through Labor Day
Hello from Japan! is the latest exhibition at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose.
Local families will have the opportunity to experience present-day Tokyo and explore ancient and contemporary traditions of Japanese culture. The multimedia exhibit sponsored by CEFCU will run through Labor Day.

Come play on the child-sized streets of Tokyo in the bustling modern Harajuku district - think "Hello Kitty" and "Pokemon." Sing karaoke, create a bento box, and design charming kawaii mascots.
A bridge at the end of the streetscape leads into a more tranquil Shinto shrine. Crawl through the shrine's forest, make a wish at a large wishing tree, and maybe encounter a few of Japan's kimi spirits. The best part is learning how Japanese culture values history and a society where the past, present, and future harmoniously coexist.
Editor's note: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is located at 180 Woz Way in downtown San Jose. Admission: $\$ 18$ for children and adults; $\$ 16$ for seniors; infants under one and members are free; Tickets: https://www.cdm.org/visit/exhibits/hello-fromjapan
About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Kids lead the way at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 handson exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence. The nonprofit celebrates people and diverse cultures, creates authentic connections, and builds global understanding.

Welcoming more than 10 million visitors since 1990, the award-winning museum inspires creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning inside the stunning 50,000 square foot purple building designed by the late world renowned Mexico City architect Ricardo Legoretta, and outside in the half-acre nature space.
For more information about the museum, visit www.cdm.org.


Local families will have the opportunity to experience pres-ent-day Tokyo and explore ancient and contemporary traditions of Japanese culture.

sit and the inability to afford a car, too many residents are forced to walk on dangerous, high-speed corridors with inadequate sidewalk space or none at all. It's these conditions that have made East San Jose an epicenter of traffic fatalities," Madero said.
The project is funded by $\$ 313$ million from Measure A, atax measure approved by voters in 2000, and by $\$ 130$ million from Regional Measure 3, a 2018 bridge toll increase.About $\$ 86$ million is coming from state transportation grants and funds, including the gas tax.
Officials said the cost of the project would only increase if it isn't started immediately, and with

Thursday's approval, construction can start in April. It's expected to be completed in 2028.
Eugene Bradley, founder of advocacy group Silicon Valley Transit Users, has attended recent public hearings on the project to encourage leaders to approve the contract. He said he's "stoked"construction is finally beginning.
"I remember over 20 years ago taking the old 74 bus from Eastridge to where the Great Mall is and then back again. I believe this project really should have been VTA's No. 1 priority, yes even above BART," Bradley said. "Let's just get going on this project. This community has waited too long.


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## New tech creates fake calls and voicemails

Everyone knows to look for phony emails - they can appear in your email inbox or even at work. Scammers can easily make messages that appear to come from anywhere, like your boss's email account or a close family member
But what about phone calls and voicemail?
Scammers can use new AI technology to mimic the voice of someone you know and create a phone call or voicemail recording. This "voice cloning" technology has recently advanced, and anyone with the right software can clone a voice from a very small audio sample.
How this scam works
At work, you get a voicemail from your boss. They instruct you to wire thousands of dollars to a vendor for a rush project. The request is out of the blue. But it's the boss's orders, so you make the transfer. A few hours later, you see your boss and confirm that you sent the payment. But there's one big problem; your manager has no idea what you are talking about! It turns out that the message was fake.
At home, you may receive a phone call or voicemail from a family member in an urgent situation like an accident or a medical emergency. They provide con vincing details and ask for money immediately via a digital wallet payment app like Venmo or PayPal. You find out later that the story wasn't true, and your money is gone.
A consumer recently shared on Scam Tracker, "I received a call on 1-26-24. I thought itwas my daugh ter-in-law. She said, "Hi mom, I'm calling to say I was pulled over driving and I've got a broken nose." She was frantic to have me call the lawyer right away. She
asked me three times if I wrote the name and num ber down. I said yes. She said she had to go right now as they are taking her. Her voice sounded just like my daughter-in-law."
With the US now amid the 2024 election season scammers may use the technology to mimic candidates' voices to sway voters or potentially drum up "donations."
How to avoid similar scams
Resist the urge to act immediately. No matter how convincing a phone call orvoicemail may sound, hang up or close the message if something doesn't feel right. Call the person who claimed to have called you directly with the phone number you have saved for them Don't call back the number provided by the caller or caller ID.Askquestions that would behard for an impostor to answer correctly.
Don't send money if you're in doubt. If the caller urgently asks you to send money via a digital wallet payment app or a gift card, that may be a red flag for a scam. If you wire money to someone and later realize it's a fraud, the police must be alerted.
Secure your accounts. Whether at work or home, set up multifactor authentication for email logins and other changes in email settings. At work, verify changes in information about customers, employees, or vendors
At work, train your staff. Create a secure culture at your office by training employees in internet security. Make it a policy to confirm all change and payment requests before transferring. Don't rely on email or voicemail.
For more information on emergency scams, read the BBB's scam alert or the FTC's article.
If you've been the victim of a scam, please report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help expose scammers' tactics and prevent others from having a similar experience.


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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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God is One Јॅघ स्टि 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

8:15 AM
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


