

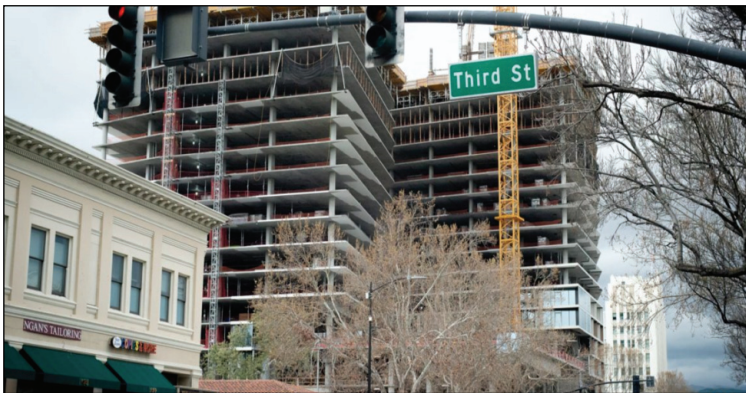
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Have a safe and sane celebration this year with family and friends as we celebrate the Fourth of July!

JULY 2024 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 7

Willow Glen Times

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Construction in downtown San Jose is pictured in this file photo.

San Jose parks lose millions as developers get tax break

By Vicente Vera
San José Spotlight

San Jose is cutting taxes and fees for at least 14 high-rise development projects or more than 4,000 homes in downtown.

The San Jose City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to extend the existing Downtown Residential High-Rise Program to reduce developer costs in an effort to spark more incentives for housing construction. Under the new program, developers who build the first 2,000 homes receive a 100% cut in construction taxes and a 50% reduction in park fees. The next 2,000 homes developed will receive a 50% cut in construction taxes and a 30% cut in park fees.

But some community advocates, including members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, say the program's extension comes at the expense of city park funds and tax revenue.

High-rise discounts proposed for the 4,078 homes downtown total more than \$20 million, which could be used to make significant improvements to a number of nearby regional parks, according to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

"These projects have been really challenged in San Jose, in fact it's precisely the lack of cranes that

leads us to look at extending and deepening this incentive and finding other things to do," Mayor Matt Mahan said Tuesday. "Especially in terms of the levers we have at our disposal."

Since 2017, downtown developers paid a parks fee of up to \$14,600 per home built.

Developers for the future 6,000 homes built under the program won't receive a reduction in park fees, though they will still receive a 50% cut in construction taxes.

City officials say three developments have been started under the program that have produced less than 2,000 homes — which concerned Councilmember David Cohen.

"We shouldn't make permanent decisions based on current market trends," Cohen said Tuesday. "I'm not convinced that this is the right approach. I feel like there's a timeline we could put in here to incentivize us to have conversations regularly on what are the right incentives to (spur) development downtown."

Councilmembers Arjun Batra and Peter Ortiz said they are supportive of housing development incentives, but not at the cost of higher rents in the city.

Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Larry Ames recently sent Mahan and council-

See *DEVELOPERS*, page 4

Willow Glen residents oppose homeless safe sleeping site

By B. Sakura Cannestra
San José Spotlight

Willow Glen residents are protesting a proposal to turn a vacant lot in their neighborhood into a city-sanctioned homeless encampment, or safe sleeping site.

About 50 people rallied Saturday at the intersection of Willow and Lelong streets against the idea, citing neighborhood issues they believe stem from nearby homeless residents. City officials have revisited the idea of safe sleeping sites as temporary hous-



About 50 people rallied against a city proposal to put a safe outdoor sleeping site for homeless residents at the intersection of Willow and Lelong streets in Willow Glen. Photo credit: Sali Schille.

ing solutions in the 2024-25 budget. Mayor Matt Mahan's June budget message sets aside \$10 million in Measure E funds for safe sleeping sites, and further discussion is planned at the June 18 San Jose City Council meeting.

See *HOMELESSNESS*, page 5



COPITA OPENS IN WILLOW GLEN

Celebrity chef Joanne Weir's **Copita Willow Glen** has opened a long-awaited addition to the Lincoln Avenue restaurant with its new rooftop venue. The restaurant combines seasonal California ingredients with regional Mexican recipes. Patrons can take in the sunset or the twinkly lights from one of the 40 seats under the shaded trellis, the 30 lounge seats in the "fire table" area, or the 30 seats in the bar. The rooftop patio and bar are open from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and until 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The downstairs main dining room and patio serve lunch and dinner daily, starting at 11:30 a.m., at 1098 Lincoln Ave., San Jose; www.copitarestaurant.com



Fireworks display event options for July 3-4 in SJ

If you're ready to make plans to watch local fireworks, you have three options to choose from this year, including pyrotechnic displays at Almaden Lake Park, Lake Cunningham Park, and Excite Ballpark.

Residents looking for a natural setting than a street or a baseball stadium on the Fourth can head to Almaden Lake Regional Park, which has its ninth annual festival starting at 3 p.m. July 4 with live music, food trucks and a fun zone for kids before the fireworks start about 9:15 p.m.

San Jose Councilmember Domingo Candelas is hosting his First Ever Fireworks show at Lake Cunningham Park in East San Jose for the first time. Those festivities start at 7 p.m. and also will feature food trucks and family-friendly activities.

The rockets will go off July 3 after the Giants' game against the Stockton Ports, and on July 4 the fireworks will follow a concert by country music artist Matt Stell, presented by Bay Country with both events at Excite Ballpark.

For more information regarding the Almaden Lake Park fireworks show, visit <https://sjd10.com/4th-of-july>

See *FIREWORKS*, page 4

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



Happy Birthday America!

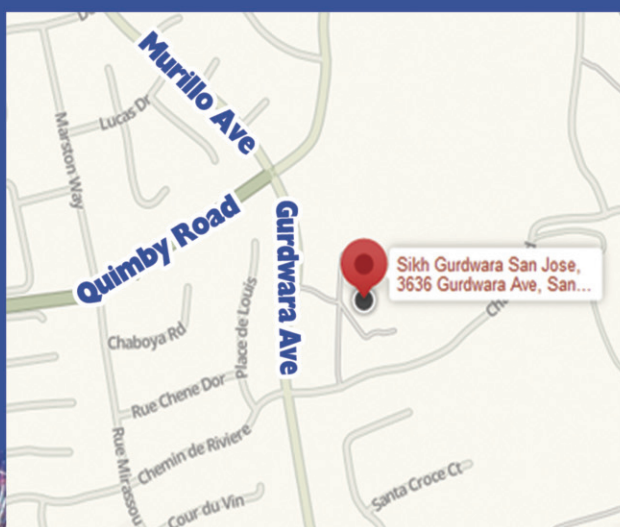
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“Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social” 7pm-10pm held at the Gurdwara on the Hill

We will not be using any fireworks but if you bring your binoculars and keen eyesight you will see the displays far in the distance which light up the sky!

All have been through such great challenges in the past years. We sincerely care about everyone and understand the sacrifices which have been made by families. We continue to have a fully outdoor event where you can walk under the moonlit stars with your family and friends. Admission and food are free. It is an event of joy and celebration of how wonderful you are and our strong and noble country called America is! If you can, come on up and have complementary ice cream or fresh fruit and connect under the moonlit sky with those of all races and cultures in our wonderful Bay Area! It is a night of building family for all. We also will be serving complementary vegetarian meals to-go at the Langar (kitchen area). – Kirpal Atwal, *Gurdwara Director*

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The address is 3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose, CA 95148
Gurdwara contact: Kirpal Atwal (408) 835-7712 | Website: sanjosegurdwara.org



Developers

Continued from page 1

members a letter stating five of their members denounce the reduction of parks fees. The city can't attract economic investment without quality parks, Ames said.

"Giving a few thousand dollar discount in the park fee won't offset a half-million-dollar-per-unit imbalance to make housing profitable now, but the discounts would severely impact the park system in the future," the letter dated June 5 stated.

The Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department depend on estimates of future collections to match long-term planning and park construction efforts with funding needs. Ames wrote in the letter that parks deserving of improvements include Guadalupe River Park, Plaza de Cesar Chavez and Arena Green.

River Oaks Neighborhood Association Vice President Michael Bertram said the city's plan to cut park fees for downtown high-rise developers could lead to park fees being cut city-wide.

"We feel that high-rise development introduced into existing neighborhoods is negatively impactful for their neighborhoods. One of the small benefits we get is the development of parks — and we don't want to see that end," he said Tuesday.

Fireworks

Continued from page 1

For more information regarding the Lake Cunningham Lake Park fireworks show, visit <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/6855/4738?curm=7&cury=2024>

For more information regarding the Excite Ballpark fireworks shows, visit sjgiants.com.

Editor's note: There is one more option on the evening of the 4th of July by attending San Jose Gurdwara's annual "Moonlight Under the Stars" event features a walk up and get free ice cream. Although there are no live fireworks at this site, one can view other fireworks displays from the Gurdwara hilltop location. See pages 3 & 10.

San Jose Library sees spike in readership interest this Summer

Registration for San José Public Library's Summer Learning program and number of book giveaway increases drastically

The San José Public Library's (SJPL) annual Summer Learning program is off to a great start as residents and library members head to the library to sign up and participate in the free program, will conclude on July 31.

Because SJPL is eager to get back to pre-pandemic numbers, library staff has been outreaching and promoting the Summer Learning program since early May, a strategy that has led the library to see an increase of 26% in its preregistration numbers compared to last year. To date, SJPL has registered more than 5,000 people of all ages and reading levels to participate in the program and saw nearly 72,500 reading minutes tracked in the first three days. The library's goal for this year's Summer Learning is to surpass last year's 10,000 total sign-ups and 4-million minutes read.

In addition to the spike in pre-registrations, SJPL also saw a significant increase of more than 80% in the number of free books library staff gave away during this year's pre-registration period compared to last year. More than 2,000 books have been distributed via outreach events, school class visits, and other community events, thus far.

Currently, there are over 200 Summer Learning events scheduled across all 25 SJPL locations, which are offered for free and in multiple languages. Two dozen programs have already been offered since the kickoff on June 1st. All SJPL programs include an educational component, aim to encourage a life-long love of learning and reading, as well as fun entertainment for the whole family such as programs with snakes, performances by tropical birds, and petting zoos.



SJPL's Summer Learning program was specially designed by expert Librarians and library staff to encourage reading and help prevent students from falling behind in their academics during the summer break. Studies show that students can lose up to 40-percent of what they learned during the school year; this concept is known as the "Summer Slide".

To help combat the "summer slide", students and families are encouraged to register for Summer Learning online or in person by visiting any SJPL location. Valu-

able prizes are offered as incentives to join and participate. The prizes vary based on age groups and range from video projectors, drones, and tickets to a San Francisco Giants baseball game or a Bay FC women's soccer match.

In conjunction with Summer Learning, people can also participate in SJPL's annual Graphic Novel Making Contest and Cosplay on Display contest for a chance to win more prizes!

For more information, visit: sjpl.org/summer



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Times **Community**

Homelessness

Continued from page 1

Helen Hutchings has lived in Willow Glen for 28 years and said she's seen homelessness increasing in her neighborhood and across the city. She said she's not opposed to the idea of safe sleeping sites in general and wants to see the city come up with more solutions, but the proposed site is close to other homes in the neighborhood.

"We don't want what comes with having a homeless camp in a neighborhood," Hutchings told San José Spotlight. "We understand that these people need to be helped, they need to be provided services, but as it is, that's not happening. And it shouldn't be happening in a neighborhood."

Hutchings said her and many of her neighbors have felt threatened by homeless residents in their area. Kathleen Almoslino, another Willow Glen resident, said her car has been broken into twice and suspects residents of a nearby homeless encampment, based on the footage from security cameras she has at her house.

About 50 homeless people live unsheltered along Guadalupe River close to the proposed safe sleeping site, according to an email sent to residents from the mayor and Councilmembers Dev Davis and Omar Torres. The email invited residents to a town hall in April to discuss the unsheltered encampment and safe sleeping site proposal.

Michael Morand, who was formerly homeless, said he wouldn't want to stay at a safe sleeping site. He added that sanctioned encampments have tight restrictions, but easing rules might pose other problems for neighbors in the area, such as increases in crime.

"I think there needs to be some action done with regards to getting people into humane facilities, whether it be a shelter or hotel rooms, like where I'm at," Morand told San José Spotlight. "Mixing people that have challenges with substance abuse or alcoholism or mental illness with people that don't have those challenges, I don't think is an effective way to handle the homelessness crisis."

But Todd Langton, executive director of homelessness nonprofit Agape Silicon Valley and founder of the Coalition for the Unhoused of Silicon Valley, feels safe sleeping sites would be a quality of living improvement for people living in tents by the creek.

"We've gotta get away from the status quo, which is spend and waste a lot of money, and everybody working independent of each other," Langton told San José Spotlight.

There are more than 500 unhoused residents living along San Jose's creeks and rivers, according to estimates from Mahan's June budget message. A city email following the town hall said the city would continue to explore a safe sleeping site at the intersection, but answered residents' questions about the project as well, including the security and hygiene benefits of a safe sleeping site. The site would be fenced in and staffed with case managers and security officers, with amenities including showers, bathrooms and regular trash collection.

The email also said the city would sweep the existing encampment before the end of June, so Valley Water can perform erosion work along Guadalupe River.

"We must ensure that our efforts to restore the cleanliness of our waterways and uphold regulatory standards do not inadvertently displace unmanaged encampments into other residential areas within the city," the email read.

The city also sent a follow up survey after the meeting. It received more than 300 resident responses as to whether they would accept a safe sleeping site in the neighborhood or would prefer the city do nothing. About 75% said they would prefer the city do nothing over establishing a safe sleeping site.

San Jose is home to 6,340 homeless people, according to the 2023 point in time count, though officials said the tally is often an undercount. The county has roughly 10,000 homeless people, and officials say for every one person they house two more are pushed onto the streets.

Davis, who represents the Willow Glen neighborhood, said the city will continue to keep residents engaged in supporting solutions to homelessness, including arranging a community advisory committee for the safe sleeping site. Hutchings said she would be interested in joining such a committee.

Almoslino said residents suggested alternative locations like the county's fairgrounds and voiced frustration about the city's network of nonprofit homeless support providers, who lack accountability according to a state audit. She said the survey's choice between no changes or the sanctioned encampment was a "catch-22," which felt like it was no choice.

Langton said the city and its partner nonprofits have to better communicate and explain the safe sleeping sites to residents in order to show the plans' benefits. He was recently in a meeting

with the city and other support service providers where they learned more details about the plan, which he said would help people off the streets safely — and, in turn, help the neighborhood.

"The bottom line (is) they're already there and the disruption to the environment, the trash, the crime, is already going on in their neighborhood. Those encampments are not organized, they're a mess," Langton said. "Why not create a safe place for them to stay and get their lives in order."

Previously, the lot was considered to be a possible relocation space for Hope Village, a homeless encampment previously located on Ruff Drive near San Jose Mineta International Airport.

The encampment was dismantled in 2019 after the Federal Aviation Administration deemed it unsafe, and backlash from residents halted the relocation.

The two projects are only related in that they're using the same location, Davis said. She added that outdoor sleeping sites will be important as part of the city's larger network of supportive services, from providing basic needs like showers and bathrooms to increasing the city's stock of permanent affordable housing.

"We remain solutions focused," Davis told San José Spotlight. "We cannot do nothing, even if nothing is what some residents say they want."

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Times **Community Notebook**

A glimpse of Steve Jobs and Steve Woz

By Steve West
Special to the Times

Not saying I'm famous or this or that, just saying I remember a nice time in my life, and I honor Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs.

I served in the military and in the early 80's I was an actor too, now, not a well-known one but it was something I did.

In the early 80's I snagged a dream job with a company I made to help write and print written brochures that go with the products in the box of the new Apple products.

So, in addition to getting paid well, for a few years I had Steve Jobs and Woz drop in at any time where I worked and in the lunch-room of Apple in Cupertino.

Apple was not a big place in the beginning, and being small often you could run into the big thinkers in the company.

Not often but sometimes I felt that Steve Jobs looked piercingly into my eyes and wanted to share something of great value in his mind. Also, at that time in the early 80's computers were not that well known, but Apple was special.

One day in the lunch room of Apple, I Steve and Woz walked up to me and Jobs looked at me and said directly to me privately, "I'm

starting to work on a project that I believe will change the way people live their lives and do their work, and how people live their lives and do work in business."

I paused for a moment and looked back at him and said, "Wow, that's amazing." I of course had no idea what he was talking about and he of course kept it absolutely secret. I thought it was interesting that his scope included everyone in the world.

During that time, I also met Steve Wozniak and he was very cool. He got along with everyone and some went to places with him. I know that I liked gambling and one time I was amazed in going to a place with him and seeing that he was unbelievable in how he could bet on blackjack. I wondered how he could be so stellar in what he did. Of course I was just a dud at gambling.

I was a bit scared in the mid 80's to take any jobs, but Apple offered me a sales job. I refused it and that was one of the worst decisions of my life but again Apple was a good company. I did not feel knowledgeable enough to take such a position in computer sales. I give myself about a B- in knowledge on computers so I was hesitant to work for Apple directly.

Today, more than 40 years after my remembrance of Steve Jobs, I get sad the way he slowly died. He was a nice man and I greatly respect him. As far as Woz goes, one day I was driving my car and saw him and said, "Hi Steve," to which amazingly he said back to me without wasting a moment, "Hi Steve." Maybe someday I will be able to stop and chat with him over coffee. I like Wozniak for he is inspiring on things and welcoming to speaking with all people on all things. Without him there would not be an Apple.



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Saturday, July 13th, 2024, 12pm-3pm

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There will be fun games, popcorn and a photo booth to take photos to remember the day. Panextasy, a 2 piece steel drum band will entertain you with island sounds and familiar beach tunes. Wear beach attire: bright shirts, shorts, sandals, sun hats (no bikinis or speedos please).

Tickets go on sale June 21st, 8 to 10am in the ACC lobby then MWF from 8am-10am. \$22 members \$25 non-members. Call Jeanne @408-425-5723 for more information.

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Times **Feature**



Willow Glen's only French restaurant under new ownership

Fans of Black Sheep Brasserie will see same fare with an expanded menu

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

After serving classic French Classics, such as escargot, steak tartare, and duck to great acclaim among local patrons for nearly a decade, Willow Glen's Black Sheep Brasserie is now under new ownership as well as a new kitchen team.

New owner Nate Habash said he and his Stacks Restaurant Group intend to keep the French focus at this, the only French restaurant in the city's Willow Glen neighborhood, and keep the recipes that have made the

restaurant a great success.

"We plan to capitalize on the successful bistro concept by expanding the menu and add more hours," said Habash. "We've built a very good team that is working on expanding the current concept, and add more seafood, steaks, and vegetarian items."

The restaurant was founded in 2015 by well-known South Bay restaurateur Don Durante and business partners as a contemporary version of Durante's Le Mouton Noir (in English, black sheep), which had a 20-year run in Saratoga.

Durante said, "It's been a difficult business since COVID, and my managing partner wants to move on and we all felt it was in our best interest to sell. We share that experience with other Bay Area restaurants in similar situations."

Black Sheep Brasserie is located at 1202 Lincoln Ave., San Jose; <https://bsbwilloglen.com>

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

G.R.I.T. is for adult women led by OSC founder Landa Keirstead.
The small group meets in 2 hour sessions, once per week for six-weeks

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll
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Times Local News

Bay Area home prices approach all-time records

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Most homebuyers thought after median home prices in two Bay Area counties shot past the \$2 million mark, the real estate market had reached its peak; yet prices have continued to climb.

For the entire nine-county region, the median single-family home price hit \$1.46 million in May, according to the California Association of Realtors. That's a 12% spike from a year ago and a 1% increase from April — closing in on the record \$1.5

million median price set in April 2022.

Now, many house hunters, especially in Willow Glen, had been hoping for rates to come back down. However, many are throwing in the towel, and purchasing homes is putting even more pressure on rising home prices.

Realtors say they continue to see multiple offers on many properties, with high-end homes over \$2 million is particularly strong. The consensus is that Silicon Valley will continue to see a strong demand for properties.

Across the Bay Area, total home sales increased 4% in May, bucking the statewide trend showing a 6% decline.

Mortgage rates have started to drop in recent weeks, which may result in even more homes being purchased in the next few months. The average rate on a typical 30-year home loan has recently dropped to the mid 6% from about 7%.

Santa Clara County Fair to celebrate 80th anniversary

Celebrating 80 years of 'Innovation: From the Fields to the Future' opens July 25th

The Santa Clara County Fair is getting ready to celebrate its 80th anniversary with the theme "Celebrating 80 years of Innovation: From the Fields to the Future."

This year's fair will take place from July 25th to 28th and August 1st to 4th.

The 2024 fair will be a nostalgic experience for people of all ages as it celebrates the rich history of innovation and diversity in Santa Clara County.

The fair promises to be unforgettable, with exciting activities for everyone. On Thursday, July 25th, a special ribbon-cutting ceremony will open the fair, followed by an honor for military veterans. Children aged 12 and under will receive free admission on this day. On Saturday, July 27th, the fairgrounds will host the Fair Parade.

This year's fair will feature many old favorites, such as the pig races, horse exhibit, dog show, rabbit and cavy show, goat show, a petting zoo, and the popular livestock auction in the Expo Hall. In addition, the fair will introduce new attractions that will pique the interest of children, teens, and adults, including the robotics exhibition and the Hop 'N' Vine Garden, featuring local wineries and breweries.

During the fair, there will be various free entertainment on four stages, including music from multiple genres and eras, children's magic acts, pig races, BMX stunt shows, a mini-circus, and a carnival. Bungee jumps and carnival rides are available for those seeking an adrenaline rush. The 2024 fair promises to be the ultimate family fun experience, delighting every member of your family.

Of course, no fair would be complete without delicious food, and there will be plenty of options available. You can indulge in traditional fair favorites such as Angelo's Pepper Steak and corn dogs or try new international dishes. There will also be a wine and beer garden and a tequila saloon for those looking to relax.

In addition to all the fun and excitement, you can learn something new at the fair. There will be hands-on exhibits from Tech Interactive, opportunities to explore local flora and fauna, and home art displays to inspire your creativity.

You can even get up close with the animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and mini donkeys.

"The Santa Clara County Fair has always been a significant event for the community. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the fair and it is going to be a fantastic celebration that honors the past, present, and future," said Abe Andrade, Executive Director of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Management Corporation.

Tickets are now on sale at Etix: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/29648/santa-clara-county-fair>

Free tickets are available on designated days for children 12 and younger, seniors 62 and older, veterans, first responders, and those with special needs. Additionally, anyone who enters the poster contest will receive two complimentary tickets, and anyone who enters to join the parade will get a free ticket.

Fair Highlights

- On Thursday, July 25th, a special ribbon-cutting ceremony will open the fair, followed by an honor for military veterans.
- Support the Jr Livestock Auction in the morning on August 3rd, followed by the Firefighters Chili Cook-Off, which benefits the Firefighter's burn unit.
- Special appearances by the Ninja Turtles on July 26 & Aug. 3 and Peppa the Pig on Aug. 4.
- Día De Feria! Experience the best of Latino culture on July 28 and August 4 at the Santa Clara County Fair.

Special Days

- Fri. 7/26: Veterans
- Thurs. 8/1: Seniors
- Sat 8/3: Special Needs & First Responders
- For the run of The Fair, enjoy the Hop 'N Vine Garden, featuring local wineries and breweries
- Music lovers can look forward to great music throughout the fair's run.

Poster Contest: Attention Artists of all Abilities! For the first time, the fair's commemorative poster contest is open to people with special needs and school-age youth. All participants will receive two tickets to the fair's opening day on July 25. The deadline to submit is May 15. For contest rules, visit <http://bit.ly/3wit6nc>. For more details and to enter, contact Shea DeArman at (408) 494-3103 or SDearman@thefair.org.

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Council votes to approve budget that makes serious investment in ending unsheltered homelessness

By Matt Mahan

The best gift I got this week didn't come from my kids (although I loved the art they brought home from summer camp!) – but it will help my kids and future generations of San Joseans.

Our entire Council voted to approve a budget that makes the most significant investment in ending unsheltered homelessness in the history of our city. All in all, between Safe Sleeping Sites, affordable housing units, motel/hotel conversions, our proven tiny home communities and more, our investments will take at least 1,500 people off of our streets and out of our creeks. That's more than 25% of the estimated 4,500 people living unsheltered in our community.

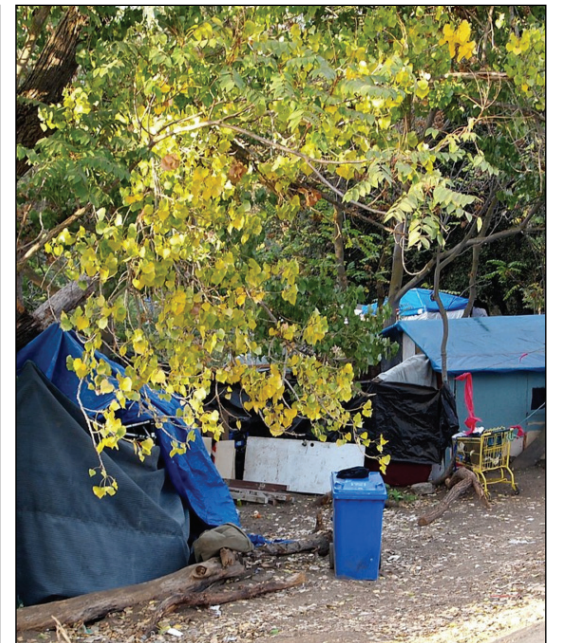
This is something I've pushed for since before I took office – a serious commitment to treating unsheltered homelessness like the crisis it is. A focus on getting people out of unsafe, unmanaged conditions and onto something better in a faster, more cost-effective way.

And thanks to all of you, we've taken the first step. We've got a plan that will meet the demands of the Regional Water Board and save our stormwater per-



**From the
Mayor**

**Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose**



mit. We've also invested in police staffing, additional blight clean up and enforcement action, support for small businesses, incentives for AI startups, and even advance planning for the 2026 Super Bowl and World Cup matches that are coming to our community.

Now, it's time to deliver.

Over the next year, we have work to do. Work to get our homeless neighbors indoors. Work to make our city safer. Work to clean up our city. I hope you join us. You can sign up for one of our weekly clean ups by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/e2aphzm4>

and stay tuned for how else you can support our push to make San Jose work for everyone as we build out public dashboards and hold City Hall accountable for delivering results.

Photo: Jon Evans - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rezendi/15523801226/> (CC2.0)

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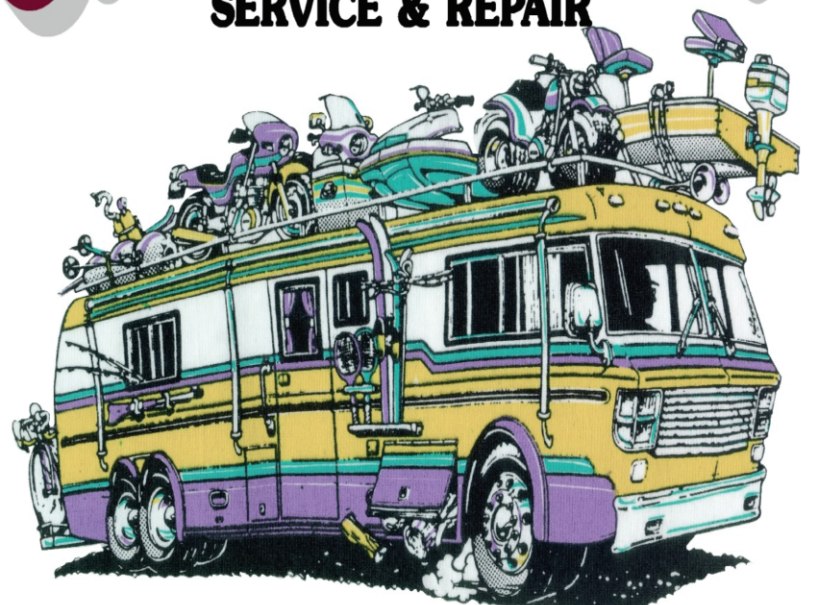
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San Jose legendary community leader Frank Fucalini dies
San Jose's 2024 Air Force Cadet Athena Chang of San Jose is selected as the Student of the Year
Here's who's running for San Jose City Council



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Times Local News

Celebrate 4th of July at San Jose Gurdwara with a free 'Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social' 7-10 p.m.

By Kirpal Atwal
Special to the Times

This 4th of July, our friendly San Jose Gurdwara located in Evergreen will offer everyone a free ice cream social in celebration of our great country!

The annual event 'Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social' will take place Thursday, July 4th from 7-10 p.m. San Jose Gurdwara is located at: 3636 Gurdwara Ave., San Jose.

When the Sikh Gurdwara was first built (located all the way up Aborn Road) we made a pledge to find good ways for us to introduce ourselves to the Evergreen community.

We decided to have many events and as always, there is always a free entrance and delicious nutritious complementary foods for everyone. We are all part of the same family of mankind, expressing love for all people of all races, and all backgrounds.

The Gurdwara on the hill is a community place and a community asset for all to utilize and visit. Some say the grounds are beautiful and so well kept that maybe one day it can become a national landmark. Tour busses come regularly to view the overlook of the lovely Evergreen Valley and partake in having comple-

mentary lunch in our kitchen (Langar).

We are so very proud as American citizens to walk hand and hand with everyone. Always know, in our heart, we are so proud to be a part of America. We fight for this country and respect it's ideas. The 4th of July is a very important day for us and we cherish it. Sikh boy scouts and girl scouts with deep pride help set up for our events. After all, this is an important place of freedom in our world. We understand that and take pride in singing American patriotic songs and carrying the American flag with strength and honor.

Our little tradition each year is for you to walk up and join us in this outdoor event with special ice cream and refreshments under the moonlight sky at the Gurdwara on the Hill. You and your family and friends can park and leisurely walk up to have ice cream and joyfully look down at the valley. You can see fireworks so if you want, bring binoculars too.

These important historical days help educate all about our patriotism and how each culture contributes unique gifts which weave the beautiful tapestry of our country. Understanding others combined with embracing diversity brings strength

to all for overcoming any stereotypes we instinctively may harbor.

It truly is a wonderful event, and I say that from the bottom of my heart!

In India, all say that America is the land of opportunity. It's true that any person can truly bring themselves up from the ground to gather wealth and plan well for their future. That is not always the case in other countries.

The American Sikhs believe in equality between all people with regard to cultures, race, religion as well as between men and women too. The Sikhs were one of the first cultures in history to honor and embrace equality between men and women. The truth is, America is such a grand place to live that all one has to do is just grasp the opportunities and figure out how to make things work for each unique situation.

What is so wonderful about America is that it is a diverse country and a place where people accept one another regardless of race, creed, color or religion. We also know that Independence Day is important for without fighting for our country we would have no freedom!

The sky is the limit in how one can achieve goals and live their life in this beautiful and so very special place.

Thank you, Evergreen Community for accepting the Sikh Americans as your friends. Please visit our place on the hill where we serve complimentary vegetarian food 365 days of the year. Also, we never try to proselytize (change others religion or push them towards ours called Sikhism) instead we honor and respect all religions and treat everyone as brother and sister.

On Thursday, the 4th of July, come up and say hello! I serve ice cream with others and you can say hi. If you like you can come back for seconds.

Message from President Bob Dhillon

Our Gurdwara is a community center as well as a place of worship. We have many events of this kind each year and want you to know you're always welcome.

We have completed a beautiful children's playground open to the public and are in the process of designing a wonderful nature trail for the community to use in the future.

It is very heartwarming to meet and see the community come up and greet each other in this annual 4th of July ice cream social. We don't have fireworks but you can see such displays in the beautiful valley below while enjoying delicious tasty ice cream. The children can go back for seconds if they wish to.

Thank you, Evergreen Community, for your friendship and camaraderie. For more information on the Under the Moonlight 4th of July Ice Cream Social go to the San Jose Gurdwara website and you can get our app too; sanjosegurdwara.org
Editor's note: Learn more by viewing the informational ad for this event on page 3 of this issue.

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OUR MISSION: Evangelizing our community and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. OUR MINISTRY: Training ministers on how to use their love for God to reach those in need of His love. OUR PASSION: Transforming lives within our community with God's love.

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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.

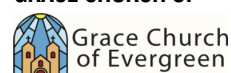


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"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran 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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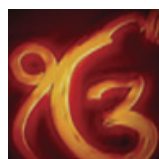
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SAN JOSE GURDWARA



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

3636 Gurdwara Ave.
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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 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>

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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:
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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!

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