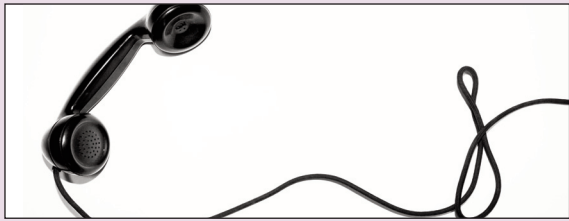


State bill threatens landline services in Santa Clara County
SEE PAGE 6



San Jose parks lose millions as developers get tax break
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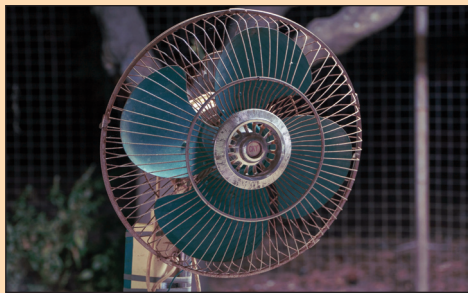
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Times

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Ways to stay cool during a heatwave

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

The Bay Area is expected to continue to endure a heatwave, with widespread triple-digit temperatures expected in Silicon Valley.

The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat advisory that will see high demands for air conditioning which will tax the energy systems resulting in the likelihood of random power failures and, consequently, scattered blackouts is high.

How should we prepare in the event of power outages due to heat waves.

ServiceMaster Restore's disaster preparedness expert, Peter Duncanson is sharing valuable prevention tips and helpful recommendations to ensure people are safe when the lights cut out. According to Peter, the following are a few simple ways to not only prevent power outages but to stay cool as well:

- Turn any unnecessary lights, devices, and appliances off.
- Close all blinds, curtains, and shades to prevent unwanted heat from coming into your property.
- Make sure no air ducts or fans are blocked by furniture so that cool air can properly circulate throughout your property.
- If you need to use them, run your dishwasher, oven, and other heat-producing appliances during the night because it's cooler.

If a power outage does happen during a heat wave, Peter recommends that residents:

- Prioritize safety and make sure to remain hydrated and cool to prevent suffering from any heat-induced health problems.
- To remain cool, keep doors, windows, blinds, shades, and curtains closed.
- Do your best to not let outside air into your home.



The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League (NCL) Senior Class of 2024 served 3,724 hours of community service. Photo credit: Hennessy Photography.

The NCL Senior Class of 2024 serves 3,724 hours of community service

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League (NCL) recently held their annual Senior Recognition event at the Almaden Golf & Country Club.

Patronesses, Ticktockers and their friends and family all came together to celebrate not only the incredible dedication of the NCL seniors but also the unwavering support and guidance provided by their mothers.

The seniors recognized at this event include
See NCL, page 4

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

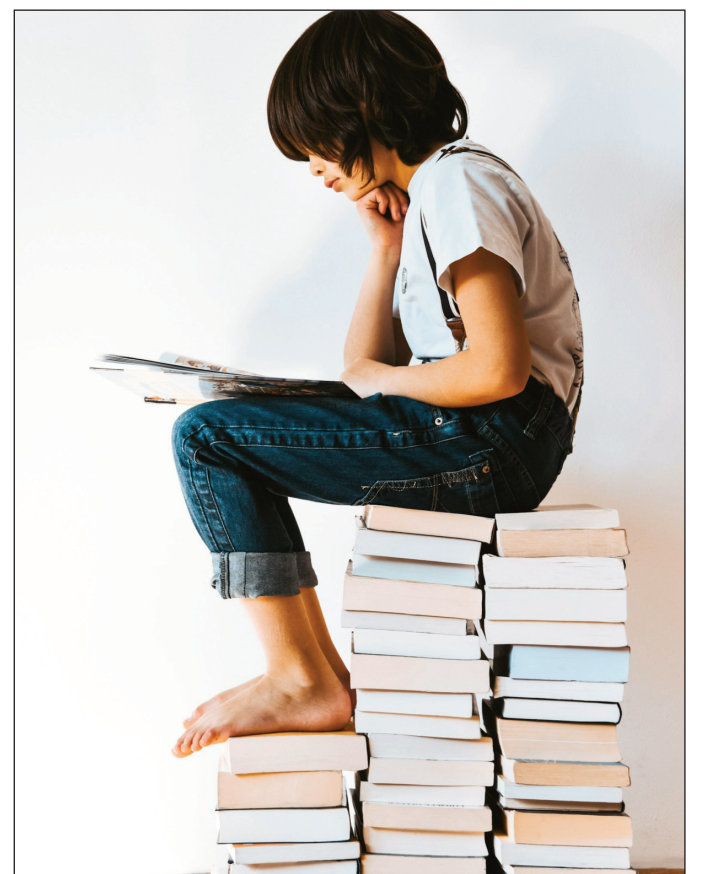
The San José Public Library's (SJPL) annual Summer Learning program is off to a great start as residents and library members head to the library to sign up and participate in the free program, will conclude on July 31.

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
See READING, page 4



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

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Times Cover Stories

NCL

Continued from page 1

Alexandra Amooi, Olivia Arellano, Alexis Barker, Meghan Bowler, Nia Calais, Josie Caouette, Mia Ceulemans, Lydia Cumming, Kelsey Elo, Taylor Farnum, Samantha Hoyt, Bella Hertzig, Katie Hughes, Maya Lewis, Abbie Mackintosh, Kyle Ould, Victoria Power, Ella Ralston, Maya Srinivasan, Katelyn Schweighardt, Ava Theaker and Kaci Yoshioka-Wong.

What started as a group of wide-eyed seventh graders back in 2018, unsure of how to navigate this NCL journey, filled with a wide assortment of volunteer opportunities, meetings, job commitments and leadership tasks has now reached its conclusion. Over the past six years, these remarkable individuals, alongside their moms, have poured their hearts into serving our community. In their Senior year, this journey culminated with their Senior Project where the class worked together to prep, plan, and execute an amazing butterfly garden in partnership with Martin-Fontana Parks Association.

"This class of 22 young ladies could not be prouder to have served some very worthy local organizations throughout the last six years such as Almaden Community Center, Animal Assisted Happiness, Cakes4Kids, Carlton Senior Living, Family Supportive Housing, and Martin Fontana Parks Association, to name a few," said NCL spokesperson Sally Cumming.

Alongside their mothers, the Class of 2024 have given more than 3,742 philanthropic hours in service. During these volunteering efforts, they have forged a bond with their mothers

through these shared experiences. Together they have explored the power of giving back and the importance of empathy and kindness.

"Roots and Wings" was the theme for the Senior Recognition event honoring the Class of 2024. The day kicked off with 2023-24 President Stefanie Bellucci welcoming everyone to the event. As each senior was announced, they walked into the room of waiting family and friends wearing a necklace, facing backwards, that their mother had given them. Each mother then turned her daughter's necklace forward for her to wear proudly as a reminder of the completion of her NCL requirements, her commitment to her community, and the continuous support of her mother.

During the event, each Ticktockeer made a speech reflecting on their NCL journey and paying tribute to their mothers. They were able to thank the wonderful work of the GLAs (Grade Level Advisors) who have served as pillars of support, guidance, and inspiration for the Ticktockers from their first meeting as 7th graders. Their commitment to this Class of 2024 has not wavered throughout all six years of NCL. Thank you to Melissa Amooi, Stephanie Farnum, Kiley Hoyt, Lisa Mackintosh and Juli Yoshioka-Wong.

This wonderful event could not have happened without two very important women. The Senior Recognition Chairs, Melissa Amooi and Cynthia Innecken, worked tirelessly for over a year meticulously planning this event.

"There are two lasting things we give our children. One is roots and the other is wings."

A special thanks goes to 'Paper & Ink' in Redwood City for providing the beautiful programs.



Reading

Continued from page 1

educational component, aim to encourage a lifelong 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. Valuable 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**

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 lunchroom 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.

Editor's note: The San Jose Children's Discovery Museum (180 Woz Way) located in downtown San Jose and has the street named (Woz Way) after Steve Wozniak who has the nickname "Woz." He of course was the co-founder of Apple and is known also for being the single largest private donor towards the Children's Discovery Museum during the push to build and fund it. Woz is a great philanthropist and said this at a TechKnow Conference, "I would never give a gift that has restrictions...I leave that to people who know more than me."



San Jose ranked in the top 10 U.S. cities to raise a family. File photo.

San Jose named one of top U.S. cities to raise a family

By Joyce Chu
San José Spotlight

San Jose ranks as one of the top cities in the country to raise a family, but lack of affordability is also pushing some people out the region.

WalletHub ranked San Jose seventh as the best place to raise a family out of 182 U.S. cities surveyed. Four other California cities made the top 10, with Fremont ranking No. 1, Irvine at No. 3, San Diego at No. 8 and Huntington Beach at No. 10.

The personal finance company looked at dozens of factors in five key areas — family fun, health and safety, education and child

care, affordability and socioeconomics — in determining its ranking. San Jose received a total score of 63.88 out of 100 points when all factors were added up.

San Jose scored 10th in education and child-care, which evaluated things like the quality of education, high school graduation rate and child-day care per capita. The city also scored 17th in health and safety and 15th in socioeconomics, which looked at factors including the percentage of two-parent families, unemployment rate and share of families living in poverty.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Susan Ellenberg, who raised her three children in San Jose, said the city has great libraries, parks and neighborhoods where children can walk to school and make friends.

"I was delighted to see that (ranking)," Ellenberg, whose district includes West San Jose, told *San José Spotlight*. "When I think about

See TOP CITIES, page 7

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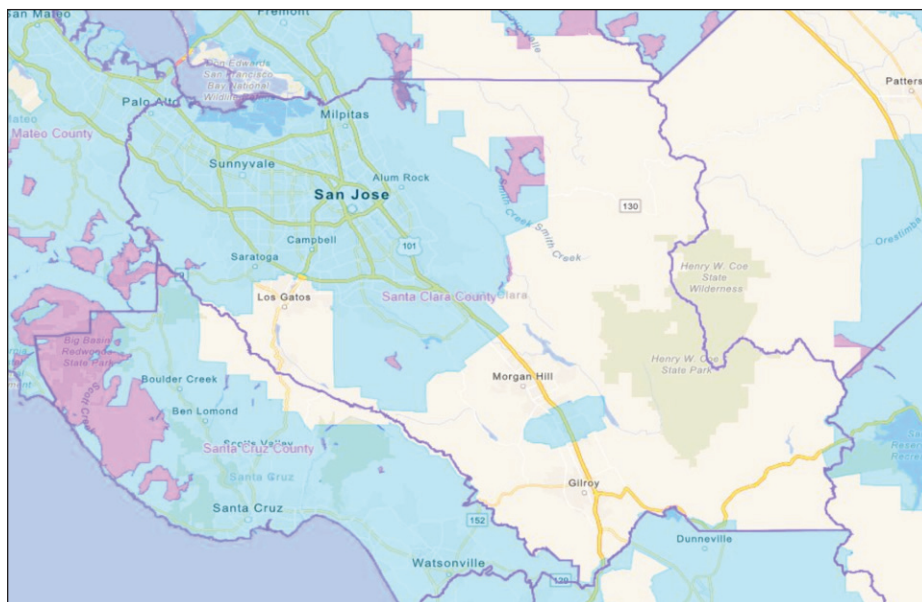
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The above map shows the portions of Santa Clara County where AT&T was seeking to withdraw landline services (shaded in blue). Violet shaded sections represent the territory where AT&T California may seek to withdraw from as a carrier of last resort in the future. Courtesy of Santa Clara County.

State bill threatens landline services in Santa Clara County

By **Brandon Pho**
San José Spotlight

After public outcry across the Bay Area, state regulators this week barred AT&T from pulling out of a crucial lifeline for hard-to-reach residents in remote pockets of Santa Clara County: basic landline services.

But on the eve of the California Public Utilities Commission's Thursday decision, a state law proposal about horse racing was gutted and amended to legislation that would give the telecommunications giant another way to phase out its statewide landline duty. The new Assembly Bill 2797 would relieve telephone carriers from their "carrier of last resort" designation if they submit a notice showing a lack of basic customers or that alternative carrier services are available in a given area.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted unanimously to oppose AB 2797, which connectivity advocates have slammed as an attempt to get around state regulators. The disconnect could leave county residents in rural parts of South County, Santa Cruz Mountains, Diablo Range and San Jose in the dark during natural disasters.

"It would essentially relieve AT&T of its carrier obligations by circumventing the process that the California Public Utilities Commission has in place," Deputy County Executive David Campos told San José Spotlight. "Many county residents live in areas where mobile phone and internet service is nonexistent, so the idea there would no longer be landlines in these areas means that these residents would not have access to safe, reliable and affordable phone service. These are areas more prone to disasters like wildfires and earthquakes."

The 'Carrier of Last Resort' designation requires AT&T to provide minimum telephone services in exchange for the right to cross state-owned lands. AT&T applied to exit its designation last year, prompting more than 5,000 letters to the utilities commission from members of the public who mostly opposed the request, which would have withdrawn minimum service from areas across Silicon Valley. Significant portions of those areas fall within high fire threat districts, state earthquake fault zones and seismic hazard zones. In various parts of the county, alternatives to

the landline services that AT&T guarantees as the carrier of last resort are nonexistent, unreliable or costly, county employees said.

The issue is also drawing yet another battle line in the contentious race for Congressional District 16.

"I urge @Evan_Low to vote no on AB 2797. Releasing AT&T of its obligation as the 'Carrier of Last Resort' would strand thousands of residents who need landlines to contact emergency services during natural disasters, when their lives are most in peril," reads a tweet from former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo directed at his opponent, state Assemblymember Evan Low.

In 2016, Low pushed an Assembly bill that would have allowed AT&T to phase out landline service. Critics called the bill an attempt to relieve the company of regulatory monopoly checks.

Low said he supports modernizing California's telecommunications infrastructure but he won't support Assemblymember Tina McKinnor's bill in its current form.

"I cannot support legislation that would cease landline service or change 'Carrier of Last Resort' obligations without being confident that rural areas can still quickly reach emergency services during storms and disasters," Low told San José Spotlight. "I will therefore vote against Assembly Bill 2797 if it remains in its current form, in order to protect rural access to emergency phone service."

AT&T — which is publicly supporting the bill — has argued the carrier of last resort designation made sense in a monopolistic environment decades ago, but there's now robust competition as a variety of providers are deploying broadband networks. The company argues copper landline service is outdated and expensive to maintain.

"No customer will be left without voice and 911 services," AT&T California President Marc Blakeman told San José Spotlight. "We are focused on AB 2797, which includes important protections, safeguards and outreach for consumers and does not impact our customers in rural locations. We are fully committed to keeping our customers connected while we work with state leaders on policies that

Continued, next page

Times **Local News**

Landlines, continued

create a thoughtful transition that brings modern communications to all Californians.”

McKinnor said her bill merely seeks to modernize telecommunications in California.

“We’re just trying to set up for the future. It’s a framework so California can make the necessary transition from obsolete technology to modern technology that meets the future needs of all California customers,” McKinnor told San José Spotlight.

The bill would require AT&T — in backing out of its duty — to provide education to affected customers and “explain the benefits and advantages of transitioning to modern networks and services.” It would also require the company to develop an “equity plan” to support vulnerable communities, notify customers of the alternative voice service options available in their area and provide education on emergency preparedness for customers in high fire threat areas, including information on backup power resources.

McKinnor called those provisions “safeguards” against leaving residents in the dark and referred to numbers from AT&T showing that landline customers have dropped substantially, down to the 600,000s.

Affordable connectivity advocates like Regina Costa don’t buy it.

“They have the ability right now to put fiber optic into their network and they have chosen not to. So what does that say?” Costa, telecom policy director for the Oakland-based utility reform group TURN, told San José Spotlight. “In the era of climate change there are going to be more and more problems and that includes fires. If you are in an area that doesn’t have a reliable alternative, which is much of California, and we’re hit by an earthquake or have fires — you cannot rely on being able to call 911 to contact family, friends to let them know you’re okay.”

Costa called the bill “cynical.”

“It’s a greedy bill and it puts Californians in jeopardy,” Costa said. “It would be a public safety catastrophe.”

Top cities

Continued from page 5

the work that I’m doing through the board of supervisors, my ideal vision is always that Santa Clara County will be the best county in the state to raise children.”

But when it came to affordability San Jose fell to 56th in the ranking.

Jennifer Cloyd, CEO of child development nonprofit First 5, said San Jose’s lack of affordable child care and cost of living still make it challenging for families to stay local.

“We’re actually experiencing a little bit of a family flight,” Cloyd told San José Spotlight. “But what’s great about San Jose is that there are many families that are fourth and fifth generation San Jose natives. I think families really value being able to stay in their communities.”

San Jose’s population has shrunk 4% to 971,000 residents in 2022, down from just over 1 million residents in 2020, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data. A number of issues have caused this flight out of the city, including the lack of affordable housing, the ability to work remote post-pandemic and the overall high cost of living in the region.

San Jose’s lack of affordability is what drove Debra Townley and her son into homelessness for five years after a divorce.

“It’s always been expensive living here,” Townley told San José Spotlight. “I was able to afford it when I was married to an engineer who was working in an elite position. Without that, it’s a struggle.”

People need to earn approximately \$60 an hour to afford the asking rent of \$3,000 a month in San Jose. The city’s minimum wage for most workers is \$17.55 an hour.

Three-quarters of extremely low income families are already spending more than half their monthly wages on housing, according to a report released by housing think tank California Housing Partnership, and 54,600 low-income households aren’t able to find affordable homes.

“What we have here is an enormous wealth gap,” Ellenberg said, “and I think we need to do a much better job equitably distributing resources.”

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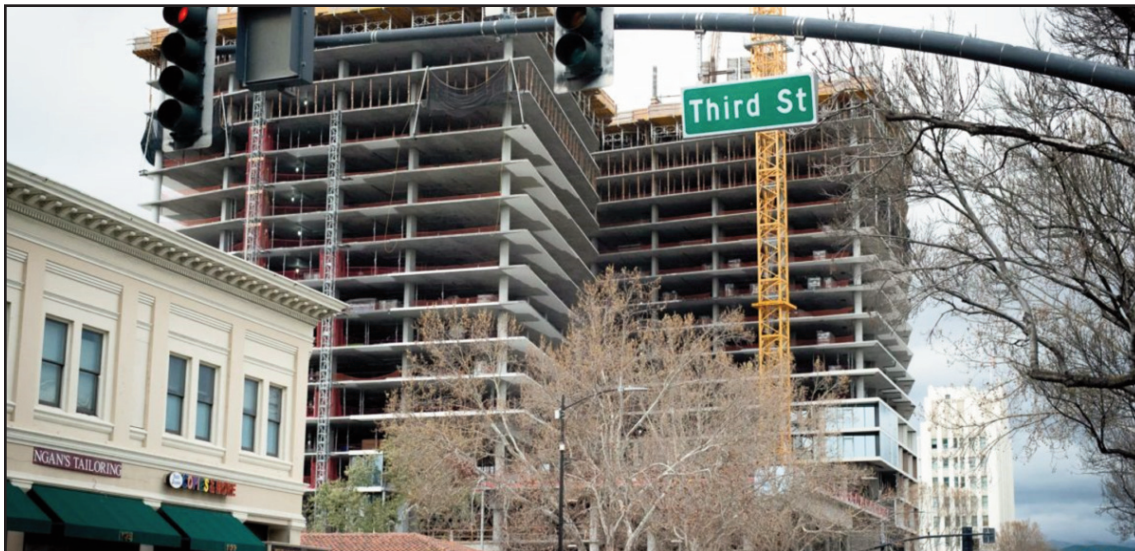
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Times **Local News**



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
See DEVELOPERS, page 10

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Times **Local News**

Developers

Continued from page 9
 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 councilmembers 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

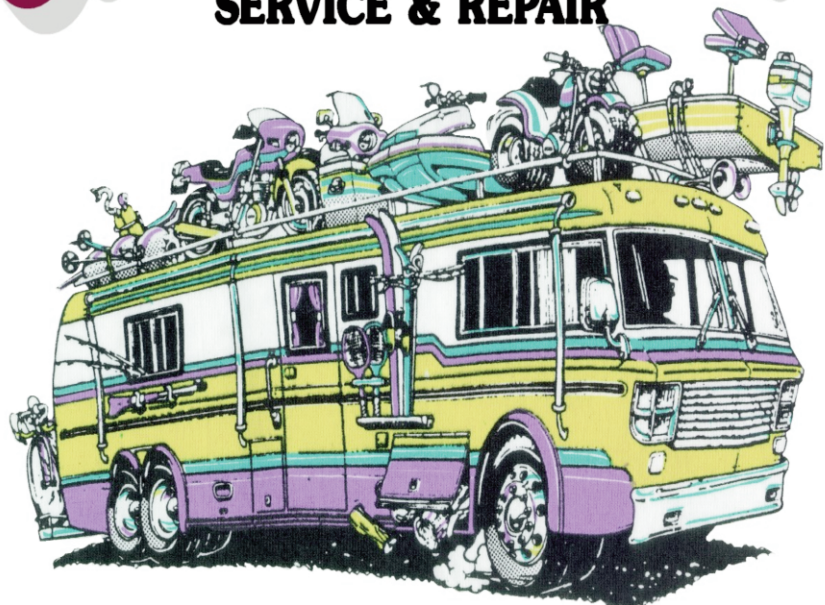
for downtown high-rise developers could lead to park fees being cut citywide.

"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.

"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."

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\$22.00 members \$25.00 non members (cash or check only).

Menu will be a buffet of spiral wrap sandwiches, mini corn dogs, hot wings, salad, fruit and cheese plates.

Dessert and Island punch.

There will be fun games such as Connect 4, Cornhole and Jenga.

Enjoy popcorn as you enter the party.

A photo booth will save your memories of the day.

Musical entertainment will be by Panextasy steel drum band.

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<https://www.livinghopeam.org>
Village Square Branch Library (4001 Evergreen Village Square San Jose, CA 95135). (408) 592-7562
Pastor Shelia Sapp "Worship Service and Dinner" (Community Room) 10/29/23 at 3:00pm. "Bible Study" (Group Study Room) every Saturday at 12:00pm
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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Web: www.eca-sj.org
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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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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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SAN JOSE GURDWARA
3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148

The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room

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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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