

Open Space  
Authority will use  
funds to improve  
Heart's Delight Trail  
**SEE PAGE 3**



**Changes in inflation by city**  
Year-over-year inflation rate at  
2.9% in July, slowing below 3%  
for the first time since 2021  
**See page 10**

Legendary San  
Jose mayor's  
name will grace  
city rotunda  
**SEE PAGE 4**



# Almaden

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# Times

AUGUST 30 - SEPT. 12, 2024 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 18

## San José Public Library Foundation teams up with celebrity chef Yan for library fundraiser on Sept. 21

By William Bellou  
Publisher

In a first of its kind celebrity author event, the San José Public Library Foundation is teaming up with Bay Area Chef Martin Yan, host of the hit show Yan Can Cook, to fundraise for critical San José Public Library programs.

During the ticketed event on September 21 (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.), Chef Yan will bring his award-winning recipes and entertaining cooking demonstrations to the San José City Hall Rotunda.

The fundraiser will help fund library programs that support literacy, provide career training, and expand access to digital tools.

"Join me in San Jose! I will be doing a wonderful, delicious cooking demonstration and show you how to make some of my favorite dishes. Enjoy delicious food with great company. Learn cooking tips and tricks. And of course, support a great cause that is close to my heart," said Yan.

During the event at San José City Hall Rotunda, 200 E Santa Clara St,



Bay Area Chef **Martin Yan** to fundraise for critical San José Public Library programs by offering a 5-course meal Saturday, September 21 at San Jose City Hall Rotunda.

in San José, guests will enjoy a delicious five-course meal featuring Chef Martin Yan's award-winning menu, complete with premium reserve wine pairings generously provided by Bouchaine Vineyards, while Chef Yan performs an entertaining cooking demonstration and shares the inspiration behind his cookbooks.

Also scheduled is a live auction as well as a performance by Chi-

nese Lion Dancers. Taking place during the Moon Festival and the Year of the Dragon, elements of the menu will pay tribute to each holiday's cultural significance. Guests will receive autographed copies of Yan's newest release "Best of Yan Can Cook." Tickets and more information are available online: [https:// tinyurl. com/6pzm6jt](https://tinyurl.com/6pzm6jt)



Non-profit Pupcycled, founded by 16-year-olds **Olivia Liu** (right), Leland High School, and **Sophia Liu**, Palo Alto High School, recycle discarded fabric to create dog toys which are donated to Bay Area dog shelters.

## Almaden teens turn old clothes into 1,000 toys for shelter dogs

*Non-profit Pupcycled makes chew bones distributed to rescues and no-kill shelters*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Two Bay Area teenagers have a unique way of combating climate change by transforming discarded fabric into dog toys.

Teens Olivia Liu and Sophia Liu, 16-year-olds at Leland High school and Palo Alto High School, formed Pupcycled, a nonprofit that crafts dog toys from recycled clothing material in 2023.

Olivia and Sophia share a goal of reducing the 92 million tons of global textile waste while making shelter dogs around the Bay Area happier.

Starting with a donation drive at Almaden Community Center, Pupcycled has reached a milestone of collecting more than 1,500 articles of clothing, hosting 16 community events, and most notably, creating 1,000 dog toys which have been donated to shelters includ-

ing Schwartz Family Foundation, Pets In Need, and San Francisco SPCA.

The idea of Pupcycled came after a dog toy shopping trip.

"After watching Sophia struggle buying toy after toy for her destructive corgi, I had an idea to use their old clothes and upcycle them into dog toys," Olivia said. "However, creating the ideal toy wasn't easy. It took about six months working tirelessly to test different fabrics and toy types in Sophia's basement, and finally coming up with four innovative designs."

The duo's familiarity with environmental activism, involvement in shelters, and support from the community drove Pupcycled to have a mission to benefit local shelters and rescue facilities.

"I volunteer at a cat shelter and it's saddening to see animals being turned away because of lack of space and funding," said Olivia, "We hope that Pupcycled can alleviate some of that burden, with 10 more shelters located around the Bay Area receiving these hand-

See PUPCYCLED, page 6

### OP ED

## Voters to decide on \$1 billion dollar bond request by San Jose Unified School District on Nov. 5th ballot

*Only 55% voter approval needed to pass this billion dollar bond*

"A projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction and other demonstrable factors, is estimated to be \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2054-55."

By Kevin Larsen

A common way a school district may borrow money is to issue a bond which works



like a loan and asks tax payers for a Bond Levy, or an increase in their property taxes where they live. The increased amount of taxes pays back lenders or bond holders and the interest on the loan.

This OpEd is a very important update on what is going on with one school district and many other school districts propose bonds and parcel taxes too!

See SCHOOL DISTRICT, page 8

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



Times **Community**

## Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority will use funds to improve Heart's Delight Trail, preserve entrance and expand accessibility

By William Bellou  
Publisher

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, has secured \$800,000 in community project funding for accessibility improvements to the Heart's Delight Trail and other facilities at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is a 30-year-old regional public land conservation agency that protects open space and connects people to nature.

Anticipated construction of the accessibility improvements to the Heart's Delight Trail will begin in the summer of 2025 with anticipated project completion in 2026.

"The people of South San José, like most in our 19th Congressional District, greatly appreciate their access to open spaces," said Rep. Panetta. "That's why I'm proud to have secured this significant federal investment that will make improvements to the Heart's Delight Trail and provide more people with disabilities the ability to experience our Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. As the U.S. Representative for the 19th Congressional District, it's an honor to show that the federal government can actually affect people's lives by investing in their access to our local environment."

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve is a popular location for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. This project will provide opportunities to expand programming and connect the community to nature through highlighting the views, wildlife and natural resources to be found and enjoyed at the preserve.

Improvements will include a new shaded central gathering area at the entrance, with accessible signage, including preserve information and interpretation and seating.

"Increasing access to open space is imperative for local communities," said John L. Varela, Valley Water Board Director, District 1. "Valley Water is pleased to provide funding that, combined with federal funds, will enhance Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve for the enjoyment of all."

The total cost of the project is \$1.4 million, with \$800,000 funded by the Federal Community Project Funding, \$200,000 from Santa Clara Valley Water District's Safe, Clean Water Project D3 Trails Grant Program and \$400,000 from the Open Space Authority's Measure Q.

Full details about preserve access schedule and regulations are online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/preserves/coyoteridge.html>



Improvements will include a new shaded central gathering area at the entrance, with accessible signage, including preserve information and interpretation and seating.

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## Legendary San Jose mayor's name will grace city rotunda

By **Vicente Vera**  
*San José Spotlight*

Political leaders across San Jose say the time to honor Janet Gray Hayes, the city's first woman mayor, is long overdue — and she will soon have a building to carry her name alongside Silicon Valley's most influential change-makers.

Hayes was the first woman mayor of a major American city when she was elected in 1974, when San Jose had a population hovering around half a million. She succeeded future Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and helped lead San Jose away from the old guard into an era of community and neighborhood advocacy, said San Jose State political science professor emeritus Terry Christensen.

Now the legacy of Hayes will be reflected at City Hall as the San Jose City Council voted Tuesday to name the rotunda "The Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda."

A coalition of current and former



**Janet Gray Hayes** was elected as San Jose's first woman mayor in 1974. Advocates want to honor her by renaming the City Hall rotunda in her name. Photo courtesy of History San Jose archives.

San Jose leaders including Christensen proposed the naming.

Katherine Hayes Rodriguez, one of Hayes' daughters, came to the council meeting and thanked the city for honoring her mother ahead of the 50th anniversary of her historic November 1974 election.

"I remember walking precincts with my friends and hammering in lawn signs that said, 'Make San Jose better before we make it bigger,'" she said Tuesday.

Hayes Ramirez noted Mayor Matt Mahan held her mother's gavel at the dais in honor of the rotunda naming.

Councilmembers also approved a photographic exhibition of his-

toric San Jose council districts for the 50th anniversary of Hayes' 1978 reelection, further celebrating her legacy of having councilmembers represent individual districts rather than identify as "at-large" officials.

"She recognized the grassroots movement to her credit, and created a charter revision commission that ultimately recommended putting district elections on the ballot," Christensen told San José Spotlight. "Tom McEnery has the convention center, Rod Diridon has the train station. Susan and Phil Hammer have the Hammer Theater along with other people who have had things named for them, but somehow it didn't happen with Hayes. It's about time it does."

At a time when the city was growing exponentially, Hayes shifted away from sprawling, poorly planned growth to more managed planning. She also engaged the east side of San Jose on police brutality by hiring a pro-community reformer, Police Chief Joseph McNamara, and pushing the department to hire its first women officers.

The twice-elected

former mayor was a reformer and trailblazer who helped make San Jose the feminist capital of the world, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren said in support of honoring Hayes at City Hall.

"Under Mayor Janet Gray Hayes' leadership, City Hall became more equitable and representative of San Jose's diverse population," Mahan said. "Renaming our rotunda in her honor will ensure that her commitment to public service is forever remembered."

Now, "The Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda" will hang over the building's exit both on the inside and outside, with an accompanying memorial plaque and wayfinding sign on Civic Center Plaza.



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

**Events and Trips:**

**Cache Creek Casino: Tuesday Sept 17, 8am to 6:30pm.** Come on the bus with us to Cache Creek Casino for a day of gaming and food. Leave the community center at 8am and arrive back around 6:30pm. Cost: \$50 cash or check. You get \$20 in free play. Tickets on sale MWF 8am to 10am. Contact Rich, 408-219-8641 for more information.

**A September to Remember: Saturday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 12 to 3pm.** We will entertain you at the Almaden Community Center with music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's by musicians Sandi and Mike Bell. Wear clothes from those eras if you wish. Join us for a lunch of spaghetti, lasagna, chicken, and antipasto. Peach Bellini's and dessert included. Bring a photo of yourself from back then that we can display. Ticket sales start Monday Aug 26, then MWF 8am to 10am. Members: \$22, Non-Members \$25 cash or check. Call Jeanne @408-425-5723 for more information.

**Clue (the play):** SJCPA, November 2, 2024, 2pm. \$90

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Times **Local News**

# San Jose water rates keep going up

By Brandon Pho  
*San José Spotlight*

The for-profit company providing water for six Santa Clara County cities will walk back proposed rate hikes over three years. But watchdogs say the cuts are a sham and residents will still face higher water bills.

San Jose Water Company initially proposed to hike rates by a total of 20% through 2027. A proposed settlement agreement between the company and state Public Advocates Office could slash that to 10%. While that might seem like a win for ratepayers, observers

said other increases have taken effect between the time San Jose Water filed its rate hike on Jan. 2 and the settlement proposed on Monday.

San Jose Water's Jan. 2 proposal aimed to raise average residential rates from \$107 to \$120 a month in the first year. Rates would now go from \$117.91 to \$122.94 per month, according to San Jose Water representatives, even if the settlement shrinks the increase. The company serves 1 million customers across San Jose, Cupertino, Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Los Gatos and unincorporated parts of Santa Clara County.

"While this rate case was pending, there were other rate changes that had to be reflected as well," Richard Rauschmeier, program manager of the California Public Utilities Commission's Public Advocates Office, told San José Spotlight. "The base doesn't go down, it goes up with those increases. It's a peculiarity that some jurisdictions are faced with.



San Jose Water Company serves customers across San Jose, Cupertino, Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Los Gatos and unincorporated parts of Santa Clara County. Photo by Brandon Pho.

Here in California, there could be three or four different rate changes occurring all at the same time."

Water utilities are required by the state to explain their ongoing costs of providing services every three years. Water companies often take the opportunity to also request rate increases. The state reviews these proposals to ensure fairness.

San Jose Water initially proposed an 11.11% increase in 2025, 3.99%

in 2026 and 4.49% in 2027. The proposed agreement modifies that to 3.91% in 2025, 2.55% in 2026 and 2.98% in 2027.

"It's not a decrease at all," Patrick Kearns, a member of ratepayer watchdog group Water Rate Advocates for Transparency, Equity and Sustainability, told San José Spotlight.

The group has become an important party in San Jose Water's general rate case, but has since refused to sign onto the proposed settlement because of the hikes.

"No one is happy when rates increase. San Jose Water employees live in the same San Jose community as our customers and our family water bills are rising, just like yours," John Tang, SJ Water's vice president of regulatory affairs and government relations, told San José Spotlight. "When prices increase, it impacts every house-

hold, regardless of family income. And for those on a fixed income or economically disadvantaged, the impact can be significant."

The company's proposed rate hikes have met opposition, largely in written comments to the utilities commission. Residents argue the for-profit company is more concerned about shareholders than with keeping rates affordable to older adults on fixed incomes and working-class families.

Residents across the county are already struggling to keep up and owed San Jose Water a collective \$14 million in past due payments between January and March. The company, which services a 140-square-mile area, said that amount is higher than levels seen in pre-pandemic years — a trend utilities are facing nationally.

Tang argued the increase will allow the company to make needed upgrades into the water delivery system.

"For those customers who need financial support, we offer complimentary water check-ups, interest-free payment plans through PromisePay, water conservation materials and a special income-qualified program that provides a 15% discount on the total bill," Tang said. "We have also secured nearly \$17 million in water bill arrears relief... helping thousands of customers who have fallen behind with their bills. We will continue to look for further opportunities to assist our customers."



## Report: 2024's Most Dog-Friendly Cities

*Which cities have the most puppy love for our canine companions?*

To mark National Dog Day on Aug. 26, LawnStarter fetched 2024's Most Dog-Friendly Cities.

LawnStarter compared the 500 biggest U.S. cities based on 5 categories. More specifically, they considered access to dog-friendly housing and businesses, friendliness of dog-related laws, and affordability of canine services like training and dog sitting among 34 total metrics.

See the 10 best (and 10 worst) cities for dogs and their owners on this chart.

Read the full story here: <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-cities-dog-lovers>

### Most Dog-Friendly Cities Rank, City

- 1 Scottsdale, AZ
- 2 Asheville, NC
- 3 Santa Fe, NM
- 4 Tucson, AZ
- 5 Santa Monica, CA
- 6 Orlando, FL
- 7 Bend, OR
- 8 Wilmington, NC
- 9 Fort Myers, FL
- 10 Austin, TX

### Least Dog-Friendly Cities Rank, City

- 1 Waterbury, CT
- 2 Paterson, NJ
- 3 Cicero, IL
- 4 Hammond, IN
- 5 New Britain, CT
- 6 Miami Gardens, FL
- 7 Hartford, CT
- 8 Bridgeport, CT
- 9 West Valley City, UT
- 10 Kansas City, KS

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# Nonprofit pet-toy venture reaches milestone



Pictured is an assortment of Pupcycled toys created earlier this year at Mitchell Park Library.

## Pupcycled

*Continued from page 1*  
made toys this month!"

The success of Pupcycled couldn't have happened without community support. More than 300 volunteers have attended one of the organization's many toy-making events hosted at San Jose Public Libraries and more across the Bay Area. For Sophia, the volunteers' "kindness is the heart of our mission, and it fuels our passion to keep going."

*Editor's note: The nonprofit accepts monetary donations through its website. All proceeds go towards keeping their operations afloat and purchasing toy-making supplies, such as thread, sewing machines, extra donation bins and stuffing. For more information, visit: [www.pupcycled.org](http://www.pupcycled.org) and @PupcycledToys on Instagram or email [pupcycled-toys@gmail.com](mailto:pupcycled-toys@gmail.com).*

## TECH JARGON OF THE WEEK

# Few-shot learning

By Shubhi Asthana

**H**ave you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there's no need to sweat it. Let me teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words:

**Few-shot learning**  
Training data is the foundation of machine learning. But extensive training data isn't always



readily available, nor are the computational resources needed to train an ML model. To address this issue, developers can use few-shot learning, an approach that relies on a significantly smaller data set. Unlike traditional methods that require vast amounts of labeled data to achieve accuracy, few-shot learning aims to train models to generalize from just a few examples.

**N-shot learning**  
The practical challenges of training data availability and quality have spawned a general category of ML training called n-shot learning, where n represents some small number of samples.

There are three typical variations of n-shot learning:

**Few-shot learning**, which uses a relatively small set of labeled data points to train an ML model.

**One-shot learning**, a variant of few-shot learning that uses just one labeled sample for training.

**Zero-shot learning**, an extreme approach that attempts to handle new data without any existing data samples.

Few-shot learning is particularly beneficial in scenarios where obtaining a large dataset is impractical, such as in rare medical conditions or specialized industrial processes. This approach is increasingly used in areas like computer vision, where models must recognize objects from a few images; robotics, where robots need to learn new tasks quickly; and audio processing, where speech recognition systems must adapt to new accents or dialects with minimal data.

However, the reduced data requirements come at a cost. Few-shot learning can limit the diversity and complexity of an ML model, potentially leading to overfitting or underperformance in highly variable real-world environments. Despite these challenges, ongoing research in few-shot learning seeks to enhance the robustness and generalization capabilities of models, making it a promising solution for a wide range of AI applications. Techniques like meta-learning and transfer learning are often used in conjunction to improve few-shot learning outcomes, allowing models to leverage prior knowledge and adapt quickly to new tasks with minimal data.

*Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at [shub.saxen@gmail.com](mailto:shub.saxen@gmail.com). Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.*



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Times Local News

# History San José hosts groups of summer camps

By Bill Schroh, Jr.  
President & CEO

August at History San José means the stomping of grapes, the sound of big band music, and tacos and beer! As always, there is a full calendar of events and festivities taking place at History Park for everyone to enjoy. To check out upcoming events, visit: <https://historysanjose.org/programs-events>

As I have mentioned before, we had quite a few summer campers at History Park including our own Time Travelers Summer Camp. It was great to see our campers engaged and enjoying themselves all while learning about the history of San José and the Valley! Our educators, led by Education Assistant & School Programs Coordinator Frida Arias Rivera, did an amazing job!

The team is deservedly taking these next few weeks to recharge and prepare for our Fall/Spring educational programming that now includes high school curriculum! We're happy to say that reservations are quickly filling up so we encourage all educators to take a look at our full offerings and to reserve a spot on our calendar. We can't



wait to see you and your students back here at History Park!

Speaking of the Education Department, I am excited to announce that **Sam Ricci** (above) has become the new Manager of Education! Sam has been with History San José since 2017. During her time at HSJ she has been a valuable member of the team, serving as a museum educator, lead educator, and for the last year and a half as our first Manager of Visitor Experience.

Another fun change is that we attended the 1st annual Urban Vibrancy Institute (UVI) Block Party at San Pedro Square. We opened up the Gonzales/Peralta Adobe at San Pedro Square Market, set up our bull roping activity and had plenty of promotional material on hand.

Mark Purdy and Karen Parodi gave the tours, Antwan Whattley taught visitors, both children and adults how to rope a steer and Sharon Fox and I told everyone about History San José. We had over 250 people come in to enjoy the mini tour and steer roping. Thanks Mark, Karen, Antwan and Sharon for giving up their Thursday evening. It was an exciting evening for us as many people saw the inside of the Adobe for the first time.



**History San José**  
Bill Schroh, Jr.  
President & CEO




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## Fun Trip Series Cache Creek



## CASINO BUS TRIP

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School District

Continued from page 1

San Jose Unified School District has placed a bond request on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot to create affordable housing for teachers and more.

Actual statements of information regarding proposed bond measure by San Jose Unified School District Special Session Board Meeting: 07/25/2024

TITLE OF BOND  
SAN JOSE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT BOND OF 2024

“By approval of this measure by at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the registered voters voting thereon, the San José Unified School District shall be authorized to issue and sell bonds of up to \$1,150,000,000 in aggregate principal amount to provide financing for the facilities projects listed below in the Bond Project List, subject to all of the accountability safeguards specified herein.”

“Rationale

In order to continue providing equity for all students and improving education in all the District’s schools, the Board of Education’s priority is to complete improvements that will help prepare students to be the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow. The district has identified critical needs related to facilities that require additional funding beyond existing resources. Additionally, recruiting and retaining qualified educators is getting harder given the high cost of living in this area. **As a result, San José Unified is also exploring potential options to provide affordable housing to**

**attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff members.** After careful consideration and community input, the Board of Education has developed a proposal for a general obligation bond measure to address these needs.”

“To improve school safety, upgrade neighborhood schools and classrooms for science, technology, engineering, math, athletics and multipurpose use; update electrical, roofing, ventilation, and plumbing systems, **and provide affordable housing** to attract and retain high-quality teachers/ staff, shall San Jose Unified School District’s measure be adopted issuing \$1,150,000,000 in bonds at legal interest rates, levying \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (approximately \$81,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizens’ oversight, annual audits, and all funds staying local?”

TAX RATE STATEMENT

“An election will be held within the boundaries of San José Unified School District (“District”) on November 5, 2024 to authorize the sale of up to \$1,150,000,000 in bonds to finance facilities as described in the measure. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in multiple series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property located within the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400 to 9404, inclusive, of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate from official sources of the average annual tax rate that would be



required to be levied to fund this bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on assessed valuations available at the time of the election and a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction and other demonstrable factors, **is estimated to be \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.** The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2054-55.

2. The best estimate from official sources of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, and a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction and other demonstrable factors, is estimated to be \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation first occurring in fiscal year 2025-26.

3. The best estimate from official sources of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$2,360,172,950. Voters should note that the estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on the Santa Clara County official tax rolls, not on the property’s market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property’s assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions. Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District’s projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates, debt service and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on need for construction funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.”

SECTION I: KEY FINDINGS

“San José Unified School District has provided quality transitional kindergarten

through twelfth grade (TK-12) and postsecondary education to students in the local community over its long history, consistent with its mission that by uniting as one community, we elevate opportunities for all. • In the past, local voters have approved school facility bonds to help the District meet critical renovation, modernization and safety needs at the District’s schools, and a citizens’ oversight committee verified that all funds expended thus far were spent in accordance with voter-approved priorities. • Though bond funding has made a significant impact, our local schools still have urgent needs that reach beyond the scope of the District’s annual operating budget, such that passing this bond measure provides a guaranteed and necessary source of local funding to maintain and improve the community’s local school facilities. • **The high cost of living in the Bay Area is an impediment to attracting and retaining high-quality teachers and staff, and the District’s ability to provide low-cost rental housing will provide opportunities for employees to live within the community.** • The District has conducted a Facility Condition Assessment to identify the upgrades needed at each school site and District facility in order to meet modern safety and security standards, to meet the District’s goals for supporting current academic standards, and to address specific priorities at individual school sites. • Unlike the District’s parcel tax funds, which support the District’s educational programs, bond revenue is the primary means by which all local school districts are able to keep its school buildings and classrooms in good repair, safe, designed and equipped to support changing educational standards, methods and approaches. B-2 • The District cannot rely on the State of California to fund school facility improvements and the limited state dollars available for facility upgrades often require local matching funds that could be provided by a local bond measure. • This bond measure will benefit local District schools only and no funds can be taken away by the State or other school districts, and by law, no money can be used for administrator salaries or pensions. • This bond measure requires strict fiscal accountability protections including mandatory annual audits and an independent citizens’ oversight committee comprised of local residents to ensure funds are managed and spent properly.”

**As stated on the San Jose Unified literature on the bond proposal**

“The best estimate from official sources of

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Times **Community**

the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$2,360,172,950."

**Opinions of writer**

It is my opinion that this is a real challenge to gain public support for an additional tax for homeowners during an economic slowdown. However many differ with my point of view. I also am curious that if this is one of the first school districts to pass a bond for over one billion dollars to pay for things such as teacher housing in Santa Clara County, will that energize other school districts to do the same? On the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot the California Legislature has announced a \$10 billion bond to pay for repairs and upgrades at thousands of K-12 school and community col-

lege buildings across California.

**How you can review more of the facts**

To read the entire text of this proposed SJUSD bond measure and to check if you will need to pay taxes on it, go to the San Jose Unified School District website and view information listed on the Special Session Board Meeting: 07/25/2024 - 05:30 PM 4. Resolution 2025-07-25-01 Placing a \$1,150,000,000 General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 5, 2024 Statewide Election (ACTION)

[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB\\_Meetings/SB\\_MeetingListing.aspx?S=36030421](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/SB_MeetingListing.aspx?S=36030421)

**CLICK ON 7-24 board meeting to gain access to the written text of the one billion dollar bond**

**Your VTA**

By Carolyn Gonot

General Manager/CEO, VTA

It is my distinct pleasure to let you know that VTA has been named the Outstanding Public Transportation System in North America, among large transit agencies.

This honor is bestowed by the American Public Transportation Association, a non-profit international association of more than 1,500 public and private sector member transportation organizations. It is indeed an incredible honor.

VTA excelled in multiple categories dur-



ing the timeframe of this award, 2021-2023. By the end of 2021, pandemic-impacted bus service was restored to 91% of pre-pandemic levels, while light rail service was at 75%. Key milestones included the restoration of all suspended routes, and increased frequency on high-demand routes.

Ridership growth was also a significant achievement with steady major increases over the last three years, placing VTA among the top 5 agencies in the nation for ridership recovery.

My sincere gratitude goes to our employees throughout the agency for their hard work and dedication to being the best. We look forward to the award ceremony this fall at the APTA annual conference in Anaheim.



**Anna Fedorova**  
10/5/24



**Vyacheslav Gryaznov**  
11/16/24



**Alexander Malofeev**  
1/26/25



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**Zlata Chochieva**  
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**Florian Noack**  
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## Changes in inflation by city

With the year-over-year inflation rate at 2.9% in July, slowing below 3% for the first time since March 2021, the personal-finance website WalletHub last week released its updated report on the Changes in Inflation by City, as well as expert commentary.

To determine how inflation is impacting people in different cities, WalletHub compared 23 major MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) across two key metrics involving the Consumer Price Index, which meas-

ures inflation. WalletHub compared the Consumer Price Index for the latest month for which BLS data is available to two months prior and one year prior to get a snapshot of how inflation has changed in the short and long term.

Biggest Inflation	Smallest Inflation
1. New York, NY	19. Miami, FL
2. Minneapolis, MN	20. Boston, MA
3. Detroit, MI	21. Denver, CO
4. Chicago, IL	22. Riverside, CA
5. Honolulu, HI	23. Houston, TX

To view the full report and your city's rank, visit:  
<https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-inflation/107537>



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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

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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.

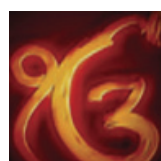


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God is One  
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Rab Ik Hai

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GURDWARA**  
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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

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Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road  
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The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday

8:15 AM  
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