

More than 700 people attended the 35th annual Hispanic Foundation Ball
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San Jose leaders prime old golf course for development
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NOVEMBER 2024 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 11

Willow Glen Times

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Willow Glen resident **Tommy Burgart** recently started preschool after receiving a device to close the hole in his heart.

Willow Glen toddler Tommy Burgart starts school after hole in his heart closed

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Willow Glen resident Tommy Burgart was an active and healthy toddler, but just before his second birthday, his parents received unexpected news that changed everything.

Tommy's heart was working too hard and enlarging and doctors discovered he had a hole in his heart that didn't close as it should after birth, known as a PDA (patent ductus arteriosus). A PDA is present in approximately 1 in 2,000 births. This condition can cause breathing and growth issues in children.

See **TOMMY**, page 3

Panetta reintroduces bipartisan legislation ensuring veterans transportation to medical appointments

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would permanently provide safe and reliable transportation for veterans to and from VA facilities and other treatment centers.

The Veterans Earned Transportation (Vets ETA) Act would permanently reauthorize a VA program that provides these transportation services for veterans to better access vocational rehabilitation, counseling, and medical treatment, particularly for those who are visually impaired, elderly, immobile, or living in remote and rural areas.

"Many veterans who live in rural areas throughout our country have a difficult time accessing VA health care due to the distance they have to travel," said Rep. Panetta. "This bipartisan legislation would ensure permanent funding for vital VA transportation services, allowing veterans, regardless of their ability or where they live, access the mental, physical, and vocational care that they may need. Taking this action is a big step towards ensuring that the United States is serving all those who served our country."

More than 32,300 veterans currently live in California's 19th Congressional District. The Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) was established in 2010. Since then, the VA has focused on expanding access and estab-



lishing Mobility Managers at each VA facility to better meet the transportation needs of veterans across the country. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) and Ted Lieu (CA-36) co-lead the Vets ETA Act.

"The absence of dependable transportation for our veterans to their VA appointments greatly impacts their access to essential care," said Rep. Fitzpatrick. "I am proud to join my colleagues in the introduction of the bipartisan Veterans Earned Transportation Act, to permanently authorize a program that ensures safe and reliable transportation to VA treatment providers, thereby alleviating the unjust burden on our veterans, so they can receive the care they deserve."

"Our veterans have dedicated their lives to defending our nation and deserve access to high-quality care after their service," said Rep. Ted Lieu. "We owe it to them to make sure they have access to mental health care, medical treatment, job training services, and more offered by the VA."

State to send San Jose millions to clear homeless camps

By William Bellou
Publisher

The state of California is getting ready to send San Jose money to help clear encampments and provide support to unhoused residents.

The funding is being allocated from the state's Encampment Resolution Funding grant program and follows Newsom's July order that local jurisdictions be more aggressive at clearing encampments throughout the state.

Although the amount the state

plans to send is nearly \$5 million, officials reveal that it's not nearly enough compared to what the city needs to tackle the homelessness crisis.

Gov. Gavin Newsom doled out \$130.7 million last week to assist in reducing the number of homeless people statewide. Local advocates say the money won't go far, and that the state needs to invest more in solutions.

San Jose wants to open eight safe sleeping sites throughout the city, with each tent having a maximum



The city began sweeping a homeless encampment near Columbus Park in early September. The area was cleared two years ago to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's demands, and since then has repopulated with dozens of people living in their cars and RVs. *Photo by Joyce Chu.*

price tag of \$40,000. For 500 tents, working on a parking site projected to cost more than \$8 million. Additionally, the city is

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

Times **Community News**



Hispanic Foundation celebrates 35th year

More than 700 people attended the 35th annual Hispanic Foundation Ball last week in downtown San Jose, cementing the event as one of the longest-running and most successful fundraising galas in the valley.

A sold-out crowd of more than 700 people attended the 35th annual Hispanic Foundation Ball last week in downtown San Jose, cementing the event as one of the longest-running and most successful fundraising galas in the valley.

Ron Gonzales, CEO of the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley, credits the organization's success — and by extension, the longevity of its gala — to a pivot the organization made more than a decade ago that refocused its mission. The foundation emphasized supporting education, especially STEM education, creating a pipeline to colleges and Silicon Valley companies while also continuing programs to prepare more Latinos to be leaders in the community.

"Fifteen years ago, I challenged the leadership to change and we did it," said Gon-

zales, a former San Jose mayor. "We provide our scholars with opportunities that funnel them toward industries. If you look at our list of sponsors, you see names that get it."

Those names included presenting sponsor Amazon, Comerica Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Alaska Airlines and PG&E — among many others.

The foundation has taken on an important advocacy role for Latinos in the valley, too. The foundation tracks how the Latino community is faring with the Latino Report Card, prepares future board members with the Latino Board Leadership Academy, spotlights diverse voices with the Latinx Speaker Series and helps students plan their future with the Hispanic Foundation College Success Program and the Latinos in Technology Scholarship.

So that was a lot to celebrate Saturday night at the Hispanic Foundation Ball, and tickets went fast. If you don't want to miss the 36th annual event, mark your calendar for Oct. 4, 2025.

Tommy

Continued from page 1

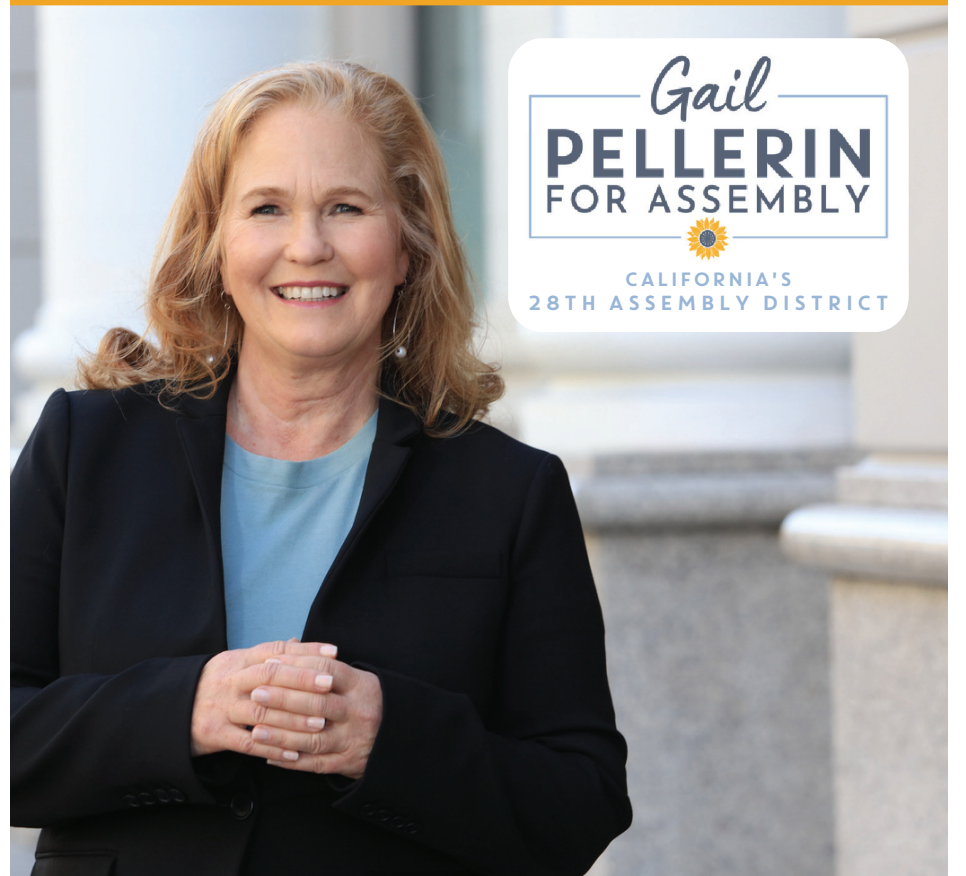
Instead of having open-heart surgery, last December he had a small Abbott Amplatzer device implanted at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital to close the hole. The device is inserted through a small incision in the leg and delivered to the heart.

Tommy's parents Justin and Karen trusted the device to help their son because they've worked for the global healthcare company that makes it, Abbott, for a combined 35 years. They're both employees for the company's quality team in Santa Clara.



Tommy left the hospital the same day as his procedure and there was an immediate difference in his energy levels.

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Times **Local News**

Quality of our roads affects us daily

By Matt Mahan

There are a lot of things we don't notice until they break.

The washing machine that springs a leak when we have a week's worth of laundry piling up. The coffee maker that breaks when we have a big presentation at work in an hour. The remote control that runs out of battery just before the big game.

These are all things we have control over. But what about the things that feel outside of our control? Specifically, our roads. While they may not be the most exciting topic, roads are a fundamental part of our city's infrastructure, and something we often don't notice until they aren't working.

I know we've all cringed when we hit the same pothole for the third time in one week and felt helpless to fix the situation while our tires and alignment pay the price – and ultimately, so do we.

The average repair cost for damage caused by a pothole is \$406 – painful for any of us, and a cost many working families simply can't afford. Which is why my predecessor Sam Liccardo made a vow to pave 1,000 miles of local roads. And this week — we hit that milestone.

This goal was first announced in 2019, and now we're seeing the difference in the data. Five years ago, our Pavement Condition Index score (scaled 0 to 100) was 66, or "fair." Our smaller neighborhood streets, however, only ranked a 60.

By last year, sustained funding and an aggressive implementation plan by the Department of Transportation brought the overall score up to 70 and local streets up to 67. And we expect these scores to continue to climb in the years ahead as we work toward repaving or repairing all 1,500 miles of local roadways in our city. You can learn more about our pavement program and see upcoming paving projects by visiting Repave San Jose and exploring the three tabs near the top of the page.

Our pavement maintenance program isn't just about creating smoother roads. Over the past decade, we've coordinated hundreds of safety projects with our local paving efforts, including restriping, adding bike lanes, enhancing crosswalks, and testing quick-build infrastructure that calms traffic along our most dangerous streets.

The quality of our roads affects each of us daily. It's something we don't think about much until they've fallen into disrepair. And they are one of the most basic responsibilities of government.

I want to thank you for helping us reach this milestone. Without voters choosing to support the City's Measure T and VTA's Measure B, we wouldn't have the resources to make this progress possible. (It's also worth noting that Senate Bill 1, authored by San Jose's very own former State Senator Jim Beall, is a third and important source of funding for this work.)

So it turns out, we do have the power to



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

create smoother roads. We have our voice and we have our vote. If we hadn't used them to prioritize infrastructure investments, we wouldn't have smoother and safer streets today.

As this year's election gets closer, I hope you'll remember that we are responsible for asking for what we need from the government. And by voicing our opinion through the electoral process, we can create change.

Councilmember Torres

By now most of you have heard about the allegations against Councilmember Torres and read excerpts from the police affidavit. Let me be very clear – you have the right to be shocked, disgusted and furious. You have the right to feel as though he can no longer represent you. And at the same time, Councilmember Torres, like anyone else in our community, has the right to thorough investigation and due process under the law.

While we have very limited tools in this circumstance, the rest of my Council colleagues and I called on Torres to step down last week. We know that as elected officials, we are held to a higher standard of conduct – and for good reason. Trust is the foundation of representative democracy.

So far, he has not listened to the voices of the community asking him to step down for the good of the city. Unfortunately, the Council is limited in the action we can take to remove him from office. He can either resign, the community can gather signatures to recall him through a long and expensive process, or if he misses 5 consecutive Council meetings, his seat can be considered vacant.

For the past two weeks, Torres has not shown up to any council meetings, community meetings or committees he is assigned to. We must ensure continuity and representation on various boards and commissions involving city business. Just as my team and I have vowed to step in and take on more constituent services in District 3, I am recommending that Council colleagues step in to fill those gaps in other important roles and functions for the time being. We will be taking a vote to reassign his duties at this week's council meeting.

I want to assure you – we will not let this unfortunate situation distract us from making progress on the issues you care most about. We will fill in the gaps caused by his absence until a more permanent solution is possible. Because life goes on and so does city business.



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Times **Local News**



Vince Sunzeri of the Rotary Club of San Jose addresses attendees at the grand opening of the Rotary Mobile Medical Clinic at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in downtown San Jose.

Trivia contest drums up funds for Valley Medical Center burn unit

The Rotary Club of San Jose recently showcased its new Rotary Mobile Medical Clinic at Guadalupe Parish in downtown San Jose.

Sal Pizarro, columnist for the Mercury News, hosted a game show for the inaugural San Jose Q&A, a trivia competition that raised more than \$230,000 to support the burn unit at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

“This money we raised will affect and
See BURN UNIT, page 6



Beautiful Day cleanup

Last weekend was another beautiful day in San Jose, and at the start of the weekend, the area near the Tully Baseball Field was covered in weeds and dirt regularly fell off the hillside, covering the walking path. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan spent last Saturday assisting in the installation of a retaining wall and improving the terrain with drought tolerant plants and river rock. Pastor Abraham of Westgate Church also lent and helping hand along with the San Jose Parks Department.



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Times **Community Notebook**

San Jose leaders prime old golf course for development

By Vicente Vera
San José Spotlight

A shuttered golf course in East San Jose is ready for a future mixed-use housing project following city leaders' recent adoption of development guidelines for the area.

Months of community engagement with District 5 and District 8 residents led the San Jose City Council to unanimously agree earlier this month that any proposed housing development at the former Pleasant Hills Golf Course should exceed the number of affordable homes required under city policy. Details about the proposal are still under wraps, as city planning officials say San Jose-based firm Terrascape Ventures has yet to submit its develop-

ment plans. East San Jose residents are concerned about the proposed development of the 114-acre Pleasant Hills Golf Course into housing and commercial space. File photo



Terrascape Ventures Managing Principal Mark Lazzarini told San José Spotlight plans are still being reworked and he did not return a request for the preliminary plans.

Developers have been eyeing the roughly 114-acre unincorporated site for nearly 4,000 residences and about 785,000 square feet of commercial space, according to a previous filing with the city, but plans could change under the guiding principles. Those include rules around residential and commercial use, open space and amenities, transportation, sustainability and community programs — and are based on feedback gathered at community meetings. City leaders said

residents prefer not to see large retail, office or hotel buildings in the area — rather they want more small businesses such as restaurants, shops and a mid-sized grocery store.

“The city council’s innovative approach to gathering community input in the early stages of the development process through the guiding principles vision is an excellent example of how all the stakeholders can collaborate,” District 5 United representative Juan Estrada told San José Spotlight. “The guiding principles adopted by the city council and developed from community input, which presumably included the guiding principles we recommended, form a strong benchmark to guide the future development of

the Pleasant Hills Golf Course.”

The golf course closed in 2004 and is unincorporated county land. It was designated as private open space, barring development from the area until an obscure policy change in 2018 allowed for housing to be built on such sites.

Alice Kaufman, policy and advocacy director for Green Foothills, said she is concerned not enough green space will be saved for the benefit of not just future residents, but the whole community who will congregate at the potential mixed-use development. East San Jose has less green space compared to other parts of the city.

“Right now the area is not open to the public, but it is providing the benefits that urban green space provides in terms of climate resilience,” Kaufman told San José Spotlight.

“The community is going to lose those benefits when the area develops — so it’s going to be really important to make sure that there’s still significant amount of publicly available green space.”

Catalyze SV Executive Director

Alex Shoor said he is curious to see the details of the proposed housing development from Terrascape Ventures once plans are released to the city. Because there were only a handful of residents in attendance during the Oct. 8 meeting, he said it shows city officials are doing their job in keeping the public informed since there were more comments than questions.

“The main event is the actual development project,” Shoor told San José Spotlight. “So I think when the discussions of an actual proposal are more public, then we’ll see a lot more community members at the table.”

District 8 Councilmember Domingo Candelas highlighted the engagement process and said he personally went door-to-door to let neighbors within a 2,500-foot radius of the former golf course know about the guiding principles.

“I’m excited to keep this conversation going, and by no means is this the end of the process. In fact, we still have a long way to go,” Candelas said at the meeting.

Contact Vicente Vera at vicente@sanjosespotlight.com or follow @VicenteJVera on X, formerly known as Twitter.



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Burn Unit

Continued from page 5

save many lives, and we did it with a smile,” said Michael Van Every, the president of Republic Urban Properties, who suffered severe burns as a child and received life-saving treatment at Valley Medical.

Van Every came up with the idea of having a “fun” fundraiser that wasn’t the usual banquet dinner or auction and hit up some history-minded people to come up with questions about San Jose and Santa Clara County that would challenge the three contestants — Valley Health Foundation CEO Michael Elliott, Janikke Klem of Heritage Bank of Commerce and Mark Ritchie of Ritchie Commercial.

Pizarro said the contestants did a great job coming up with answers. But the audience of nearly 200 people definitely let the contestants know about it when they answered incorrectly, as did the evening’s “celebrity judge,” former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery, who made the call on close answers and injected some personality into the evening.

Klem was already in first place when she was the only one to correctly answer the final question — What was San Jose’s first sister city? Answer: Okayama, Japan in 1957 — and took home bragging rights, along with a snazzy championship belt and a basket of wine.

Van Every said the big winner was the burn unit at Valley Medical Center, which will be able to use those funds to help out many patients.



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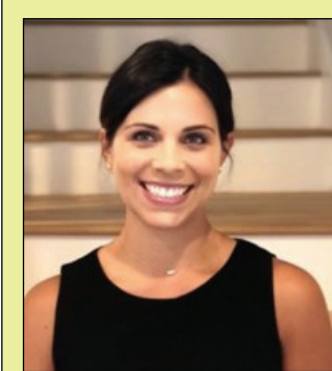


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Times Local News

WATER-WISE

Autumnal Auspice

By Matt Fraizer

With the passing of The Autumnal Equinox not far behind us, residents of Willow Glen may be inclined to wonder what the situation will be like with their water budgets for their gardens, landscapes, and yards. This is a legitimate consideration and one that deserves some planning.

What will Autumn bring for the cottage homes of Willow Glen, San Jose, California? The soon-coming rains of San Jose and its valleys are not a guarantee this season or this year. Expectations will be unmet now, as they have been in seasons past. We must be wary of what winter will bring.

San Jose has faced macro and magnitude droughts for at least 30 years. Sub-grade and subterranean irrigation have been a conversation for Northern California, especially San Jose, its valleys, and Santa Clara County, for the past 20 years, dating back to when I was hired at Almaden Valley Nursery in June 2006 as a seasonal salesperson.

The clay soils of San Jose and its valleys retain water when we do get rain. Clay soil has a slow infiltration rate, and as a freelance web designer, I advise clients weekly to apply supplemental irrigation sparingly and slowly. Clay soil achieves runoff at three minutes. Using three-minute cycles every three hours in hot weather helps, especially between 9 pm and 3 am.

The native flowers, shrubs, trees, and vines of Santa Clara County and its valleys are a clear choice. With

roots that have evolved with little to no supplemental irrigation other than rains, these are a clear choice, so financial and water budgets won't be exhausted. This is a careful consideration going into future seasons and years with no guarantee of rains or storms.

Stormwater agencies in Northern California have suffered, as have the construction companies that work for these agencies. Willow Glen is a niche within San Jose yet is fully impacted by droughts of all magnitudes. The California Native Plant Society has chapters throughout Northern California, including a chapter for Santa Clara Valley.

The Autumnal Equinox to The Vernal Equinox may bring rain and storms. I caution my clients and the customers of garden centers and nurseries about paying close attention to weather forecasts, especially the momentum and the trajectories of winds. Wind erosion is another conversational topic, but none are critical or crucial.

Use drip and micro spray irrigation where appropriate. Deep-soak root zones on shrubs, trees, and vines. Plant valley natives when and where possible and practical. More will come on this in future column entries for Willow Glen. The Willows of Willow Glen are hearty yet require heavy rains and heavy supplemental irrigation to sustain them. Be wary of this.

I leave you with these thoughts, dear colleagues, so that you may make educated and informed decisions about irrigation and plantings. Consult your local garden centers and nurseries and request valley natives for your gardens, landscapes, and yards when and where possible and practical.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and every column entry that was presented.



Water Wise
Matthew Frazier,
Certified Water
Manager

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LIVING HOPE APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

<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.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector
Phone: 408-268-0243
Web: www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful

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.



EVERGREEN ISLAMIC CENTER (EIC)

<http://www.eicsan-jose.org>
2486 Ruby Ave, San Jose CA 95148. (408) 239-6668
"As-Salaamu-Alaikum" the English meaning is "Peace be upon you".
Q) What is Islam, who are Muslims, and what is the Quran?
A) Islam is a faith and way of life. Islam began in the 7th century. People who follow Islam are known as Muslims. The Quran is the Divine book that guides Muslims to practice Islam.

"Hufazik Allah Waeayilatak" the English meaning is "May Allah (swt) protect you and your family". Please visit our website to learn more.

GRACE CHURCH OF



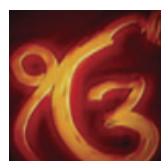
EVERGREEN
www.GraceChurchEvergreen.Com
408-274-1200

See you on Facebook. 2650 Aborn Rd at Kettmann, across from the Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 55 years. John Goldstein Pastor. john@GraceChurchEvergreen.com. Christian worship every Sunday at 11am. Together we build better lives and a better community. Music Institute (408)791 7772. After School Piano, Violin, Other classical Instruments. PreSchool, Ages 2-6 Caring for your child with God's love and affection. Check our website for current activities.

**HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our mem-

bers. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office.

SAN JOSE GURDWARA



God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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 on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn

more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.

www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star - Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool

offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:
St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall
Sunday 9:00 AM, 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!

THE POINT CHURCH
3695 Rose Terrace Cir San Jose, CA 95148



thepoint.church

(408) 270-7646
English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Service: 11:00 AM
Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM
Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM
Mandarin Service: 11:00AM
Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To place a worship listing, email times@timesmediainc.com

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