

Mayor celebrates and anticipates a Very Merry San Jose Holiday
SEE PAGE 4



What we read
San José Public Library reveals top checkouts of 2024
See page 8

'Cold Moon' of December marks tree planting deadline
SEE PAGE 10



YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR
OVER 37 YEARS

Almaden

Times

DEC. 6 - DEC. 19, 2024 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 25

SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ■ ALMADENTIMES.COM

San Jose Unified School District's Measure R passes

\$1.15 billion provides funding for employee housing and building renovations

By William Bellou
Publisher

Measure R, one of the largest school bond measures ever recorded at \$1.15 billion, has passed with nearly 65% of the vote. The measure sunsets in fiscal year 2054-55.

The San Jose Unified School District plans to spend the money building and supporting employee housing, renovating buildings constructed decades ago and repairing athletic facilities.

Measure R increases local property tax rates at an estimated rate of \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value annually for an estimated 30 years. Funding from the measure will support about 25,000 students at the district's 41 schools.

Brian Wheatley, a school board member and a proponent of employee housing, said he appreciates the community's support because the measure was a big lift with lofty numbers.

"Housing is the biggest issue we're facing in this valley," said Wheatley. "We have to be able to house our people because we want everybody to be able to live here and stay."

Measure R would increase local property tax rates at an estimated rate of \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value annually
See MEASURE R, page 4



San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra announces its 24-25 season opener

The Philharmonic Orchestra Performs Rossini, Bériot, Massenet and Smetana

The San Jose Youth Symphony's Philharmonic Orchestra, under the artistic leadership of Music Director and Conductor Yair Samet, presents its 2024-25 Season Opener Concert to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30 pm, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116.

The orchestra will open with Rossini's sprightly and percussive La Gazza Ladra Overture (The Thieving Magpie), along with Massenet's most highly regarded work for orchestra, the Ballet Suite from Le Cid, and close with Smetana's exciting Three Dances from The Bartered Bride.

This concert will also feature a winner from the 2024 Young Artists' Competition, proudly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation*. Outstanding

young soloist, Angela Liu, violinist, will perform Bériot's Scène de Ballet for Violin and Orchestra.

Angela Liu is a high school senior at Pacific Grove High School and has been playing violin with the San Jose Youth Symphony since 2018 and is currently in her third year with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

The San Jose Youth Symphony (SJYS) is one of the oldest and finest youth orchestras on the
See YOUTH SYMPHONY, page 6

Second Harvest planning for future

Food bank again looking for new headquarters site

By William Bellou
Publisher

Silicon Valley's non-profit food bank, Second Harvest, is again pursuing the construction of a modern headquarters and warehouse in San Jose after shuttering its warehouse facility due to an increase in rent.

The decision to establish a new headquarters was made after Second Harvest prevailed in a lawsuit that had sought to derail the project. Santa Clara County court dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice in June, 2023.

Organizacion Comunidad de Alviso, a South Bay group headed up by local activist Mark Espinosa, had claimed in its lawsuit filed in 2022 that city officials acted improperly when they approved the food bank's proposed warehouse in north San Jose.

See SECOND HARVEST, page 6



Athenna Crosby of Almaden Valley will represent the United States at the 72nd Miss World 2025 which will be held next February at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India.

Athenna Crosby of Almaden Valley crowned Miss World America

Crosby's "Miss World Beauty With A Purpose" project was "Equality for Individuals with Disabilities"

In a dazzling finale, Miss World America California, Athenna Crosby of Almaden Valley, emerged as the new Miss World America.

Selected by an esteemed panel of judges, Athenna will represent the United States at the 72nd Miss World Festival in 2025. Athen-

na is a graduate of Leland High School.

Seattle Washington played host to the highly anticipated Miss World America 2024 competition, bringing together 60 remarkable women from across the nation.

Each contestant graced the stage with beauty, intelligence, and a commitment to community service, vying for the honor of being named Miss World America.

The results were announced by Ekta Saini, National Director of Miss World America and the first Indian American woman to be the national director of Miss World America.

Meet the New Miss World America 2024: Athenna Crosby

Athenna Crosby is a Los Angeles-based actress, model, and television presenter who proudly embraces her Latin American heritage as a dual citizen of the United States and Venezuela. A graduate of Utah Valley University with a Bachelor

See CROSBY, page 6

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



SAN JOSE YOUTH SYMPHONY

2024 - 2025 SEASON

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Season Opener Concert
 Featuring **Angela Liu, violin**
 Winner of the 2024 Young Artist Competition*

Yair Samet, Music Director and Conductor

Rossini – La Gazza Ladra Overture
 Bériot – Scène de Ballet for Violin and Orchestra
 Massenet – Ballet Suite from Le Cid
 Smetana – Three Dances from the Bartered Bride

SATURDAY
12/7 2024

Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater
 1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose 95116
 @ 7:30 PM

Tickets available now at sjys.org
 or by phone 408.225.2334

SPONSORS & ASSOCIATIONS



SAN JOSE SYMPHONY FOUNDATION



Rotary
Club of Los Gatos



the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION



San José Youth Symphony | 5671 Santa Teresa Blvd, Ste 210, San José, CA 95123 | 408.225.2334 | www.sjys.org

*The Young Artist Competition is kindly sponsored by the San Jose Symphony Foundation. "San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation, and its use in all its variations is by license.

SAN JOSE DANCE THEATRE

The Original San Jose

NUTCRACKER

December 6-8 & 13-15

San Jose
Center for the
Performing Arts

Performed
with the
Cambrian
Symphony



GET TICKETS



59 YEARS OF
MAGIC

For tickets, visit: sjnutcracker.com

Times News

AlmadenTimes

Times Media, Inc.
(408) 494-7000

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

ADVERTISING SALES
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
408-494-7000

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
DIANE BLUM, SUNAY SANGHANI,
SEAN EASTWOOD, NIRBAN SINGH,
FRANK SHORTT, JUDY LY, EUGENE
LUU, APOORVA PANIDAPU

ART DIRECTOR
JEFF BAHAM
graphics@timesmediainc.com

PUBLISHER / CEO
WILLIAM D. BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
SANDY BELLOU

Copyright © 2024 Times Media, Inc. All rights reserved. The ALMADEN TIMES prefers letters to the editor and submissions of guest articles and columns for possible publication to be sent by email to editorial@timesmediainc.com. All submitted materials become the property of Times Media, Inc., and receipt of unsolicited materials cannot be acknowledged. The opinions and viewpoints expressed by guest authors and columnists in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions and viewpoints of the Times. Staff and management of the ALMADEN TIMES and Times Media, Inc.

It's time for a Very San Jose Holiday

By Matt Mahan

Last week, we kicked off a Very San Jose Holiday. We shopped local on Saturday, we lit the tree at Christmas in the Park on Friday, and we joined over twenty-three thousand neighbors for the Turkey Trot on Thursday!

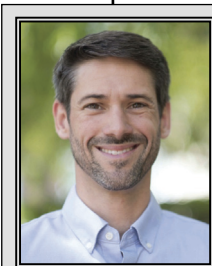
But the fun doesn't end here.

Downtown Ice is open, Enchant is lit up and we have toy drives and food drives set up to share that holiday cheer with others in our community.

Speaking of traditions, one of my favorites this time of year is reminding friends and family of how much they mean to me. So this is my chance to say how thankful I am to live in and work for a city filled with people like you.

San Jose is a special place to

me not because of all the innovation or 300 days of sunshine (although those are certainly worth asking Santa for) – it's special because of the people who call it home. People who come together in moments of crisis and moments of joy. People who aren't afraid to put in a little elbow grease to create a better, safer, cleaner city.



From the Mayor
Matt Mahan
Mayor, San Jose

And we are getting better, safer and cleaner. That work doesn't stop so we can celebrate. That work is what we should celebrate. So sometime soon, I'll be raising a San Jose Sour to how far we've come and how far I know we still can go.

Christmas in the Park
Sunday, December 1st to Wednesday, January 1st
Plaza de Cesar Chavez, 194 South Market Street Drive, San Jose, CA 95113

Ring in the start of the holiday season with Christmas in the Park! For over 44 years, this beloved San Jose classic has brought people from all over the



Mahan joined over twenty-three thousand neighbors for the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day.

Bay Area together during the holidays. Grab a photo with Santa, watch nightly live performances, and enjoy holiday-themed beverages!

Enchant Christmas
Sunday, December 1st to Sunday, December 29th
PayPal Park, 1123 Coleman Avenue, San Jose, CA 95110

Enchant Christmas is returning to San Jose with endless light mazes, a holiday village, an ice-skating trail, and of course, Santa Claus himself! Learn more and purchase tickets here: <https://www.enchantchristmas.com/pla-n-your-visit/san-jose-ca>

Measure R

Continued from page 1

for an estimated 30 years to allow the San José Unified School District (SJUSD) to;

The \$1.15 billion in bonds funds four categories of capital projects:

- Facility upgrades and repairs, including renovating or constructing new outdoor facilities, upgrading or providing new drop-off areas and parking lots, improving accessibility for students with disabilities, and upgrading fire sprinklers and alarm systems.

- New and upgraded facilities for teachers and district staff and electrification of vehicles, including constructing affordable housing for teachers and staff, purchasing federally mandated electric vehicles (EVs), and installing EV charging stations.

- Classroom and school upgrades, including adding classrooms to support transitional kindergarten programs, providing modern labs and career-technical facilities and equipment for students, and improving food service facilities.

- Technology upgrades, including acquiring and upgrading technology or equipment and expanding telecommunications, internet, and network connections.

The SJUSD Board of Education has sole discretion over decisions regarding the projects' scope, function, timing, location, and prioritization. As required by state law, bond expenditures would be monitored by an independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, which reports directly to the public.



The Almaden Senior Association Members are a diverse group of enthusiastic active adults 50+ who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures. Join us today. Meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

Membership in the Almaden Community Center offers opportunities...

- Exercise Classes for all levels & abilities.
- Lunch events with entertainment run by members of the association.
- Trips to local and not so local places of interest.

Stop by the front desk at the Almaden Community Center and fill out an application. Membership is free. Membership includes a copy of our monthly newsletter and discounts on classes through San Jose PRNS.

Annual Soup Party, Saturday, January 18, 2025, Soup served at noon.

Join us for homemade Chicken Taco, Corn Chowder, Sausage Rice and Pumpkin Squash soups served with bread and cookies.

\$10.00 member and non-member (cash or check only). Ticket sales starts December 2nd through December 13th then resume January 6th MWF from 8am-10am in the ACC Lobby. Call Jeanne for more info 408-425-5723

Please see our newsletter at <https://almadenseniors.org> then click on Newsletter for additional events, trips and classes.

Social Media:

Website: <https://almadenseniors.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>

Almaden Senior Association
at the Almaden Community Center
6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120

Silver Creek Academy

INSPIRE EXPLORE CHALLENGE

AN AWARD-WINNING LEARNING CENTER IN SAN JOSE



Grades K - 12

- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematics
- Writing & Grammar
- Public Speaking & Debate
- Competitive Debate
- HSPT Test Prep
- Study Skills
- Test-Taking Strategies

Now Enrolling For Our School-Year Courses!

(408)839-5905

Visit: SCAASanJose.com

for the complete schedule of camps & classes!



Silver Creek Academy
5619 Silver Creek Valley Road
San Jose, CA 95138



ATTENTION GOLFERS

Thinking about downsizing to a gated community?



Play golf on a Spectacular Championship 18 hole golf course
for ONLY . . . \$34.00

The Villages Golf & Country Club

Homes ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.7 million
Enjoy Country Club Living in this 55+ Gated Community

Other Amenities:

Tennis - Pickle Ball - Bocce - Pools - Hiking - Billiards
Fine & Casual Dining in our Clubhouse & Bistro

Come for a Tour ~ Stay for a Lifetime



Dee Ramirez

KELLER WILLIAMS SILICON VALLEY

Lic# 00683945 ■ REALTOR

408.440.7617

Dee@RamirezRealtyTeam.com

www.DeeRamirez.com

2110 S. Bascom Avenue #101 | Campbell, CA 95008

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

Times **Local News**

Crosby

Continued from page 1

of Science in Communications, Athena's platform combines her skills in media and advocacy.

Her Beauty With A Purpose (BWAP) project, titled "Inclusion for All: Fighting for Those With Disabilities," reflects her decade-long commitment to creating a more inclusive world. Inspired by her brother Adrian, who has Autism, Athena has worked with nonprofits like Best Buddies and successfully lobbied for her hometown of San Jose, CA, to recognize April as Autism Awareness Month.

"This is a dream come true," Athena said during her acceptance speech. "As the first Venezuelan American Miss World America, I am proud to represent the incredible diversity of this nation, and I am committed to using this platform to champion inclusivity and equality for all."

As Athena Crosby prepares to represent the United States at the 72nd Miss World Festival, she joins a global network of women united by the Beauty With A Purpose mission.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Julia Morley, the Miss World Organization is the old-

est international pageant that has raised over \$1.3 billion for charitable causes.

About The Event

The event was hosted by Shree Saini, Miss World America 2022, who became the first Indian American and Asian American woman to be Miss World America, who shared, "As a burns survivor and pace-maker patient, I have changed my pain into purpose. I've poured every ounce of my being into serving others. I've humbly volunteered in 34 states and 14 countries, spreading the message of resilience and kindness. In a world that often seems to care less, be someone who couldn't care more."

The Miss World America 2024 contest is the second consecutive year under the leadership of Ekta Saini and her husband, Sanjay Saini.

The Punjab-origin couple gave the highest prize package in pageant history - \$250,000 in kind and cash sponsorship. Ekta Saini also hosted more than 80 free mentorship zoom calls to mentor the contestants prior to their arrival to nationals.

Ekta Saini brought fresh energy to the national competition which shared her deep commitment to service: "My request to all the par-



Athena Crosby is crowned Miss World America; 1st Runner-Up is **Kimberly Chinomso** (Miss World America Oregon) and 2nd Runner-Up is **Anne Li** (Miss World America Washington District of Columbia). Miss World America Beauty With A Purpose Ambassador is **Devon Viola** (Miss World America Massachusetts).

ents and friends here today is to help your daughters feel empowered, help them recognize all that they have achieved and all that they are capable of achieving. Even though there is one winner tonight; We are forever a Miss World America family."

About Athena Crosby

Athena Crosby is a TV host, entertainment

correspondent, actress, and model born and raised in San Jose and now based in Los Angeles, California. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Utah Valley University. As a vocalist, she's performed at the Giants vs. Padres MLB game and the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday celebration. She also plays the Alto Saxophone and the Cuatro.

Athena is best known as the spokeswoman for the Oscar-qualifying Cinequest Film Festival, she has interviewed stars like James Franco and Imagine Dragons.

As a long-standing advocate for disability rights, Athena is committed to creating a positive impact that extends beyond the realms of the entertainment industry. Her Miss World Beauty With A Purpose project was Equality for Individuals with Disabilities, inspired by her brother Adrian who has Autism.

She has been a volunteer with the charity Best Buddies for over 10 years, which provides jobs and friendships to people with disabilities, and helped lobby the city of San Jose, CA to decree April as Autism Awareness Month.

Youth Symphony

Continued from page 1

West Coast of the U.S. Founded over seven decades ago as part of the former San Jose Symphony, SJYS has a rich tradition of musical performance and education.

The musicians of SJYS, all school-age youth, are chosen from more than 650 applicants through our annual auditions. The SJYS comprises 13 distinct performing ensembles: two full orchestras, a chamber orchestra, two flute choirs, two string ensembles, as well as winds, brass, harp, saxophone, percussion, and jazz ensembles.

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.sjys.org/product-category/tickets>

"San Jose Symphony" is a registered trademark of the San Jose Symphony Foundation, and its use in all its variations is by license.

Second Harvest

Continued from page 1

Second Harvest can now proceed with its headquarters and warehouse plans — although the project may well be revised.

"We are making progress on our new unified headquarters," said Diane Baker Hayward, a spokesperson for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.

The proposed headquarters, office and warehouse complex would be built at 4553 and 4563 North First St.

The revamped plans for a new headquarters emerge at a time when Second Harvest has decided to shut its warehouse at 528 Brennan St. in San Jose because it was facing a rent hike there. The nonprofit has been using the warehouse for volunteer production shifts and to store equipment, supplies and food.



\$1,788,000
1028 McFarland Ave., Pacific Grove
3 Beds 2 Baths 1,788 Sq.Ft.

Call for your Private Showing

Welcome to this beautifully updated single-level home in the heart of Pacific Grove. Offering 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and plenty of modern upgrades, this move-in ready home is perfect for those looking to enjoy the relaxed coastal lifestyle. You'll Love this Freshly Remodeled home: Everything has been done for you, from brand-new windows and sleek kitchen and bath updates to stylish luxury vinyl plank floors throughout. Bright & Modern: Enjoy recessed lighting and a new furnace to keep things cozy year-round. Plus, a tankless water heater means endless hot water on demand. The open layout maximizes space and light, creating a welcoming atmosphere throughout.



Annette Boggs
REALTOR®/ FOUNDER
831-601-5800
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
DRE # 01317801



\$1,575,000
5041 Sunset Vista Dr., Seaside Highlands
4 Beds 2.5 Baths 3,399 Sq.Ft.

Call for your Private Showing

This stunning home in Seaside Highlands is a true gem! With its warm colors and corner lot, you'll enjoy the largest outdoor space in the subdivision at 13,900 sq. ft. perfect for entertaining. The yard features numerous fruit trees, including apple, pear, lemon, apricot, peach, and fig, providing a delightful, fresh harvest. Inside, the main floor boasts gorgeous travertine flooring and plenty of windows that fill the space with natural light. The layout includes 4 spacious bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, with the primary bedroom conveniently located downstairs. The dining room area is sure to hold the entire family and friends at the dinner table. Plus, there are two dedicated office spaces for all your work-from-home needs. With low HOA fees and RV parking, this home offers both comfort and convenience. Don't miss out on this perfect blend of indoor and outdoor living!


Above and Beyond
REAL ESTATE
www.aboveandbeyondca.com



FOOTPRINT MASSAGE

Muscle relaxation
Relieve systemic tension and stress
Relieve fatigue and soreness

Phone: 669-300-6133
Book online: footprintmassage.com
2003 Story Road, Ste. 800, San Jose

The benefits of massage are varied and far-reaching. As an accepted part of many physical rehabilitation programs, massage therapy has also proven beneficial for many chronic conditions, including low back pain, arthritis, bursitis, fatigue, high blood pressure, diabetes, immunity suppression, infertility, smoking cessation, depression, and more. And, as many millions will attest, massage also helps relieve the stress and tension. We have a professional female/male masseur to solve your physical confusion for you.

Nice!

Grand opening



SPA



Thanksgiving Christmas \$5 Discount for any item

- Full body deep massage
- Free hot stone Swedish Massage
- Deep Tissue massage
- Deep Foot massage

Holiday Spectacular

December 7 & 8
At the California Theatre

Celebrate "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" at the majestic California Theatre with **Symphony San Jose, Symphony San Jose Chorale, Cantabile Youth Singers, New Ballet, and special guests!**

Rejoice in holiday classics including carols, audience sing-alongs, and the ever-popular *12 Days of Silicon Valley*. Include friends and family and make this experience an unforgettable part of your holiday season!

Pre-Concert Festivities

Join us an hour before the concert to unleash your inner pastry artist and decorate your very own **gingerbread man** with royal icing! Then, capture the holiday spirit and create lasting memories as you take pictures and share your Christmas wishes with **Santa**. But beware! The **Grinch** might be lurking around, trying to steal some Christmas cheer.

Tickets start at \$35! We also offer a group discount for the purchase of 10 or more tickets, with a discounted rate of \$10 off the original ticket price.

www.symphonysanjose.org




Almaden Senior Association ANNUAL Soup Party

Saturday, January 18, 2025
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (soup served at noon)
\$10.00 Member & non-member
Cash or check only

Join us for homemade **Chicken Taco, Corn Chowder, Sausage Rice, and Pumpkin Squash** soup served with fresh bread and cookies.

Ticket sales will begin on **Monday, January 6th** and every MWF from 8 am-10 am in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center.

For more information call **Jeanne @ 408 425-5723**



Made with PosterMyWall.com

REAL ESTATE GUIDE



ASHLEY CARROLL
CalRE #01947565



(408) 313-1412
Ashley.Carroll@cbnorcal.com
www.AshleyCarrollHomes.com



DEE RAMIREZ
Realtor Lic. #00683945



(408) 440-7617
Dee@DeeRamirez.com
www.DeeRamirez.com

REALTORS: YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
STARTING AT \$89 PER ISSUE! Call now to place your ad by phone: (408) 494-7000



Times Local News

San José Public Library reveals top checkouts of 2024

SJ Library members' reading trends feature a children's favorite as top pick

By William Bellou
Publisher

As the San José Public Library (SJPL) turns the page on another year, librarians are excited to share their most

checked out titles by library members in 2024.

From compelling graphic novels to heartfelt memoirs, this year's top picks celebrate the diverse interests of our community and highlight the library's pivotal role in fostering a love for reading and learning.

The following titles are the top checked-out books of 2024 at SJPL:

Britney Spears' memoir, *The Woman in Me*, took the crown for the most checked-out title in the "Adult" age group, giving readers an intimate look at the pop icon's life; the prequel to *The Hunger Games*, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, by Suzanne Collins, was the top pick for "Teen" readers; and *Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea* by Dav Pilkey was the most checked-out title in the "Children" age group.

Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea by Dav Pilkey also claims the number one spot as SJPL's top checked out book across all age groups, genre, and formats, demonstrating the enduring popularity of the *Dog Man* series among readers of all ages and not just children. Fun-fact: Author Dav Pilkey was one of only two authors listed in SJPL's top ten Children's books list this year.

View the complete list of SJPL's top ten borrowed books in the adult, teen, and children's age group at: sjpl.org/BestOf2024

For more information, visit: sjpl.org/membership

Valley Water Directors approves ordinance to reduce encampments along creeks, waterways

Valley Water's Board of Directors adopted an ordinance to address the environmental, health, and safety impacts of encampments along waterways, water supply facilities, and other lands where Valley Water holds land rights on Nov. 26.

The Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance establishes new regulations prohibiting camping and encampment-related activities on Valley Water lands. The ordinance will enable Valley Water to manage encampment impacts better while working with local agencies and private partners to implement long-term solutions to address unsheltered homelessness within Santa Clara County.

"The intention of this ordinance is not to result in the criminalization of unsheltered people living along our waterways," Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh said. "Our agency's mission is to provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. By advancing this ordinance, we aim to enhance our capacity to achieve these goals while fostering collaboration with government entities and private partners to create sustainable housing alternatives for unsheltered individuals. Together, we can make significant strides in addressing homelessness and environmental concerns in our community."

The primary goals of the ordinance are to:

- Protect water resources, endangered species, riparian habitat of creeks and waterways, and other ecological resources.

- Protect Valley Water investments in flood protection and environmental mitigation projects.

- Support and improve the safety of Valley Water's field operations staff

The ordinance prohibits camping within Water Resources Protection Zones, encompassing all lands where Valley Water owns property in fee title, has an easement, or has maintenance obligations. Valley Water owns and manages 333 miles of the more than 800 miles of creeks and rivers in Santa Clara County. The remaining stretches of creeks are owned by Santa Clara County, private entities, cities in which the creeks are located, and other public agencies.

The ordinance includes a provision for an implementation plan that provides a framework and timeline for implementing the ordinance. The Ordinance Implementation Plan focuses on reducing and eliminating the most serious environmental, health, and safety impacts encampments have on the environment, unsheltered individuals, Valley Water employees and the broader community.

Valley Water will conduct widespread education and outreach to the community, including unsheltered individuals residing in encampments, advocates and social services providers who support unsheltered people, and local and law enforcement agencies.

The new ordinance goes into effect on Dec. 26, 2024; enforcement will begin on Jan. 2, 2025.

Mr. Peabody's

The Most Powerful Green Cleaning On the Planet



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Complete Carpet Cleaning,
Stone Polishing and Repair

(408) 444-9437

Serving Almaden Valley Since 1995



Drive home the savings.

Al Olseen

State Farm Agent

3267 S White Road,
San Jose, CA 95148
Phone: (408) 274-4900
Hours: 9 am - 6 pm
(Lunch 1-2 pm)

Call for competitive
Auto Insurance rates.

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.[®]
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company
Bloomington, IL

RED DOG SHRED



RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS PAPER SHREDDING

DROP-OFF SHREDDING SERVICE

WATCH IT SHRED!

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS
MULTI MEDIA

PAPER SHREDDING
\$10.00 PER BOX
10" x 12" x 15"

HARD DRIVE SHREDDING



Executive Console



RED DOG SHRED PICKS UP

JUNK IT!

- OFFICE CONTENT CLEANOUT
- DOCUMENT PURGES
- PICK UP DOCS
- ON-SITE SHREDDING

www.REDDOGSHRED.com

408-377-2925

BAY AREA - SAN JOSE • 14944 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 (Cambrian Plaza)

Times **Local News****How will the 2024 propositions affect Silicon Valley?**By **Joyce Chu***San José Spotlight*

This year's election cycle brought 10 propositions to California voters. Some will either usher in statewide changes or no changes at all.

Some residents were shocked by the rejection of Proposition 6, which would have ended forced labor in prisons. Others are celebrating the passage of Proposition 3, which codified the right to same-sex marriage in the state's constitution. Proposition 32, which aimed to raise the minimum wage, failed by a slim margin.

Here's what people in Santa Clara County have to say about the major propositions that passed or failed.

Proposition 3 enshrined the right to same-sex marriage in the state constitution. Its passage repealed Proposition 8, a measure passed by voters in 2008 that defined marriage as being between a man and a woman. Proposition 3 got 62.6% of the vote statewide. In Santa Clara County, nearly 70% voted yes.

"We're very happy. This was a huge win for us, because it was a sweeping win," Gabrielle Antolovich, board president of the Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center, told San José Spotlight. "A lot of our people didn't even realize that the California Constitution still defined marriage as a man and a woman."

While the U.S. Supreme Court allowed California to resume same-sex marriages in 2013 and legalized it across all states in 2015, the language was never changed in the state constitution.

"It's always good to have good state

constitutional policies, because you never know what's going to happen nationally," Antolovich said. "It's also a sweeping wake-up call that maybe we need to be more involved in local and state politics."

Proposition 5 failed, with 55.2% voting no. Housing advocates had banked on it passing because it would've lowered the voting threshold for future affordable housing bond measures from 66.7% to 55%. In Santa Clara County, only 46.2% voted for it.

"(Proposition 5) really was an effort to create safe and sustainable neighborhoods throughout the state of California and allow local people to determine what their cities needed," SV@Home Executive Director Regina Williams told San José Spotlight. "I think we're going to see something like that come back, because we as Californians can't allow for minority groups to prevent the majority of us from being able to improve our neighborhoods."

Earlier this year, a regional housing measure which would've infused \$20 billion in affordable housing funds across nine Bay Area counties was pulled from the ballot.

The anti-slavery measure, **Proposition 6**, would have ended forced labor in prisons and jails and repealed a part of the state constitution allowing involuntary servitude as a form of criminal punishment. It failed, with 53.4% voting no. In the county, 49.1% voted for it.

Nearly 40,000 incarcerated people are employed by the state for essential work, ranging from fighting wildfires to mak-

ing hand sanitizer, cooking, construction and cleaning for as little as 74 cents an hour. Proposition 6 would have allowed them to choose what they do and made work voluntary. It would've also allowed cities or counties to determine their pay scale in local jails.

"It's just so morally reprehensible. This is supposed to be a progressive state," local economist and community leader Chuck Cantrell told San José Spotlight. "Incarceration is an industrial complex. A lot of private prisons get free labor from people who may or may not be guilty, who should have an opportunity to better themselves and not just be tokens of slavery."

Proposition 32 would've raised the state minimum wage immediately from \$16 an hour to \$17, and \$18 an hour starting in January. Businesses with fewer than 25 people would've paid employees a minimum of \$17 an hour next year and raised it to \$18 in 2026. This proposition failed to pass with 50.8% voting no — one of the slimmest margins of all the propositions. In the county, 57.8% voted to increase the minimum wage.

Most cities in Santa Clara County pay higher than the mandated \$16 an hour, except for Campbell, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Los Altos Hills and Monte Sereno. Mountain View has the highest rate at \$18.75 an hour, followed by Sunnyvale at \$18.55. San Jose's minimum wage is \$17.55 an hour.

"People in our community more than anywhere understand how expensive it is to live in the state of California," Los

Gatos Councilmember Rob Moore told San José Spotlight. "Anyone that's working a minimum wage job is likely working a second minimum wage job."

Without the state mandating minimum wage increases, it's up to municipalities to pass wage increases.

Proposition 33 would have allowed local governments to expand rent control by repealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, a state law prohibiting rent control on housing built after Feb. 1, 1995. The housing act also allows landlords to increase rent when a new family moves in.

The proposition did not pass, with 60.2% voting against it. In the county, 59.8% voted no.

"This defeat is bad news for California, including San Jose, because unaffordable rents are the main cause of homelessness," Sandy Perry, South Bay Community Land Trust board vice president, told San José Spotlight. "So, all the time we are spending millions of dollars trying to house the people living outdoors, new people are getting pushed out of housing and into the streets by high rents."

Data shows nearly half of Santa Clara County residents are rent burdened, spending more than one-third of their income on housing. Three cities in the county — San Jose, Los Gatos and Mountain View — have rent control policies, with limitations. San Jose caps rent increases at 5%, but only covers homes built and occupied before 1979, which is approximately 38,000 apartments. Los Gatos caps it to 5% or 70% of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is higher, and Mountain View caps it to 100% of the CPI. Duplexes are exempt from

rent control in all three cities.

Once a tenant moves out, however, landlords can raise rent to market rates regardless of whether the home is rent stabilized. From 2012 to 2017, Santa Clara County lost about half of its unsubsidized affordable homes as people moved out of rent-stabilized apartments, according to a report by Enterprise Community Partners.

"Until we find a way to rein in unaffordable rents, homelessness will only keep increasing," Perry said.

Out of all the propositions, **Proposition 36** gained the most support from Californians. It will reclassify possessing certain illegal drugs and thefts under \$950 as felonies instead of misdemeanors if the person had two previous convictions, thereby increasing prison sentences. In some cases, people arrested for drug crimes will be required to complete treatment. Nearly 68.5% voted yes. In the county, nearly 69.5% voted for the proposition.

Proposition 36 undid policies in Proposition 47, passed a decade ago to reduce overcrowding in prisons by reclassifying some drug and theft crimes as misdemeanors. Retail theft has spiked 28% across the state since 2019, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

"Passing Prop. 36 was a major step toward common-sense reform but getting it across the finish line was the easy part," San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, a vocal supporter of the proposition, told San José Spotlight. "Now, it's up to all of us to ensure the voters' will is carried out effectively to stop retail theft, help break cycles of addiction and reduce homelessness."



**Now Open
and Enrolling**

Call for more information

KinderCare®
LEARNING CENTERS

**Virtual Tours
Available**

1081 Foxworthy Avenue,
San Jose, CA 95118
(408) 265-7380
www.Kindercare.com

KinderCare offers unique, expertly designed early education programs for infants as young as 6 weeks to school-age children up to age 12, which includes preschool and pre-kindergarten programs.

Times **Local News**

Almaden RV

SERVICE & REPAIR



408-289-9442
Total RV Repair Service
Complete Parts Service & Repair
SAN JOSE, CA

Cold Moon Rising

By **Matthew Frazier**
Qualified Stormwater and Water Efficient Landscaper

What does a Cold Moon mean?

Sources claim: "The Native American names for the full moon in December — as reported in the Farmer's Almanac — are the Cold Moon or the Long Night Moon." The Cold Moon gets its name because December is when it starts to get cold, although our coldest average temperatures are in January.

Native Americans and early settlers described this moon as signaling the changing season and colder weather patterns. The month was traditionally a time to prepare for winter's stronghold.

The Birth Of The Sun

Sources also claim, "A new cycle of life for the sun begins at the Winter Solstice when we honor the magnificent sun, which is born again on the darkest night, bringing a new year of life and growth with it."

Sources claim, "The Winter Solstice, or the December Solstice, is the point at which the sun's path in the sky is farthest south. At the Winter Solstice, the sun travels the shortest path through the sky, resulting in this day of the year having the least sunlight and, therefore, the longest night."

How does this affect Almaden Valley and its citizens?

The deciduous trees of winter need to find their way to our gardens, landscapes, and yards before the winter solstice and before the cold moon of December 15th this year.

When is the winter solstice 2024?

The winter solstice will occur in the Northern Hemisphere on Saturday, Dec.

21 at 4:21 a.m. EST. This means trees native to Santa Clara County and, if possible, Almaden Valley and the adjacent Valleys are best to be planted before this time at the very least.

Some Native Deciduous Trees found in California:

- **California Buckeye:** A beautiful tree that can grow over 30 feet tall. It's a deciduous tree that drops its leaves in the summer heat. The tree produces a large nut that looks like a buck's eye, and the flowers are perfume-like.

- **Western Redbud:** A small tree with glossy, heart-shaped leaves that turn darker as the season progresses. This tree produces clusters of bright pink or magenta flowers in the spring.

- **Coast Live Oak:** A recognizable tree with a large canopy and twisted branches. Oaks are a signature tree of Southern California.

- **Pacific Wax Myrtle:** A shrub growing up to 33 feet tall and producing yellow flowers in early summer. It's mainly found in northern and central California along the coast.

Other Native Deciduous Trees in California include Big Leaf Maple, Black Maple, White Alder, Desert Willow, California Black Walnut, Western Sycamore, Fremont Cottonwood, California Black Oak and Valley Oak.

Enjoy the beauty of trees

Almaden Valley Nursery was my home from June 2006 to July 2008, when I worked as a nursery salesperson and consultant to professional and residential clients, customers and guests.

The collector's corner features botanicals and horticultural items native to California and its valleys and zones. Come see what's available. The blue hues and tones of winter moonlight will bathe and imbue the canopies of your defoliated native ornamental trees. These are drought-resistant, drought-tolerant drought, and low-water-use trees.

How to be Xeri-Wise

Xeriscaping is landscaping with a minimal use of water. Homes and businesses in desert climates, such as Las Vegas, use rocks and native vegetation such as cacti in xeriscaping projects. We can also create landscaping in our valley to be Xeri-Wise with other plants and trees.

As we near the cold moon of December 15th and the winter solstice of December 21st, we can relax with a mason jar of chilled blue wines and soak in the ambiance of picturesque elements of the nights of Almaden Valley. This is an affluent region of San Jose and an epicenter of culture by many measures.

The droughts plaguing San Jose and its valleys come and go, ebbing and flowing like the shards of light from a moon-imbued night. The clay soils of our valleys are a challenge, but the trees that evolved with clay are resilient to damage and health infractions.

Go forth now, find these trees during mid-autumn, and plant them with pride. If you like, adorn them with blue holiday lights. They are your canvas, and these are your nights.

Bring the splendor of winter to your businesses and homes. Show San Jose that Almaden Valley is the epicenter of winter nights and brimming with delight.

As Thanksgiving Eve has imparted its presence and we enter the month of December, let's be thankful for the native trees of our city and its valleys. These are blessings and gifts of all sizes filled with unyielding surprises.

Editor's note: To learn more about Almaden Valley Nursery visit their website at almadenvallenynursery.com. It says, the family owned and operated Almaden Valley Nursery garden center and gift shop has served the bay area since 1975. It's more than an acre and offers a great selection of high quality plants for your landscaping needs.

One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding presents

G.R.I.T.

An Equine-Assisted-Learning Program for Women

SELF-CONFIDENCE

RESILIENCE

LIFE SKILLS

SAFE BOUNDARIES

"It is deeply healing to tap into the power of the centuries old bond between horse and human. It's truly profound that our two species, with such diametrically different views of predator vs prey, can come together in partnership and trust. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to learn what these incredible teachers have to offer us." - GRIT Participant

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

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

Contact One Step Closer for more information and to enroll
one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net 408-778-3567

The San Jose Nutcracker

December 14 - 23
 at the California Theatre

San Jose's favorite Nutcracker returns to the beautiful California Theatre in downtown San Jose, for a truly magical holiday experience. A collaboration between **New Ballet** and **Symphony San Jose**, *The San Jose Nutcracker* is a joyful holiday production that transports the well-loved story to turn-of-the-century San Jose, with historical references that highlight our valley setting as a birthplace of innovation.

My Very First Nutcracker

An enchanting performance designed specifically for **families with young children**. This unique, shortened version of the classic ballet is crafted to captivate our youngest audiences, making it an ideal first theater experience for toddlers and young families alike. Two performances only. **Limited availability.**

Tickets start at \$31.50! We offer a group discount for the purchase of 10 or more tickets, with a discounted rate of \$10 off the original ticket price. Call Ticket Office at (408) 286-2600 for more information.

www.symphonysanjose.org



Times Classifieds



Call to place your ad today!
408-494-7000

Buy/Sell

I Buy Comic Books.
Cash Paid. Alex
(408) 393-1385

Employment

LOGISTICS SPECIALIST
Analyze logistics operations. Bachelor's in International Trade related. \$62421/yr, Pummyang Shipping America Inc., 3494 Depot Rd, Hayward, CA 94545

Jewelry

M & L Jewelers
Jewelers & Watch Repair
Ring sizing - Watch bands
Watch batteries - Engraving
Stone replacement & More!
Ask about our exclusive watch battery warranties!
(408) 270-6080
3218 S. White Rd. San Jose, CA
Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am-5pm

Painting

SPRING SPECIALS!
Call us for details
LOOK!!!
FREE!!!

Free Window Cleaning w/ Ext. Paint Job!
Free Pressure Wash w/Ext. Paint Job!
Free Estimate & Color Consultation w/Job!

- Residential & Commercial
- Interior & Exterior
- Drywall Repairs
- Handyman Services

We'll Beat Any Reasonable Price!
30+ Years Experience
CA. ST. LIC #651686
Insured & Bonded
TEL: (408) 281-7500
www.faithpainting.com

Faith Painting

Mausoleum Crypt for sale

Reflections Mausoleum
For sale 254C double crypt in the beautiful Reflections Mausoleum at Los Gatos Memorial Park. The crypt is a perfect location, just above eye level. Price: 29,500. The Cemetery will make all transfers. (408) 455-8696 Tony Ranieri; OneGolfingWino@gmail.com

Shoe Repair

ANDY'S SHOE REPAIR
408-270-0850
No Shoe is Ever Too Old!

Hours:
Mon-Fri
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

2850 Quimby Rd. Suite 100 • 270-0850

Electrical Contractor

Electrical Contractor
Commercial - Residential
* Custom homes * Remodels * Lighting
* Main Panel upgrades * Car chargers
Over 25 years in business

ELECTRIC
Lighting and Power Specialists
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

1090 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 10
San Jose, CA 95125
Telephone: 408.591.3991
email: markhde@yahoo.com

Mark Herriman
Lic. #C10738461



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 "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.

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 11 am. 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 members. 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.

God is One
ੴ ਇਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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

on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJose-Gurdwara.org>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135
408-223-1562.
www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org
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 Pre-school 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

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

TOYS FOR TOTS

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

DONATE BEFORE 12/15/2024

SOS Auto Repair

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
3519 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA, 95135



*Please bring new and unwrapped toys.