

Salene Duarte is new head of Santa Clara County Fair who has deep roots in local agriculture
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San Jose highway could be named to honor Vietnamese community
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JULY 25 - AUGUST 7, 2025 ■ VOL. 42, NO. 16

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Investor purchases hundreds of acres in Evergreen Valley

Parcel of land could become part of large housing development

An investment group bought a large parcel of land in Evergreen Valley that may be joined with a property designated for a several hundred-unit housing project.

The business entity located in Orange County purchased 355.7 acres of land for \$5.5 million near the corner of Quimby Road and Mount Hamilton Road according to documents filed on July 15 with the Santa Clara County Recorder's Office.

Plans are being proposed on 517.3 acres that include 320.8 acres of the property featuring 500 residential units of which 400 would be single-family homes and 100 would be accessory dwelling units, according to the county.

In addition to the potential of hundreds of residences, the developer is eyeing several other improvements on the 517 acres, county planning files show.

Among the non-residential
See INVESTOR, page 7

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Spirit of '45 Day

WWII living history event and 1940s Swing Dance at History park August 16

By William Bellou
Publisher

Take a trip back in time to the 1940s with live big band music, swing dancing, fashion and car shows, a WWII tent city, homecoming parade, food trucks and activities for



History Day concludes with President Truman's announcement of Japan's surrender, and a homecoming victory parade.



A parade paying tribute to the end of World WWII at last year's Spirit of '45 event at History Park in San Jose. Every August, the end of WWII is celebrated, and this year marks the 80th anniversary of that date.

the whole family at this year's Spirit of '45 Bay Area event celebrating the end of WWII Saturday, August 16 from 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Since this year marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the Spirit of '45 Bay Area celebration will be a special one. On August 14, 1945, the day President Truman announced that the most destructive war in human history was over, spontaneous celebrations broke out around the world.

As the sun goes down, the victory celebration continues as History Park transforms into a

USO-style swing dance under the glow of the Electric Light Tower. The sounds of a live big band will have you jump and jive to the music of the 1940s.

Preservation of honor

Since 2007 an alliance of organizations and individuals have been working together to preserve and honor the legacy of the men and women of America's WWII generation so that their values and achievements will continue to inspire future generations - especially the youth

See SPIRIT OF '45, page 7

National Night Out to be held Aug. 5

By William Bellou
Publisher

More than 38 million neighbors across more than 16 thousand communities around the nation will participate in National Night Out held on August 5.

The event is an annual community building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood spirit to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

National Night Out is a crime prevention event that is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Jose Police Department.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local crime prevention efforts
- Build connections within the community and get to know your neighbors

On Tuesday, August 5, neighborhoods participating in National Night Out throughout San José are asked to join in a city-wide effort to strengthen their community through various gatherings. Light up your street by turning on outside lights and spending the evening with your community and local police department. It is an evening full of crime prevention tips, community member messages, music, giveaways, and fun.

For questions or event information contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133.



The event is an annual community building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood spirit.

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Photo by Valcohen Photography

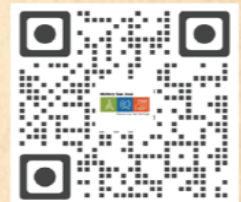
WWII Living History Day & Swing Dance

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spiritof45bayarea

History Park, 635 Phelan Ave. San Jose, CA
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Spirit of '45 is a program of the Digital Clubhouse Network, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization

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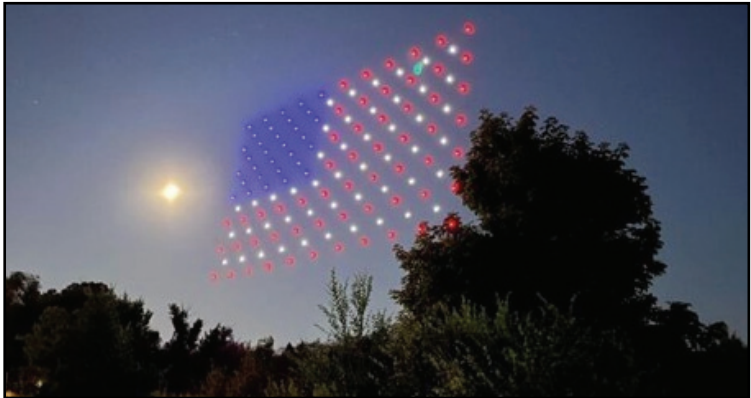
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Times **Editorial**



Drone show was successful patriotic event

By Domingo Candelas

I am pleased to announce that our Fourth of July celebration at Lake Cunningham Park was a success! More than 25,000 people joined us for a fun, family-friendly event that brought our community together for our nation's birthday. I'm grateful to my team for pivoting from a fireworks show to a



Council Report

Domingo Candelas,
District 8 Councilmember

drone show in under 24 hours. We had a spectacular drone show alongside fantastic live performances and amazing food from local food trucks and vendors. I want to express my gratitude to all of those who volunteered to support the celebration and ensured everyone had a great time. Thank you to all our community members who attended and kept the park clean and safe while treating our staff, volunteers, and other community members with respect. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your City Councilmember.

Study: California among top 10 U.S. states where teacher-to-student ratio is lowest

The research by e-learning platform, eLearning Industry, recently analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics database on public school enrollment and teacher staffing to identify the states with the lowest teacher-to-student ratios across America. California ranks third with 46 teachers per 1,000 students. Despite having 5,930,473 students and 271,586 teachers, California's ratio remains among the lowest in the nation. Looking at the study, a spokesperson at eLearning Industry commented: "According to the study, California faces the third-most significant challenges in teacher-to-student ratios. "The data suggests that this state may need to focus on teacher recruitment, retention, and resource allocation to improve educational outcomes. These findings present important considerations

for policymakers and education administrators looking to address staffing challenges." The study was conducted by eLearning Industry, a trusted platform that provides expert content and tailored marketing solutions to help eLearning platforms, HR software companies, and corporate training pro-viders grow and engage their target audience. The study analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics database on public school enrollment and teacher staffing to identify the states with the lowest teacher-to-student ratios across America.

Top 10 U.S. States with Lowest Teacher-to-Student Ratios		
State	Teachers per 1,000 Students	Rank
Arizona	44	1
Utah	45	2
California	46	3
Oregon	54	4
Florida	54.6	5
Alaska	54.8	6
Alabama	56	7
Idaho	57.1	8
Louisiana	57.2	9
Washington	58	10

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Times **Local News**

Salene Duarte is new head of Santa Clara County Fair who has deep roots in local agriculture

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Management Corporation (SCCFMC) recently appointed Salene Duarte as its new Executive Director.

Duarte, a lifelong enthusiast of the Fairgrounds previously serving as the Santa Clara County Fair Manager until June 2024. She was then appointed Co-Interim Director alongside Armando Carlos. Her permanent role as Executive Director officially began this past June.

"Salene's deep-rooted passion for the Fairgrounds is evident through her history as a dedicated 4-H member, an active participant in Future Farmers of America, and a committed leader and volunteer. She brings a wealth of experience, a clear vision for the future, and an open mind ready to embrace new ideas," said SCCFMC Board Chair Vicky Bosworth. "We are confident that Salene will be an invaluable asset to our organization, and we look forward to the innovative direction she will lead us in."

Born and raised in Campbell, Duarte's agricultural roots run deep, stretching all the way back to the early 1800s when her ancestors immigrated from Switzerland and settled as dairymen near Mt. Shasta.

Duarte's mother's family owned and oper-

ated a trucking business in Campbell, hauling fruits, nuts, and vegetables throughout what was then known as the Valley of Heart's Delight. She joined the 4-H club as a young girl, showing her first sheep at just nine years old. As a high school member of the Future Farmers of America, she won her first Grand Champion title with her steer, Shiloh. Today, she and her husband, a high school agriculture teacher, run a 100-acre cattle operation in the East Foothills of San Jose, focusing on raising and selling high-quality show calves to local youth for county fairgrounds competitions.

Over the years, as a Fairgrounds volunteer and consultant, Duarte held many roles in Fairgrounds operations, including reviewing and formatting entry books, overseeing barn layouts, managing livestock operations, organizing Home Arts exhibits, and coordinating awards and judging.

Duarte was appointed Fair Manager in 2021, where she worked to revitalize the Fairgrounds by introducing youth and open livestock shows, reactivating underutilized spaces, and leading the return of a 10-day County Fair in 2023—the first in over 20 years. Under her leadership, the Fairgrounds expanded its agriculture education programming to include livestock exhibits, com-



Salene Duarte, who first attended the Santa Clara County Fair at age 9, is now executive director of the Fairgrounds Management Corp. She says she wants to create a place where others can build lasting memories.

petitive displays, historical presentations, and the establishment of the Junior Livestock Auction Buyers Coalition, further strengthening community engagement and participation. In addition to her role as Fairgrounds Executive Director, Duarte is also the current Vice President of the Santa Clara County Cattlewomen and works closely with the City of San Jose to ensure local youth have access to animal housing at Emma Prusch Park.

When asked what she loves most about the Fairgrounds, Duarte's response is simple: "The smile on people's faces as they enjoy the magic of this place." As Executive Director, "My vision is to create a place where

others can build lasting memories like I did. I remember the nerves and excitement of showing my first lamb and the pride I felt when my steer won champion honors—a moment I'll never forget. That's what I want to offer: a welcoming home for our community, a hub where everyone can celebrate what matters to them—through festivals, expos, sports, and more—in a way that's meaningful and memorable."

The Santa Clara County Fair is slated for July 30-Aug. 3 at the fairgrounds located at 344 Tully Road in San Jose.

For more information, visit: thefairgrounds.org/events/santa-clara-county-fair-2025.

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<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

Helpful Tips:

- Know how to download your camera footage
- When mounting cameras, please be aware of places where people may have a reasonable expectation of privacy (examples: their backyard or interior of their home)
- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern
- Exterior Mounting Location Options: Front door, rear door, side gate, driveway/front parking lot, second floor wide view and street view.
- Keep batteries charged in your cameras.
- Consider lighting around your cameras.

For assistance call the Crime Prevention Unit (408) 277-4133.

SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT
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San Jose, CA 95110

Times **Local News**



Spirit of '45

Continued from page 1
of our nation. The 14-acre History Park is home to the largest Spirit of '45 events in the Country, where it was founded.

New Home Front gallery exhibit

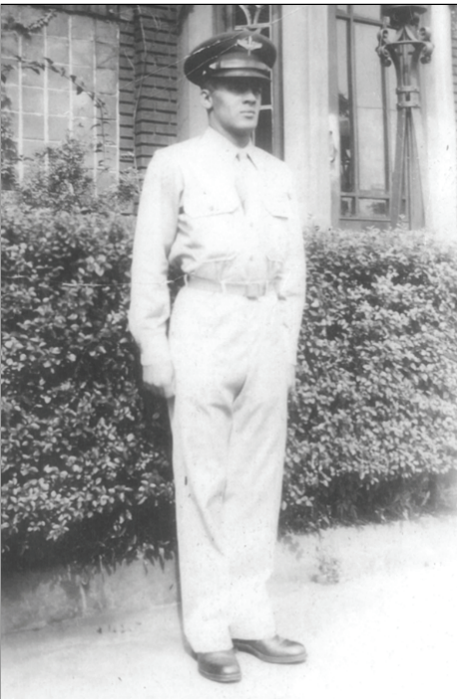
On Saturday, August 9th, "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories will open in the McKay Gallery in the Pasetta House at History Park. The exhibit will be open for special extended hours from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. during Spirit of '45.

The new exhibit brings the Home Front experience to life through the stories of San José families that contributed to the war effort, such as Captain Samuel L. Washington's service as a Tuskegee Airman, Edith Smith a Civil Air Patrol Cadet, Marilyn Larson of the Pulpaneck Navy WAVES, and Kristena Nelson De Luz, a Dietician in the Army Medical Corps.

The exhibit displays all of their uniforms, along with artifacts from History San José's collection, including a Civil Defense helmet, a riveter (just like the Rosies used!), a Navy Ships cookie tin, a ration book, and an Army blanket with 187 patches from World War II service members. "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories will be on view through October on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 3:45 p.m.

To participate in the full slate of History San José's WWII commemorative activities, view the "V" for Victory in the Valley: World War II Stories exhibit during Spirit of '45 Living History Day on Saturday, August 16. The exhibit will be open for special extended hours from 2pm to 6pm during Spirit of '45.

Tickets are on sale now -- Veterans and Rosies receive free admission. To learn more about Spirit of '45 Living History Day & Swing Dance, and purchase tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/scesw4nu>



Kristena Nelson De Luz (left), a dietician in the Army Medical Corps, and Captain **Samuel L. Washington**, a Tuskegee Airman are part of the new Home Front exhibit at History Park.

Investor

Continued from page 1
proposals, according to the planning documents:

A complex consisting of a community center, restaurant and convenience store; two riding arenas, each totaling 20,000 square feet; an event center totaling 18,200 square feet; two stable areas totaling 12,500 square feet, and an office area of 2,900 square feet.

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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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IN MEMORY

Maureen E. Ryan

July 14, 1947 - July 6, 2025

Resident of Evergreen Valley

Maureen was born in Fort Thomas, Kentucky to Elmer and Betty Vene-man. She was educated through college in Kentucky's Catholic schools.

After graduation, she went to work for ATT; First in Cincinnati, then New Jersey, New York City, and finally climbed the corporate ladder transferring to CA as a network design analyst and global sales representative. After retirement from ATT, she represented an exclusive line of ladies clothing. She took those skills to the Career Closet where, with the help of her clients, she dressed women for success as they tried to re-enter the work force.

She dedicated her time, talent, and treasure to Stone Church of Willow Glen (Presbyterian) where she served on a variety of boards, committees, and governing bodies. For a time until she could no longer, she sang in the choir.

She enjoyed golf and was once the Handicap Champion at The Villages Golf and Country Club. Also, her beach house in Aptos and



travel with her husband Michael were sources of great pleasure. She loved The Villages where she resided for twenty-eight years.

Maureen was an elegant lady and a beautiful soul who will be missed by family and friends alike. Any donations should be made in Maureen Ryan's name to the Career Closet and/or Sacred Heart Community Center. A special thanks for the love and care of Tam Vo to the end.

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Times **Local News**

San Jose highway could be named to honor Vietnamese community

By B. Sakura Cannestra

San José Spotlight

A bipartisan effort to honor San Jose's Vietnamese American community at the state level has passed a key milestone.

The state Assembly has unanimously approved a bill authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra to rename a stretch of Highway 101 in San Jose between the Story Road exit and Interstate 280/680 junction "Little Saigon Freeway." Supporters say renaming this portion of Highway 101, which is just shy of half a mile, is an important way to recognize the history and contributions of Vietnamese Americans. San Jose has the largest Vietnamese American population of any city outside Vietnam.

Kalra said this part of Highway 101 leads into the Little Saigon neighborhood, so renaming it will continue paying homage to the community.

"It gives an opportunity for folks that are coming to visit Little Saigon or those just passing through San Jose to understand the importance of the Vietnamese community to our city," Kalra told San José Spotlight.

The bill, known as Assembly Concurrent



The northbound entrance to Highway 101 from Story Road in San Jose. This section of highway could be renamed "Little Saigon Freeway" pending passage of a bill in the state Assembly authored by local Assemblymember Ash Kalra. Photo by B. Sakura Cannestra.

Resolution 71, still has to pass the state Senate. Kalra said local state Sen. Dave Cortese will carry it through. Kalra doesn't expect the bill to run into any issues on its way to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk by mid-September.

Costs aren't outlined in the bill, though it directs the California Department of Transportation to calculate the total cost for the signage. The bill suggests funding will come from "nonstate sources."

Santa Clara County District 2 Supervisor Betty Duong is the first Vietnamese American to serve on the Board of Supervisors. She said Kalra's bill recognizes the importance of Little Saigon not only for the Vietnamese American community, but all of East San Jose's immigrant communities.

"It's very special to anybody who identi-

fies with the Vietnamese diaspora, with the refugee community and with the San Jose community, that not only have we created new roots and a new homeland out of San Jose and Santa Clara County, but also that the community has accepted us as well," Duong said.

San Jose District 7 Councilmember Bien Doan, whose district includes Little Saigon, sent a letter of support for the bill during discussion on the Assembly floor. He highlighted multiple other efforts to recognize Vietnamese American heritage, including the push for a South Vietnam flag emoji.

"Little Saigon in San Jose is not only a local landmark, it is a cultural and social hub for Vietnamese Americans across the country and around the world," Doan said in the let-

ter. "We are proud of what we have built."

Philip Nguyen, executive director of the Vietnamese American Roundtable, said the organization supports the proposal, as there's a sense of cultural pride in creating this kind of landmark. He added it would be significant to rename the stretch of highway this year, which marks the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, also known as "Black April."

Nguyen said it's commendable that the bill has received support from Vietnamese American communities across the state. The bill's primary coauthor is Assemblymember Tri Ta, who represents parts of Orange County — another enclave for Vietnamese Americans that includes the Little Saigon in Westminster. Other coauthors include Assemblymembers Stephanie Nguyen, who represents Elk Grove, and Patrick Ahrens, who represents Sunnyvale.

"I feel this is a step into that direction of recognizing the social, economic and political impact of the Vietnamese American community for the 50 years after the war," Nguyen said. "There's this almost unifying factor. ... It demonstrates a more positive direction." Nguyen is worried the recognition could bring unwanted attention, as Little Saigon faces multiple immigration raids. Despite his concerns, he said it serves more to commemorate the community's history and impact on the city rather than marking the neighborhoods negatively.

"If anything, it feels like it's time," Nguyen told San José Spotlight. "It's our turn to have this space for our community."

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Symphony San Jose presents 24th season-opening program Masquerade Oct. 4 and 5

Symphony San Jose's 24th season-opening program invites the public into a world of fantasy and wild imagination

Symphony San Jose will present the 2025-26 Season-Opening Program Masquerade Saturday, October 4 at 7:30pm and Sunday October 5, at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

Anna Clyne's dazzling and dynamic Masquerade captures the spirit of celebration and revelry. Commissioned by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Masquerade is a single-movement 5-minute orchestral composition by the British-born composer, first performed September 7, 2013

San Jose-born, world-renown pianist Jon Nakamatsu appears in Sergei Rachmaninoff's ravishing Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini with a tour-de-force performance of the composer's final and perhaps most significant work for piano and orchestra. (1934)

Hector Berlioz's most famous composition, Symphonie Fantastique (Fantastic Symphony), is a spellbinding quasi-autobiographical musical journey through love, delirium, and supernatural visions. This vibrant tapestry of sound depicting the composer's descent into madness by unrequited love was nothing short of revolutionary when it premiered in 1830 – and still holds the power to thrill and surprise today.

Music Notes occur one hour prior

Jon Nakamatsu

to the concert in the main auditorium and includes an informative discussion, fun facts, insights, and interviews with featured guests. Music Notes is free of charge to concert ticket holders. It is designed to deepen audiences' appreciation of the music to be featured during the performance.

THE PROGRAM:

Anna Clyne: Masquerade
Sergei Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini
Hector Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique

ARTISTS

Conductor: Nathan Aspinall
Piano: Jon Nakamatsu
Symphony San Jose
www.symphonysanjose.org/
SINGLE TICKET PRICES: \$35 to \$115 (City and handling fees may apply.)

TICKETS: Phone: 408.286.2600; Website: www.symphonysan-jose.org
Email: jmeyers@symphonysan-

jose.org ; Walk-Up Box Office: 325 South First Street, San Jose, 95113. Located between San Carlos and San Salvador Street next to the California Theatre. Ticket Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am to 5 p.m.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED YOUTH TICKETS: SoundCheck Pass: \$25 for a season pass to all eight regular season concerts on Saturday nights. Available for ages 17 to 25. Call 408.286.2600 for additional information. SoundCheck Pass subscribers are eligible to purchase one "companion" ticket (no age limit) for just \$25 per concert. Call the Box Office for additional information and reservations. Call 408.286.2600 or email: Development@symphonysanjose.org

Convenient, inexpensive parking is available at a city-owned garage one-and-a-half blocks from the theater at San Carlos Street with entrances on Second and Third streets.

SPECIAL OPENING-NIGHT EVENT: Masquerade Fantastique begins with a red-carpet welcome and an exclusive VIP pre-concert reception with distinguished guests from San Jose's government, business, and media communities. The historic California Theatre will provide the perfect backdrop as you enjoy fine wine, delicious food, and live entertainment.

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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

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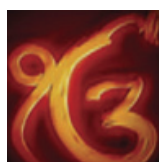


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God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

**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
408-223-1770
www.sfoasj.com
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, I.G.N.I.T.E. High School, & North Star Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Chapel, Gathering

Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, and Memorial Garden are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us in worship at any of the following times in our Chapel: Weekdays (M-Sa) at 8:30 AM; Saturdays at 4:00 PM (English) and 5:30 PM (Vietnamese); Sundays at 8:00 AM (English), 10:00 AM (English), 12:00 PM (English), 4:00 PM (Vietnamese), and 6:00 PM Youth Mass (English). The Villages Gated Community also features a Mass on Sundays at 8:15 AM at the Cribari Auditorium. For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Office 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!



thepoint.church

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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
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