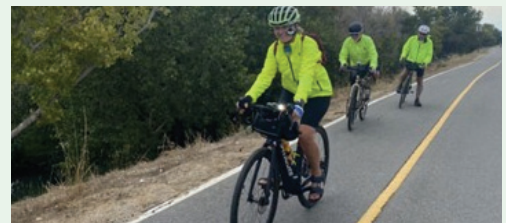


San Jose brings 150 homeless neighbors indoors; removes nearly 300K lbs. of trash  
**SEE PAGE 4**



More San Jose residents utilize local recreational trail following homeless camps sweep  
**SEE PAGE 5**



OCTOBER 2025 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 10

# Willow Glen Times

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Cancer survivor **Alex Camp** and her husband **Kyle**, at this year's Cancer CAREpoint annual Garden Party. Alex is AVAC's Tennis and Pickleball Office Supervisor.

## AVAC hosts Dink4Pink fundraiser to fight against breast cancer

*October 4 charity event brings pickleball community together to raise \$50,000, benefiting Cancer CAREpoint, a nonprofit supporting Bay Area cancer patients, survivors and families*

By William Bellou  
Publisher

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the award-winning Almaden Valley Athletic Club (AVAC), will rally the community and its love of pickleball to fight against breast cancer during its Dink4Pink charity event held Saturday, October 4th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### The Heart of the Event

Every year, thousands of women are diagnosed with breast cancer, and it's not just happening to middle-aged or older women. AVAC's Tennis and Pickleball Office Supervisor, Alex Camp, was diagnosed with breast cancer at 35. Considered 'too young' for screenings, which typically start at 40, she had to advocate hard for imaging. Soon after, doctors confirmed she had breast cancer that had already spread to her lymph nodes despite being in an early stage.

While she's cancer free today, her journey was one of the most

*See DINK4PINK, page 8*



Valley Water joined forces with the Creek Connections Action Group to remove litter and debris from creeks across Santa Clara County on Coastal Cleanup Day. Photo courtesy of Valley Water.

## More than 15,000 volunteers rallied to remove more than 25,000 pounds of trash on Coastal Cleanup Day

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Valley Water joined forces with the Creek Connections Action Group to remove litter and debris from creeks across Santa Clara County on Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, September 20.

More than 15,000 volunteers removed thousands of pounds of trash entering San Francisco and Monterey bays. The effort reflects a shared commitment to protecting the environment, supporting healthy ecosystems and preventing trash from entering local waterways.

Local cleanups were part of the larger effort organized by the California Coastal Commis-

sion, where volunteers were on the hunt for litter in creeks and rivers statewide.

Of the approximately 25,885 pounds of trash and recyclables collected this year, interesting items included a boombox, a mini-fridge, a message in a bottle and a 3D-printed lizard.

"Coastal Cleanup Day is an inspiring reminder of what we can achieve when we come together as a community," said Valley Water Board Chair Tony Estremera. "I want to thank all the volunteers, families and partners who made this effort possible."

In addition to collecting trash, the county-wide cleanup served as an educational oppor-

*See CLEAN-UP, page 6*

## San Jose on the hunt for new e-scooter provider

By B. Sakura Cannestra  
San José Spotlight

San Jose is looking for a new e-scooter partner after negotiations with the exclusive vendor fell through.

Scooter users were surprised to see an announcement in the Spin app saying it would end services on Aug. 27 in San Jose. City officials said they declined to renew the company's permit because Spin never deployed the required minimum of 500 scooters. But a Spin representative said the city didn't

address rampant vandalism.

Colin Heyne, spokesperson for the transportation department, said Spin had a one-year contract with the option to extend it another year. The permit allowed Spin to deploy up to 1,000 scooters citywide, but city data shows the company only deployed about an average of 240. Heyne deferred questions about why Spin couldn't reach its minimum requirement to the company.

"We hoped that giving a permit to a sole operator would make San Jose a more enticing market," Heyne told San José Spotlight.

Shiraz Rosenthal, a government partner manager for Spin, said the company lost more than 400 scooters to theft or vandalism in the first half of 2025, a "significant portion" of the company's fleet. She said they tried

*See SCOOTERS, page 6*



## San Jose reins back plan to put police on horses

By William Bellou  
Publisher

The San Jose Police Department is pushing to reinstate its mounted horse unit, which disbanded in 2018, but they will most likely have to wait until next year to potentially get back in the saddle.

The Police Horse Mounted Unit has operated for more than 100 years but was disbanded in 2018 due to financial and staffing difficulties.

The San Jose City Council voted last week to hold off on reinstating the San Jose Police Department's Horse Mounted Unit.

Councilmembers Peter Ortiz, Rosemary Kamei, Anthony Tordillos, Domingo Candelas, Pamela Campos and David Cohen voted in favor of deferring the request to next year's budget approval, citing a projected \$25 million deficit.

Mayor Matt Mahan and Councilmembers George Casey, Michael Mulcahy and Bien Doan voted against the delay. Councilmember Pam Foley was absent.

Pictured above: San Jose Police Department's Horse Mounted Unit. File photo



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# San Jose brings 150 homeless neighbors indoors; removes nearly 300K lbs. of trash

Dozens more will soon be housed in tiny homes, motel placements

The City of San José recently began clearing Columbus Park — launching the city’s largest clean-up operation in the last decade.

When work began, 370 people occupied the park, including 11 children and over 50 seniors living in unsafe, unmanaged conditions. There were also 120 lived-in vehicles, the majority of which were inoperable.

“As we’ve cleared Columbus, we’ve removed nearly 100,000 pounds of trash and moved about 40 people indoors – every single week,” said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. “This is an incredible achievement made possible by many departments working in tan-



dem to create the change our residents have been demanding. We have a long way to go, but we’re proving in San Jose that when you create basic, dignified housing, require people come indoors and establish no encampment zones, we can maintain lasting progress.”

After extensive outreach over a 70-day period, approximately 65% of those occupying Columbus Park had agreed to come indoors as of last week, and more than 160 peo-

ple have since moved into shelter placements. Casa Linda and Fontaine Inn are both now at capacity and move-ins will continue this week at the Alura Hotel, Bristol Hotel and the Taylor Safe Sleeping Site.

“The progress at Columbus Park speaks to our unwavering commitment to reduce unsheltered homelessness and improve our neighborhoods,” said City Manager Jennifer Maguire. “It shows what is possible when we combine compassion with

action. We are helping residents move into safer living conditions while preparing the park to be a place of pride and belonging for the entire community.”

Police, Fire and BeautifySJ teams have since made significant progress cleaning up the park, removing nearly 300,000 lbs. of trash and 110 vehicles from the area. Potable water distribution and city outreach services continue to be offered on site.

Willow Glen Times

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After your time at the Disney Museum we will take the bus to Pier 39 for lunch and shopping on your own before returning home.

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Date: Thursday October 16, 2025  
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Times Community



San Jose says more cyclists and pedestrians are using the Guadalupe River Trail now that it's banned homeless people from living near city waterways. Photo by Joyce Chu.

# San Jose river trail use up after homeless sweeps

By Joyce Chu  
San José Spotlight

More San Jose residents are utilizing a local recreational trail following a city ban on homeless camps in the area.

That's according to city data and environmental advocates, who also say more wildlife is returning since no encampment zones took effect last year. San Jose has worked to clear homeless people living near rivers and creeks and keep them from coming back. The mayor has previously said roughly 90% of pollution in local waterways is caused by homeless encampments, and the city is under scrutiny to comply with the Clean Water Act and reduce pollution in its waterways, or face a fine.

Several cyclists who zipped along the Guadalupe River Trail near San Jose Mineta International Airport on Thursday said they've noticed fewer homeless people and encampments along the trail.

"The city's been trying to clean this for years now," John Diquisto, one of the cyclists, told San José Spotlight. "In federal law, they can't have all this contamination going into any river system that goes into the bay, so it's a tough one."

San Jose began clearing its waterways last year after the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board denied the city a stormwater permit because it was found to be noncompliant. The city approved a plan last February to sweep multiple homeless camps along the Guadalupe River Trail and prevent people from returning.

Data provided by the city shows Guadalupe River Trail usage increased by 110% after the city swept the area from Woz Way to Julian Street. Usage increased 36% when it cleared Julian Street to Coleman Avenue. The city continued sweeping the trail up to Interstate 880.

A parks department spokesperson said the city also measured use of the Guadalupe River Trail during peak hours — including week-day mornings and evenings — before and after enacting the no encampment ban.

The city conducts a yearly count of how many people use its trails, which has gone up and down over the years and varies by trail. The Three Creeks Trail near Willow Street decreased from 414 people using it over a 12-hour period in 2022 to 339 in 2024. The Guadalupe River Trail near Coleman Avenue has increased from 440 people in 2022 to 569

in 2024.

Jason Su, executive director of nonprofit Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, said they are seeing more people fishing along the trail and there are more sightings of deer and wild turkeys.

"It's just all a reminder that this is a wild river with the ecosystem through it, and just by allowing it to thrive, it will show its own evidence of recovery," Su told San José Spotlight.

The city has 21 no encampment zones, including around its eight tiny home sites, along sections of the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek, around public spaces such as Watson Park and most recently Columbus Park.

Columbus Park has been home to several large homeless encampments that have been cleared over the years. The most recent sweep started in August, with an estimated 370 people living in the park. It has been cleared as of Monday. Almost 200 people have moved into motels recently converted to house homeless residents.

"The work around Columbus Park is just one of many," District 6 Councilmember Michael Mulcahy, who represents the area, said at a Thursday news conference. "It's a major piece, but just one of many investments and actions taken to make sure that we can bring this asset back to its full potential and deliver it back to the city of San Jose and all of its citizens as a regional draw."

Todd Langton, founder of nonprofit Agape Silicon Valley, said the city did not offer housing to most of the homeless people he knew living along the waterways.

"The creeks and the parks needed to get cleaned out. But this could have all been prevented long ago, if we'd put more effort into taking care of our unhoused," Langton told San José Spotlight. "I wish the city would put as much effort into housing as they put into cleaning all these spaces."

Su said in clearing the waterways, people can utilize and appreciate the beauty of the city's natural habitats.

"Through the pandemic, more people have realized the importance of parks in increasing public health," Su said. "All those benefits to health can only happen when the park is well maintained and the ecosystem is balanced, thriving and regenerative."

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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.

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### Times Community News

## Scooters

*Continued from page 1*

to work with city officials to renew the contract, but San Jose required Spin to pay a permit fee for the maximum 1,000 scooters, which wasn't financially feasible.

"While we're of course disappointed that it came to this, it was an honor to provide the community's residents and visitors with access to eco-friendly, alternative transportation options," Rosenthal told San José Spotlight.

Micromobility devices, such as e-bikes, skateboards and scooters, were controversial when they first began popping up, but companies working alongside local governments and regulators have made them more consistently accessible. While Spin's e-scooters have disappeared from San Jose, the city is still part of the Lyft Bay Wheels program, which provides rentable e-bikes at dozens of stations.

Heyne said Spin asked for a lower scooter number for the additional year extension, but the city rejected the request because it ran counter to the micromobility program's goals to provide accessible and effective transportation services.

City data shows people used the scooters one to two times every

day. The highest number of scooters available in one month was November 2024, when 499 scooters could be found throughout San Jose.

Spin scooters can still be rented in partnering cities nationwide, the closest being San Francisco.

Monica Mallon, transit advocate and San José Spotlight columnist, said she used the scooters a few times a month and wanted to use one last weekend before she saw the announcement in the app. The scooters weren't available in Mallon's neighborhood, so she could only use them when traveling through more highly trafficked areas, such as downtown.

Mallon said she's seen more people use bikes and scooters on public transit to reach their final destination. She said renting a shared scooter can be more accessible than buying one, because the rider doesn't need to worry about maintenance or theft.

Cities across Santa Clara County have been looking to provide "last-mile" connections, to help residents travel shorter distances from transit hubs or homes. Santa Clara and Cupertino jointly contract with an on-demand micro transit ride-share service, Silicon Valley Hopper, which Sunnyvale plans to sign up with soon.

## Clean-up

*Continued from page 1*

tunity, raising awareness about the impact of litter on local ecosystems and encouraging sustainable practices in everyday life.


Valley Water encourages year-round community involvement through its Adopt-A-Creek Program, inviting volunteers to help protect and preserve local waterways. Program partners monitor trash in their adopted creek segments and organize at least two cleanups annually.

Beyond volunteer cleanups, Valley Water is committed to reducing litter throughout the year. With programs such as the Good Neighbor Program, Valley Water helps remove thousands of pounds of trash annually from waterways across the county. These ongoing efforts play a vital role in protecting fish and wildlife, improving water quality and ensuring our local creeks remain clean and healthy.

The Coastal Commission reports that approximately three-quarters of the waste collected by volunteers over the past 40 years is plastic. Additionally, 80 percent of the trash collected originates on land before eventually making its way into waterways and draining out to the ocean.

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Times **Local News**

**WATERWISE**

# Water challenges are formidable

By Matthew Frazier

San Jose is being confronted by a set of formidable water challenges.

The potential for devastating wildfires continue to bring anxiety among residents and local officials alike.

Although the immediate impacts of the drought were somewhat alleviated by statewide water reserves that had accumulated from the previous two wet winters, the precarious scenario that unfolded warranted urgent action and a collective response from the community.

## Statewide Water Conditions

California's overall water supply painted a mixed picture as July ended. Thanks to two consecutive winters marked by generous rainfall, reservoir levels across the state were at a commendable 108% of their historical average. This figure offered a temporary sense of relief amidst the uncertainties; however, as dry summer conditions settled in, major reservoirs began to release substantial amounts of water to satisfy various allocations. Particularly in San Jose, this was a critical juncture for water management.

## Regional Disparities

The rainfall distribution throughout California also revealed alarming disparities. While Northern California was fortunate enough to bask in near or above-average precipitation in the lead-up to summer, San Jose found itself in stark contrast, experiencing a severe rainfall deficit. The situation worsened as Southern California grappled with dramatically low rainfall levels, amplifying the risk of drought conditions in that part of the state. Additionally, the Sierra Nevada snowpack, a crucial reservoir for summer runoff, showed signs of weakness as it slipped below the average levels late in winter.

Locally, while San Jose managed to avoid an official drought declaration, the statistics revealed a concerning reality: the city recorded its driest June in an astonishing 131 years. This was more than just a record; it was an alarming indication of the severe environmental conditions we faced. The U.S. Drought Monitor provided some reassurance, noting that as of late July, Santa Clara County remained drought-free. Nevertheless, the prevailing dry trends posed an imminent risk that could swiftly change the status quo. With every passing day devoid of significant rainfall, the future of water security in the region hung in the balance.



**Water Wise**  
Matthew Frazier,  
Certified Water  
Manager

## Local San Jose Conditions

Locally, while San Jose managed to avoid an official drought declaration, the statistics revealed a concerning reality: the city recorded its driest June in an astonishing 131 years. This was more than just a record; it was an alarming indication of the severe environmental conditions we faced. The U.S. Drought Monitor provided some reassurance, noting that as of late July, Santa Clara County remained drought-free. Nevertheless, the prevailing dry trends posed an imminent risk that could swiftly change the status quo. With every passing day devoid of significant rainfall, the future of water security in the region hung in the balance.

Compounding these anxieties was the escalating risk of wildfires ravaging through dry landscapes, made worse by rising summer temperatures. Predictions released by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) indicated a higher-than-normal fire potential in Northern California for August and September, amplifying the urgency for enhanced fire preparedness and robust community safety measures. The combination of dry vegetation and high temperatures left many areas vulnerable to fires, leading to increased apprehension among residents regarding fire safety in their neighborhoods.

## Wildfire Risk

Compounding these anxieties was the escalating risk of wildfires ravaging through dry landscapes, made worse by rising summer temperatures. Predictions released by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) indicated a higher-than-normal fire potential in Northern California for August and September, amplifying the urgency for enhanced fire preparedness and robust community safety measures. The combination of dry vegetation and high temperatures left many areas vulnerable to fires, leading to increased apprehension among residents regarding fire safety in their neighborhoods.



Immediate action is crucial to ensure water security and mitigate the burgeoning risks of wildfire as the community enters a prolonged dry season. The responsibility lies not only on local agencies but also on individuals and families to engage in proactive measures that safeguard precious water resources and promote fire safety awareness.

By embracing a collective spirit of vigilance and responsibility, the residents of San Jose can work together to navigate these challenging times, fostering a more resilient community that is better equipped to face whatever environmental hurdles may lie ahead. The time for action is now, and through cooperation and preparedness, we can ensure a brighter, safer future for San Jose.

# Senator Cortese's bill reducing wildfire risk while protecting native plants approved by assembly

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff reporter

Senator Dave Cortese's (D-Silicon Valley) Senate Bill 653 that defines and promotes environmentally sensitive vegetation management to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk while protecting native plants and wildlife was passed by the California Assembly Sept. 8. The bill now goes back to the Senate for approval.

This bill was passed as the peak of California's year-round wildfire season gets underway running through the fall including significant risks from Santa Ana winds in Southern California.

"My bill about vegetation management is so crucial because it addresses a key tension between wildfire prevention and environmental conservation. Senate Bill 653 is a science-based approach that eases that tension and is protective on all fronts," said State Senator Dave Cortese. "This bill will help guide state agencies that fund these projects to prioritize certain ecological best practices while reducing long-term catastrophic wildfire risk."

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# South San José Senior Walk 2025

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Times **Feature**

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## O'Brien's Ice Cream Parlor reopens

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Originally a much beloved neighborhood spot in San José, the real O'Brien's first opened its doors in 1874 and quickly became known for its charm and friendly service. The tradition lives on inside the historic re-creation, where hand-scooped ice cream brings the past to life.

O'Brien's is once again serving up a sweet taste of nostalgia—this time with hand-



scooped favorites from Santa Cruz's own Marianne's Ice Cream.

Try O'Brien's new HSJ taffy mixes! The Orchard Mix includes Sakauye Farmhouse Pear, Dawsons Canned Peaches & Arbuckle Apple, and the History San José mix features Light Tower Lime, Peralta's Prickly Pear & O'Brien's Vanilla Cone.



## Party time!

**Sam Seibert**, a retired captain who served with the San Jose Fire Department for 30 years celebrates his 106th birthday celebration at the San Jose Fire Museum on Aug. 26. Siebert is most likely the oldest known living firefighter in the United States. "The years have been good to me," says Seibert, who retired in 1976. He was joined by generations of family and friends.



*The Almaden Senior Association is 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.*

### Senior Safari is back this summer.

Visitors ages 50 and up are invited to visit San Jose's iconic Happy Hollow Park & Zoo for free on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from May to October. The LAST opportunity to take advantage of this great event is Thursday, October 23rd. Get some fresh air and exercise as you enjoy free admission, free parking, early entry to the park, the zoo, animal meet and greets and much more. To get in free, you must arrive between 9 and 10 am.

### Walt Disney Family Museum/Pier 39, Thursday, October 16, 2025:

Take a bus trip to the Walt Disney Family Museum, at the Presidio, San Francisco. Enjoy learning about the life of Walt Disney and his journey from birth to his first drawings, cartoons, films and the creation of Disneyland. Many static and interactive displays to see and enjoy. Then on to Pier 39 for lunch and shopping on your own before returning home. Depart ACC 8:15am. Return around 4:30pm. \$70 Cash or Check. Contact Rich at 408-219-8641 for more information.

### Diwali event, Sunday October 26, 2025:

Celebrate Diwali, Festival of Lights with a menu of traditional Indian fare and entertainment of classical and modern dances. October 26, 2025, 12noon to 3pm. Tickets are on sale now, \$25 for members, \$28 for non-members. Contact Narender at 408-623-3106 or Bharat at 408-930-7244 for more information.

For these events and trips, sign up MWF from 8 to 10am in the Almaden Community Center Lobby. All events and trips are for those 50 years and over. Payments are cash or check only, sorry no refunds.

**Almaden Senior Association**  
 at the Almaden Community Center  
 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120  
<https://almadenseniors.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/almadenseniors>

## Dink4Pink

*Continued from page 1*

challenging life events she's had to navigate. Cancer CAREpoint, a local nonprofit offering free support and resources to patients, survivors, families and caregivers, was a vital part of her support system.

"Dink4Pink is a full circle moment for me," said Alex Camp, cancer survivor and AVAC's Tennis and Pickleball Office Supervisor. "A year ago, I never imagined I'd be here. I'm deeply grateful for the chance to give back to Cancer CAREpoint, an organization that's very close to my heart. I encourage everyone to sign up for the Dink-a-Thon and help us reach our goal of \$50,000 to make a real impact in the fight against breast cancer!"

### Dink-a-Thon: Rally to Raise \$50,000

The charity event's main draw is the Dink-a-Thon, a pledge-based fundraiser that encourages participants to gather "per game pledges" before the event. On game day, they will have a 10-hour window of open play to get as many games in as they can, using their pledges as incentives. The event aims to raise \$50,000, with all pro-

ceeds going towards Cancer CAREpoint.

All levels are welcome, including beginners. AVAC will host complimentary beginner clinics for adults and juniors (8 and older). Those who want more action can sign up to play in a one-point tournament where the first to win a single point advances to the next round, making it anyone's game.

### Cheer, Watch & Connect

If you want to support the cause without playing come cheer on Dink-a-Thon participants, watch exhibition matches featuring local pros, bid in the silent auction, or try your luck in the raffle. Cancer CAREpoint representatives will also be onsite, sharing resources and answering questions.

"Whether cancer has touched your life or you simply want to support a meaningful cause, Dink4Pink is the place to be," said Josh, Director of Tennis and Pickleball at AVAC. "The event honors AVAC's tradition of bringing the community together and giving back to life-changing causes. We hope to see you there!"

For more information or to register for the Dink-a-Thon and start collecting pledges, visit [www.avac.us/dink4pink](http://www.avac.us/dink4pink)

Times **Community News**



A fire engulfed the former Mexican American Community Services Agency youth center building in East San Jose on Aug. 29, 2025. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert.

## Future of East San Jose youth center uncertain after fire

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*San José Spotlight*

A devastating fire that recently gutted a vacant youth center in East San Jose hasn't diminished the community's desire to restore it for future use.

The former Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA) building burned down Friday, breaking the hearts of Eastside advocates who want to revitalize and reuse the space. The Alum Rock Union School District, which owns the property, held an emergency meeting the next day to authorize assessing what remediation and possible demolition needs to occur. The San Jose Fire Department is still investigating the cause of the fire.

"There is a substantial amount of debris," Rogelio Ruiz, district legal counsel, said at the meeting. "There are tall standing structures that are burned out that are leaning. There is asbestos contained in building materials ... and potentially some lead as well. All of these materials are in a very tight and close community, and of course, in proximity to the classrooms (at Renaissance Academy at Mathson)."

The emergency designation — approved unanimously by the board of trustees — allows the district to skip the two-month bid process to select who will handle the work. It also needs approval from Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools David Toston. District officials expect to have structural engineers at the site this week.

"We failed this community in so many ways already," Trustee Corina Herrera-Loera told San José Spotlight, adding she was speaking for herself and not the board. "We must clean that up as soon as possible so our community can have a clean space and hopefully one day rebuild so our community can enjoy it again."

Jessica Paz-Cedillos, co-executive director of the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza and San José Spotlight columnist, is determined to rebuild MACSA. Her group is part of the Si Se Puede Collective, which has been working to partner with the school district on managing a revitalized facility.

"This fire does not erase our vision for MACSA," she told San José Spotlight.

"This is our moment to come together, to work with the district and our cross-sector partners, to restore and rebuild. What rises from these ashes must reflect the resilience, brilliance and leadership of East San Jose."

The MACSA youth center, which has been empty for about a decade, was built with state funds. Alum Rock Union School District leased the land to the nonprofit for 52 years for \$1 per year, but when the property was turned over to the school district in 2016, it was in a state of disrepair.

When the district received bids to renovate the building in 2017, the lowest bid was \$6.9 million, more than the district could afford. As construction escalated, renovation costs skyrocketed between \$25 million and \$30 million. The district engaged in partnership discussions with Gardner Health Services, Goodwill of Silicon Valley and San Francisco State University to no avail.

### East San Jose school district seeks partner to save former youth center

In 2023, the district chose a 23-acre site adjacent to the MACSA youth center to build workforce housing, which would require demolishing the building. That kicked off efforts to save the site.

Investing in the youth center is personal for District 5 Councilmember Peter Ortiz, who represents the area. He said MACSA played a major role in his life as a gang-impacted youth, with ethnic studies classes teaching him positive things about his culture.

"There hasn't been a lot of historical investment on the Eastside," Ortiz told San José Spotlight. "This represented a promise to this community. The people feel like that promise is shattered, but I'm not ready to say that yet. Now is not the time to raise our white flags. Now is the time to come together ... and advocate for a new solution."

He said he recently secured \$500,000 in city funding to restore MACSA, which he believes is more than just a building.

"It was a promise and a vision for East San Jose that we will get the equitable services that we are deserved," he said. "That we will get all of the programs, resources and financial support that was denied to our parents, that was denied to our ancestors."

Victor Vasquez, co-executive director of SOMOS Mayfair, which is part of the Si Se Puede Collective, wants to see the district recommit to a new youth center. He spoke at a vigil at MACSA after the fire, where residents placed flowers along the fence line to mark the loss of the building — still a symbol of resilience and cultural pride for the community.

"(The district has) an opportunity to restore hope in our community," he said. "That center's for their students. The kids still need a gym. They still need a field. They still need a library. They still need a place to hangout and feel safe. We're not going to give up. We're inviting them to be part of something greater than all of us. That building is sacred."

Almaden Senior Association Presents

## Diwali

Festival of Lights

Celebrate with us at the Almaden Community Center

Sunday, October 26, 2025, from 12 noon to 3pm

Enjoy a multi-course Indian lunch

The menu includes an appetizer of Samosa (potatoes in a crispy pastry) w/mint & Tamarind Chutneys, Green Salad, Raita (yogurt w/cucumber)

Entrees: Chana Masala (Garbanzo beans), Cauliflower w/potatoes and peas, Saag Paneer (Cheese and spinach curry)

Sides: Jeera Rice, Roti and Paratha (Indian bread)  
Dessert: Ras Malai (Cottage cheese balls soaked in sweetened milk)  
Drinks: Mango Lassi (mango yogurt shake), Indian tea and coffee

Enjoy a yoga demonstration, Indian Classical Dance and Bollywood dances (audience participation encouraged)

Drawings for gift baskets and gift cards

Tickets: ACC Members \$25, Non-members \$28, Cash or check only.  
A table can be reserved with a purchase of 8 tickets. (Sorry no refunds)

Ticket sales for ACC members begin on Monday September 22.  
M, W, F 8:00-10:00am in the lobby of the  
Almaden Community Center  
6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120

Ticket sales for non-members start Friday October 3

For further information call Narender at 408 623-3106  
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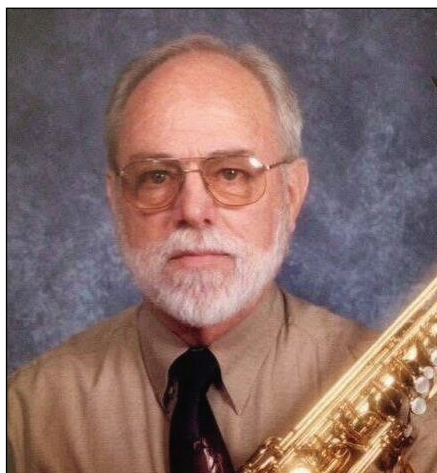
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## Times In Memory



### Ernest (Ernie) Anthony Lima

June 17, 1941 - September 6, 2025

Graduate of Willow Glen High School

Resident of San Jose Ernest (Ernie) Anthony Lima passed away peacefully on September 6, 2025, at the age of 84. He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Linda; his sons Stephen (David), Michael (Alayne), and Shawn; and his cherished grandchildren, Sarah Ann and Jacob. Ernie was predeceased by his parents, Anthony and Ann Lima, and his

brother, Tony Lima.

A passionate saxophonist, Ernie's love for music defined his life and inspired many. He devoted 40 years to teaching music in the MHUSD, leading students on memorable trips from Europe to Disneyland and sharing the joy of music wherever he went. Ernie graduated from Willow Glen High School and San Jose State University, where he earned the John Phillip Souza award in 1959 and graduated with honors. He also served proudly in the Air Force National Guard Band.

In retirement, Ernie continued to share his music, performing at retirement homes, enjoyed flying kites, playing golf, and attending Sons of Sicily dinners. He was an avid Bay Area sports fan and car enthusiast, passions he shared with his sons and grandchildren. Above all, Ernie was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, and friend, always supporting his family's activities and cherishing time spent together.

Ernie's legacy endures through the music he shared, the lessons he taught, and the memories he created. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Ernie's name to the San Jose Jazz Education Fund or a charity of your choice. As per his wishes, no service will be held. Ernie will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.



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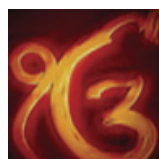
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