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More San Jose residents utilize local recreational trail following homeless camps sweep
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Kim Hung Jewelry store owner (center) is shown just before being slammed to the floor during a 'smash and grab' by a dozen robbers. The owner suffered a stroke along with bleeding cuts and bruises. The 40-year-old store is located on Aborn Rd. in Evergreen.

Evergreen jewelry store owner recovering after an afternoon 'smash and grab' by a dozen thieves

By William Bellou
Publisher

A San Jose business owner is recovering at home after he suffered a stroke while being assaulted during a recent smash-and-grab robbery on Aborn Rd. Now the family is not certain they will continue operating their family store.

More than a dozen thieves ran into the Kim Hung Jewelry after ramming a car through the front window of the store and it was all caught on a terrifying video.

His niece was heartbroken watching the video back as the
See ROBBERY, page 3



Astronomy talk with Dr. Patrick Miller at Evergreen Valley College

Evergreen Valley College recently hosted Dr. Patrick Miller as part of an Astronomy talk on asteroids and debris fields.

Dr. Miller is part of the International Astronomical Search Collaboration of 70,000 citizen scientists. The group leads to original discoveries in a program funded by NASA.

Texas' Dr. Patrick Miller led discussions throughout the day on campus to a variety of STEM students culminating in an evening lecture in Gullo II.

Miller has taught for 52 years and is a professor of math and astronomy.



EVC Astronomy professor Mike Masuda, EVC President Viniçio Lopez, dean Antoinette Herrera, and Astronomy's Celso Batalha stand behind Dr. Patrick Miller.



Santa Clara County and San Jose officials celebrated the opening of Bellarmino Place and Alvarado Park on Sept. 17, 2025. The apartment buildings provide a place for more than 200 low-income and formerly homeless people to live. Photo by Joyce Chu.

Santa Clara County rolls out more affordable housing

By Joyce Chu
San José Spotlight

More than 200 households have been given stability with the opening of two affordable housing developments near Diridon Station in San Jose.

City and county officials on Wednesday celebrated the opening of Bellarmino Place and adjacent Alvarado Park, which will provide housing for older adults and people at risk of homelessness. The Santa Clara County Housing Authority owns and developed both apartment buildings with a combination of public and private funding.

The 6-story Bellarmino Place has 116 apartments for people making 30% to 60% of the area median income, or between \$60,250 to \$117,120 for a family of four.

The building will also accommodate 24 formerly homeless households. The nearly \$97 million project received more than \$10 million from Santa Clara County, \$34 million from the housing authority and \$52 million from Wells Fargo.

The 5-story Alvarado Park provides 90 apartments for older adults making 30% to 60% of the area median income, including 23 apartments for people at risk of homelessness. The nearly \$70

million project received \$10 million from the county, nearly \$22 million from the housing authority and \$24 million from Enterprise.

"This work matters, because permanent housing is the only sustainable solution to ending homelessness," Santa Clara County District 4 Supervisor Susan Ellenberg said at the opening. "Without that stability, individuals and families are forced into cycles of crisis, moving from shelter to streets and back again."

The \$20 million provided by the county came from Measure A, a \$950 million affordable housing bond passed by voters in 2016. Bellarmino Place and Alvarado Park are just two of more than 60 affordable developments funded through the bond, bringing 5,700 new apartments for formerly homeless people and those living paycheck to paycheck.

That includes people such as 63-year-old Eileen Smith, who subsists on a fixed income. She said she's been waiting to get into affordable housing for a decade. Homes described as affordable were still as expensive as \$2,000 a month and in bad condition. Though she has never lived on the streets, she said there have been times she has had to sleep on other

See HOUSING, page 3

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Times **Local News**

Robbery

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robbers slammed her uncle to the floor resulting in bleeding cuts and bruises.

"My heart was pounding, mad, angry, worried," she said, describing her feelings as she watched it back. The owner's niece didn't want to give her name out of concern for her safety.

"My 88-year-old uncle wasn't feeling well and was packing up early for the day when the robbery happened," said the niece. "The thieves made sure he wouldn't intervene in the crime, and they slammed him down to the floor."

"He started talking to me, just one sentence, 'We ready to go home?' 'We ready to go home?'" she said. She said he kept asking the same question.

"When I asked him something, he looked at me, but it was not looking. He was kind of confused".

Due to the owner's condition, an ambulance was called to take him to the hospital. Later doctors confirmed Hung had a stroke.

More than a dozen community activists stood outside of King Hung Jewelry calling for change, including the founder of the Coalition for Community Engagement, Edward Escobar.

"Small businesses cannot withstand these types of attacks," said Escobar. Escobar believes crimes against small businesses are all too common and many are never documented.

"What we're experiencing also is a lack of reporting of crime by business owners, especially small business owners," Escobar said. "Why? Because their business insurance may be canceled."

Fortunately, since Hung was not feeling well and was packing up early, most valuable jewelry was already in the safe, but the front of the building was destroyed and is now boarded up.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee said that the robbery caused more than \$100,000 of loss for the store, not including medical bills or compensation for emotional suffering.

The owner has been in business for more than 40 years, but his niece thinks this may be the end of the road for him.

"I don't think he's coming back," she said.

Housing

Continued from page 1

people's couches.

"I was a check away from being homeless," Smith told San José Spotlight. "I can't even describe the feeling of independence now that I've regained (housing). Having the opportunity to move into this area, this building, I feel whole again."

There are 10,711 homeless residents in Santa Clara County — an all-time high — based on preliminary results from a point in time count conducted in January. Homelessness has increased despite significant investments in temporary and permanent housing, with more than 1,300 affordable apartments constructed over the past two years funded through Measure A.

All Measure A money has been allocated as of last year. More developments are expected to come online in the next few years, and the county is strategizing for other ways to fund future developments.

Preston Prince, executive director for the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, said they've been able to fund more projects this year as a result of Measure A and the partnerships they have with the county, the state, San Jose and nonprofits like Destination: Home.

"In 2025, the state has awarded funds to eight new developments that will result in 970 units of affordable housing in Santa Clara County," Prince told San José Spotlight. "Five more projects have submitted applications and are currently pending award results. This year has been one of the most successful funding years for Santa Clara County."



Eileen Smith said she has stability now that she lives at Bellarmino Place. Photo by Joyce Chu.



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Times Local News



Leaders speak out against Measure A sales tax increase

Rishi Kumar (above, with mic), candidate for County Assessor joined a coalition of leaders to speak out against Measure A, the proposed 0.625% sales tax increase on the November ballot.

At a recent press conference in front of the Santa Clara County Government Center, former Saratoga Councilmember and current County Assessor candidate Rishi Kumar joined a coalition of leaders to speak out against Measure A, the proposed 0.625% sales tax increase on the November ballot.

"Santa Clara County doesn't need another tax hike — it needs accountability, reform,

and efficiency," said Kumar. "We are no longer a county operation; we are a health-care operation that is actually running a county. That's not justified at all."

Measure A would push the countywide sales tax rate above 10% in cities like San José, Milpitas, and Campbell.

Kumar emphasized that Measure A raises only \$330 million per year, a fraction of the \$3 billion annual deficit projected by 2030. "This isn't a plan. This is a band-aid, and an expensive one," Kumar said. "County leaders bought bankrupt private hospitals bleeding red, saddling taxpayers with hundreds of millions in losses. Rather than fixing structural waste or conducting forensic audits, they've rushed another tax to the ballot."

Kumar concluded: "Santa Clara County has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. No more blank checks. No more bailouts for mismanagement."

Campos wants her city council seat back

A former state lawmaker from East San Jose, **Nora Campos** (inset below), has announced her candidacy to reclaim her District 5 City Council seat in next year's elections.

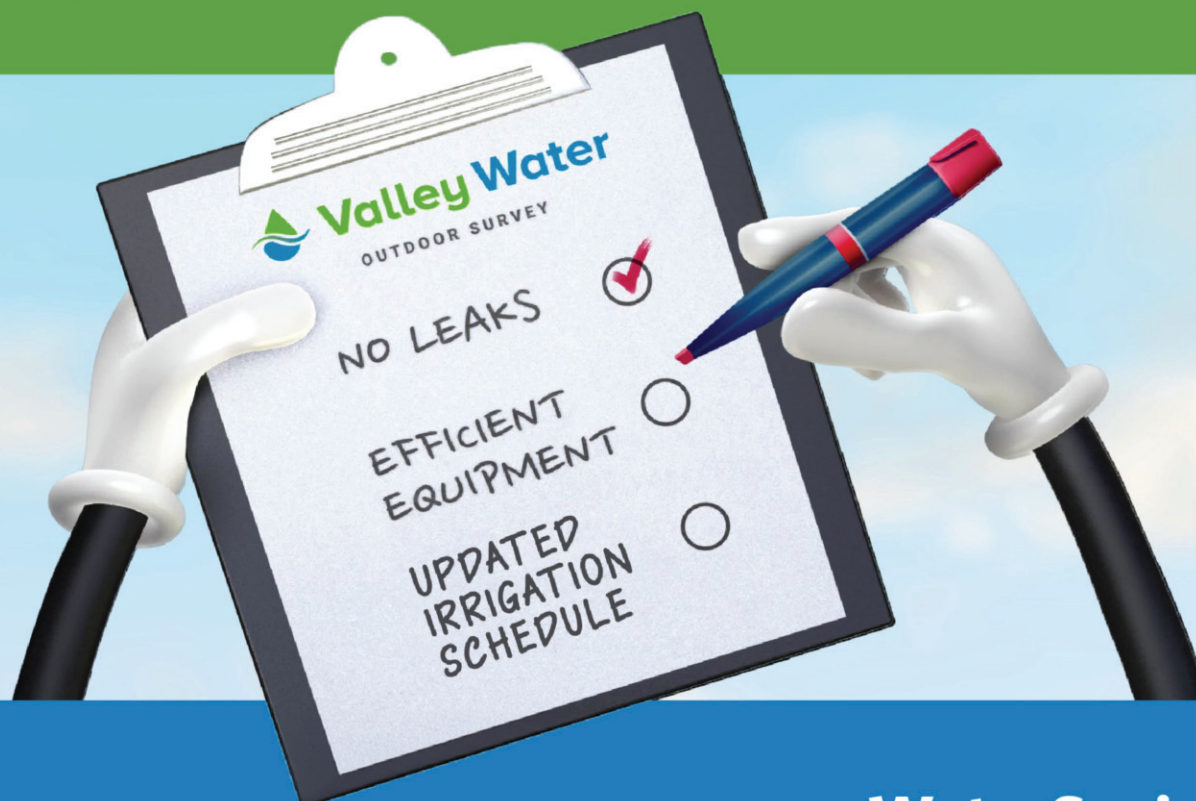
Campos previously served on the council from 2001 to 2010, later joining the state Assembly until 2016, and has worked as a consultant for 55 Advisors. She ran for the council seat in 2022 but lost to Peter Ortiz.



Her campaign focuses on affordable housing, parks and youth programs, homelessness, and small business support. Campos credits her past leadership with helping revitalize Story and King roads, supporting VTA's light rail extension to Eastridge, and hiring more police officers.

She emphasizes her commitment to listening to residents and addressing gaps in their quality of life.

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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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Times Local News

Erosion and Sedimentation in San Jose

Navigating Challenges and Paving the Way for Environmental Solutions"

By Matthew Frazier

Times Media Columnist

In vibrant San Jose, erosion and sedimentation are pressing challenges impacting local creeks, rivers, and the expansive San Francisco Bay ecosystem. As we delve into the sources of these issues, it's clear that both natural forces and human activities play a significant role.

Sources of Erosion and Sedimentation:

- Construction Activities: The bustling construction scene, with its demolition, grading, and concrete pouring, can disrupt soil stability. This upheaval leads to land erosion and the transport of harmful pollutants—like paint, solvents, and oil—into storm drains, ultimately contaminating local waterways.

- Heavy Rainfall and Stormwater Runoff: San Jose's Mediterranean climate introduces seasonal rainfall that can accelerate soil erosion, particularly during heavy storms. The resulting stormwater runoff carries sediment downstream, exacerbating the problem.

- Altered River Flow: Construction and human modifications can obstruct natural river paths, increasing erosion. When sediment accumulates and vegetation overgrows, it can compromise the flow of creeks and rivers, heightening the risk of levee failures.

- Land-Use-Related Erosion: Activities such as hillside farming, neglected roads, and off-road vehicle use further aggravate erosion, posing significant risks to soil integrity.

Consequences of Erosion and Sedimentation:

- Water Quality Degradation: Sediment pollution is a significant concern for local streams and the San Francisco Bay. Poorly managed grading activities elevate sediment levels, which can carry toxic pollutants like pesticides and metals, threatening aquatic life and human health.

- Damage to Aquatic Ecosystems: Elevated sediment levels can harm aquatic organisms, reduce light penetration, and disrupt fish behaviors and survival rates. Turbidity, caused by excessive suspended sediment, can have debilitating effects on marine life.

- Increased Flood Risk: Sediment and debris buildup can obstruct waterways, leading to heightened flood risks during heavy rainfall. Effective sediment removal is essential to maintaining proper stormwater flow.

- Damage to Infrastructure and Property: Erosion threatens natural habitats, See *EROSION*, next page

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Times **Local News**

Erosion

Continued from previous page

private property, and crucial public infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and transportation systems. The expansive clay soils prevalent in eastern San Jose often lead to structural issues in buildings, making careful management essential.

- Increased Maintenance Costs: Excess sediment in streams and bays escalates maintenance costs due to the need for ongoing sediment removal efforts.

Mitigation and Control Efforts:

- Regulations and Ordinances: The City of San Jose actively enforces its Grading Ordinance, which mandates the implementation of erosion and sediment controls on construction sites, especially during the rainy season.

- Best Management Practices (BMPs): Regular inspections ensure that BMPs are effectively implemented at construction sites to safeguard water quality. Techniques such as fiber rolls, silt fences, hydroseeding, and erosion control blankets are commonly utilized.

- Green Infrastructure: Innovations like permeable pavements and rain gardens enhance soil structure, minimize runoff, and help filter pollutants.

- Stream Maintenance Programs: Agencies like the Santa Clara Valley Water District conduct vital stream maintenance tasks, such as sediment removal and bank stabilization, to bolster the environment and mitigate flood risks.



- Restoration Projects: Initiatives like the Upper Guadalupe River flood protection project focus on enhancing channel stability and restoring habitats.

- Soil Management: Strategies like cover crops can significantly reduce erosion, while specialized engineering and moisture management are necessary to address the challenges of expansive clay soils.

In summary, San Jose faces dynamic challenges related to erosion and sedimentation, driven by its natural landscape and human activities. These problems threaten water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and infrastructure while increasing flood risks. However, through concerted efforts involving regulations, innovative practices, and restoration projects, the city is taking significant strides to mitigate these issues and protect its environment for future generations.

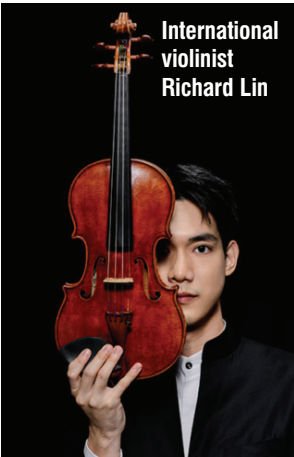
Music, History and Community Upcoming Events for October

Noon Thursday, October 2
FREE American Beethoven Society Noon Concert Series
Verve Trio presents
Beethoven's majestic Piano Trio in B-flat, Op. 97, "Archduke"
The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies
MLK Jr. Library, Schiro Hall, 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose

3 p.m. Sunday, October 5
San José Wind Symphony in partnership with San José State University Wind Ensemble present
Common Threads
McAfee Performing Arts Center, 20300 Herriman Ave, Saratoga

7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 11
South Bay Guitar Society presents Duo Exaudi
St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Ave, San Jose

3 p.m. Sunday, October 12
South Valley Symphony – Adventures Around the World
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Guglielmo Winery, 480 E. Main Ave, Morgan Hill

3 p.m. Saturday, October 18
Winchester Orchestra – Myths and Monsters: A Halloween Concert
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3 p.m. Sunday, October 19
TWO SVAC MEMBERS – POWER!
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Noon Friday, October 24
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tarian Church of San Jose
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First Unitarian Sanctuary, 160 N. Third St., San Jose

7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 25
Nova Vista Symphony – From Formosa to Vienna
Featuring international violinist Richard Lin 林品任 in the Bay Area premiere of Tyzen Hsiao's Violin Concerto in D
De Anza Visual & Performing Arts Center, Cupertino

2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 26
Mission Chamber Orchestra – New Horizons
Featuring Ricardo Martinez, saxophone, performing Lee Actor's Saxophone Concerto
With guest performers from Piedmont Hills High School
Hammer Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose

Noon Thursday, October 30
FREE American Beethoven Society Noon Concert Series
Beethoven's Song Cycle
An die ferne Geliebte, op. 98
Featuring: Christine Brandes, soprano; Nicholas Mathew, fortepiano; Birgit Lodes, musicologist.
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Times **Local News**

SJ Police ramps up retail theft fight

Small-business security cameras to be linked

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

South Bay officials are launching a pilot program that provides technology for small businesses to connect their security cameras directly to the police department so that crimes can be monitored in real time in a move aimed at mitigating retail theft, they said at a recent news conference.

The announcement from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the San Jose Police Department comes after a smash-and-grab robbery at Kim Hung Jewelry store on Aborn Road in Evergreen drew international attention.

Video of the robbery shows a car crashing into the storefront before more than a dozen masked figures enter and begin

breaking the glass jewelry cases; one of the robbers violently shoves the 88-year-old elderly owner of the store to the ground.

Relatives of the store owner said he suffered a stroke after the robbery.

The new anti-theft program is funded by a \$100,000 grant provided by the District Attorney's Office and will allow about 200 businesses to be equipped with the new technology, Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen announced.

"Organized retail theft gangs are terrorizing our community, and they're not just destroying store fronts and stealing jewelry," Rosen said at the press conference.

"They're destroying dreams, stealing livelihoods and making it difficult for mom-and-pop store owners to put food on the table for themselves and their children."

The grant will allow the small businesses to connect security cameras they already have installed to SJPD's real time intelligence center, which will then allow police to respond to incidents more quickly, Rosen said. The cameras will also allow officers to disseminate descriptions of suspects and their vehicles to responding officers, according to a news release.

The district attorney's office is contributing another \$50,000 to install concrete planters in front of small businesses who do not have security cameras or whose police departments do not have an existing network connection, Rosen said. The planters will help block cars from driving through the front. The \$150,000 funding the program came from a consumer protection lawsuit against Google, according to



Santa Clara County District Attorney **Jeff Rosen** speaks at a news conference in front of Kim Hung Jewelry in Evergreen. The store was robbed last month.

a news release.

"This community — our community — watched in fear as a senior was assaulted," said San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan. "We're taking action to assure our community that they are not alone, and we are empowering them to help prevent these cases and ensure faster and more effective investigations."

Joseph added that SJPD is working diligently to bring the people suspected of robbing Kim Hung Jewelry to justice.

San Jose City Councilmember Bien Doan

said that the jewelry store owner is "doing OK at this point." Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee said that the robbery caused more than \$100,000 of loss for the store, not including medical bills or compensation for emotional suffering.

"Our work together is dedicated to protecting you from harm and ensuring that we feel safe within this community," Lee said. "We are proud to say that Santa Clara County is a safe community, but it only takes one crime, one incident for us to feel very shaken in our confidence."



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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 weekday 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."



Jason Su, executive director of nonprofit Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, said there are more people fishing along the trail and more sightings of wildlife, such as deer and wild turkeys. San Jose Mayor **Matt Mahan** and District 6 Councilmember **Michael Mulcahy** stand behind him. Photo by Joyce Chu.

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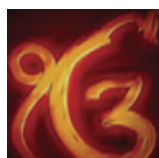


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