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New California state laws now in effect

By William Bellou
Publisher

Happy Diwali - Californians will get the day off to celebrate Diwali on November 9, 2026, one of the most important holidays of the year for Indian Americans and South Asian Americans.

Several bills signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom have recently taken effect.

The 2026 roster of new California legislation includes measures addressing artificial intelligence chatbot regulation, a prohibition on declawing cats, and the observance of a new state holiday.

California's New State Holiday

Beginning in 2026, Californians will observe Diwali as an official state holiday. Diwali, one of the most significant annual celebrations for Indian Americans and South Asian Americans, is scheduled according to the lunar calendar, resulting in a variable date each year. In 2026, Diwali falls on November 8, with the holiday observed on Monday, November 9. The Bay Area hosts the largest Diwali celebration in North America.

Food Delivery Services

Assembly Bill 578 introduces consumer protections impacting food delivery platforms such as DoorDash, Uber Eats, and Grubhub. Under this law, companies must provide full refunds via the original payment method for orders that are late, incorrect, or

See STATE LAWS, page 7

Thankful Together Celebration: Two groups of honorees nurtures people and places

By Michele Dexter
Special to the Times

Almaden Valley Community Association's (AVCA) fourth annual Thankful Together Celebration, held last November, was a heartfelt reminder of how quiet, consistent service shapes a community.

In this final article in a three-part series, we highlight two groups of honorees whose work nurtures both people and place. Their efforts—one rooted in environmental education, the other in meeting basic human needs—reflect the many ways compassion and commitment ripple outward in Almaden Valley and beyond.

BioSITE is a long-standing environmental science program that brings students out of the classroom and into local creeks and watersheds. Honorees Rob Zaccheo, Bhek Morton,



BioSITE Honorees with Councilmember George Casey and AVCA Vice President Gary Hector.

and Jessica Torres of Pioneer High School, along with Kirsten Audet of the Children's Discovery Museum, were celebrated for sustaining a program that sparks curiosity while building stewardship. Through BioSITE, students don boots, grab sampling trays, and discover firsthand how healthy ecosystems function—and why they matter.

What makes BioSITE especially powerful is its emphasis on mentorship. High school students guide small groups of elementary students through hands-on investigations, from

identifying aquatic insects to testing water quality and studying native plants. These repeated field experiences create bonds between students of different ages and turn learning into a shared adventure.

Since its founding in the 1993-94 school year, BioSITE has reached nearly 26,000 students from 40 schools, inspiring generations to care for the natural spaces flowing through their neighborhoods.

Learn more about BioSITE at <https://>
See THANKFUL, page 11

Check in on your fitness goals during AVAC's New Year Kickoff event

The family-friendly event features complimentary classes and fitness assessments to support fitness goals in 2026

Free body testing, pickleball clinics, kids' fun fitness program, 10-min neck and shoulder massage signups, and free prizes

By William Bellou
Publisher

With fitness among the most common New Year's resolutions, the Almaden Valley Athletic Club (AVAC) is inviting the community to its New Year Kickoff event, a day to check in on their fitness goals, try new activities and build healthy habits for the year ahead.

The community open house will take place on Saturday, January 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature complimentary InBody testing, a non-invasive body composition analysis; exer-



cise machines learning and technique safety class designed to build confidence around new exercise equipment; a variety of strength and group fitness classes; pickleball clinics and open play; and NinjaZone fun fitness programming for kids. Participants can also sign up for a 10-minute neck and shoulder massage with an AVAC Massage Therapist and enter to win prizes throughout the event.

"When people set New Year's fitness resolutions, confidence and support make all the dif-

ference," said Jeff Doty, General Manager of AVAC. "We created the New Year Kickoff event to give people a welcoming space where they can try new classes and learn how to build a routine that sticks based on their interests and fitness level."

New Year Kickoff Event Highlights and Schedule:

Assessments & Safety Class

• 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Complimentary InBody Assessments

See AVAC KICKOFF, page 7

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A new year, a new beginning

By Bryan Golden

The New Year is a time of resolutions. It's a time when people commit to making a change in their life. Losing weight, changing jobs, saving money, making money, a new relationship, getting in shape, going back to school, or giving up smoking, are just some of the goals people set for themselves on January 1st.

Although it's possible for anyone to make a change or a new start, it takes determination, commitment, and persistence. A new goal must be your own. You have to really want it. Without a burning desire, your motivation will fade quickly. It's virtually impossible to make a change due to external pressure.

You may agree with what someone else wants you to do, but it's very difficult to succeed without an internal drive. So to successfully make a change or reach a goal, you have to make sure it's what you really want.

Don't start off on the wrong foot



by making excuses as to why you will probably fail. If you don't truly believe you can do it, you won't. People who do this will say something like, "I'll try to do it, but ..." Or you may hear, "I tried before and it didn't work but I'll give it another go." Before you begin, make sure the only things you are telling yourself are, "I can," "I will," and "I will do whatever it takes."

A new beginning is a three-step process. You have to first know what you want, formulate a plan to achieve it, and then take the nec-

essary action to get it. Setting a specific goal is essential. The more detailed the better. If you want to lose weight, how much and by when? If you want a new job, what will it be and how much will it pay? If you want to save money, how much and how often?

Next, you need a plan. Just like your goal, your plan must be as detailed as possible. If you are going to lose weight, what will your menu be each week? Are you going to go on a specific diet, cut out certain foods, or just eat less? For finding

a new job, what will be your strategy? Do you need a new resume? Will you look online, in classifieds, use an employment agency, network, cold call, or all of these? If you want to save more money, in what areas will you cut back? Do you know where your money is going? Have you created a budget?

You want your plan to be doable. The smaller the steps are, the more likely you will be to succeed. Any time you feel a step is too big, break it down further. It doesn't matter how small each step is so long as you keep going and never give up.

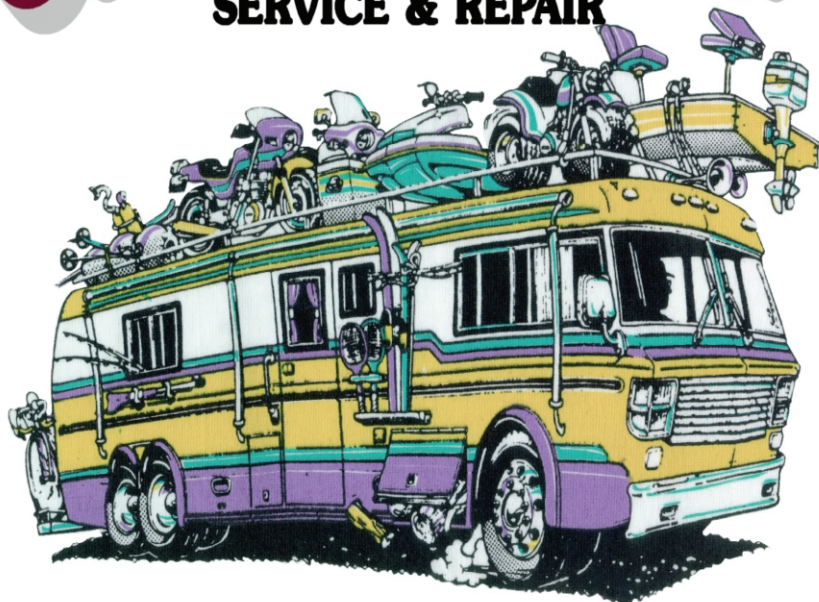
Losing 20 pounds may feel overwhelming but dropping two pounds a month doesn't seem too bad. If you keep at it for 10 months, you will reach your goal. Saving \$3000 might appear beyond reach, but cutting \$9 a day on family spending is manageable.

Finally, you must take action. The best goals and greatest plans will go nowhere without action. The reason you divided your plan into small sections is so it would be easy to take action, one day at a time. All you have to do is keep going, until you achieve your goal.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright Bryan Golden

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Times **Local News**

Reps. Panetta, Kim reintroduce bipartisan bill to crack down on porch pirates

United States Representatives Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) and Young Kim (CA-40) reintroduced bipartisan legislation to address the nationwide increase in mail theft.

The Maximizing Agency Integration on Letter (MAIL) Theft Act would crack down on thieves who steal delivered packages from homes by requiring cross-agency coordination on the issue of mail theft and raising it as a priority for federal law enforcement.

While the United States Postal Service (USPS) and US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) have increased enforcement and arrests, these crimes are spread out across local communities where police are already stretched thin. According to USPS and USPIS, as of last year, arrests for robbing letter carriers were up 73 percent. Between 2019 and 2022, letter carrier robberies increased sixfold, and high-volume mailbox theft increased 87 percent. Just last month, a housing complex in San Jose was the target of mass mail theft, forcing residents to resort to using P.O. boxes or retrieving mail promptly.

The MAIL Theft Act requires federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the

United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), to work with state and local law enforcement to better protect our communities from postal theft and develop a coordinated federal approach to mail theft which is targeting neighborhoods nationwide.

“Too many delivered packages are being stolen from homes,” said Rep. Panetta. “The MAIL Theft Act will help investigate and solve these types of crimes by ensuring that federal agencies are backing up our local law enforcement with a coordinated federal response. As more and more people rely on mail order delivery, Congress must play its part to ensure that delivered packages are protected.”

“During the holiday season, families should be focused on time together — not stolen checks and missing packages,” said Rep. Kim. “Rising mail theft is hurting communities and putting postal workers at risk. The MAIL Theft Act strengthens coordination across all levels of law enforcement so we can stop these crimes, protect workers, and restore peace of mind for families in California. I’m proud to work alongside Rep. Panetta to help introduce this common-sense legislation, just in time for the holidays.”

Last March, Rep. Panetta wrote to Postmaster Louis DeJoy and USPIS Chief Inspector Gary Barksdale to request assistance in resolving egregious mail theft taking place in California’s 19th Congressional District. Rep. Panetta called on postal leaders to prioritize mail theft deterrence in South San Jose, including the approval of individual

See THEFT, next page



Panetta, LaHood reintroduce bipartisan legislation to simplify retirement savings options for seniors

By William Bellou
Publisher

United States Representatives Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) and Darin LaHood (IL-16) reintroduced the Retirement Simplification and Clarity Act.

The bipartisan legislation can provide more flexibility and clearer guidance to Americans navigating retirement savings decisions. The bill would empower individuals with options and digestible information for securing their financial futures.

“Navigating the various methods of saving for retirement can get very complicated, very fast,” said Rep. Panetta. “This bipartisan bill helps Americans plan for retirement by making the process simpler and giving

them more flexibility. By helping Americans make informed decisions about their savings, we can strengthen their financial security for retirement and the years ahead.”

Specifically, the Retirement Simplification and Clarity Act would implement key recommendations from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to streamline the complicated 402(f) notice process. A 402(f) notice is the document provided to individuals who leave an employer and request a distribution from their 401(k) plans. The notice outlines distribution options and their tax implications.

Under the bill, the IRS would be directed to redesign this notice in clear, straightforward language. The revised version would provide plain explanations of all distribution options, including rolling over savings into a new plan or leaving them in the current one, so that individuals can make well-informed decisions about their retirement funds. Additionally, the legislation would broaden in-service rollover options by allowing individuals aged 50 and older to transfer funds from their employer-sponsored 401(k) accounts into an annuity account.



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.

Soup Party, Saturday January 24, 2026, Noon

Join us for all you can eat soup until they are gone. Four homemade soups served with fresh bread and dessert. The soups will be...

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Tickets go on sale Monday, January 5th from 8am-10am and every M/W/F in the Almaden Community Center lobby \$14, Cash or check, For more info call Jeanne at 408-425-5723

Save The Date, Steinbeck Museum, Thursday March 5, 2026

Travel with us to the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas with lunch at The Steinbeck House. We'll go by bus from the community center to Salinas for a tour of the Steinbeck Museum. Afterward we will have lunch at Steinbeck's childhood home a block away from the museum. Along with lunch, a docent will tell us about the house and Steinbeck's life there as a young boy. Time, price and start of ticket sales to be announced.

All events and trips are for those 50 years and over. Payments are cash or check only (sorry no refunds).

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State law

Continued from page 1
unfulfilled, rather than issuing credit towards future purchases. Additionally, platforms are required to offer customer support through human representatives, not solely automated responses. Itemized breakdowns of pay and fees must be presented, and tips or gratuities can no longer be used to offset driver base pay.

Limits on Immigration Enforcement at Schools

The Safe Haven Schools Act (Assembly Bill 49) enhances protections for students and their families by restricting immigration enforcement activities on K-12 campuses. School officials may only permit access to nonpublic areas by immigration agents when presented with a judicial warrant or court order. The sharing of student or family records with immigration authorities is also limited to instances with appropriate legal authorization.

Parking Fine Relief

Local governments in California now have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive parking penalties for individuals demonstrating financial hardship, including those experiencing homelessness. Assembly Bill 1299, effective January 1, allows for applications for parking citation payment plans and applies statewide to local parking enforcement.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi stated, "California is home to over 750,000 K-12 students with undocumented parents, and fear of immigration enforcement disrupts their ability to learn and thrive. AB49 ensures that schools continue to be safe havens where all students, regardless of their family's immigration status, can pursue their education without the looming threat of deportation."

Folic Acid Fortification in Corn Flour

A new statute requires most commercially sold corn masa flour and corn tortillas to be fortified with folic acid. Nutritional experts highlight the role of vitamin B in reducing birth defect risks during pregnancy. This change aims to help prevent severe birth defects annually, particularly among Latino households, which were previously exempt from federal fortification requirements. Exemptions apply to certain small producers and fresh masa made on-site.

Regulation of AI Chatbots

Senate Bill 243 mandates clear disclosure to users interacting with AI chatbots designed to simulate personal relationships. Platforms must implement safeguards against self-harm, including protocols for responding to suicidal ideation and

providing crisis resources. Lawmakers characterize this bill as a pioneering effort to regulate emerging consumer AI technologies.

Insulin Price Cap

Effective January 1, large health insurers in California must cap copayments for insulin at \$35 for a 30-day supply. This requirement will extend to individual and small-group plans in 2027. Approximately two million Americans rely on insulin for diabetes management. The American Diabetes Association praises the legislation, stating it will offer critical financial relief to those dependent on insulin.

"For far too long, many Americans with diabetes have made the difficult decision to ration this life-saving medication to pay for other necessities, such as groceries or rent," the organization said in a statement. "This legislation will provide much-needed financial relief for people living with insulin-dependent diabetes."

Requirements for Landlords

Assembly Bill 628 stipulates that, after January 1, tenants signing, amending, or extending leases are entitled to a stove and refrigerator in good working condition, unless otherwise agreed upon at lease signing. Landlords are also required to repair or replace these appliances within 30 days if subject to recall.

Employee Protections for Tips

Senate Bill 648 expands protections for employees receiving tips. Employers are prohibited from deducting credit card processing fees from tips and must disburse credit card tips no later than the next regular payday following the authorization of payment. Violations may be investigated by the state Labor Commissioner's Office, which is empowered to issue citations or initiate civil litigation.

Comprehensive Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

Legislation has closed loopholes in California's previous ban on single-use plastic bags. Thicker plastic bags, previously considered reusable, are now prohibited from supermarkets. Customers are encouraged to bring reusable totes on shopping trips.

Theft

Continued from previous page
curbside mailboxes, new physical security standards for cluster box units, and clarity on a nationwide strategy to address this epidemic. Rep. Panetta is also a cosponsor of the bipartisan Protect Our Letter Carriers Act which would appoint an assistant U.S. attorney to prosecute postal crime, amend sentencing guidelines related to the assault of a postal employee, and replace old mail collection boxes with high-security models.

District 10 Team is working hard

By George Casey

Hard to believe that last month marked one year as your councilmember.

The D10 Team has worked hard to serve you and represent your interests.

Together, we organized neighbors to make our community more connected, held events to spread the word on emergency preparedness, and spotlighted the talents and achievements of our awesome District 10 neighbors.



I am honored to stand for the interests and values—fiscal responsibility and common-sense solutions—that you entrust me to uphold.

As we enter 2026, I am grateful

for all we've done together and filled with excitement for what we will accomplish in the new year.

From the D10 Team, we wish you and your family Happy New Year!

AVAC Kickoff

Continued from page 1

- 10:00 a.m. | Machine Learning and Technique Safety Class
- AbsoluteFIT Small Group Training**
 - 10:00 a.m. | AbsoluteFIT
 - 11:00 a.m. | AbsoluteFIT
- Group Exercise Classes**
 - 9:30 a.m. | Zumba
 - 10:30 a.m. | Core & Lower Body Power
 - 11:30 a.m. | Beginner Strength Pilates

- 9:00 a.m. | Mixed-Level Reformer
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- 11:00 a.m. | Beginner Mat Pilates
- Pickleball**
 - 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Advanced Open Play
 - 12:00–1:00 p.m. | Beginner Pickleball Clinics
- NinjaZone (Ages Walking–11)**
 - 9:45–10:30 a.m. | Baby Ninja
 - 11:30–11:50 a.m. | Lil Ninja (Ages 3–5)
 - 12:00–12:20 p.m. | Ninja Training (Ages 5–11)

- 12:30–1:00 p.m. | Open Gym (Parents & Kids)
 - Recovery**
 - 9:00–10:30 a.m. | Complimentary 10-Minute Chair Massages
- Class sizes and massages are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are encouraged to RSVP and can reserve spots on the day of the event by visiting event booths. To learn more or RSVP visit [avac.us/nyko](#). For more information, please visit [www.avac.us](#).

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San Jose uses AI to streamline government

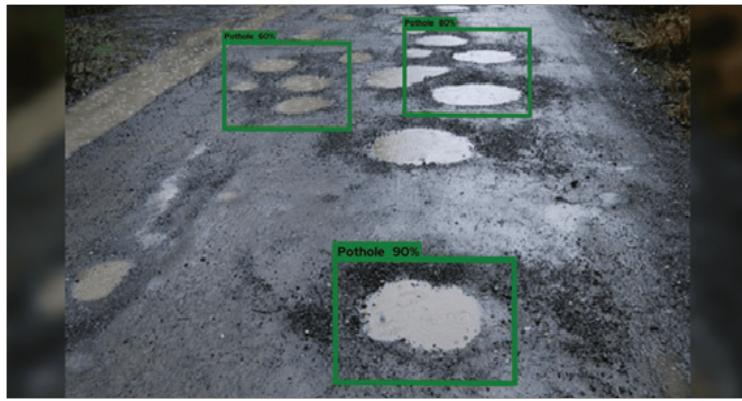
By Vicente Vera
San José Spotlight

San Jose is a beehive of artificial intelligence innovation, with the city continuing its integration of the technology into everyday services to improve the lives of residents.

Now that AI is more accessible than ever, Mayor Matt Mahan along with other city officials are using it to identify problems and strategize solutions. San Jose is already using AI to optimize public transit, translate languages, review documents and find street issues like potholes, graffiti, broken street lights, illegal dumping and more — all before they're noticed by residents. And the city is just getting started.

"We can detect and predict when things need to be happening, and when things need to be resolved before they become a challenge or issue for the public," San Jose Chief Information Officer Khaled Tawfik told San José Spotlight. "This is really important to us since we are in the capital of Silicon Valley."

The city ramped up its AI integration campaign last November when it launched the GovAI Coalition to set standards for responsible use of AI in government. They have since recruited more than 300 cities and 700 government employees focused on the coal-



San Jose is using artificial intelligence to detect potholes across the city. Photo courtesy of City of San Jose.

tion.

"The goal is, instead of us walking alone and reinventing the wheel in every city, we believe we can come together, divide the work and tackle this challenge collectively," Tawfik said. "What we have proven in the last six months is when government works together, we can achieve a higher quality of work."

While road safety is one of the main areas to see AI integration, San Jose backed away from data collection related to homeless people sleeping in their vehicles after advocates raised privacy concerns.

AI expert and San Jose State University Professor Ahmed Banafa said integrating AI will further San Jose's image as a "smart city."

Examples of using AI to make the city more efficient include traffic management, emergency responses, routine city business reviews and more.

"There can be a chatbot or a ChatGPT device that will answer my questions in a very intelligent way — then take that information and report it," Banafa told San José

Spotlight. "They can report if there's a lot of people asking about a topic on the city council agenda, why aren't people asking about a topic, what's the issue and examples like that."

He also said AI can be used to monitor the city's air quality, energy use, waste management and other services.

Many of the artificial intelligence companies in San Jose's own backyard are doing much of the work in developing new AI technology, Silicon Valley Leadership Group Vice President of Technology & Innovation Peter Leroe-Muñoz said, but information sharing between businesses, universities and the city make things move faster.

"So the city is able to draw on all of those resources, all of those innovators and all of those students to better understand and think through how a city can use AI to serve its residents," Leroe-Muñoz told San José Spotlight. "That is a tremendous advantage that most other cities around the

See *STREAMLINE*, next page

Reed Elementary principal apologizes after board trustee sings off-color 1940s song at Christmas program

By Sean Eastwood
Times Media staff writer

At a San Jose elementary school concert, School board trustee and teacher **Brian Wheatley** (right) went off-schedule and sang an unapproved, old-timey Christmas parody, "Randolph the Red Gunned Cowboy" which he reportedly sang over the years at a Reed Elementary school concert held Dec. 19.

As soon as the Reed Elementary principal, Jennifer Ponzio heard the word guns, she swiftly cut him off. Subsequently she sent out an apology email stating that Wheatley had requested to sing a song that wasn't on the schedule, which Ponzio quickly deemed inappropriate upon hearing and jumped in.

"During the concert, which included eight classes, our Trustee requested to sing a song that was not part of the planned program," Ponzio says in the email, per NBC Bay Area. "The song, which dates back to the 1940s, included references that were not appropriate for a young audience, including mention of a weapon. After approximately 30 seconds, I intervened and stopped the sing-along."

"Our Trustee has acknowledged this lapse in judgment and has taken full responsibility for the impact of his actions," the email continues.

"As a school community, we also



recognize the importance of clear expectations and safeguards for school events," Ponzio's email concludes. "Moving forward, we will be more intentional and diligent in ensuring that all performances and remarks follow approved agendas and reflect our shared values, so that this does not happen again."

Wheatley's apology email

"I wanted to follow up with a direct and sincere apology for my lapse in judgement during the school sing-along," Wheatley's email states. "In an effort to bring levity and humor, I shared verses that were inappropriate, and I'm truly sorry for any disruption or distress this may have caused students, staff or families."

"I take full responsibility for the impact of my actions," he continues. "As a board member for the past seven years, I value the trust our school communities place in us and have deeply appreciated many positive moments we have shared at Reed events."

"Please rest assured it will not happen again" Wheatley concludes. "Moving forward, I will be more deliberate and thoughtful in every school setting to ensure my actions reflect our shared commitment to student safety and well-being."

Wheatley is currently running for re-election for the Trustee Area 4 seat.

Some parents from Reed Elementary discussed the matter on Reddit. The original poster said his five-year-old came home mentioning some old guy singing a parody of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," about a cowboy with a "big red gun."

Reddit, Communication-Many507, a former student of Wheatley, said he and some of his students sang the song annually, including while caroling at local convalescent homes.



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Camera Archive & Mapping

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
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- Consider lighting around your cameras.

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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 **Local News****Streamline**

Continued from previous page
country don't have."

AI integration shouldn't concern city workers however, he said, as the technology will be there to make employees more efficient and better at doing their jobs.

Ladris, based in Nevada City, California, has already partnered with nearly 100 emergency response agencies across eight states, Zlimen said.

The rollout of the technology fits with San Jose's broader embrace of AI tools to boost city governance. San José Spotlight previously reported the city is already using AI-powered software to optimize public transit, translate public meetings, review official documents and catalogue street-level blight and safety problems such as potholes, graffiti, broken street lights and illegal dumping.

Meanwhile, emergency planning is underway for the trio of high-profile sports events set to descend on the South Bay next year — Super Bowl 60, NCAA March Madness and FIFA World Cup. Santa Clara County has been holding drills preparing county hospital workers for active shooters, terrorist attacks and natural disasters like earthquakes.

Officials with the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management told San José Spotlight that county agencies have not been involved in the rollout of the Ladris software in San Jose. However, Riordan said San Jose will share information produced

by the technology for the purpose of coordination and public safety.

He also affirmed the software will not make any evacuation calls independent of the humans who operate it.

"We make the decisions, but it's a tool that helps us get the information together to make the right decisions," he said. "You can't just rely on AI by itself."

Zlimen said his company has used recent advances in machine learning technology to make predictive modeling software capable of incorporating new, unexpected streams of data.

He pointed to a novel application developed by San Jose officials during test runs of the software. As emergency planners modeled flood scenarios, they wanted to know where homeless residents living next to the city's creek beds might flee to as the waters rise. The software came up with predictions that could help city agencies more easily locate newly formed homeless encampments and direct resources accordingly, officials said.

It's an outcome that surprised even Zlimen's team, he said. Such flexibility will be essential for emergency planners, he argued, as the emergency risks cities face continue to morph and change over the coming decades.

"There's a huge amount of inputs into those problems, but very few focused metrics coming out," Zlimen said. "So this was able to (create) a process that was useful for the city, but also, potentially, a great example for how other cities may be able to tackle a similar problem."

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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

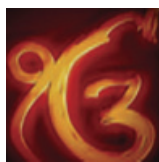
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God is One
ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

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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>

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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

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listing, email
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Times **Local News****Thankful***Continued from page 1*www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAS-zlUxj9dk**Fishnet Care and Share**

Also honored at Thankful Together Celebration were volunteers from Fishnet Care and Share, an organization devoted to feeding those facing food insecurity throughout Silicon Valley. Leisa Johnson, Rudy Johnson (no relation), and Nancy and Troy Stenstrom were recognized for their tireless work collecting, preparing, and delivering food to people who need it most. Each week, Fishnet Care and Share distributes dozens of loads of groceries, reaching close to a thousand individuals through shelters, senior centers, foster homes, sober-living facilities, and low-income families.

The work of these volunteers is deeply personal and hands-on. Leisa Johnson's service extends well beyond food distribution, as she also volunteers in county parks, supports the Unicorn Thrift Shop benefiting Pacific Clinics, and provides companionship to people receiving hospice care. Her dedication reflects a belief that kindness can take many forms, from a bag of groceries to a quiet visit.



Left: Rudy Johnson with Councilmember George Casey and AVCA Secretary Jim Johnson. Right: Leisa Johnson with Councilmember George Casey and AVCA President Michele Dexter.



Rudy Johnson has become a dependable presence over the past decade, faithfully helping with weekly grocery pickups and, for years, gathering surplus restaurant food to ensure nothing went to waste. Nancy and Troy Stenstrom contribute in equally meaningful ways. In addition to volunteering with Fishnet Care and Share, Nancy prepares meals and Troy delivers them directly to homeless encampments, bringing nourishment—and dignity—straight to those living on the margins.

To learn more about Fishnet Care and Share, visit: <https://fishnetcareandshare.org>

Together, these honorees embody the spirit behind the Thankful Together Celebration. Whether guiding students along

creek banks or delivering meals across the valley, they remind us that lasting community impact is built through care, consistency, and a willingness to serve. Their stories invite all of us to look around, notice where help is needed, and take part in strengthening the place we call home.

About the Almaden Valley Community Association

AVCA is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led organization dedicated to helping residents understand and engage with the neighborhood issues that impact everyday life. Through open, educational forums and respectful dialogue, we connect residents with local leaders, subject-matter experts, and diverse viewpoints.

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ON JUSTICE, CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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SJPd Southern Division Captain Steven Payne, joins a representative from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office to explore crime and public safety in our area.

**** Councilmember George Casey will join us ****
for a District 10 update

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