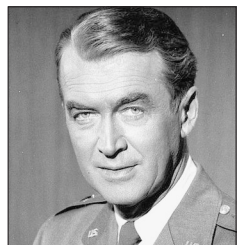


**JAMES MAITLAND STEWART: A LOOK BACK HIS WONDERFUL LIFE, SERVICE AND MILITARY CAREER - PAGE 6**



**AGING ISSUES: A LIST OF RESOURCES FOR ANY PERSON OVER AGE 30 - PAGE 14**



**LOCAL LIBRARIES CHALLENGE PARENTS TO READ 1,000 BOOKS TO THEIR CHILD BEFORE AGE SIX - PAGE 19**



DEC. 4-DEC. 17, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 24

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# Almaden Times

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## GROOVY SERVICE

Dancing the night away: Ticktocker Lily Swenson enjoys interacting with seniors at Lincoln Glen Manor. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Theaker

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## A robot-filled weekend at Leland

Sixteen First Lego League (FLL) teams from San Jose, Santa Clara, Fremont, and Carmel came to Leland High School to compete in the Quixilver Qualifier on Nov. 21.

This year's event, Trash Trek, is hosted by the Leland Robotics First Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 604 Quixilver.

The teams build and program Lego robots to complete tasks on a trash-themed field. Not only do they build robots, but they also do a research project about ways to eliminate trash.

At the tournament, the teams ran their robots on the fields and tried to



The Lego Dudes won the Project Award and qualified as well at Leland High School on Nov. 21.

get as many points as they could. They were judged on their project, their robot design, and their core values.

After a long day of matches and judging sessions, the results were in.

See *ROBOTICS*, page 5

## Making the world a better place: National Charity League's Almaden/Blossom Valley Chapter

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

National Charity League (NCL) is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. Their vision is to develop strong women leaders serving and impacting communities today and for generations to come.

In 1925, a small group of women interested in philanthropic work founded the Charity League in Los Angeles. They

volunteered with the Red Cross, making layettes, and assembling and delivering baskets of food to the hungry at holiday times. Sometimes, they brought their daughters with them. By 1938, so many daughters had become involved, that they decided to form their own group. In 1947, these groups united to become the first mother-daughter charity and took their present name, National Charity League.

Today, there are 150 National Charity League chapters throughout the United States

See *LEAGUE*, page 16

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## This Week:

### LOCAL NEWS

**James Maitland Stewart: remembering his wonderful life: PAGE 6**

### FEATURE

**What qualifies a person as an expert witness? Part two: PAGE 10**

### LOCAL NEWS

**Regional open space and parklands are expanding: PAGE 14**



### ↑ FEATURE

**Doctor shows link between heart failure and soda pop: PAGE 15**

### ALSO

**Realtor Guide: PAGE 22**  
**Worship Guide: PAGE 21**

# Valley Currents

*cur·rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.*

## 'Fantasy of Lights' tries new ticketing system

Long car lines may magically disappear for one of Santa Clara County's premier Holiday events, Fantasy of Lights.

County Parks is introducing for the first time a pre-paid ticketing and reservation system with the convenience of buying tickets online.

The event, now in its 17th year, will allow visitors to pre-select the exact day and time they choose to see the wondrous event from the comfort of their own car. Visitors can also choose to buy their tickets in person at Parks Administration Office during regular business hours but tickets must be purchased in advance in order to enter the park. The 17th annual Fantasy of Lights Drive-thru, a spectacular 1.5-mile drive-thru holiday light show at Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos will open nightly, December 6 - December 31, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

From the warmth of your vehicle, your senses will be dazzled by thousands of twinkling lights in large animated displays while listening to your favorite holiday music. The sights and sounds of an erupting volcano in the dangerously fun dinosaur den, Santa shooting hoops, a pen of playful penguins, blazing cannons, a tunnel of moving lights, and a 90-foot twinkling tree will have you "oohing and aahing" throughout your ride. Visitors will see all this and so much more. A free pair of 3D glasses with the event pro-



The event, now in its 17th year, will allow visitors to pre-select the exact day and time they choose to see the wondrous event from the comfort of their own car. *Photo credit: Flickr.com/number657*

gram, are available while supplies last.

The 3rd annual Fantasy of Lights Walk-thru Night kicks off the show on Saturday, December 5, (one night only) from 4p.m. - 9p.m. This is your chance to walk the event, visit with Santa, enjoy international food and beverages by "Moveable Feast," meet 94.5 KBAY's Jona Denz-Hamilton and enjoy the Holiday Fun Photo Booth.

Free parking and a FREE shuttle from Netflix at 121 Albright

Way is recommended. There is no parking at Vasona. Tickets are \$6 per person, ages four and up. Prepaid tickets are highly recommended and may be purchased online or in person at Parks Administration Office.

Vasona Lake County Park is located at 333 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95037. For directions, ticketing and more information visit [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) or call 408.355.2201.

Fantasy of Lights is presented by Santa Clara County Depart-

ment of Parks and Recreation, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 50 years. This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California.

For more information call (408) 355-2201.

## Mailbox



### Shopping Spree a huge success

Dear Editor,  
All of us at Sunday Friends extend a heartfelt Thank You! to the more than 1000 community members who participated in this year's Holiday Shopping Spree. We are so grateful!

At Hillsdale Target on two Friday evenings in November, teams of enthusiastic shoppers of all ages turned their donations into holiday gifts for moms, dads and children - five vans full! The gifts have turned our Treasure

Chest store, which normally offers basic necessities, into a gift and toy shop. Sunday Friends families can "purchase" gifts using tickets they've earned by learning, contributing and sharing at our Sunday programs throughout the year. They will actually be able to experience the joy of giving gifts to their loved ones this Christmas, many for the very first time. Imagine how wonderful that must feel!

Thank you to you, our caring and generous community.

May your holidays be filled with joy!

**Ali Barekat**

*Executive Director, Sunday Friends*

## 'Soup Party' planned January 9 at Almaden Community Center

The Almaden Seniors January event is an "All You Can Eat Soup Party" to be held on Jan. 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Five homemade soups are on the menu for all to enjoy. The cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members of the Almaden Community Center.

Tickets go on sale beginning Dec. 7th and every MWF from 8:40 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the lobby. The Almaden Community center is located at: 6455 Camden Ave, San Jose.



**Almaden Times**

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Times **Community News**



Among the winners TechMagic (Sesame Street shirts), and Ze Programmers (kids in white shirts) and AARC (green shirts) blue shirts.

**Robotics**

*Continued from page 1*

FLL team 6952 TechMagic won the Champion's Award and will be advancing to the Silicon Valley District Championships. They also won the award for highest robot performance.

The Design Award went to team 16382 AARC, who also qualified for the District Championships. Team 1226 The Lego Dudes won the Project Award and qualified as well. Team 15966 Ze Programmers was will also be advancing to the District Championships. Team 18199 Trash Blazers won the Core Values Award, and team 815 Shockwaves won the Judge's Award. Congratulations to all of these local teams!

On Sunday, November 22, the Leland High

School's First Tech Challenge (FTC) Team 8404 competed in an FTC tournament at Saratoga High School. Their challenge this year is First Res-Q. Teams build 18x18 inch robots that have to complete rescue-related tasks. They came in second place and won the Connect Award, awarded to the team that connected most with its local and engineering community.

**About FLL**

*FIRST® LEGO® League is the robotics program for ages 9-14 from FIRST ("For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology"). The challenge changes every year. The 2015 challenge is TRASH TREK with more than 233,000 children ages 9-16 from over 80 countries participating in the program by building robots and inventing new ideas that will explore the fascinating world of trash. From collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse, there is more to your trash than meets the eye.*



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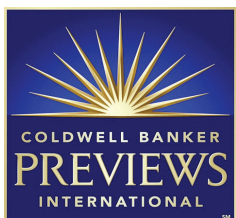
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Times Feature

ONE WONDERFUL LIFE

# James Maitland Stewart: a remembrance

By Frank Shortt  
Times Staff Writer

James 'Jimmy' Maitland Stewart was born on May 20, 1908, at Indiana, Pennsylvania, the son of Elizabeth Ruth Jackson (1875-1953) and Alexander Maitland Stewart (1871-1961), who owned a hardware store. Little did he know what lay ahead for him as he stocked shelves and delivered goods for his adored father.

Jimmy was a natural musician and mastered the accordion at an early age. He relaxed offstage, after becoming a stage actor, by playing the accordion.

Jimmy's first job after attending Mercersburg academy, graduating in 1928, was as a brick loader for a local construction company. He began painting lines on the highways afterward. Jimmy wished to attend the U.S. Naval Academy to learn to be a pilot, but his father insisted that he attend Princeton University. He was in the graduating class of 1932 where he excelled at studying architecture. This is where he gained valuable experience as a stage actor while performing at Princeton with the University Players of West Falmouth, Mass.



Above, left: **James M. Stewart** receives the French Croix de Guerre in 1944. The medal honors people who fought with the Allies against the Axis forces at any time during World War II.



When WW2 came along, he joined the army as a private, on March 22, 1941. He was the first major star to wear a military uniform during WW2. Stewart obtained his pilot's license in 1935, so he asked to become a flyer. Although he was past the maximum age requirements at 33 years old, he was allowed to attend cadet training because of his college and prior training.

Stewart received his commission as a second lieutenant on January 19, 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, while a corporal at Moffett Field, California. He also received a pilot rating, although the circumstances are unclear, since he did not participate in the standard pilot training program. Stewart's first assignment was an appearance at a March of Dimes rally in Washington, D.C., but Stewart desired assignment to an operational unit rather than serve as a

recruiting symbol. He applied for and was granted advanced training in multi-engine aircraft. Stewart was posted to nearby Mather Field, in Sacramento, California, to instruct in both single and twin-engine aircraft.

My first assignment, twenty years later, was also at Mather, now called Mather Air Force Base. Jimmy's Job was to train pilots. My job was as a special vehicle repairman and Radiac detection team member. Stewart rose from private to colonel in only four years. I was not as fortunate, as I made Airman First Class in twenty-seven months, remaining at that rank for my entire tour of duty because of an overload of airmen in my career field. I had the distinction of being a member of the, now famous, Muleskinner singing group and band, whose founder, Jody Gibson, is now a member of the Rockabilly hall of fame.

In December 1943, Stewart flew his first combat mission, bombing U-boat facilities in Kiel, Germany. A few days later he flew an attack plane on Bremen, followed by Ludwigshafen, and Berlin.

Stewart continued to make missions, uncredited, flying with the Pathfinder squadron of the 389th Bombardment Group and with groups of the 20th Combat Bomb Wing. He received the award of the

Distinguished Flying Cross for actions in combat and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He also received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Stewart served in a number of staff positions in the 2nd and 20th Bomb Wings between July 1944 and the end of the war in Europe, and was promoted to full colonel on March 29, 1945. On May 10, 1945, he succeeded to command of the 2nd Bomb Wing, a position he held until June 15, 1945.

Stewart flew more than 20 missions, and was highly decorated with two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the French Croix de Guerre.

After Military service, Jimmy began his Hollywood career again.

In 1990, I wrote a poem about Jimmy's military career and how he was decorated by the famous World War 2 General, Jimmy Doolittle. I was doing a book show at the Santa Clara County fairgrounds and happened to meet a man who collected celebrity autographs.

I sold him a movie poster of Jimmy Stewart and we began to talk about how he had obtained some of the autographs in his collection. He told me that he had gotten hold of a list of celebrity addresses from some source and that he had been pretty successful in getting autographs. I asked him if he had gotten Jimmy Stewart's address. He replied to the affirmative and after a little coercion I was able to squeeze the address from him. I sent the poem to that address, never expecting to hear from Mr. Stewart, but after several weeks I received a letter from Jimmy's secretary, Claire Priest, thanking me for the poem and sending me greetings from Jimmy.

I had included a book along with the poem asking for an autograph, which he signed and inscribed to me. He even returned the check that I had sent for the return postage. This happened also when I sent two copies of his poems, 'Jimmy Stewart and His Poems' to be autographed. Jimmy's familiar face has appeared on countless publications.

It can truly be said, of James Stewart, that he was an "Officer and a Gentleman!"

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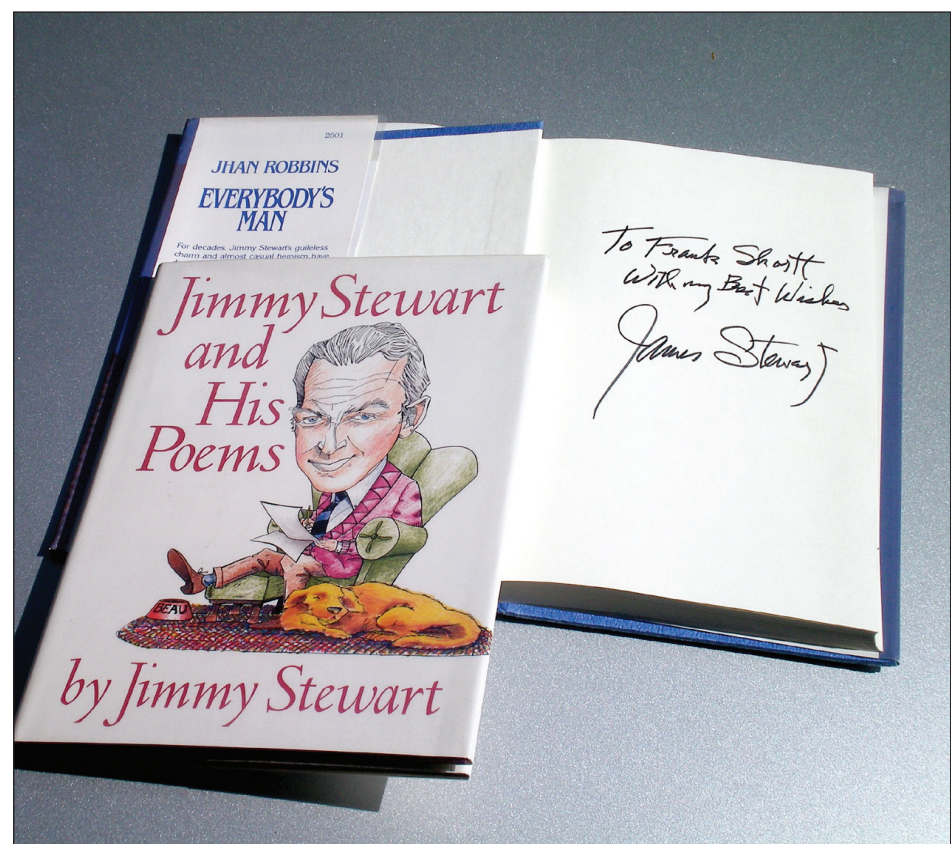
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The author sent this book along with a poem to Jimmy asking for an autograph, which Jimmy signed and inscribed to the author and returned it.

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Times **Local News**

# A few follow-up points concerning expert witnesses: Part 2 of 2

In the last issue of the *Almaden Times* you addressed my question about expert witnesses and said that was part one of two parts. Thank you for that and now I am wondering about those other issues involving expert witnesses.

Angie A.  
Almaden Valley

Dear Angie,

Thank you for emailing in again, Angie. I will see if I can cover such things as opinion evidence from expert witnesses, exclusion of certain opinion evidence, and related issues for you and our other *Almaden Times* readers.

By way of introduction to this topic, in part one we discussed basic qualifications needed to qualify one as an expert witness, the right of cross-examination, compensation of experts being revealed to the jury, and other issues.

Generally speaking, opinions of experts are covered in part by California Evidence Code §801, *et seq.* Basically, if a witness is testifying as an expert, his or her testimony in the form of an opinion is authorized but is limited to such an opinion as is:

Related to a subject that is sufficiently beyond common experience that the opinion of any expert would assist the trier of fact; and

Based on matter (including his or her special knowledge, skill, experience, training, and education) perceived by or personally known to the witness or made known to him or her at or before the hearing, whether or not admissible, that is of a type that reasonably may be relied upon by an expert in forming an opinion upon the subject to which his or her testimony relates, unless an expert is precluded by law from using such matter as a basis for his or her opinion.

You can see that in many different types of cases that opinions of experts might be helpful to the judge or jury in deciding the case, such as medical malpractice cases, legal malpractice cases, product defect cases, and others.

Are the reasons for the expert opinion important? I would say that most often the answer is a definite "yes". In fact, California Evidence §802 states that a witness testifying in the form an opinion may state on direct examination the reasons for his or her opinion and the matter (including, in the case of an expert, his or her special knowledge, skill, experience, training, and education) upon which it is based, unless he or she is precluded by law from using such reasons or matter as a basis for his or her opinion.

The court in its discretion may require that a witness before testifying in the form of an opinion be first examined concerning the matter upon which his or her opinion is based.

Is there any safeguards as to keeping out of evidence improper opinions? You bet there is, since California Evidence Code §803 pro-

vides that the court *may*, and upon objection *shall*, exclude testimony in the form of an opinion that is based in whole or in significant part on matter that is not a proper basis for such an opinion. In such a case, the witness may, if there remains a proper basis for his or her opinion, then state his or her opinion after excluding from consideration the matter determined to be improper.

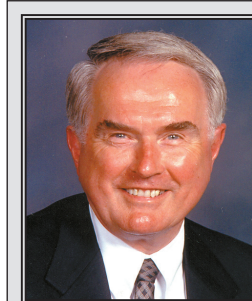
There are special rules as to opinion testimony that relate to the value of property, both real estate and tangible personal property. Experts can offer their opinions as to such property as well as the owner or the spouse of the owner of the property or property interest being valued, under California Evidence Code §813.

Once again, *Almaden Times* readers can review the cited provisions by themselves by inserting the particular California Evidence Code number in their computer browsers. It makes for very interesting reading. Of course, laws vary from state to

state and in our federal system, so a particular California provision may be a little different in other jurisdictions.

Donald J. DeVries  
Almaden Valley

You can reach Mr. DeVries with your questions by email at [don@almadenvalleylawyers.com](mailto:don@almadenvalleylawyers.com), with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, fax at (408)268-6502, telephone at (408)268-9500, or mail at DeVries Law Office at 6475 Camden Avenue, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95120. Your name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles.



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## Home prices soar, again

The S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Index, covering the entire nation, rose 4.9 percent in the 12 months ended in September, stronger than expected at double the rate of inflation.

The 10-city index gained five percent from a year earlier, compared with a 4.7 percent increase in August. Home prices in the Bay Area rose more than 10 percent.

The hottest markets in the country continued to show double-digit price gains. In San Francisco prices were up 11.2 percent, Denver

10.9 percent, and in Portland 10 percent.

"The threat of rising interest rates may soon put a damper on housing affordability, especially in hotter, coastal markets," said Svenja Gudell, chief economist at Zillow Group Inc.

Most economists are predicting that home prices will stabilize and that inventories will begin to rise. With increased inventories, sellers may be more confident in finding a home in the Bay Area's competitive home buyer's market. An increase in interest rates is not expected to hurt home prices in the Bay Area.

## VTA January 2016 Fare Program Modifications

### When will Day Passes change?

Effective 1/1/2016, Day Passes will generally only be available for customers using Clipper®; riders will no longer be able to purchase a Day Pass from bus fareboxes or at light rail ticket vending machines.

Paper Day Passes will continue to be issued only for riders using Day Pass Tokens distributed through public agencies and social services.

### What is Clipper®?

Clipper is the all-in-one transit card for the Bay Area. Besides VTA, transit agencies accepting Clipper cards include BART, Caltrain, AC Transit, Muni and others. For a complete listing go to [www.ClipperCard.com](http://www.ClipperCard.com).



### Where can I obtain a Clipper Card?

During a limited period of time and while supplies lasts, a limited number of Clipper cards will be distributed without charge during VTA Community Outreach activities at various cities and at the VTA Downtown Customer Service Center and River Oaks Administrative Office Lobby.

Riders may also purchase a Clipper card from:

- VTA River Oaks Administrative Office – 3331 N. First St., San Jose 95134
- VTA Downtown Customer Service Center – 55-A W. Santa Clara St., San Jose 95113
- Most Walgreens – call your local Bay AreaWalgreens to confirm
- Other Retailers – visit [www.ClipperCard.com](http://www.ClipperCard.com) for a full listing

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### Where can I find out more information?

Visit [www.VTA.org/Clipper](http://www.VTA.org/Clipper).



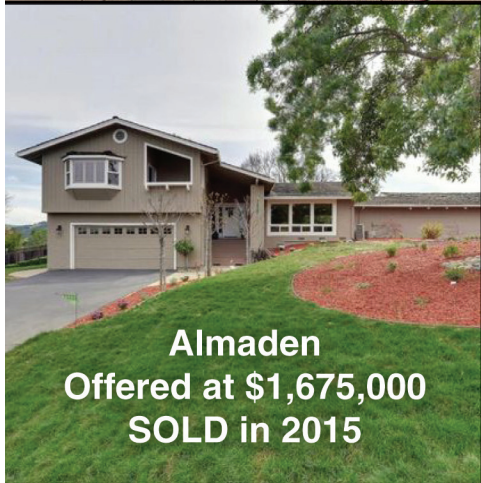




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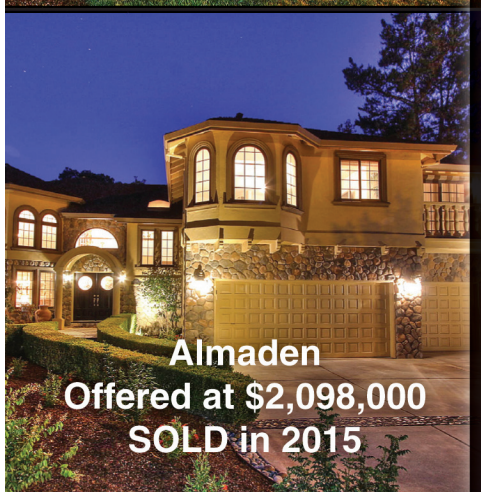
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Times Feature

# Taxes, taxes and more taxes

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis  
*Special to the Times*

The City, County and State are all considering tax measures for the 2016 ballots. Polling is currently under way in San Jose to determine if City residents will be receptive to paying a new ¼ cent sales tax.

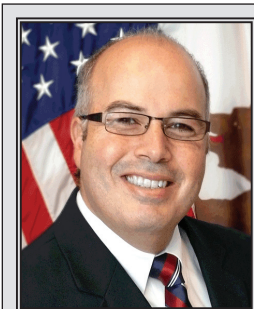
The poll contains questions about a proposed general tax, as well as a proposed dedicated tax, to determine which tax, if any, residents would most likely approve. The money generated from a general tax (which only requires approval by 50% +1 voter) goes into the General Fund and can be spent on anything. That means regardless of how the current Council promotes the use of the funds, on any given Tuesday, six Councilmembers could change

direction and the money could be spent on something other than what was promoted. For example, a tax can be promoted on a measure to address improving police and fire services, but could end up being used for golf courses and mansions. In addition, future Councilmembers may have other priorities and decide to use the funds in other ways. On the other hand, money from a dedicated tax (which requires 2/3 voter approval), such as for police and pavement maintenance, cannot be diverted and must be spent on those services.

Does the City need any new tax revenue? Right now we have much need for additional revenue, including \$500M in deferred maintenance on our streets. Currently, no sales or property taxes go toward pavement maintenance – only vehicle tax and

gas taxes support our streets. But the gas tax continues to shrink as electric and hybrid cars become more popular. As the saying goes, a stitch in time saves nine; that is also true for pavement maintenance. Hence, if we spent \$1 today in pavement maintenance we don't have to spend \$5 in the future when the streets are in worse condition.

Currently we have money in the budget for 1,109 police officers; but if we ever hope to restore the ranks of our police to 1,250, we need to look at new ways to fund this goal. So although a general tax would require fewer voters to approve than a dedicated tax, a dedicated tax for



**District 10 Report**  
Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember

police and pavement maintenance is a more fiscally responsible approach of addressing our City's service goals.

There are other agencies considering putting tax measures on the November ballot. Santa Clara County is considering a dedicated parcel or sales tax to build housing for the homeless. They are also considering a ½ cent sales tax dedicated to

transportation to enhance transit (Bart, VTA), highways, expressways and active transportation projects (bicycles, pedestrians and complete streets). The tax would be in effect for 30 years and is estimated to bring in \$6B.

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority is seeking a

\$9/per parcel property tax in an effort to raise \$30M for the Water District's shoreline project. This project would fund the building of levies and other protective and restorative projects along the bay shoreline, beginning in Alviso.

And that's just the local taxes! Several other taxes are being proposed at the State level and are working their way through the approval process. For example, there may be two measures on the ballot to extend the 2012 Proposition 30 temporary income tax. As we get closer to election time, I'll be writing more about the various taxes that make it onto each ballot.

## FINANCIAL SECURITY

### Facebook 'gift exchange' is really a pyramid scheme

It seems that scammers are already taking advantage of holiday goodwill. The latest seasonal scam is a gift exchange that's actually a pyramid scheme. Look out for this con on Facebook, Instagram and other social sites.

#### How the Scam Works

You spot a friend's post on your Facebook or Instagram feed. It's inviting you to join a gift exchange, and it sounds like a great deal. If you buy one \$10 gift for a stranger, you will receive as many as 36 gifts back. Some people are even posting photos of all the gifts they have received in the mail.

This "gift exchange" is the latest version of a hoax that's been around for years. It's the same premise as a pyramid scheme and or the pre-Internet chain letters. The idea is that you send money (or a gift) to the person at the top of the list, cross them off, add your name to the bottom and send the list to more friends. Eventually, you hope, your name will be at the top, and you will receive all the money/gifts. However the scheme relies on constantly recruiting new participants, making it mathematically impossible to sustain. This may seem like a harmless hoax, but these schemes are a form of gambling and illegal in the U.S. and Canada.

#### Protect Yourself From Scams

Take the following steps to protect yourself and others from scam links shared through Facebook, Twitter and other social media:

Don't take the bait. If it sounds too good or outlandish to be true, it's probably a scam. Stay away from promotions of anything "exclusive," "shocking," or "sensational."

Be careful of shortened links. Scammers use link-shortening services to disguise malicious links. Don't fall for it. If you don't recognize the link destination, don't click.



## Super Lions collect donations for sight

Getting ready to collect donations for Almaden Super Lions "sight related projects" on Dec 12 & 19 are (l to r) Dave Jordan, Lois Ferber, President Mary Kelly, Winston Spedding and TA Hunter. Holding the banner is Yvonne Gomez and Greg Snow.

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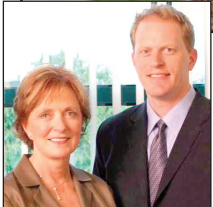
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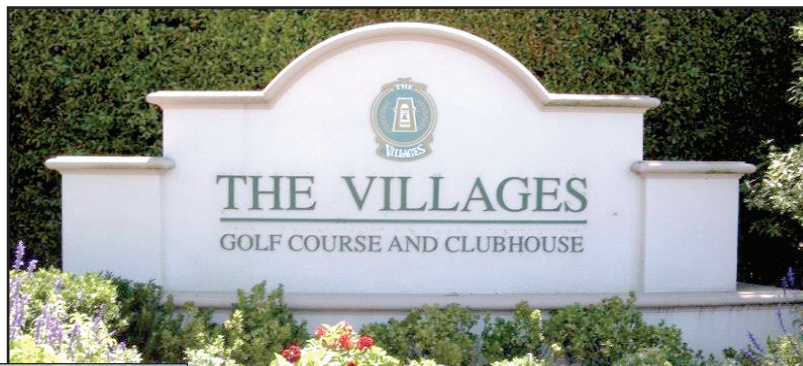
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## Times News

## AGING ISSUES

# A resource for any person over age 30

By Tatiana Colon

Division Director Older Adult Services, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

About a year ago I was in a meeting with my team and colleagues of the Older Adult Services Division at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County (CCSCC) to discuss how we could best provide services to the seniors in this community.

One common theme kept emerging in our conversations: people do not adequately prepare for aging. Most of the time people only take on the task of planning for aging when an event in their lives has led them to frantically search for options for themselves or a family member. Once we reach emergency mode the costs of making decisions can become almost unmanageable. The opportunity to put into place all of the preventative measures that one could have used has come and gone and those preventative measures were never used.

Why? We asked ourselves, why do people wait until there is an emergency to plan for aging if we all know that not one of us is exempt from aging? Well the answer could be that we prefer to live in denial. Denial is emotionally safe until reality comes crashing down on us. Denial that we age, denial that a time may come when we can no longer take care of ourselves, and perhaps even fear that at some point we will not be in control of our future. Ultimately I am not sure that the why even matters, the point is that we all have to wake up and realize that none of us are exempt from this fate, and thus we must plan.

For our team it seemed clear that what was needed was increased education and advocacy for aging needs. We developed an effort to regularly train and educate the community about how to prepare for aging that we are calling Aging University. Very fittingly the theme of this first year is “Wake Up to Aging”. For the average person this effort is meant to make learning about how to prepare for aging palatable and manageable. For our community partners and city and county officials it is an opportunity to hear from the people who receive and need services about what their needs actually are. For all of us, it is an opportunity to collectively think, learn, and promote more options for seniors and boomers recognizing that planning for them is also planning for ourselves. Lastly, Aging University is

an effort to bring attention to the fact that although we have more need for aging services than ever before, the government (city, county, state and federal) and foundation support for senior services seems to be at an all-time low.

Since our effort began in August 2015 we have held two events. The first event was a free seminar and conversation featuring Frontline’s Being Mortal video with Dr. Atul Gawande, about the big “unfixables” in life. This event focused on teaching individuals the importance of having a plan to ensure they get the care they want, especially when someone else is making healthcare decisions for them. We helped attendees think through who they might want to pick to make their healthcare decisions if they could no longer make it themselves and make a plan to have this conversation with the designee.

The second event held in October 2015 was part of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s 60th Anniversary, Out of Poverty Action Summit. Our workshop “A Silver Tsunami: Innovations in Senior Services”, which I had the opportunity to moderate, focused on innovative strategies in the region to address the growing needs of seniors in the areas of custodial care, health care, and transportation. Expert panelists included Milton Cadena (Program Director for Day Break Cares, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara), Carol Moreali (Continuum Service Director, Kaiser Permanente South Bay Continuum of Care), and Paul Tatsuta (Community Transportation Manager, Outreach & Escort Inc.).

Aging University is offering us an opportunity to jointly with our partners educate the community about the vast world of aging and at the same time providing tremendous insights into concerns and challenges faced by both individuals and organizations when either accessing or delivering care. I have also seen the amazing impact that the events are having in creating shared understanding and community among event participants and panelists. We have only begun our journey but with the outcome of each event our resolve is reinforced to continue to educate and advocate for our growing senior population.

For information on Aging University visit our website at: <http://www.daybreakcares.org/aging-university>

## Regional open space and parklands expanding

By Mike Wasserman  
County Supervisor

We lost a passionate community advocate with the passing of longtime volunteer Dave Fadness. I adjourned the October 6 Board of Supervisors meeting in his memory, and the VEP Neighborhood Association held a Memorial Beautification Day in Dave’s honor.

Regional open space and parklands are expanding in Santa Clara County. My colleagues and I on the County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of 2,748 acres that link Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch and Anderson Lake County Parks to each other and also links to Henry Coe State Park — the largest recreational land holding in the California Park System — resulting in a potential future trail network linking these three parks. Additionally, the County has made an offer to purchase 41 acres adjacent to the Almaden

Quicksilver County Park. It is my hope that the offer will be accepted and that the property can be purchased and added to the park.

For the first time in 34 years, the U.S. Women’s Open Golf Championship will be held in California next July – and right in our backyard at CordeValle in San Martin. All eyes will be on Santa Clara County for the world’s biggest women’s golf event that draws the best golfers, international media and many spectators. South County is playing host to this prestigious and historic championship, and we can all play a part in its success. Learn more about volunteering or attending: [www.2016uswomensopen.com](http://www.2016uswomensopen.com).



### County Report

Mike Wasserman,  
County Supervisor

Life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) were installed at high-risk locations throughout the County. Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in America. An AED is an effective treatment for restoring a regular heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest and doesn’t require medical knowledge. The project is a joint effort between the Santa Clara County Fire Department, El Camino Hospital, Racing Hearts, and the American Heart Association.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org) with your comments and concerns.

## Give great books to kids this holiday season

For a merry holiday season, fun new books make great gifts for kids. Don’t know what’s the latest and greatest in the world of kid’s literature?

Here are four new titles to consider for the young book lovers in your life:

### A Classic, Retold

“Home Alone,” which arrived in theaters 25 years ago, is one of the top grossing live-action comedies of all time. Now, illustrator Kim Smith has reimaged the John Hughes story as a classic Christmas fable. “Home Alone: The Classic Illustrated Storybook” comes complete with bumbling burglars, brilliant booby-traps, and a little boy named Kevin who’s forced to fend for himself. Through a series of comic adventures, Kevin learns lessons about responsibility and the importance of family.

### Serial Adventure

Followers of the Miss Peregrine series will be excited to receive The Miss Peregrine’s Peculiar Children Boxed Set featuring all three novels in the series, including the newly released “Library of Souls: The Third Novel of Miss Peregrine’s Peculiar Children.” This action-packed series includes a special collector’s envelope of 12 peculiar photographs, highlighting the most memorable moments of this extraordinary three-volume fantasy.

### Spooky Mystery

Meet Warren the 13th, of “Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye,” a cursed 12-year-old Victorian bellhop who’s terribly unlucky, yet perpetually optimistic, hard-working, and curious. Orphan Warren’s pride and joy is his family’s hotel, but he’s been miserable ever since his evil Aunt Annaconda took over the management.

Annaconda believes a mysterious treasure is hidden somewhere on the grounds, and she’ll do anything to find it. If Warren wants to preserve his family’s legacy, he’ll need to find the treasure first — if the hotel’s many strange guests don’t beat him to it!

This middle-grade adventure features illustrations on every page and a lavish two-column Victorian design.



### True Tales for Athletes

Help make every goal, touchdown, and championship of all the greats come to life, from Babe Ruth (so incorrigible that his parents put him in reform school at age seven) to Muhammad Ali (who learned to fight at age 12 after a thief stole his bicycle). “Kid Athletes” is packed with inspirational stories from the world of sports, sharing tales from the childhoods of famous athletes.

Billie Jean King rose from modest circumstances to win 39 Grand Slam championships; Wilma Rudolph triumphed over polio to become the fastest woman on earth; and martial arts legend Bruce Lee credited his success, in part, to childhood dance lessons.

Have lit lovers on your list? While a gift card to a book retailer is nice, you can put even more thought into the present with a new exciting title.

—StatePoint

## STUDY TRACKED 42,000 MEN FOR 12 YEARS

## Heart failure linked to drinking soda

By Dr. Mark Stengler

*Special to the Times*

I don't think there's a person alive who believes soda is a healthy habit.

Yet millions of Americans not only drink this sugary poison, they drink it daily, and many drink it at every meal except breakfast.

They know it's not *healthy*... but they don't think it's all that *unhealthy* either.

So let me crack open an ice, cold can of truth here: Soda is one of worst habits you could have this side of smoking, and new research reveals one more way it can do you in.

Drink soda daily — a single glass at lunch and another at dinner — and your risk of heart failure jumps by 23 percent, according to a study of 42,000 men tracked for up to 12 years.

Heart failure isn't just a heart problem.

It's one of the worst possible heart problems you could experience — one so bad that half of those who have it are dead within five years, and less than a quarter make it to the 10-year mark.

Even if you live, it's a struggle. You face chest pain, trouble getting around and breathing difficulties so severe you may need an oxygen tank.

Any habit that will increase the risk of facing all that is one worth quitting.

Yet I know people who believe it's OK to

have some soda. They believe that because they don't have "really bad" habits such as smoking — or because they have good habits such as daily exercise — they can get away with some soda.

Well, my friend, as the new study shows, nothing could be further from the truth.

Not smoking doesn't give you any special protection against sugar, and most folks would be stunned to know how much exercise they'd have to do cancel out a single soda.

You'd have to run — not walk, run — for 50 minutes to burn off the calories in a soda... and even then, you've just canceled out the calories.

No exercise in the world can undo the damage of all that sugar rushing through your bloodstream — and that's what ultimately causes damage to the heart (not to mention the brain and more).

Switch to something safer instead: filtered water and herbal teas, hot or iced, can quench your thirst without the risks.

**Artificially sweetened soda**

One of the biggest fallacies in the food

industry is that diet sodas are better for you than regular sodas. The premise is that regular sodas are loaded with sugar (which they are) and therefore artificial sweeteners in diet sodas prevent diabetes and weight gain.

I have written before about research that demonstrates that the artificial sweeteners in diet sodas increase appetite. However, are you aware of the research showing that artificially sweetened beverages increase the risk of diabetes?

A study published in the *American Journal of Nutrition* found that women who drank artificially sweetened beverages doubled their diabetes risk compared with women who do not drink any sweetened beverages.

The study involved 66,118 women whose intake of beverages was tracked over 14 years. Women reported their intake of sugar sweetened drinks, artificially sweetened, and 100 percent fruit juice. Researchers were looking for a link between these drinks and cancer.

What they found was shocking in terms of the increased diabetes risk. Both sugar sweetened and artificially sweetened beverages



**A study published in the *American Journal of Nutrition* found that women who drank artificially sweetened beverages doubled their diabetes risk compared with women who do not drink any sweetened beverages.**

increased diabetes risk, but the artificially sweetened risk was higher. Those consuming 100 percent juice did not have an increased risk of diabetes. [1]

The best advice to satisfy your sweet cravings is fruit juice diluted in water or consuming whole fruit. Please avoid those artificial sweeteners for which your body was not designed. They increase your appetite and seem to disrupt normal blood sugar metabolism.

[1] G. Fagherazzi, et al. *Consumption of artificially and sugar-sweetened beverages and incident type 2 diabetes in the Etude Epidémiologique auprès des femmes de la Mutuelle Générale de l'Éducation Nationale—European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition cohort.* *Am J Clin Nutr.* Published online ahead of print January 2013.

Dr. Mark Stengler is a Naturopathic Doctor in San Diego committed to improving health by offering cutting edge alternatives like naturopathic medicine.

## EL NIÑO

has had disastrous effects on our county before.

## Are you flood-safe?

El Niño conditions don't always guarantee heavy rain storms, but our county has been affected by heavy storms during past El Niño winters.

As the county's flood protection authority, the Santa Clara Valley Water District has invested approximately \$900 million in flood protection programs and protected almost 100,000 parcels from flooding in the past few decades. There are an additional 18 flood protection projects underway in our county.

You too can take action to protect your family and property from the risk of flooding.

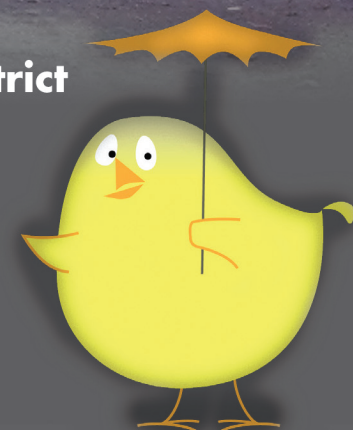
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Coyote Creek, San Jose | January 1997

## Tips from the Santa Clara Valley Water District

- Don't drive through flooded areas. Just one foot of water will float away most cars.
- Know the locations of your neighborhood streams and drainage channels.
- Examine your house and seal any cracks in the foundation, exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris.



For more flood safety tips, text the word **WATER** to 84444, or visit [valleywater.org](http://valleywater.org).

Times **Features**

## It's easy & FREE to recycle your junk.

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Only \$27 for additional pickups.

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Report illegal dumping: 408-535-3500.



Sorting food at Second Harvest Food Bank is a favorite activity for NCL members.  
Photo courtesy of Stephanie Theaker.

## League

*Continued from page 1*  
with 33,000 members, including the Almaden/Blossom Valley Chapter. The mothers are called 'Patronesses' and the daughters are called 'Ticktockers.'

"The neat thing about NCL," says Patroness Melissa Fenton, "is that it exposes and educates us to so many organizations right here in our community that we might never have known about. It also makes the girls more appreciative of what they have. We try to create a culture of looking beyond ourselves, giving back, and being thankful."

From seventh to twelfth grade, each class has a focus, from volunteering on environmental projects to helping the homeless. One favorite activity is interacting with seniors at Lincoln Glen Manor's assisted living facility.

"At Lincoln Glen Manor, we have the opportunity to talk with seniors and hear their stories," says Ticktockers Maggie Theaker. "We also serve the elderly by planning things for them to do, like gardening parties. I've met many interesting people and learned many things by serving at Lincoln Glen. These elderly people have been through a lot in their lives, and it is so fulfilling to give back to them."

Maggie's sister, Hannah Theaker, also enjoys working at Lincoln Glen. "I like doing activities with the seniors, like helping them with their bingo games, and pottery classes," she says. One movie night, a resident told the girls about her life. Her husband had passed away and her children lived in other areas. "These stories can be heart-breaking," says Hannah. "I like keeping the residents' spirits up."

Ticktockers Lily Swenson agrees. Her favorite part of volunteering at Lincoln Glen was dancing with the seniors at a Hawaiian party. "It was so enjoyable to see them not worrying about anything and just having fun," she says.

"It's a wonderful enrichment for our girls and the seniors both," says Patroness Stephanie Theaker. "They share each others' journeys." In the spring, the girls plant flowers outside the housing units and every month they decorate the billboards in the dining room. "The seniors look forward to seeing them," she says. "They like the girls so much."

"Working with elderly people at Lincoln Glen was a neat experience for the girls," says Melissa. "They made an effort to find things the seniors would enjoy speaking about. We hosted a lemonade party with a musical bingo game like 'Name that Tune' featuring music from their generation. It drew them in and created a lively environment. One of the seniors, who was a former D.J., especially enjoyed it. We think this will become a regular tradition for NCL."

In addition to Lincoln Glen, Hannah likes making a positive change in her community volunteering with her sister and her mom at Second Harvest Food Bank and Children's Discovery Museum. "At Second Harvest Food Bank, we sort food, such as oranges and bread, and box items up to be given to the hungry," she says. "At Children's Discovery Museum, we prepare the arts-and-craft's kits, and do crafts and read with the children who visit the museum. Children's Discovery Museum is an excellent way to improve communication with children and is good practice for any future jobs!"

Animal Assisted Happiness is a new NCL philanthropy, which provides animal therapy through bringing small petting zoo animals to children with special needs and seniors. "The girls love it," says Stephanie. "Each of the girls will shepherd a rabbit or a goat. A child or a senior interacts with the animal, and our girls get to interact with them. It's so fun."

Melissa volunteers with her daughter, Mikaela, at City Team Ministries, which provides low income and homeless families with clothes, toys, books, and food at their store. Melissa and her daughter spend time restocking the items and checking people in. "It was nice to be able to be there to help with these services," says Melissa. "Mikaela likes working at the front desk because she gets to meet people. They are so grateful, and we feel like we're making a difference."

Mikaela also assisted at City Team's fundraising gala for Heritage House with other Ticktockers. As it was a French theme, they wore black and white shirts with black skirts and berets. "They really enjoyed it," says Melissa.

After working on art projects and activities with children at Sunday Friends, Mikaela was inspired to work harder on learning to

*See LEAGUE, next page*

## Mt. Umunhum's Tower Needs Your Help! SOS - Save Our Skyline!

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The Umunhum Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by local citizens who want to preserve the historic tower. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. EIN 46-1438547.





## Times Features



Residents at Lincoln Glen look forward to the bulletin boards decorated each month by NCL members. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Theaker.

## League

Continued from previous page

speak Spanish. The Fentons also helped host a Valentine's Day party at InnVision, a shelter that seeks to help individuals and families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. "It's something they otherwise wouldn't have had," says Melissa. "It's nice being able share in these rewarding experiences with my daughter."

Stephanie appreciates the empowerment of the leadership aspects of NCL for her daughters. Each grade level has a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. "Hannah was President of her class last year," she says. "It challenged her, and with the support of her Grade Level Advisors, she was able to put together an agenda and lead meetings in a safe and respectful place. Maggie was a member of her social committee and Corresponding Secretary. They've been able to try different positions in the organization and learn skills they can use throughout their lives."

Molly Knox joined NCL because it was a way to serve the community while bonding with her daughters. Her daughter, Mackenzie, is a senior and President of Philanthropy and her daughter, Allison, is an eighth grader and President of her grade level. Mackenzie enjoys working at Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, where injured animals are rehabilitated, and Allison likes interacting with children at Sunday Friends.

Mackenzie found a potential career path through volunteering at the Wildlife Center, where she prepares food for the animals, cleans cages, and feeds the baby squirrels and opossums. "While being put in charge of tasks, she learned to be self-efficient and that she enjoys the medical part of it," says Molly. "As a result, she is considering becoming a vet."

At Sunday Friends, adults from low-income families can take ESL, budgeting, and nutrition classes while volunteers do art projects and activities with their children. The families earn tickets for their participation, which they can



Ticktocker Lily Swenson lifts the spirits of seniors at Lincoln Glen Manor. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Theaker

**"When you watch your children grow and thrive, it's empowering as a mother," Stephanie says. "I have been so blessed to have this time with my daughters and my community."**

exchange for household and school supplies and toys. "I really enjoy working with the kids," says Molly. "We feel like there's a reward for them, as well as participating in the experience. Sunday Friends is trying to catch the low-income families before they become homeless. They designed the program to educate the families; helping adults to become better parents and the children to learn skills to help them succeed in school. They really give them a boost in life, and we feel like we have an active hands-on role in that."

Molly hopes her daughters see the value in giving back to the community

and have the confidence that comes with being a valued contributor. "It's been a shared experience we've enjoyed doing together," she says. Molly also appreciates the leadership opportunities available to the Patronesses. She says that as Vice President of Philanthropy, NCL has provided her with opportunities for personal development. "It's an organization where we have common goals for ourselves and our families, and a social outlet as well," says Molly. "I consider it a very personally rewarding experience for myself and my family. We believe in giving back to our community, pitching in, and lending a hand."

Stephanie says she treasures the memories she's making with her girls through NCL. "When you watch your children grow and thrive, it's empowering as a mother," she says. "I have been so blessed to have this time with my daughters and my community."

She considers being a part of NCL extremely worthwhile. "If you have the opportunity to join NCL, do it!" says Stephanie. "It's so moving and so rewarding...It brings many new people into your life, and you get to see the best in them."

## Thousands of toys to be distributed to local children

More than 6,000 toys will be distributed to nearly 2,000 needy children Sunday, Dec. 13th at 3:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Faith. This is the ninth year for the Church's toy ministry.

Church members, as well as the San Jose Classic Chevy Car Club, Harley Davidson San Jose, A & J Product Solutions, Evans Analytical Group, Golden Altos, Hyland Bikes, and 25 local motorcycle clubs donated the toys. There will be more than 800 families receiving gifts.

"The Chevy Classic Car Club donated 1,430 toys, and local motorcycle clubs joined with Harley Davidson San Jose to donate 1,000 toys," said Ken Foreman, Senior Pastor of the Cathedral of Faith. "We are so grateful for their participation in this event."

The toy distribution event comes seven days before the Church's annual Celebration of Love, where 4,500 turkeys and food boxes are distributed to the economically disadvantaged in Santa Clara Valley. This has been an annual event for over 29 years. Held Tues., Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon, the recipients will receive a large grocery cart full of fresh produce, baked goods, canned goods, and meat.

The Cathedral of Faith is a 12,000 member, non-denominational Christian Church that has reached out to the community for over 50 years. Pastored by Ken Foreman, the Church has over 200 ministries to meet the needs of their congregation, their local community, and the world. The church has 12 campuses in the Bay Area and the Philippines.

For more information about Cathedral of Faith, log onto [www.cathedraloffaith.org](http://www.cathedraloffaith.org).

## Barnes & Noble offers special holiday Shopping event for educators Dec. 5

To recognize the company's commitment to pre-K-12 educators and administrators, Barnes & Noble is offering teachers a special holiday shopping event on Saturday, December 5.

Educators who shop at Barnes & Noble or online will receive special discounts on merchandise: 25 percent on personal and classroom purchases, including books, toys, games, music, movies, tech gear and more; 10 percent discount on all Café consumable purchases; and 10 percent discount on select NOOK devices. These special offers are available to pre-K-12 teachers and administrators enrolled in the free Barnes & Noble Educator Discount program.

To take advantage of these offers, educators can apply for the Barnes & Noble Educator Discount Card in their local stores. The application form is available in stores or can be downloaded at [www.bn.com/educator](http://www.bn.com/educator).

"Barnes & Noble is pleased to continue our tradition of offering educators a special day of discounted holiday shopping on December 5," said Sarah DiFrancesco, Vice President of Business Development, Barnes & Noble, Inc.

"Teachers may use the discount to purchase holiday gifts for co-workers or students, special items for their classrooms or treat themselves to something special," she said. "Teachers help make our country great by educating our children-and Barnes & Noble wants them to know they are valued and appreciated."

For more information, educators can contact the Eastridge Barnes & Noble Community Business Development Manager Michael Koller, at (408) 270-9477 or [crm2247@bn.com](mailto:crm2247@bn.com).

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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,791
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CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$2,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 CA RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$10,999

3 AT THIS NET PRICE #502501, 502407, 502503  
\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

### 2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN AVP/SE

4 DOOR VAN 3.6L V-6 W/MULTI-SPEED AUTOMATIC

25 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$22,990
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,491
SALE PRICE	\$19,499
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$16,999

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!  
\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

### 2016 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT FWD

4 DOOR SUV 2.4L I-4 W/9-SPEED AUTOMATIC

45 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$24,290
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,013
SALE PRICE	\$20,277
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000
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**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$17,777

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### 2015 DODGE JOURNEY

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20 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$21,690
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,302
SALE PRICE	\$18,388
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$2,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC BONUS CASH	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$15,888

LAST ONE AT THIS NET PRICE #735290

### 2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X2

4-DOOR SUV 3.6L V-6 W/8-SPEED AUTOMATIC

68 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$32,990
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,002
SALE PRICE	\$28,988
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$27,988

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #152916

### 2015 DODGE CHARGER R/T

4-DR SEDAN, 5.7L V-8 W/8-SPEED AUTOMATIC

39 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$5,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$2,000

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$8,000

2 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET SAVINGS #919107, 889558

### 2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

4-DOOR SUV-LOADED!

68 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$6,777
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$7,777

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET SAVINGS!

### 2015 DODGE DURANGO

FRONT & REAR A/C, 8-SPD AUTOMATIC AND MORE!

33 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$31,490
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,252
SALE PRICE	\$27,238
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,250

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$25,988

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

### 2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE

15 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$22,200
DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$4,791
SALE PRICE	\$17,409
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$500
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$500
JEEP CELEBRATION CASH	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$15,999

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #C21238

### 2015 CHRYSLER 300 S

UCONNECT 8.4 NAV, 8.4" TOUCHSCREEN DISPLAY, POWER MOONROOF, 19" ALLOY WHEELS AND MORE!

15 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$6,888
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC 2015 RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$3,500

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$10,388

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #797562

### 2015 DODGE CHARGER SE

3.6L V-6 W/8-SPEED AUTOMATIC

39 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$28,990
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,502
SALE PRICE	\$25,488
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$1,000

**NET PRICE**

## \$22,988

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #886837

### 2016 DODGE DART SE 4 DOOR SEDAN

2.0L I-4 W/6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, A/C, UCONNECT, BLUETOOTH, KEYLESS ENTRY AND MORE!

30 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$20,135
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,886
SALE PRICE	\$16,249
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$250

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$14,999

3 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE VINS #625597, 625598, 625603

### 2016 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT

2 DOOR COUPE 3.6L V-6 W/8-SPEED AUTOMATIC

16 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

MSRP	\$27,990
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,502
SALE PRICE	\$24,488
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH	-\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$23,988

1 TO CHOOSE AT THE NET PRICE #101918

### 2016 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4X4 4 DOOR SUV

70 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**SALE PRICE**

## \$26,888

2 TO CHOOSE AT THIS SALE PRICE #147653, 145026

### 2015 DODGE DURANGO CITADEL

4 DOOR SUV 3.6L V-6 W/8-SPEED & LOADED! AUTOMATIC

65 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$6,250
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CONSUMER CASH	-\$1,250

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$7,500

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# Local libraries challenge parents to read 1,000 books to their child before age six

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) has partnered with First5 Santa Clara County in the “1000 Books Before 6” initiative, urging parents to read to their children 1,000 books before they reach the age of six.

Modeled after the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program, the new 1,000 Books Before Six program was first introduced at SCCLD’s Cupertino Library in Dec. 2013. It was so well received by library patrons, the program is now offered at all SCCLD libraries.

“Research has shown that 90 percent of a child’s brain develops in the first five years of life states Emily Lo, Chair, Joint Powers Authority of Santa Clara County Library District, “These critical first years also create a window of opportunity for parents and communities to help shape how a child’s brain matures while, at the same time, laying a solid foundation for learning,” said Lo. “Here in Santa Clara County, I’m pleased that our residents have access to a variety of libraries which endorse and encourage parents and guardians to read daily to their children, providing an assortment of fun programs and activities they can participate in to enrich their child’s life.”

Free workshops, concerts and literature focusing on early childhood literacy for parents and caregivers are offered at all SCCLD libraries. Parents are encouraged to pick up their copy of the pamphlets “Every Child Ready to Read,” and “1,000 Books Before

Six” booklists for teaching and learning tips as well as incentives to encourage reading in children 0-6 years of age.

Additional research on the benefits of reading to young children conducted by Australia’s Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research in 2013 not only proved a link between how often a child is read to and his or her development but also the benefits received through daily reading. The study worked with children from a variety of backgrounds and socioeconomic levels. It was discovered that neither the level of household income nor the level of parental education seemed to matter. What did matter was one basic thing: daily reading leads to better developmental outcomes. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1RoMTRI>.

In “Every Child Ready to Read,” SCCLD offers tips to help children develop literacy and pre-reading skills. Simple activities such as reading, talking and singing are important to helping children learn language and reading skills. “And, completing the 1,000 books before age 6 challenge, isn’t as hard as one might think,” stated Nancy Howe, County Librarian for SCCLD. “If a parent or caregiver reads three books a day to



The Chow family of Campbell gets ready to start filling in their reading logs at the Campbell Library.

their child, they will have read 1,095 books by the end of one year! Just think of the possibilities for learning,” Howe exclaimed. Free, colorful log books will be given to parents to help keep track and mark off the number of books read. Incentives and prizes are awarded as the books are logged. In addition to these programs, all SCCLD libraries offer:

- Displays of classic and new children’s books (check out up to 100 books at a time)
- Story times
- Interactive eBooks

■ AWE stations (an all-in-one educational computer station designed for kids ages 2–10) at each library

■ Audio books (CDs, downloadable and with device)

■ Read with Me Kits (kits are created around a single theme, such as Colors, Dinosaurs, or Bedtime and includes: Books, CD or DVD, Puppet and Activity suggestions)

■ Take Home Science Kits (kits include: 1-2 books on subject matter, 2 laminated activity cards, notebook to keep for recording results)

■ Special events, classes, and concerts just for kids

■ Reading recommendations for young children by experienced Children’s Librarians

The program is free and open to everyone. Register at any SCCLD location and pick up a reading log to track the progress. Color one circle for each book read. Every time 50 books have been read, return the log to the library for a sticker. Once parents and children reach the 100 and 500 mark, they receive a special prize. At 1,000 books read, participants receive a special certificate of completion and a free book. Since the program began in Sept. 2015, more than 650 children and their caregivers have signed up for the program.

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## SMALL PLATES FOR A

# BIG PARTY

### Asparagus Tart

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 2 cups Jarlsberg cheese, shredded
- 1 pound asparagus
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- salt and pepper

Heat oven to 400 F. Prepare baking sheet with parchment paper.

Roll out puff pastry into 16-by-10-inch rectangle, trimming uneven edges. Place on baking sheet. With knife, lightly score pastry dough 1 inch from edges to mark rectangle. Using fork, pierce dough inside markings at 1/2-inch intervals. Bake until golden, about 15 minutes.

Remove pastry shell from oven and sprinkle with shredded cheese. Trim asparagus spears to fit crosswise inside pastry shell. Arrange in single layer over cheese, alternating ends and tips. Brush with oil, sprinkle thyme leaves and season with salt and pepper. Bake until spears are tender, about 20 minutes.

### Tomato Gratin

- 8 medium ripe tomatoes
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, sliced
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme (or 4 basil leaves, chopped)
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 ounces toasted pine (pignoli) nuts
- 1/2 pound (8 ounces) grated Jarlsberg cheese

Heat oven to 350 F.

Cut tomatoes in half.

In bowl, whisk together vinegar, olive oil, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper; gently mix in tomatoes. Transfer to ovenproof dish, turning tomatoes cut side up before baking 15 minutes.

When tomatoes are cool enough, remove skins before returning to baking dish. Sprinkle tomatoes with nuts and cheese. Return to oven and bake about 10 minutes, or until cheese turns golden and bubbly.

Serve as bruschetta on sliced, toasted Italian bread or as a side dish to fish and meat.



#### FAMILY FEATURES

**T**his holiday season don't let a main dish hog all the glory. Instead let guests feast on a festive spread of small plates and sides. Snack-size portions of a wide range of delicious dishes are the perfect solution for entertaining.

A large, heavy meal can leave guests feeling lethargic. Keep your party lively with lighter bites that guests can nibble on throughout the night. Another advantage of a small plate menu is that guests will appreciate the chance to sample many flavors without fear of over-indulging.

#### Get your party planning started with these tips:

- Keep dishes simple and put the focus on quality ingredients, such as naturally lactose and gluten free Jarlsberg cheese. Best known for the classic wedge available in original and smoked flavors, Jarlsberg cheese offers a mild, mellow, nutty and delicious taste that is perfect for any cheese board and pairing with meats of your choice.
- Give traditional vegetable sides a special boost to make them party perfect. Basic asparagus gets a fresh twist with this Asparagus Tart, which blends savory Jarlsberg brand cheese and a pastry for a pretty presentation you can cut into squares before serving.
- Plan your menu with the clock in mind. Choose foods that will taste great for the duration of your party without drying out or losing flavor, such as this Tomato Gratin.
- Keep cold dishes chilled by setting the serving bowl inside a larger bowl filled with ice (add some flair by tinting the ice or adding decorative accents).
- Use burners to keep the heat on warm dishes, or simply rotate in fresh batches periodically.

Give your holiday entertaining an extra boost this year with Jarlsberg Cheese's Great Holiday Giveaway, which runs through Dec. 31 and offers prizes for holiday entertaining, including a DSLR camera as the grand prize and weekly charcuterie party kits. Learn more and enter (once per day) at [Facebook.com/Jarlsbergusa](https://www.facebook.com/Jarlsbergusa), and find more holiday entertaining recipes at [jarlsberg.com](https://www.jarlsberg.com).



## Times Features



## Almaden youth learn firsthand the true meaning of Veteran's Day

Almaden youth had the opportunity to learn firsthand the true meaning of Veteran's Day at took part of a local living history event at Brookdale.

It was 'standing room only' as the children from Girl Scout Troop #62518 and Cub Scout Pack #272, both from Williams

Elementary School; lead this year's Veteran's Day ceremony for seniors living at the nearby Brookdale San Jose community.

The ceremony was run by 3rd grade boys from Den #2 and included a flag procession, the pledge of allegiance, singing the national anthem, handing flags to each veteran, and ended by singing 'God Bless America.'

A retired Brigadier General and multiple Congressional Medal of Honor recipients currently call Brookdale San Jose home along with several other WWII and Korean War Veterans.

## CRIME REPORT

### Tuesday, December 1

San Jose police shot five times into the passenger door of a stolen SUV that initially rammed cars, including a patrol car, during a chase Tuesday afternoon at approximately 1 p.m.

The encounter ended with the man's arrest inside the Toys 'R' Us store at the corner of Blossom Hill Rd. and Almaden Expressway located at Almaden Square. The suspect fled from the stolen car and entered the toy store

and put on a Toys 'R' Us shirt. Officers quickly spotted the suspect and arrested him.

### Monday, November 30

San Jose police shut down a portion of Almaden Expressway temporarily while officers investigated a shooting late Monday night. The shooting was reported at 10:42 p.m. in the 5700 block of Via Monte Drive.

When officers arrived, they found a man was suffering from at least one gunshot wound. He was transported to a local hospital.

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www.AlmadenCongregational.org  
We are a welcoming Church engaged in progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Invision Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.  
Worship 9:00AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM Sundays. 1st Sundays in Worship: Holy Communion; 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folk Choir; 3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc.  
4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions. Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM  
Worship at 10:30 AM  
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

#### EAST VALLEY CHURCH

We are a Multicultural Christian Community committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World.  
Sunday Schedule: Worship 10am, Sunday School for all ages 8:30am, Coffee and Conversation 9:30am  
Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery (Please see website for details and meeting times www.eastvalleychurch.com )  
Community-Life Pastor (Youth/College & Career) – Pastor Pat Boyd, Community Life Pastor (Small Groups/Christian Education) – Pastor Alvin Lin, Children's Ministry Director – Julie Garcia, Celebrate Recovery Leader – Anne Friend. We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalleychurch.com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector. Phone:408-268-0243  
Web:www.eca-sj.org  
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in

our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

#### EVERGREEN VALLEY CHURCH

Visit our Web Site at www.evcsj.com 2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. Excellent contemporary Christian music and Bible-based teaching. Nursery care and Children's Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en español, Domingo 4pm.

#### FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include

Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

#### HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith.Knowledge.Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our Sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

#### SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in

Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1-(408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135. 408-223-1562.  
www.stfrancisofassisi.com  
www.stfrancisofassisi preschool.org  
We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: St. Francis of Assisi Chapel

Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall  
Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM  
Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road: Sunday 9:30 AM  
The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium):  
Sunday 8:15 AM  
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

#### THE POINT CHURCH

www.ThePoint.Church  
3695 Rose Terrasse Circle. San Jose CA 95148. Located at the top of Aborn Rd and Murillo Ave. Come be inspired and build your faith as we worship together this Sunday @ 10:30 AM. KidsPoint is our children's ministry, serving infants through 5th grade. It is a fun and safe experience for kids as they grow in their walk with God. ONE is our student ministry, serving 6th through 12th grades. We help lead students into a growing relationship with Jesus through conversations, fun and service. Because of the diversity of Evergreen we offer church services in 5 languages, each with their own auditorium and pastor. 10:30 AM English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Cambodian. Spanish at 1:00 PM.

**Worship listing advertisements are \$495 annually. Please call Brigitte at (408) 558-3623.**

Times **Features**

# Gas prices fall 2.7 cents per gallon

Average retail gasoline prices in San Jose have fallen 2.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.65/g, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 427 gas outlets in San Jose. This compares with the national average that has fallen 2.4 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.04/g.

Including the change in gas prices in San Jose during the past week, prices yesterday were 39.9 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 13.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 14.1 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 72.9 cents

per gallon lower than this day one year ago. "Gasoline prices over the weekend and holiday were certainly quite cheap compared to prior years and other holidays this year," said Patrick DeHaan, GasBuddy senior petroleum analyst. "While some cities and states may see some slight bumps at the pump in the days ahead thanks to the fallout of the downing of a Russian fighter jet last week, we're more focused on the upcoming OPEC meeting this coming weekend and the potential

implications from any major change in oil production. There are expectations that OPEC will continue to kick the can down the road and not change production levels. If there are surprises either way, it could definitely be felt at the pump and into 2016," he added.

For a complete listing of current averages and other fuel price data, visit <http://media.gasbuddy.com>. For fuel news and alerts, follow @GasBuddyNews on Twitter.

# AlmadenTimes Real Estate Guide



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**Employment**

DIRECTV is currently recruiting for the following position in Castroville:

**Designated System Trainer**

If you are not able to access our website, DIRECTV.com, mail your resume and salary requirements to:  
 DIRECTV, Attn: Talent Acquisition, 161 Inverness Drive West, Englewood, CO 80112. To apply online, visit: www.directv.com/careers. EOE.

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Contact: Jose Magana  
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*Almaden Valley...*

*The Home We Love*



*Just Listed!*

**5830 CHAMBERTIN DRIVE**

**Open Saturday & Sunday 1pm to 4pm**

Beautifully updated approximately two years ago, this corner unit has 3 bedrooms (one currently used as an office) and 2.5 baths with approximately 1,573+/-sf of living space in the desirable Old Almaden Winery Neighborhood. Central air conditioning, dual pane windows, newer screens, phantom screen, newer plush carpet, security alarm system available, plus much more.

**Offered at \$999,000**



**1037 ALAMITOS CREEK DRIVE**

*Just Listed!*

**Open Saturday & Sunday 1pm to 4pm**

Almaden Valley, two-level, 1470+/-sf home on an approximately 2614sf lot. Three bedrooms, two-and-one-half baths. Granite slab counter and backsplash, plenty of cabinetry, limestone tile floor, recessed lights, stainless appliances, high peaked ceilings. Close to Almaden Quicksilver County Park, restaurants, shops, schools, parks and more. Top Almaden Schools.

**Offered at \$830,000**

*Sale Pending!*

**5940 STERLING OAKS**

Amazing, 4724+/-sf, Almaden Valley home with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and a bonus room. Kitchen has new quartz slab counters and backsplash, center island, plenty of cabinetry plus a separate pantry with built-in shelves. Spacious master bedroom suite with high-peaked ceiling, Jacuzzi-style tub, and a large closet/dressing room. Three-car garage. Right across the street from Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. Nearby Jeffrey Fontana Park.

**Offered at \$1,749,000**



**Just Sold!** 707 Briar Ranch Lane 4bd/3ba, 2806+/-sf home with Top Almaden Valley schools. **Effective Sales Price \$1,275,000**



**Therese Swan**

408.656.8240

tswan@apr.com

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Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.