

UPBEAT STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTS GOALS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
- **PAGE 4**



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**  
FROM THE STAFF OF THE ALMADEN TIMES



WOMEN IN THE ARTS HONORED BY NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN AT RECENT LUNCHEON - **PAGE 10**



FEB. 13-FEB. 26, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 3

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## LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATED



A spectacular Lion Dance was a high-energy start to a dazzling array of performances at Leland Bridge Night's annual Chinese New Year celebration. *Photos by Jeanne Carbone*

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### EDUCATION

## 'Cash for College' workshops offered

By Jim Beall

*Special to the Times*

Education has the power to transform lives and I believe every student who is qualified to attend college should have that opportunity. But too many times, cost is a barrier.

This year, I have made it my mission to inform students and families about the resources available to them to pay for college.

I am sponsoring a series of "Cash for College" workshops in February to help students and their parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form - commonly referred to as FAFSA, a form that determines how much federal, state, and other college financial they can receive.

*See BEALL, page 6*

## Leland Bridge Night presents annual celebration

By Jeanne C. Carbone

*Managing Editor*

The Year of the Sheep was celebrated with panache and style as a crowd of more than 300 attended Leland Bridge Night on Jan. 31 in the school's auditorium.

From the spectacular Lion Dance opening to song and dance and even Chinese Yoyo performers, the Lunar New Year was a feast for the eyes as well as the dinner served. A two-part fashion show was featured as well and there was a first ever ballet by Leland senior, ballerina Rebeca Wong, at the event.

"The talent never fails to amaze me," said Councilmember Johnny Khamis who was in attendance and presented a commendation to Leland Bridge and a donation to President Annie Liu. "Thank you to the

*See BRIDGE NIGHT, page 20*



Colorful centerpieces with sheep celebrated the Lunar New Year and were available for purchase to raise more funds for Leland Bridge sponsored school events.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The average American's credit card balance in Q2 2014 was \$5,596, an amount it could take months or years to pay off." - AICPA, Page 14

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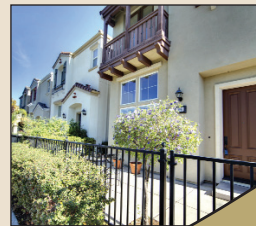
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1357 Echo Valley Dr.  
(Pending)



20675 View Oaks Way  
(Pending)



998 Foxwood



6831 Eldridge Dr.  
\*Represented buyer



1058 Kristen Ct.



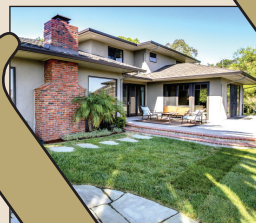
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## This Week:

### IN MEMORY

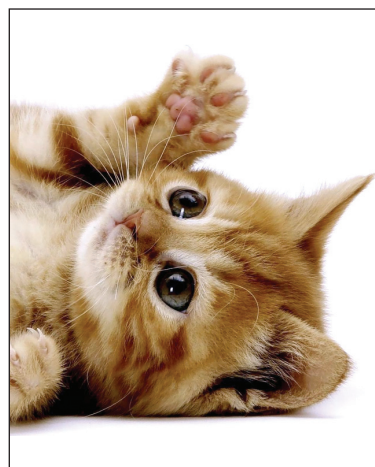
Remembering Vallie Wang Chan: **PAGE 8**

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## Almaden Times

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# Valley Currents

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

## State of the County: Year of opportunity declared

### Upbeat address highlights accomplishments and goals

By Jeanne C. Carbone

Managing Editor

“The state of the county is good and getting better,” said Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese at the annual State of the County address at the Montgomery Theater in downtown San Jose on Jan. 27.

Cortese announced that the county has come through the recession after cuts totaling \$1.8 million were made. He thanked the 15,000 county employees who agreed to cuts in wages and benefits during those years. With a balanced budget with a small surplus, Cortese expects the 2016 budget to hold steady.

“Our economy is strong and Silicon Valley is booming,” he said. “As home to the largest companies that change the world on a daily basis, Santa Clara County captures the heart of Silicon Valley—the epicenter of this daily innovation revolution; A new Valley of Heart’s Delight.”

Though his speech was upbeat, Cortese recognizes that many still struggle to make a better life for themselves and their families and that is what the county is focused on—to create opportunity and quality of life for the residents. He declared 2015 to be the Year of Opportunity by working together to improve the community.

“That’s not too much to ask of the community that boasts to being among the highest per capita productivity in the world,” Cortese said. “... [the] county must ensure we take every opportunity to support businesses so they can thrive, grow and succeed.”

He also stressed the need to avoid political posturing of rejecting ideas or solutions based on where or who the ideas are presented. “Too often, we choose sides instead of choosing solutions,” Cortese said.

He challenged the county and community partners to be open to ideas and solutions no matter from where they are suggested that will improve services to residents.

In a show of solidarity, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and councilmembers, and other noted officials attended the address that was well received by attendees who



Board of Supervisors President **Dave Cortese** presented the State of the County address at the Montgomery Theater on Jan. 27. *Photos by Jeanne Carbone*

applauded throughout the address.

Cortese laid out a plan for the toughest problems that are faced—homelessness, affordable housing, public safety and access to quality health care.

#### Homelessness

On any given day, 7,600 homeless reside on the streets of Santa Clara County with more than 5,000 in San Jose alone. “Stunningly, nearly 1,000 are veterans and another 25 percent are children,” said Cortese.

A Task Force will be organized with a report due to the Board of Supervisors in 10 months and addressing affordable housing and homelessness in the short term. The Task Force will be co-chaired by San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Matt Mahood, South Bay Labor Council Chief Officer Ben Field (who were also emcees at the address) as well as Supervisors Mike Wasserman and Cindy Chavez, a City of San Jose representative chosen by Mayor Liccardo, and others.

#### Public safety

“... every family deserves a safe

neighborhood,” said Cortese.

Under county government, is the Sheriff’s Office, prosecutors and firefighters. Steps have been taken to fill the vacancies at the Sheriff’s Office. There were 215 vacant badge positions out of 1,320 at the beginning of 2014. Cortese expects to have fewer than 30 vacancies at the end of 2015.

The county invested \$850,000 to step up efforts in the Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office with the support from the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking for this crime of modern day slavery. A Human Trafficking Commission was created to support law enforcement and collaborate with regional, national and international partners.

Cortese wants to create an Office of Neighborhood Safety to reduce violent crime by working with offenders and victims through mentoring and intervention services. Also, a Juvenile Fellowship Program will be created for youth offenders who engage in violent activities or use firearms. The youth participants will take part in the program, work on improving

their lives through education, job training and a resolution to the pain and damage they caused their victims.

#### Public health

Cortese wants to reverse the growth of Type 2 Diabetes in Santa Clara County by ensuring that the county’s 1.8 million residents have access to screening to prevent Type 2 from occurring. Supervisor Ken Yeager will lead the effort that no metro area in the county has undertaken. A similar assessment of the health of children in the county is also planned that Yeager will head.

With funding increased for the Senior Nutrition Program that began this month to insure meals were cooked onsite at their community centers, Cortese wants to move toward the goal of becoming a World Health Organization Age Friendly Community.

#### Immigration

The Board of Supervisors is exploring creating a County Office of Immigrant Relations to better serve these populations. They are also looking to form partnerships with the City of San Jose and community foundations to research the impact of changes in our area and coordinate services such as an education campaign to stop fraudulent *notarios* from preying on immigrants who are navigating though complex legal matters.

#### Economic development

Create a County Economic Development Office that will seek out opportunities in each city within the county to use the land and provide incentives to builders and businesses such as for affordable housing for the homeless. An economic summit is also planned for this year as was organized in 2012.

Plans are being made to create a pilot tourism program that will offer boating field trips around the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge at the Alviso Marina.

To read the entire transcript of the State of the City visit <http://www.scc.gov/sites/scc/Pages/State-of-county-address-dave-cortese.aspx>.

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to Jeanne Carbone, Managing Editor, at [jeannec@timesmediainc.com](mailto:jeannec@timesmediainc.com) or via postal mail to: The Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124



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Times **Community News****Beall***Continued from page 1*

The workshops will also furnish essential information about applying for Cal Grants, the Middle Class Scholarship, and more.

It has become clear to me that many students, especially those who are the first members of their family going to college, do not know what free financial aid is available to them or understand how to apply for it. What they don't know can hurt them.

Two years ago as tuition fees rose, over \$396 million in Pell Grants, free federal money earmarked for college-bound students from California's working families, went untouched. About 108,000 students eligible for the grants simply did not apply for the money, leaving on the table grants that were worth on average about \$3,640 each.

Many officials believe this mistake was largely the result of parents and students being unaware of the requirement to fill out the FAFSA. The mistake can cost a student the chance to attend college or severely delay entrance. That's why I am holding the "Cash for College" workshops throughout my Senate District.

Recently, I held an evening workshop

at James Lick High School that drew nearly 90 people. Representatives from the California Student Opportunity and Access Program and the Cash for College program spoke to families about their options for scholarships, grants, and loans.

Madeline Villa, who accompanied her 18-year-old daughter, Jecelyn, a James Lick senior, told my staff that the workshop provided her with solid information on new alternatives for paying for college.

"We basically thought we'd have to pay for college ourselves," Villa said. "Now I see a lot of programs out there to help our kids get the education they need for a great future. This is something new to us."

Ensuring every eligible student can get into college and graduate without burdensome loans is a priority. Studies show that students who carry heavy college loans are less likely to purchase a home or open their own business. Their career choices are also affected.

Sponsoring local workshops is just one way I'm trying to help. Taking action on a larger scale, I am co-authoring legislation, Senate Bill 15, to expand college access and affordability. The bill would eliminate University of California regents' plans to hike tuition by 5 percent.

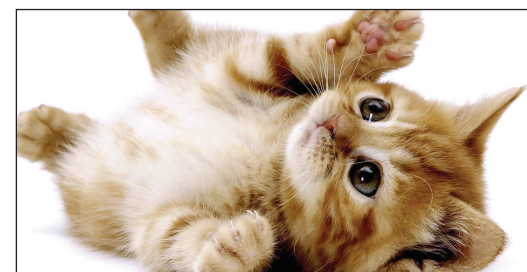
SB 15 provides \$50 million each to the UC and California State University systems to expand support services, such as counseling, to help students complete their degrees and augments the UC and CSU budgets by another \$25 million to increase course offerings. The bill also adds 10,500 more enrollments slots at CSU campuses and creates an additional 7,500 competitive Cal Grants.

The plan will be financed through three sources: increasing UC non-resident student fees; transitioning the Middle Class Scholarship program; and a \$150 million general fund investments that declines to \$66 million by the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Government must take the leadership role in seeing that our colleges are open to all. Perhaps the best example is the original G.I. Bill of Rights, passed by Congress in 1944. The bill covered the college tuition for 2.2 million World War II vets, many of whom could not have afforded it. The bill had another effect: It opened the doors of higher education for those groups — such as minorities — who had been customarily denied entry. The sudden influx of these new college-educated students would fuel America's post-war prosperity.

Investing in education makes sense because it is about investing in California's greatest resource — its people.

*Jim Beall is the elected representative for the 15th District of the California State Senate. The district is comprised on San Jose, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell and Monte Sereno.*

**Senate Report****Jim Beall**  
15th District**HSSV and vets celebrate Spay and Neuter Month in February**

The Humane Society Silicon Valley has partnered with 20 local veterinary offices to provide reduced spay and neuter services throughout the month of February. Sterilized pets have a higher chance of living a healthier and longer life, while reducing the overpopulation of homeless animals in the community. Clients can receive up to 40 percent off regular price by appointment only.

"Increasing spay and neuter efforts at this time of year heads off hundreds of homeless litters in the spring and summer months," says Dr. Cristie Kamiya, HSSV Chief of Shelter Medicine. There are a number of added benefits to spay or neuter your pets. It can completely eliminate the risk of testicular cancer in male animals and also reduce the risk of ovarian and other cancers in females. There is less desire for animals to roam, minimizing the interest to mate, spray or mark territory while also decreasing the chances of an accident with a vehicle and fights with neighboring animals.

Visit [hssv.org/snmonth](http://hssv.org/snmonth) to find a participating veterinarian near you and schedule an appointment today.

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Times **Community News****OBITUARY****Vallie Wang Chan****Aug. 16, 1932 – Jan. 26, 2015**

Vallie Wang Chan passed away from congestive heart failure at her Almaden Valley home on Jan. 26. She had lived there for more than 50 years.

Vallie was born Shanghai, China to C.H. Wang and Annie Sung Wang and was the oldest of five children. She studied journalism and English literature in college. And she deeply admired the U.S.

Her father was a journalist, and Vallie followed in his footsteps by studying journalism in college. After three years, she left college to work to support her family and became a daily news reporter. She did this for about a year until her father secured a job with one of the top newspapers in Taiwan. The family then moved to Taiwan in 1952 and Vallie became a stewardess for a Taiwan airline. She was motivated by the higher pay and the experience of flying the world. "As an adult, she often spoke of how the U.S. values of freedom and independence resonated with



**Vallie Wang Chan** (Photo courtesy Chan Family)

her," said her daughter Felicia Chan. "She began speaking of her desire to move to the U.S. when she was 17."

That dream came true when Vallie emigrated from Taiwan to the U.S. on New Year's Eve in 1956. She procured work within a week or so as a reservationist at

Western Airlines even though her English was still nascent, but she was very resourceful and enlisted the help of a friend to help her stay employed.

Another achievement in Vallie's life is uniting and safeguarding all five members of her immediate family to the U.S. She was frugal and was able to sponsor, support and settle all four of her siblings plus her dad (her mother died in 1969) when they were old enough to start college and begin a life here.

Vallie was always interested in the arts, literature and music. She became a member of the National League of American Pen Women

Santa, Clara County Branch, with a designation in both art and letters in 1979. She continued writing most recently Haiku poems that were published. Many of talents were self-cultivated, educating with books, teachers, and spent hours patiently progressing and mastering her craft. She was not one to

conform, pursued discipline, and believed that a brush painting was only truly masterful when it is created from one fluid stroke, said her daughter. Vallie was an award winning artist and showed her work at many galleries in the Bay Area throughout the years. Currently, she has a painting on display at La Petit Trianon Theater gallery in downtown San Jose through April 17, 2015.

"If there is a silver lining, John and I had just seen her and my dad the day before," said daughter Felicia Chan. "She was in great spirits, and we very much enjoyed our time together. We are comforted that Maynard, my father and her inseparable companion of 56 years, was by her side and that her passing was brief and without suffering. We are also grateful that she was in her home in the community that she loved for more than 50 years."

Vallie is survived by her husband Maynard Chan, daughters Felicia Constance Chan and Irene Celeste Chan, son-in-laws John Slater and Robert Wolfe [respectively], siblings Julia Tung, Sally Tantrohol, Frank Wang, Eugene Wang, their spouses and children.

A memorial service will be held at St. Stephens-in-the-Field Episcopal Church later in February. —*Jeanne Carbone*

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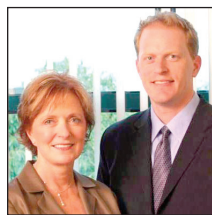
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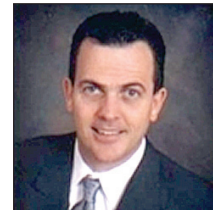
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## Times Local News



The National League of American Pen Women, Santa Clara County Branch honored **Carolyn Larsen, Melody Sheppard, Patricia Sherwood, Marie Cameron, Ann Bridges, Clare Mullin, Deanna Grenier-Mullins** and **Patricia Dennis** for their achievements in the arts at a gala held at the Elks Club on Feb. 7. Photos by Judy Bingman

# Women in the arts honored at luncheon

By Jeanne C. Carbone  
Managing Editor

The arts were celebrated as local women with excellence in art, music and writing were honored at the Santa Clara County Branch of the National League of American Pen Women celebrity luncheon at the Elks Club on Feb. 7.

With a theme of Unleashing the Creative Women, the luncheon honored in art: Patricia Dennis, Carolyn Larsen, Patricia Sherwood, Marie Cameron, in letters; Ann Bridges, Clare Mullin, and for music Melody Sheppard and Deanna Grenier-Mullins. The celebration of these talented women was also a fundraiser for scholarships for local high school senior girls.

The luncheon program featured the national president of the NLAPW, Candace Long, who sang and presented a lecture on her personal journey in the arts.

One of the achievers is Melody Sheppard who is a Castellero and Pioneer High alumna and attended San Jose



**Melody Sheppard and Deanna Grenier-Mullins** on stage awaiting their awards as achievers at the Santa Clara County Branch celebrity luncheon.

State University. She plays the guitar with the Night Owl Quartet and in the past with the South Bay Guitar Society Guitar Quartet with Jerry Snider.

“I have been a teacher of music for eight years and have never dreamed of performing with the South Bay Guitar Society,” says Sheppard. “I knew I wanted to be a part of something bigger, but didn’t know what. After attending San Jose State University, I found myself loving music so much more. Once the Night Owl Quartet came about, we all realized that all four of us were teachers.”

The Santa Clara County Branch was founded in 1922 and is part of the National organization that began in 1897 to promote the development of the creative talents of professional women artists, writers, dramatists, lecturers and composers.

For more information, visit [www.nlapwsantaclara.org](http://www.nlapwsantaclara.org).

**The celebration of these talented women was also a fundraiser for scholarships for local high school senior girls.**

# More plans for ‘Welcome to Almaden’ sign

By Jeanne C. Carbone  
Managing Editor

This past December, the “Welcome to Almaden Valley” sign was unveiled by the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Avenue.

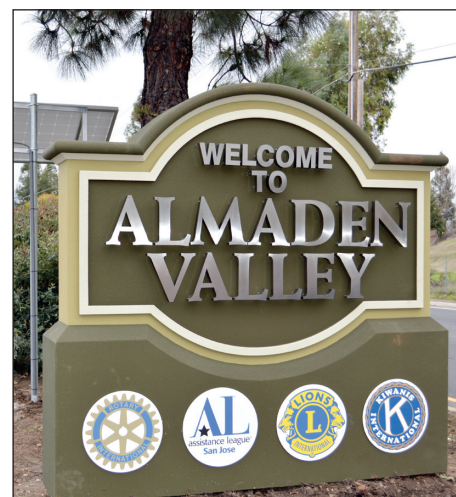
For 10 years, the Rotary Club had talked about the possibility of organizing the effort of the sign says past President Ken Tavernier.

“Five or six years ago, we said we should really do something,” said Tavernier in a phone interview. “About two and a half years ago, we asked again ‘what happened to the sign?’”

But at a cost of \$50,000 to \$60,000, the project was prohibitive.

Again the sign came up last year and the group decided to talk to Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Khamis was all for the welcome sign and introduced Tavernier to Colin Gray of JSM Enterprises and the builder of the 10 home development on Brasilia Way nearby. He was in and the sign was made available at cost—\$18,000—with JSM Enterprises donating \$5,000 and the Rotary Club the same. The rest of the \$8,000 was donated by the Assistance League of San Jose, Almaden Super Lions Club and Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley.

With the Expressway owned by the city but the county also involved, County Supervisor Mike Wasserman was contacted and he gave the okay to proceed. The city



and county approval, and the money in place, they were ready to proceed and the

sign was unveiled in December with a stucco façade with metal lettering and backlit with LED lights fed from a solar pole that will light up at night. The dimensions of the sign are 7.5 feet wide and 8 feet tall.

But the Rotary Club has more plans for the Welcome to Almaden Valley intersection—a mural, art boxes and landscaping at the cost of \$150,000.

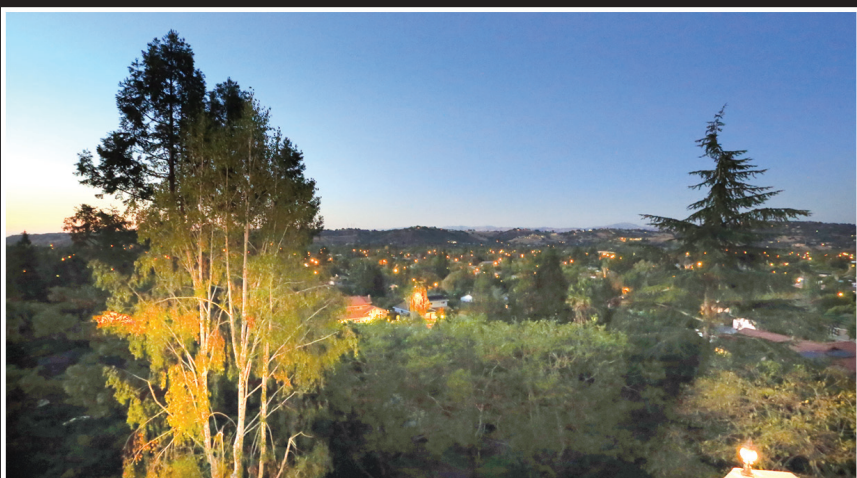
“It’s actually three different projects—the sign, the mural and the landscaping. The mural would portray Almaden Valley—the Quicksilver park, parks and so on,” says Tavernier.

Tavernier also says they’d like painted art boxes of the utility boxes arranged through San Jose’s Art Boxes. The Club plans to look into the murals and art boxes in the next few months. “We’ll make sure it looks fantastic,” says Tavernier.

*Open House*  
*Sunday, Feb. 15*  
*1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

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If you were thinking of putting your home on the market this year, you may want to consider the next few months instead and take advantage of the current low inventory. Interest rates are still low and there are many buyers looking, especially with the San Jose Unified currently starting enrollment for next school year.

As a long time Almaden resident, I have been selling homes here for 20 years. Please contact me if you would like a Competitive Market Analysis.

Times **Local News****COUNTY UPDATE****Senior Winter Walk, measles, healthcare services**

By Mike Wasserman

*Special to the Times*

**C**alling all Seniors! Please join me for the eighth annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Resource Fair. The event will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Macy's courtyard.

Hosted by Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Don Rocha and Ash Kalra, this very popular event brings together vital information for seniors and their families in a fun and educational environment. Registration is free and begins at 8:30 a.m. The Resource Fair will feature helpful health information for seniors followed by a walk around the mall, fun activities, healthy treats and more.

For more information about attending, please contact the office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis at (408) 535-4910 or district10@sanjoseca.gov.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department recently confirmed two cases of measles in Santa Clara County. These cases raise the possibility that some Santa Clara County residents may have been exposed to measles since the patients visited public locations while infectious. On Sunday, Jan. 18, a person infectious with measles visited two locations in Gilroy: Costco and Walmart between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. On Monday, Jan. 19, this person also visited Dave & Busters in Milpitas between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The risk of developing infection after a brief encounter with a person with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who find that they may have been exposed to measles should review their vaccination history and monitor themselves for symptoms. If you have any questions about your vaccination status, consult your doctor, who may elect to give you another measles, mumps and Rubella Vaccine shot or perform a blood test to check for immunity to measles. For more information about

**County Report**Mike Wasserman,  
County Supervisor

measles please visit the County Public Health Department at [www.sccphd.org](http://www.sccphd.org).

Continued healthcare access is critically important for Santa Clara County residents. On Feb. 20, Attorney General Kamala Harris is due to reveal her decision regarding the proposed sale of the Daughters of Charity Health System to Prime Healthcare Services which includes O'Connor Hospital in San Jose and Saint Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy. While the decision to allow the sale or not rests solely in the hands of her office, my concern

continues to be maintaining healthcare services in Santa Clara County, especially for our most vulnerable population.

The county is committed to ensuring continued access to these vital services regardless of the outcome of the sale. Both hospitals provide critical emergency services as part of the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. Current county contracts require a 180-day notice of possible emergency services reduction, allowing the county to intervene to ensure that they remain open. State law also requires notices before other planned service reductions. Should the sale be rejected, hospital services will continue in some capacity.

**Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair Feb. 27**

Mark your calendar for the eighth Annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27 and will be held at Westfield Oakridge Mall in the Macy's courtyard. There will be several new vendors in addition to everyone's favorites from previous years. Plus great prizes for a free door prize drawing. The event is held jointly by Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Don Rocha and Ash Kalra. For more information please contact Michele at [michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov) or call (408) 535-4910.

**Fair seeks poster artist to capture 2015 theme 'Share at the Fair'**

The next order of business for the 2015 Santa Clara County Fair is to find an area artist to create the poster for the county's showcase.

Artists wishing to offer their conceptualized ideas on the theme are encouraged to visit the Fair's website at [TheFair.org](http://TheFair.org) and check out the "Attention Local Artists" banner. The concept selected will earn the artist a monetary prize along with the fame associated with creating the annual poster art.

The deadline for submitting a concept is Feb. 15, 2015 and information on the entry process as well as examples of recent posters can all be found at [TheFair.org](http://TheFair.org).

The Santa Clara County Fair is more fun than a family can have for a price any family can afford. The 2015 Fair will run July 30 through Aug. 2 and early vendor application forms are available now online. In addition, information on plans for the 2015 Fair will be updated starting late spring and will also be available at [www.TheFair.org](http://www.TheFair.org).





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## Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk & Senior Resource Fair

Friday, February 27, 2015  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Westfield Oakridge – Macy's Court  
925 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95123

For more information, call Councilmember Khamis' office at 408-535-4910 or email [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)

Hosted by Councilmembers  
Johnny Khamis, Donald Rocha, and Ash Kalra



# Five financial mistakes to avoid this year

Are you satisfied with the financial decisions you made in 2014? If you're not so sure, this is a good time to resolve to make some changes in 2015. The California Society of CPAs offers these tips on the best ways to avoid some common pitfalls.

**Letting your debt get out of control.** Among Americans with credit cards, the average balance in the second quarter of 2014 was \$5,596, an amount it would take most people months or years to pay off. And every month those balances remain outstanding, the more the interest charges add up.

If you're wrestling with high credit card balances, try using cash only for your purchases so that you don't run up any more debt. Pay as much as you can each month on your credit card bills and consider shifting your balances to lower-interest accounts.

In addition, check your credit scores once every four months to be sure there are no fraudulent purchases on your accounts or simple mistakes that are hurting your credit score.

**Making late payments.** Whether it's your credit card or a utility, you're probably going to be charged a late fee if you don't pay that bill on time. Start by noting when payments are due on your calendar so it's easier to remember them. If you don't have the cash on hand when the bills come, contact the companies to see if your payment deadline can be moved to a few days after your paycheck arrives.

If you can't afford your payments, call your creditors. Explain your situation and see if you can work out an arrangement that allows you to make smaller payments over time. If you find yourself scrambling to pay your bills often, review your budget to determine ways to lower your spending, if possible.

Late fees are unnecessary expenses, so it's worthwhile to take some time to determine

how you can avoid them.

**Sidestepping saving.** No matter what your age, it's always a good idea to set aside a little money in an emergency fund that will cover unexpected major expenses, a loss of income or another unpleasant surprise. The older you get, of course, the more important saving for retirement becomes; it's never too early to start.

Saving is easier when you arrange to have a set amount deposited into a savings account each week or into a retirement account. And you'll be surprised at how quickly your money grows.

**Losing out on retirement dollars.** Did you know you can miss out on significant retirement income by retiring too soon? Full retirement age for collecting Social Security payments is above 65 for most current workers, depending on when you were born.

If you retire before then, you will receive less than your full benefit for your lifetime. Your marital situation and other financial circumstances can also affect your best retirement decision, so be sure to turn to your CPA for more details.

**Failing to plan ahead.** Many of life's milestones can be very expensive. Buying a house, having a child, changing careers, sending children to college or entering retirement all can have a profound impact on your financial situation. If any of these steps is in your future, be sure to begin preparing financially as far in advance as possible.

**Your local CPA can help.** This list of potential mistakes may seem daunting, but your local CPA can provide valuable advice that will help you make the best decisions. Be sure to contact him or her with all your financial questions or concerns.

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## Cinequest Film Festival Feb. 26 - March 8

The 25th anniversary of the Cinequest Film Festival - Silicon Valley, will present 91 World and U.S. film premieres, a stellar lineup of film artists and technology innovators.

The Maverick Spirit Award events are with renowned actor Rosario Dawson (Feb. 28) and directing legend John Boorman (Feb. 26), plus a new *Future of Film* Showcase. Cinequest Film Festival 25 (CQFF25) occurs Feb. 24 - March 8, 2015 with more than 100,000 patrons in attendance.

Some of the highlights include:

The Opening Night Screening and Celebration on Feb. 24 at 7:15 p.m. at the California Theatre will feature *Batkid Begins*, director Dana Nachman's powerful documentary, chronicling the amazing response to a young cancer patient's desire to be the super hero for just one day, who "saves" San Francisco. Nachman's stirring film details the undaunted spirit of Batkid Miles Scott,

as the City by the Bay rallies around his "quest," and captures the astounding social media reaction to Miles's wish that exploded around the world.

The Closing Night Screening and Celebration on March 8, at 6 p.m. at the California Theatre will feature writer/director Victor Levin (*Mad Men*) and star Anton Yelchin (*Star Trek*) for a screening of the romantic comedy, *5 To 7*, featuring performances by Yelchin and ex-Bond girl Bérénice Marlohe (*Skyfall*). The supporting cast includes Olivia Thirlby (*Juno*), Eric Stoltz (*Caprica*), and screen legends Glenn Close (*Damages*) and Frank Langella (*Frost/Nixon*). Immediately following the screening, a farewell to the Film Festival will occur at the Glass House.

The Media Legacy Award Events recognizes the pivotal role journalists play in connecting audiences to films and technologies, providing insight into artists, technologists, and the collaborative nature of both disciplines. CQFF25 recipients are Anne Thompson and Richard von Busack from the Metro Newspaper.

For the full Film Festival lineup, visit [www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org).



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Times **Local News**

For all the advancements of the 21st century, we still live in a world filled with senseless violence, cyber attacks, international arms races and racial intolerance. How can we individually and collectively work towards the true greater good?

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## Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey

On Jan. 27 and 28, 331 community volunteers teamed with nearly 100 homeless guides to conduct the 2015 Homeless Census.

Each morning, from 6 to 10 a.m., staff from the City of San José and County of Santa Clara deployed teams from Gilroy to Palo Alto to canvas census tracts and conduct a visual count of all homeless people in the community. In the coming weeks, paid homeless guides will conduct an additional survey to gather supplemental information from their homeless peers such as basic demographics data and causes of homelessness.

Required by the federal government, the biennial project helps communities understand the profile of homelessness, supports requests for federal and other sources of funding for homeless services, and provides critical information to engage the community in ending homelessness. The final results from the census and survey are expected in the spring.



The Lion King is coming to Broadway San Jose

## Broadway San Jose announces 2015-16 season lineups

Following a record-breaking 2014/15 season, Broadway San Jose, a Nederlander Presentation, announced Feb. 9 the six productions that will comprise the lineup for the 2015/16 season.

Highlights include the triumphant return engagement of Disney's *The Lion King*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's enchanting adaptation of the all-time classic *The Wizard of Oz*, the smash hit *Motown the Musical*, Disney's *News* and more. In addition, a limited engagement of Disney's beloved classic musical *Beauty and the Beast* will be available as a special season add-on.

"Broadway San Jose's 2015/16 season is filled with Tony Award-winning blockbusters featuring magic, puppetry, dance, and some of the most beautiful music ever written," said Broadway San Jose General Manager Nanci Williams. "Led by the return engagement of Disney's landmark musical *The Lion King* – last seen at the Center for the Performing Arts in 2006 – our season will showcase a wide array of theatrical productions that will delight, entertain and surprise the whole family!"

All performances for Broadway San Jose's 2015/16 season will be held at the 2,700-seat San Jose Center for Performing Arts, a mid-century modern architectural showcase designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, at the corner of Park Avenue and Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose.

*Broadway San Jose season subscriptions range in price from \$223–\$513 for the basic 6-show package and can be purchased online at [broadwaysanjose.com](http://broadwaysanjose.com), or by calling (866) 395-2929. Single ticket on-sale dates will be announced at a later date.*

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You will forfeit discount in the case of a downgrade from qualifying programming or service disconnection during first 12 months. **HD FREE FOR LIFE:** Requires qualifying programming and continuous enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. Additional \$10/mo. HD fee is waived for life of current account. Offer is limited to channels associated with selected programming package. Qualifying programming packages are America's Top 120 and above, DishLATINO Plus and above. You may forfeit free HD in the case of service disconnection. **PREMIUMS FREE FOR 3 MONTHS:** Receive Showtime, Starz, Blockbuster @Home and Encore free for the first 3 months. You must maintain all four movie services during the promotional period. Offer value \$132. After 3 months, then-current prices will apply unless you elect to downgrade. **6 FREE MONTHS OF PROTECTION PLAN:** Receive the Protection Plan free for the first 6 months. Offer value \$48. After 6 months, then-current price will apply unless you elect to downgrade. Change of Service fee will apply if you cancel the Protection Plan during the first 6 months. **DIGITAL HOME ADVANTAGE: EQUIPMENT:** All equipment remains the property of DISH at all times and must be returned to DISH within thirty days of account deactivation or you will be charged an unreturned equipment fee ranging from \$100 to \$400 per receiver. Lease Upgrade fees are not deposits and are non-refundable. Maximum of 6 leased receivers (supporting up to 6 total TVs) per account. You will be charged a monthly equipment rental fee for each receiver beyond the first, based on model of receiver. **WHOLE-HOME HD DVR:** Monthly fees: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7, Super Joey, \$10; second Hopper, \$12. 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Recording capacity varies; 2000 hours based on SD programming. Equipment comparison based on equipment available from major TV providers as of 12/01/14. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an Internet-connected, Sling-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. On Demand availability varies based on your programming subscription. Requires Android OS 4.0 or higher to watch on an Android device and iOS 7.0 or higher to watch on iPhone or iPad. Select DVR recordings cannot be transferred. **ALL OTHER RECEIVER MODELS:** Lease Upgrade fee(s) will apply for select receivers, based on model and number of receivers. Monthly DVR and receiver fees may apply. Digital Home Advantage offer is available from DISH and participating retailers for new and qualified former DISH residential customers in the continental United States. You must provide your Social Security Number and a valid major credit card. Participating retailers may require additional terms and conditions. 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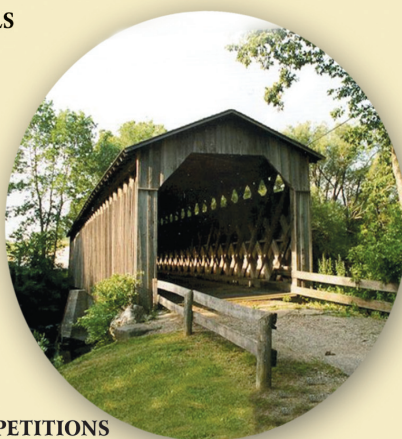
### ESTATES

Probate  
Will Contests  
Guardianships  
Conservatorships  
Litigation

### DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEYS

Health Care  
Asset Management

### SPOUSAL PROPERTY PETITIONS



### DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW

Property Division  
Custody - Support  
Restraining Orders

### PERSONAL INJURY

Auto Accidents  
Wrongful Death Suits

### CIVIL LITIGATION

### REAL ESTATE

### GENERAL BUSINESS

### NOTARY SERVICES

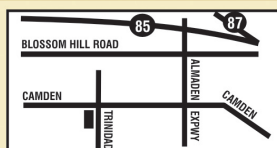
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# CommunityCalendar



## February and March

**Silicon Valley Reads 2015** kicks off 140 free public events in February & March for all ages. The program includes dozens of events in Santa Clara County for NoViolet Bulawayo, author of *We Need New Names*, Cristina Henriquez, author of *The Book of Unknown Americans*, and Bich Minh Nguyen, author of *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*. Each will appear at public libraries, schools and community centers between now and the closing event on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m. at Cupertino Community Hall. Silicon Valley Reads will offer 140 free public events in 12 cities throughout Santa Clara County in February and March, including films, panel discussions, book groups and activities for children and families. The complete schedule of events is listed on the website [SiliconValleyReads.org](http://SiliconValleyReads.org). The authors of the four books for children and teens selected for Silicon Valley Reads 2015 will also visit schools, public libraries and bookstores in February and March. Maria Testa, author of *Something About America*, a book written in free verse for ages 12 and up, will be in town Feb. 19-22. Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel Zubizarreta, the co-authors of *Dancing Home*, a novel for ages 8-12, and Helen Recorvits, author of *My Name Is Yoon*, a beautifully-illustrated picture book for ages 4-8, are also scheduled for multiple appearances. Todd Parr, author of *The Peace Book* for preschoolers, will be at public libraries Feb. 21-22 and March 21-22, and the first 40 families at each location will receive free copies of his book, compliments of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. For further information, visit the website [SiliconValleyReads.org](http://SiliconValleyReads.org) or email [SVReads@aol.com](mailto:SVReads@aol.com).



## March 15

**RealOptions' upcoming Walk for Life & 5K Run** will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Bellarmine College Prep. The event raises funds to support RealOptions' Pregnancy Medical Clinics. Proceeds will allow us continue to offer FREE professional medical services including: pregnancy testing, ultrasound imaging, prenatal care, adoption support, maternity clothing, baby clothing, as well as prevention services of our abstinence education program, and redemptive services of our abortion recovery programs. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1z8Q0U3> or call (408) 229-9836.



## Feb. 14 and 15

The weekend of love, **Symphony Silicon Valley** will be performing live on stage the classic music from the original 1940 Walt Disney film and Disney's *Fantasia 2000* update while the movie is projected in high definition on a huge screen. Disney shares one of its crown jewels of feature animation with Symphony Silicon Valley, accompanying scenes from both the 1940 original version by Walt Disney, as well as Disney *Fantasia 2000*, highlighting selections from each, including Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*. Other iconic moments include Mickey Mouse as he dabbles in magic in Paul Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and the mythical unicorns and winged horses that accompany Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*. The screening and concert of *Fantasia* will be on Saturday, February 14 at 8 PM and Sunday, February 15 at 2:30 PM at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, located at 255 S. Almaden Blvd, San Jose, CA 95113. Advance tickets are from \$44 to \$80 and available by calling the box office Monday – Friday 10 AM to 5 PM at 408 286 2600 or visit [www.fantasiassv.org](http://www.fantasiassv.org). Photo ©Disney

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## Girls softball signups

Ages 4 to 14. 2015 Almaden Valley Girls Recreational Softball Registration is OPEN! Everyone is welcome in our league! Sign-up today at [WWW.AVGSL.ORG](http://WWW.AVGSL.ORG).

## Spring Recreational Soccer Sign-ups

Ages 4-14, Registration for Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League Spring Recreational Soccer is now open! Visit: [www.almadensoccer.org/spring](http://www.almadensoccer.org/spring) for more information.

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- A home without a security system is **3 times more likely to be burglarized**.<sup>3</sup>
- **85% of Police Officials surveyed** believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.<sup>4</sup>

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats060109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109) 2. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/vdthbpr.cfm>  
3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats060109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109) 4. <http://www.beyondidentitytheft.com/home-security-statistics.html>

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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  
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3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc.  
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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](mailto:info@eastvalleychurch.com) We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.converge-worldwide.org](http://www.converge-worldwide.org)

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Kate Flexer, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243  
Web: [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)  
The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA) is a place where God stops for love and laughter. 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 and valued. Children are especially wel-

comed 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 10:30AM, Holy Communion service; Thursday at 7:30AM, short Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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