

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer Just like its logo, Silicon Valley Cares has a big heart, making a real difference for local charities. Its members also appreciate being part of a charity that puts the fun in fundraising.

Founder Kelly Dippel has always been an active community volunteer, starting with walkathons when she was young. While in her 20s, Dippel ran an event business for non-profits. If their funds were low, she undertook fundraising for them free-of-charge. She later served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Asso-ciation, American Heart Associa-tion and Almaden Valley Women's Club.

"Everyone has an ability to do something to make the world a better place," says Dippel. "It's the right thing to do."

After starting a career in commercial real estate, Dippel realized that due to time constraints, she wouldn't be able to be involved with numerous philanthropies. She also wanted a change from the politics, drama and dull events she had experienced with various organizations. "I noticed that the long speeches and live auctions at charitable events had crowds staring at the exits," she says. "Or, you'd want to talk to friends at your table and people would be shushing you. I thought there's got to be another way."

About eight years ago, this led Dippel to create Silicon Valley Cares. Her goal was to form an organization with a group of dynamic women who shared her vision of combining socializing, entertainment and compassionate involvement with non-profit agencies. "I wanted to do things differently, with an emphasis on fun," she says. Her vision took hold. Within six months, they had 60 members. "Drama is kept to a minimum," says Dippel. "We're not about that and we don't put up with it. It's just a group of really good ladies with a common goal of raising funds for local charities."

As she loves Halloween and anything to do with costumes, Dippel had the idea of creating a themed costume party, the Broomstick Ball, which is now in its 7th year. "It's not your average fundraiser," she says. "It's a fun way to give back and it shows." This year's Broomstick Ball, *A Haunted Hoedown*, took place on Oct. 15 at the Horseman's Association on McKean Road.

"I love that we're mixing it up," says Dippel. "It was a huge party." In the future,



Silicon Valley Cares presented their 7th Annual Broomstick Ball, The Haunted Hoedown, on Oct. 15, benefiting local non-profits. (Left to right): 2016 Board: Jessica Sempek-Geddes, Charlene Chavez, Chelsea Pagan, Sheila Seghieri, Kelley Robertson, Leanne Velasco, Marj Moehrke, Katherine Noller-Fernandez, Amber Marienthal, Kelly Avila, Kelly Dippel, Zoey North, Priscilla Avery. Photo courtesy of Silicon Valley Cares.

Dippel says she'd like to have an evening event for adults followed by a daytime event for children. "We could make a haunted house and have face-painting and trick-or-treating," she says. "I love doing things for kids."

In addition to its annual Broomstick Ball in October, Silicon Valley Cares raises funds through a golf tournament held in September, inspired by Dippel losing her mother to cancer four years ago. "After we lost her, I wanted to do something for cancer," she says. "One of our members had cancer, I lost my mom and everybody's touched by it." They soon started the ParTee Classic golf tournament at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. The tournament offers golfing with a twist, including a shotgun start, themed holes, dinner and silent auction. Prizes are awarded for the best-dressed female and male golfers. "It was going to be a oneshot, but everyone loved it," says Dippel. "It's super fun." Half of the funds raised go to Cancer CAREpoint and the remainder is divided among the beneficiaries of the Broomstick Ball.

Silicon Valley Cares also holds social events throughout the year, some including spouses and/or families. Past events include girlsnight-outs, Texas Hold'em/Bingo, attending a Carrie Underwood concert and a luau. "We try to keep it light and fun," says Dippel. "Close friendships have been made as well as business connections. Some members even travel together. It's a very tight group and we support each other."

In addition to a focus on fun, Silicon Valley Cares differs from other organizations in involving its entire membership in selecting grant recipients. They choose three charities each year focusing on children, teens, families, the homeless, crisis situations and animals. In November, the members receive a ballot with each organization's mission statement and they vote on it. At the February or March meeting, a member of each chosen beneficiary is invited to make a presentation, so Silicon Valley Cares members can get excited about who they're raising funds for. "They *See BALL, page 10*

GREAT AMERICA 'Halloween Haunt' just got scarier

> **By Diane Blum** *Times staff writer*

alifornia's Great America is at it again; they just found more ways to terrify you during its annual Halloween Haunt event.

This year there are five additional interactive experiences as well as an exciting new attraction sure to deliver heartpounding, cutting edge family fun. **Virtual reality**

The Halloween Haunt, along with all of the usual scary fare, will introduce the new Fear VR: 5150. The new virtual reality experience allows guests to be strapped to a hospital wheelchair surrounded by horror as seen through their virtual reality



gear (Samsung Gear VR, powered by Occulus). Guests can't escape and are at the mercy of maniacal hospital staff. The park has also created five new *See HAUNT, page 10*

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Times Local News

What is Measure X?

On July 12, 2016 the Board of Trustees of the San Jose - Evergreen Community College District voted unanimously to place Measure X on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

Measure X is a general obligation facilities bond measure in the amount of \$748,000,000. If enacted, Measure X will cost approximately \$18.95 per \$100,000 of assessed household valuation per year

Assessed value is not reflective of market value. All funds are required to be spent on projects that benefit the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District and its colleges, and cannot be spent on administrator salaries.

Should the measure pass, funds from Measure X will be used to repair and upgrade San Jose City College and Evergreen Valley College campuses and classrooms, including: updating labs for nursing, science, technology and engineering.

The measure will also expand educational resources for veterans, improve campus safety and security, and remove asbestos and lead paint, among other priorities.

Sample ballot pamphlets begin mailing for election

The Registrar of Voters' Office began mailing Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets for the Nov. 8, 2016 Presidential General Election to Santa Clara County voters.

Mailing will continue as pamphlets are printed. Nearly 1.2 million pamphlets will be produced for this election to send to voters and to have available at polling places on Election Day. As required by law, pamphlets are printed in the languages of English, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets contain important election information including voting instructions, a sample of the ballot, and information about local candidates and measures. The back cover of the pamphlet indicates each voter's assigned polling place location, and contains a removable application to request a Vote by Mail ballot.

Individuals must be registered to vote in order to receive a pamphlet. To register to vote or to check voter registration status, Santa Clara County residents can visit sccvote.org.

A voter should complete a new registration form if he or she has moved, changed a name(s), or would like to change his or her political party preference. To register to vote in Santa Clara County, a voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on or before Election Day, a Santa Clara County resident and not imprisoned or on parole for a felony.

Online registrations will be accepted as long as they are completed before midnight on Oct.24; paper registration forms that are postmarked by Oct. 24 will also be accepted. Paper registration forms are available at post offices, public libraries, city halls and most local government offices.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at 1-408-299-VOTE (8683) or toll-free at 1-866-430-VOTE (8683), or visit sccvote.org.



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Measure B survey shows support

In a survey of 600 likely voters, sixty-nine percent indicated they are in favor of the Valley Transportation Authority's proposed half-cent sales tax increase (Measure B) on the Nov. 8 ballot.

If approved by two-thirds of voters, it could raise as much as \$6.5 billion for transit and road improvements during the next 30 years.

Measure A is also on the ballot which asks county voters to approve \$950 million in general obligation bonds to provide affordable housing for seniors, at risk veterans, foster children, the disabled and the homeless. There have been no surveys regarding voter sentiment regarding the measure.



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Valley Currents

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



For the first time beginning November 18, Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway will one-hour round-trip journeys to the "North Pole" onboard The Polar Express Train Ride, with features such as those pictured above and below.

Polar Express train ride begins Nov. 18

F Or the first time, Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway will one-hour round-trip journeys to the "North Pole" onboard The Polar Express Train Ride.

Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, passengers will relive the magic of the story as they are whisked away on the train ride.

Singing, dance chefs

Once onboard, singing and dancing chefs serve passengers cookies and hot chocolate while they narrate the classic children's book, *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. Santa and his helpers greet passengers at the North Pole and then board the train, where each child is given the first gift of Christmas—a silver sleigh bell.

Singing and dancing elves aboard each car lead passengers in singing Christmas carols on the ride back to Santa Cruz.

The journey begins Nov. 18, 2016 and runs through Dec. 23 on select dates, with departure times at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to wear their pajamas for the ride.

Santa Cruz Boardwalk rides

As an added bonus, a \$10 MyBoardwalk Card (good for individual rides, attractions and games) will be provided for each paid adult and child (age three and over) for each Polar Express Train Ride reservation.



Editor's note: Official THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides are licensed by Rail Events, Inc. on behalf of Warner Bros. Consumer Products, Inc. Since 2005, Rail Events, Inc. has held the exclusive license to operate THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides in the US, Canada, and the United

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Exact dates, fares and excursion times are available by visiting santacruzthepolarexpressride.com or calling 877-726-7245. Ticket prices range from \$34 to \$89 depending on class of service and date of travel.

LET THE WILLOW GLEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU! Send your letters to editorial@ timesmediainc.com or via postal mail to: Willow Glen Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124

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Times Feature

Viva CalleSJ brings over 100,000 people to the streets of San Jose

By Supervisor Ken Yeager Special to the Times

n Sunday, I joined more than 100,000 people in venturing out

onto some traffic-free streets of San Jose for the second annual Viva CalleSJ street festival.

For five hours on Sunday, the city closed six miles of streets to motor vehicles and allowed residents to walk, run, bike, or otherwise enjoy major thoroughfares such as Fourth Street, San Carlos Street, and Lincoln Avenue free from the noise, exhaust, and dangers of cars and trucks.

I biked the entire route several times and it was great seeing thousands of residents outside enjoying a beautiful late

summer day, getting some exercise and seeing Willow Glen and some of San Jose's great neighborhoods such as the Burbank District and Japantown.

It was also great to meet up with Santa Clara County's Public Health Director and Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody for a Facebook Live event.

We did the event underneath the bicycle mural on Lincoln Avenue in the heart of Downtown Willow Glen as throngs of families, groups of friends and individuals walked, cycled, or skated by us.

The county Public Health Department was one of the sponsors of Viva CalleSJ



Countv

Report

During our Facebook Live, Dr. Cody mentioned that events like that are so important because they help motivate people to get

through its Healthy Communities office.

outside and exercise. She said regular exercise is critical for both people who have health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension and for those who are trying to prevent those conditions from developing.

As health officer, Dr. Cody is charged with preventing large scale outbreaks of communicable diseases in the county. Her office is also in charge of implementing the Getting to Zero initiative that I proposed and the Board approved last December. We have set an ambitious goal of zero new HIV infections, zero

HIV-related deaths, and zero stigma attached to the disease in Santa Clara County. I am confident that Dr. Cody and her team will reach those goals.

My talk with Dr. Cody is the first in a series I will be doing in the coming months with senior officials in county government. I want to introduce those people to the residents of Willow Glen to the rest of my district, and tell a little bit about their job and how they are working hard to improve the quality of life for all county residents.

I encourage you all to visit my official Facebook page at facebook.com/supervisor.yeager to keep up-to-date with the series.

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Our City Forest receives AmeriCorps Programming and Service Award

ur City Forest, a San Jose urban forestry nonprofit, has received the 2016 Excellence in AmeriCorps Programming and Service Award from the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency.

The award was presented Sept. 22nd at the AmeriCorps State and National Symposium in Washington, D.C. in honor of Senator Thomas R. Harkin, a long-time, tireless advocate for national service.

CNCS Executive Officer Wendy Spencer presented the award to Our City Forest representatives President & CEO Rhonda Berry and Urban Forestry Director Loren Klick.

"It is humbling for a locally-based nonprofit such as Our City Forest to receive this national award," said OCF's Rhonda Berry. "We applaud the tireless work of our staff, our service members and the thousands of volunteers who partner with us to grow a healthier and more informed San Jose."

For more information about Our City Forest, please visit ourcityforest.org.



"It is humbling for a locally-based nonprofit such as Our City Forest to receive this national award. We applaud the tireless work of our staff, our service members and the thousands of volunteers who partner with us to grow a healthier and more informed San Jose."

-OCF's Rhonda Berry



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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 opportu-nities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM. Holv Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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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 espanol, Domingo 4pm.

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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!

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7 p.m. Lamentation Service With candlelit funeral procession around church Saturday April 30 8:30 a.m. St. Basil morning Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11p.m. Candlelight Resurrection Service -"Come receive the light!" Midnight-Sunday Pascha/Easter Service -Divine Liturgy Sunday May 1 Easter Sunday 11 a.m. Agape Vespers - Christ's Good News in many languages 1-5 p.m. Pascha/Easter picnic at Almaden Lake Park Cinnabar 1, 6099 Winfield BI., San Jose 95120

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.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, Sunday11:00AM, 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!

Worship listing advertisements are \$495 annually. (408) 558-3623.

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Ball

Continued from page 1

really get drawn in," says Dippel. "The charities share such great stories. It really creates a connection between us and our beneficiaries."

Grant applicants must be 501(c)(3) non-profits situated in Santa Clara County, not funded by a government agency, have been around for at least a year and ideally, be a smaller, grassroots organization. "Our check doesn't mean as much to an organization with deep pockets or one that's funded by an umbrella organization...but to a smaller one, our check means everything," says Silicon Valley Cares Community Outreach and Grants Chair Amber Marienthal.

Grant requests are due by Nov. 1 of each year. Last year, they raised \$16,000 for the Alzheimer Activity Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation and Youth Science Institute. This year's grant recipients include Breakthrough Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Pet Project and The Grateful Garment Project. Key sponsors like Heritage Bank, Frank Rimerman. Delucchi Hawn. Skip's Tires and Auto Centers, Barracuda Networks and Coldwell Banker have partnered with Silicon Valley Cares this year to help raise awareness and support.

After the Broomstick Ball, Silicon Valley Cares hand-delivers checks to

Valley Counseling Service was their first beneficiary. "I will never forget giving them the check," says Dippel. 'It was our first year, so it wasn't huge. I apologized and said, 'I'm sorry it isn't more,' but when they opened the envelope, they started crying. 'If it wasn't for this check,' they said, 'we would've shut our doors.' Since then, they've grown and are able to serve so many more communities and schools. It's amazing what we were able to do from a Halloween costume party."

their grant recipients. Almaden

Some Silicon Valley Cares members are so taken with their organization's beneficiaries, they end up volunteering for them. One member became involved with Sunday Friends and was able to secure inkind donations for them through her company. "By introducing three organizations each year, it gives the membership a chance to learn about them," says Dippel, "and for them to become near and dear to their hearts."

Grant recipients are asked to partner with Silicon Valley Cares by assisting with the Broomstick Ball. We ask our beneficiaries to attend if they can, promote our event and supply us with volunteers," says Dippel. "We keep track of who did what and the board decides partially based upon that what amount of the proceeds each grant recipient receives. One year, we had a benefi-

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For Marienthal, being a member of Silicon Valley Cares helps her to carry on a family legacy. "I wanted to model charitable behavior for my children and have them be involved," she savs.

"My mother modeled this behavior by collecting canned food. She was always charitable and that's how I learned to be."

Dippel agrees. Her mom was also involved in her community and always gave back. "I grew up in a family where we had to work very hard," she says. "Now, I'm more fortunate and see the need to give back to those who are struggling."

For more information, please see: www.siliconvalleycares.org.



Haunt

Continued from page 1

Skeleton Key experiences. Unlike previous years where the skeleton key was part of existing mazes (which created line delays), this year, along with all-new themes, the keys are used for stand-alone attractions. The all-new themes for these highly interactive experiences include Hoarder House, Dominated, Sorority Slaughter, Bone Crusher and Vanity.

There are eight horrific mazes, with themes that include escaped mental patients, evil clowns and life-sized toys. The park is featuring four Live Shows which include an all-new Nytewalkers acrobatic experience, the misfit performers of Sideshow, the return of Blood Drums and the heinous Academy of Villains. All are "to die" for.

The entire park is decorated for maximum scare effects. Three Scare zones are located throughout the park providing many opportunities to find yourself face-to-face with at least one evil demon of the night. The event is intended for guests 13 and older.

The Fear VR: 5150 and all new Skeleton Key experiences come with additional entry fees. Note that there is also an \$18 parking fee, so car-pooling may be a good option to consider.

Halloween Haunt is open Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m.-Midnight through Oct 8 and until 1 am on Fridays and Saturdays from October 14-29. Sundays Halloween Haunt is open from 7 p.m.-Midnight.

For younger children, the park brings back its Great Pumpkin Fest during daytime hours on weekends October 1-30 (Closed Oct 23 due to 49ers games). Kids can trick-or-treat with



Snoopy and the Peanuts Gang and enjoy many Halloween themed events.

Tickets can be purchased online at: www.cagreatamerica.com/haunt with free admission for 2016 and 2017 Gold Pass holders. Students can receive discounts using valid student ID.

ets, but they did nothing. The other group was barely making it, but attended and provided us with many volunteers, so they received the lion's share of the grant. It gives them incentive to support us." In

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