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you a

very
merry

CHRISTMAS

from the
staff of the
Evergreen Times

DEC. 23, 2016 – JAN. 5, 2017 ■ VOL. 33, NO. 26

Evergreen Times

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Santa lands his sleigh for annual pancake breakfast in Evergreen

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

Something special was in the air on a brisk December 10 Saturday morning in Evergreen Valley.

As he slipped through the clouds sunshine appeared for he and his reindeer lit up the Evergreen Community Center and warmed the hearts of children and those a bit older. You see, Santa came to town!

While dropping by for toy parts for his workshop at the North Pole, he couldn't pass up invitations to have pancakes with maple syrup! He loves maple syrup and this is a known fact.

This is a new stop off for him because the "Breakfast with Santa" event has returned to the Evergreen community center as an annual event and he likes to drop in before Christmas to speak with children in Evergreen and all around the world.

Evergreen Community Center manager Tony Torres asked Santa to come because his staff expressed it would be a nice thing to do and it would bring in the Christmas cheer

Pictured: Christmas carolers heralded the arrival of the man of the hour, **Santa Claus**, at Evergreen's annual "Breakfast with Santa" event.



for all. Mrs. Claus was also involved and she thought it would be good for her husband to get out of the house at the North Pole for he was pushing the elves hard to make sure they did good work in building the toys and getting them organized for delivery on the 25th. What a fortunate thing it was to have Santa drop in and that explains the quick change in the weather conditions from the crisp cold to warm glow.

This reporter asked Santa how he liked the Santa Clara Valley and he said that he really enjoyed his sleigh ride for the clouds were comfy as he traversed over the hills. He said he always delivered a lot of science items in this area and can remember a particular boy named Steve who kept asking him for more and more computer parts a while back so he could work with another boy named Woz and put different inventions together.

Sometimes they were naughty he said but...they turned out all right. Ho Ho Ho, he chuckled, those boys were always fiddling with new ideas

just as today I see girls have wish lists too with things for making new inventions. This Silicon Valley is a special place and the Evergreen area is so pleasant, he sighed.

When he stepped in the room he saw over a hundred families with children and marveled at the light green placemats
See SANTA, page 6



For those on the
sweet list.

NOTHING BUT CAKES

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2:18 A.M. VOTE

City Council approves 27 acre Evergreen Valley College commercial development

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

In a 10-1 vote, the San Jose City Council approved a General Plan Amendment changing the land use designation from Public-Quasi Public to Neighborhood Community Commercial for 27 acres of land at Evergreen Valley College (EVC). Councilmember Tam Nguyen voted no at 2:18 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Nguyen recommended deferring the vote citing that there was not enough public outreach, but his substitute motion did not get the support of the City Council. "The college should concentrate in providing the classes that students needed so they do not have to travel to other colleges rather than going into the commercial real estate business with a 95-year lease," said Nguyen.

The San Jose - Evergreen Community College District requested the change in order to be able to lease a portion of the land to generate revenue to support programs and improve student access at the college. The change now allows the process to

proceed that could eventually lead to commercial development on the 27 acre site. The designation would allow a broad range of commercial uses, such as neighborhood-serving retail and services and commercial and professional office development. Residents are fearful of increased traffic on San Felipe Rd.

Vice Mayor Rose Herrera apologized to those wishing to express their views who waited more than 6 hours into the early morning of Dec. 14. Some in the audience fell asleep. Others went home and came back. Others drank caffeinated drinks to stay awake. College students missed the meeting altogether due to finals.

There were so many agenda items for the Tuesday Dec. 13 San Jose City Council meeting, they had to be extended over to the evening session causing a push of time to exceed their expected presentation. Those attending the City Council meeting questioned why such important agenda item was placed last on the agenda to cause them to be heard at 1:30 a.m. in the morning. Some arrived at 11

See DEVELOPMENT, page 13

Nguyen requests recount in District 8 council race

Jimmy Nguyen (inset), candidate for San Jose City Council's District 8 seat, has requested a manual recount of all the votes cast in the race on Tuesday, Dec. 13, which was the deadline for the request.

Nguyen said he is paying for this recount himself. The Registrar has estimated the recount will cost more than \$77,000.

In his letter sent to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, Nguyen requested to see "all rejected vote-by-mail and provisional ballot envelopes, all defective or 'spoiled' ballots' which were remade by Registrar staff...and all tally sheets and other doc-



umentation from the automatic manual recount."

On Monday, Dec. 19, the Register of Voters certified the District 8 election results and announced the staff of 150 had completed the County recount.

The automatic recounts were required, per the direction of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, because the districts in which the contests were held were entirely within the boundaries of Santa Clara County, the contests were not for any state or federal office, and the margin of victory for the candidates and measure was within 0.5% of the total number of ballots cast or 25 votes.

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF EVERGREEN AREA MEETINGS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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Times **Local News**

The honorable President of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Islamic Center, Mr. **Faisal Yazadi**, welcomed all of the nearly 400 citizens who walked through the gates and up the gentle hill of the Evergreen Islamic Center.

Inclusiveness wins out when hate letter is met with love

By **Kevin Larsen**
Times staff writer

A brave decision was made to let our community know about a hate letter that resulted in bringing the community together at the Evergreen Islamic Center.

The letter of hate speech was delivered to the Evergreen Islamic Association this past month, which is located in Evergreen Valley. Humble civic leaders, spiritual leaders and passionate citizens gathered to fight hate with love when they were invited to a gathering on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12.

The calling together of religious leaders from different faiths was done to symbolize the family of caring and the common bond of community. It was done to educate all including whoever wrote the letter. The entire community was invited to enter the Evergreen Islamic Center.

The honorable President of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Islamic Center, Mr. Faisal Yazadi, expressed "there is enough love to go around." He welcomed all of the nearly 400 citizens who walked through the gates and up the gentle hill of the Evergreen Islamic Center.

Hundreds of community members poured into the gates and delicious cookies were set on trays for all to taste and enjoy. In addition to their hospitality, the Islamic Community Center gave tours of the building for all to feel welcome with both kindness and caring. The crowd was earnest and eager to listen to the messages of understanding with forgiveness while also forging strength in the knowledge that the community is a family.

The large group of local residents came to support the Evergreen Islamic Center and let those who use the center know that they (The Evergreen Islamic Center) have ownership in this area along with everybody else. Many were heard to say, you are welcome here and you are part of our Evergreen family.

At the very beginning of the 2 p.m. event, a moment of silence was called upon to honor those who were lost in the Oakland fire. The entire crowd embraced this very important gesture. This action let all in attendance know that the depth of caring in this community has no boundaries.

Supervisor Dave Cortese said that in this

community we should be proud of ourselves for coming together. "We are known as one of the six metropolitan areas of the world that embrace a strong example for religious harmony where inclusiveness wins out," said Cortese.

A well-spoken eleventh grader stepped to the microphone and while holding up her hand to the crowd expressed eloquently that each finger is of a different size. "They are only of certain strength but when they are all put together they become a fist and a fist is strong. The same is true with our community, together we are strong and we are united." After saying a beautiful prayer it was stated that, "we are a peaceful loving community."

State Senator Beall explained that the strongest way to gain peace and end discrimination is through education. "To do this we should all work together to support every school board member and every member of the legislature to incorporate Islamic studies in schools, colleges and more," said Beal. He went on to say, nobody should be discriminated against in the state of California."

Bob Dhillon, Founder of the American Sikh Association and who helped make possible the Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) said here in our valley we are all part of the same humanity and without the help of other faiths we would not have been able to build religious buildings. "We know that love is in everybody."

State assembly member Ash Kalra drove all the way to San Jose from Sacramento to attend the gathering and he said that we all respond with so much love regardless of any hate. It is a testament to this community to show children and let them experience that we must do everything we can to bring out love and peace in our world. "We know how to do it... Let's make sure we share what we know with the rest of the world."

Reverend Kiley of the Silicon Valley Faith Group expressed these words: "I see the tapestry of this community with deep beliefs in love and working with others to bring understanding about." He quoted a poem that is on a brass plaque located on the Tower Hall (if you pull back the ivy you may be able to find it) of San Jose State University written by Edwin Markham. The poem is titled

See *GATHERING*, page 7

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Valley Currents

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

New 'Imagination Playground' donated to YMCA

KaBoom and Target donated \$15,930 to the YMCA of Silicon Valley to buy a fantastic new gift for children.

Executive Director of the East Valley Family YMCA Lupe Ruvalcaba embraced the unveiling of the Imagination Playground in a Cart.

The new playground system is innovative as it allows children to engage in creative activities that combine collaboration, critical thinking, play and fun.

"Imagination Playground is designed to let kids do what comes to them naturally in working together to build a structure, tear it down, and start again," said Ruvalcaba. "This also encourages their creativity, self-expression and important problem solving skills."

This new concept brings the playground to the child instead of the other way around. She expressed it will be used at events such as the YMCA Healthy Kids day, the Nana y Yo Early Learning Program Family Nite, as well being integrated into the after school programs, summer camps and more.

Pat Wolf, Board Chair of the YMCA East Valley thanked Target and the national non-profit foundation KaBOOM for supplying the full grant to purchase the Imagination Playground in a cart. She explained that this single product of the traveling playground intertwines and accomplishes each of the three pillars of focus this YMCA is founded upon, Social Responsibility, Healthy Living and Youth Development.

Social Responsibility

First, it's portable, it can be taken anywhere. It has a cart and the soft and safe puzzle pieces can be stored easily. It is good social responsibility to take the playground to places where some children do not get out to go to the playground that much. We can take the playground to the child and we plan to use it in all places.

Healthy Living

Second, the more movement we encourage children to use the more we meet the second important pillar of Healthy Living. Exercise combined with the child developing his or her imagination will take away from screen time on technology devices. Screen time is not bad if it is done in some measure of time that is appropriate but we need to ensure children get proper exercise each day. This hands-on experience of putting parts together and building things in real size will enchant children away from screen time and also encourage healthy eating, and healthy snacks that go hand in hand along with exercise.

Youth Development

Lastly, the third pillar of Youth Development, this hands-on playground functions by the child being the architect or creator of the things thought up by them and encourage teams of children collaborating together.



The new playground system is innovative as it allows children to engage in creative activities that combine collaboration, critical thinking, play and fun.

This builds imagination, develops strength and unity.

Play Associates maintain a safe play space with the philosophy or role of not directing child play but instead stepping back and allowing the children's inherent curiosity and urge to want to play take hold. The children playing were seen to have the natural tendencies to collaborate and work together on their own and the Play Associates step back to let that happen. Observing the children create architectural wonders which can be enthralling. Children bring out the joy of things in their quest to explore and their laughter is joyful too. Parents

will be asked by the children to return to Imagination Playground time and time again.

The traditional playgrounds have fixed slides and monkey bars but the Imagination Playground has the playground is built by children. The unit is similar to a large soft giant sized Lego-like piece building experience in that the children fit together all kinds of shapes to erect life size structures. The children become captains of the construction. The plans of the creation of bigger structures or more elaborate ones tends to cajole the young ones to all work together and communicate what goes where and who will attach it.

Free Cash for College Workshop to be presented January 21

State Sen. Jim Beall is sponsoring "Cash for College Day" on Jan. 21 at Silver Creek High School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The goal of "Cash for College Day" is to help college-bound students and their families understand the options available for paying for college expenses. All students, regardless of what school they attend, are welcome to attend this free event.

"Sometimes the biggest challenge for students isn't getting into college but figuring out how to pay for college," Beall said. "All too often, students and their families take out college loans without fully understanding the terms of the agreements. I don't want that to happen. At the Cash for College workshop,

experts on financial aid will explain the array of choices available, answer questions, and discuss ways to avoid crushing debt."

Students and their families can get personnel and professional assistance with completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms, also known as FAFSA. Information about resources will be available for foster youth and students eligible for AB 540, also known as the California Dream Act. Assistance with California Dream Act applications will be provided.

There will also be a resource fair with representatives from various Northern California universities, including Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UC-Santa Cruz, San Jose State, De Anza College, Mills College, San Jose City College, Evergreen Valley College, and more.

For more information about the workshop or to RSVP, contact the Senate District 15 office, (408) 558-1295, or click here. Silver Creek High School is located at 3434 Silver Creek Rd., San Jose.

LET THE EVERGREEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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Times Community News

Santa

Continued from page 1

placemats with fun puzzles and coloring pictures. "Why that looks like me!" he exclaimed. He nodded to the Christmas carolers who sang wonderful songs that are heard by him around the world. Santa seemed to know just what to do. After waiving kindly, he walked over to the big chair in front of the red carpet and slowly sat down. The entire room was so beautifully decorated that Santa nodded with great approval and with that, he began to listen and talk with each child. The children brought joy to all adults at the breakfast and it was easy to read their eyes and facial expressions which showed both a combination of mirth and inquisitiveness. They seemed to marvel at the question, "is this really Santa?" They seemed to be thinking as reminded from time to time by Mom and Dad, "I guess I better be good because Santa is really coming to town."

This reporter jumped to attention as Santa walked up and explained that I had missed a touching photo op (opportunity) of a picture of him holding a little baby handed to him by kind and trusting parents. I asked how that made Santa feel and he looked up to the sky and responded lovingly that, "why it reminded me of the baby Jesus, the Christ baby and it just was so wonderful to hold that little one in my arms, Ho-Ho-Ho, such a precious child indeed."

I think Santa was trying to tell everyone that all people are so very special and he deeply knows that for he has deep feelings for everyone. Being curious this reporter happened to notice Santa's boots were big black and rugged and so he was asked what kind of boots he was wearing. He responded, "Well, some good soldiers in the military and police sent these to me at the North Pole and said they were the very best tactical boots made. He marveled at the motto written on the label, "you have the right to be comfortable." Santa said he was keeping pace with new things in the world and in addition to trying out new comfortable boots he and his elves were working with more with technology at the pole. He steadfastly expressed that the elves still make the best toys and some things never change but some of their tools were being upgraded with the help of a man named Musk. It seems that Santa was sharing some secrets on how his sleigh flies with some inventors who come all the way to the North Pole to visit him and learn.

With poise, he made sure that each child got a candy cane and waved goodbye to all. He thanked his prancing reindeer who helped serve breakfast platters and said to all, "may there be peace, happiness and good cheer for all in the world."

After he left, the author recalled the question asked by a little girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, who sent a letter to the *The Sun*, a prominent New York City newspaper in the 1800's. One of the newspapers' editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, reply is the most ever re-printed editorials in any newspaper and became the subject of books, films and even had a television series. Mr. Church's reply to the little girl's question in 1897 was kindly written with a depth of belief. Here is a reprint of the famous editorial.

DEAR EDITOR:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE



SUN it's so.'

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.



Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world

nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



THE HAPPIEST HOLIDAY

The holidays are brighter for **Eleanor Jimenez**, a local 13-year Air Force veteran who received keys to a practically brand new car from Caliber Collision and Allstate Insurance as part of the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides™ program. Recycled Rides is a nationwide program in which businesses in the collision industry team up to repair and donate cars to veterans. Jimenez unexpectedly lost her job. She fell behind financially while she was unemployed and struggled to make ends meet. She recently landed two jobs, one of which has her leaving work often at 3:00 am when public transportation is not available. The Recycled Rides gift will enable Jimenez to now get to and from her jobs on time and safely.

Fantasy of Lights now open through Dec. 30

The 18th annual Fantasy of Lights Drive-thru is open now through Dec. 30 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly. The holiday show will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting parkhere.org. Walk-thru admission tickets are \$10 ages 13 years old and up, and \$5 ages 4-12 years old. Drive-thru admission prices are \$20 per vehicle (up to 12 people) and \$50 for oversize vehicles (capacity 13+).

Whether you are on foot or in your vehicle, visitors will be dazzled by thousands of twinkling lights in large animated displays. 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 visit. Enjoy a free pair of 3D glasses with the event program, while supplies last.

Vasona Lake County Park is located at 333 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95037. For directions, ticketing and more information visit parkhere.org or call (408) 355-2201. There is no parking at Vasona Lake County Park, however, free parking and shuttle service is recommended at Netflix, 121 Albright Way, Los Gatos.

Fantasy of Lights is presented by Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

Polar Express train ride now through Dec. 23

Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway has begun its 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

Passengers will be treated to singing and dancing chefs serve passengers cookies and hot chocolate while they narrate the classic children's book, *The Polar Express*.

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 exciting journey 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: 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.

Times **Community News**

Gathering

Continued from page 3

Outwitted and is placed at the end of this article for your contemplation. Mr. Kiley expressed that this poem is a description of what we are doing today by all coming on a Sunday to give support to the Evergreen Islamic Center.

Girish Shah, Silicon Valley Interreligious Council stated that, "our diversity is a resource rather than a barrier...when any one religion comes under attack, all religions come under attack...therefore, we unite in condemning such acts." Also these important words were expressed, "We stand together to denounce this and all acts that seek to marginalize and target entire faith communities."

Father Gene of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church bestowed a simple speech and prayer to the crowd. He expressed greetings from the Bishop of San Jose and explained the actions and words stated in his prayer were also embraced by Pope Francis. "We come together for unity, support and love...all of our religions teach us love...may we all together be the ministers of peace."

A mother expressed that her daughter became a Muslim and when she did she was embraced by those in the religion. A testament of the love for her daughter bestowed by Muslims after learning that she was dying. She was nurtured and taken care of in deep dignified ways by those in the Muslim faith and she was thankful for how her daughter was loved and treated.

Mayor Liccardo spoke and expressed that, "we got your back." Meaning that the city of San Jose would be always working with those from this faith and all other faiths to ensure everyone feels they are being treated in caring way. "I want to make sure everyone knows the entire city is there to help and protect you and care about you."

A Jewish Rabbi expressed, "we are all one," and this summed up the entire event with wisdom. Many eloquent thoughts were expressed.

Vice Mayor Rose Herrera said that it was a beautiful sight to see the community come together with a very large turnout for the gathering. "All of us come with love," she said. "We are a faith community where all churches work together. When we see injustice we need to call it out. If we witness it we need to say, "not here, not now, not ever!" She said those in attendance here will need to reach out and join the rest of the community because as long as we stand together and affirm our love we can know that and it is true. So, we need to reach out to those in our neighborhoods and around us to also give support and embrace this message.

Tahiz Anwar, an Imam, spoke. (An imam is to lead Islamic worship services. In fact, the word "Imam" itself means "to stand in front of" in Arabic) Anwar poured out his eloquent words and reminded this reporter of a young Martin Luther King Jr. He addressed the gathering saying: "My faith tradition reminds me to respect all human beings and all faiths, so my invocation this morning will be brief and hopefully inclusive. I want to begin with a quote and reminder from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: Life is most persistent and the urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"



A diverse crowd gathered to express support at the event.

Anwar continued: "In the Bible, we read: Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love. In the Jewish tradition, we are reminded: Love your neighbor as yourself. In my own tradition, we frequently recite: A perfect Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands mankind is safe, and a true emigrant [muhajir] is one who flees from what ... You will not enter paradise until you have faith; and you will not complete your faith, till you love one another. 'When anything disturbs you within yourself, forsake it. In this age of ever-increasing hatred, phobia and fear, it is incumbent that we look out for each other, and trust each other. We get to know our neighbors and we build a real community."

Anwar explained he moved to San Jose from London in 1983. "I went to schools in Downtown and East San Jose my entire life," said Anwar. "My children, the oldest of whom is in high school, have only known San Jose to be their home. Born and raised here. We are a family of die-hard 9ers, Giants and Sharks fans. Despite this, even in this extremely tolerant valley, sometimes, we are made to feel like outsiders. This is now becoming the case with many minorities across the country. We in this great valley should and we should not let our differences divide us, rather we need to look into ourselves and our faith traditions to inspire us to become better citizens, better parents and better human beings!

That is because the face of America today is not just white or black, Hispanic, or Asian. It is diversity. It isn't one solid-colored blanket but a patchwork quilt threaded together with the unique motifs of all of our stories. Just as I began with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr., I end with two quotes from him:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. The Silicon Valley is made up of people of many diverse backgrounds, which makes our neighborhoods beautiful. It makes our experience of life, a rich experience, and this is what keeps our already great country, a great country."

Truly all who came to the important gathering were given the gift of unity and compassion and caring and in closing, here is the poem mentioned by one of the speakers which lets us know that we as all the speakers stated that must help those who might be hateful of us with this most powerful force called, "love."

Outwitted

He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, a rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!
—Edwin Markham

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Times **Features**

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**NCL of San Jose
benefits 'Animal
Assisted project**

The National Charity League of San Jose Class of 2017 funding project benefits "Animal Assisted Happiness" is the recipient of a successful fundraising event put on by this energetic group of 22 young women.

In addition to raising funds, the senior project also benefits AAH with a bunny hutch sanctuary the Class of 2017 are assembling and painting at AAH's new facility.

The non-profit Animal Assisted Happiness (AAH) mission is to enrich the lives of children and their families experiencing special needs, health or family challenges in providing friendly barnyard animals to bring moments of happiness and smiles into their lives.

Seven different high schools in San Jose are represented in this NCL Class that has spent the last five and half years working together to develop their leadership skills, giving back to the community and learning through diverse cultural experiences.

The Class of 2017 is now in the home stretch of their six year commitment that will culminate in a special celebration on March 18, 2017.

To learn more about this mother-daughter philanthropic organization, go to [\[blossomvalley.nationalcharityleague.org\]\(http://blossomvalley.nationalcharityleague.org\).
To learn more about Animal Assisted Happiness, go to \[animalassistedhappiness.org\]\(http://animalassistedhappiness.org\)](http://almaden-</p>
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**'Reaching Out' to
distribute food
to needy families**

The Reaching Out Food Center at the Cathedral of Faith will hold their annual 'Celebration of Love' Thursday, Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. until noon.

"This year, we've seen a greater demand in our services," said Jim Gallagher, Reaching Out's director. "More than 2,500 grocery carts full of food will be distributed that day," he said.

During the month of December, it is expected that more than 5,000 grocery carts full of food will be distributed. The carts will include turkeys, fresh produce, vegetables, milk, bread, and pastries, to needy families. The retail value of the distributed food is more than \$1,000,000.

The mostly-volunteer organization, which operates out of a debt-free, 16,000 square foot distribution center on the Cathedral of Faith campus, provides emergency food and basic life necessities for over 120,000 economically disadvantaged. Over 500 volunteers will be on hand at the event Dec. 22 to provide assistance to food recipients.

The Celebration of Love Food Distribution on Dec. 22 event takes about two hours to pull off—with the help of hundreds of volunteers from the church congregation. More than 5,000 vouchers are being distributed to recipients and each will present their voucher to receive their food. "No one will be turned away," Gallagher said.

For more information about Reaching Out or the Cathedral of Faith, log onto www.cathedraloffaith.org, or contact Jim Gallagher, Director, at 408-979-3090 or jgallagher@cathedraloffaith.org.



National Charity League of San Jose Class of 2017.

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Times **Local News**

Charles Schulz Museum

Thursday February 9, 2017

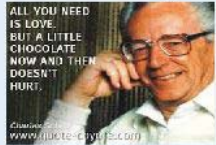
Come see how the Peanut characters were born by Charles Schulz.

Arrive between 7:15 & 7:30 a.m.

Depart 7:45 a.m.

Return by 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$60, includes transportation, museum entry and choice of lunch menu at the time of sign up.



A one hour guided tour of the museum followed by lunch at the Warm Puppy Cafe. After lunch enjoy time on your own to browse the museum and shop.

Sign up M, T, W 9:30-11:30 a.m., Almaden Community Center

Trip Questions: Sally, 408 826-9619
Richard, 408 219-8641



Happy holidays and farewell

By Vice Mayor Rose Herrera
Special to the Times



District 8 Report
By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

As I wrap up my final days as your councilmember and Vice-Mayor I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity and privilege I've had to serve the residents of District 8 for the past 8 years. Together we have accomplished many things. Thank you to all of the members of the district 8 community who have helped to make these achievements possible. Thank you to my staff who have been dedicated to serving the District 8 constituents and thank you to publisher of this paper who gave me a voice to the community through these articles.

My goals were to get as many positive things done for this community as possible. I can say that we have achieved all of those original goals and more.

Some of the projects have been completed and are in use, like our new, 16,000 sq. ft. Village square library opened earlier this year, two new fire stations (fire station 24 at Silvercreek and fire station 21 on White Road), pedestrian safety, lighting and landscaping improvements along Capitol Expressway completed in 2012. Other such as the Arcadia ball fields across from Eastridge, the Lake Cunningham Bike Park and Thompson Creek trail segment projects have been approved and funded and will be completed within the next 1 or 2 years.

I've worked with two Mayors and many council colleagues along the way. During my first term we were confronted with the Great Recession. I fought to maintain services. We saved Lake Cunningham Skate Park, and Muni- Water from privatization. It was a very difficult time but our actions stabilized the budget so that we could eventually cut ribbons instead of cutting services.

There have been a few key areas of focus throughout my tenure including Public Safety, Economic Development, Transportation, Community building and Veteran's issues.

Having run a small business in the past, I enjoyed Chairing the Economic Development Committee for four years. We were able to bring more jobs to San Jose and protect our

industrial job land from being converted. Some of those jobs will be in advanced manufacturing because we were able to win the \$75 Million Defense Department Flexible Hybrid Manufacturing Grant. I pitched San Jose's proposal to the representatives from the Defense Department and we won.

While serving on the VTA board for the past 8 years, we have moved BART to San Jose forward, with the Berryessa BART station opening in 2017. This year we secured a funding plan for the Capitol to Eastridge light rail segment that has been promised to eastside residents since the passage of Measure A in 2000. This light rail line will connect east valley residents to BART and jobs.

Public safety has been, and continues to be, a critical priority for our community. We recognize that for the near term there is a shortage of police officers and even when police staffing is increased the community will play an important role in preventing and reporting crime. We have worked closely with SJPD Crime Prevention and the community to increase participation in neighborhood watches, holding over 60 neighborhood watches. As a result we've seen neighborhood watch participation increase and burglary rates go down.

I also supported the introduction of Community Service Officers to assist SJPD with administrative and tasks that free up our patrol officers for more critical crime fighting tasks. We still have a long way to go to rebuild our police department but thanks to the voters passing measure F this November, we are off to a good start.

As an Air Force veteran and the only military veteran on the City Council, I've been honored to represent veterans. Leading the effort to raise the POW MIA flag at City Hall was particularly meaningful for me. Every time I see it fly, alongside of the American flag, I'm reminded of the sacrifices our military have made and are still making for all of us.

I'm also proud of the community events we've sponsored, including the Senior Health Fair at Eastridge, the EPIC (Earth People and International culture) festival at Evergreen Village Square, Movie nights and concerts, Day In The Park at Lake Cunningham and the Faith Leaders appreciation Breakfast which is now morphing into a District 8 faith Leaders council. All of these events are part of a larger goal to build our community and bring us together. I've always appreciated the diversity of our council district and believe that the more we know about each other's cultures, the more cohesive and unified we become as a community. Our district is one of the most culturally diverse in San Jose. There is no majority group. We have many immigrants and many languages spoken. This is why, during the library opening we attempted a Guinness book record of the most languages read consecutively. There were 57 languages represented that day. I was moved by the pride of those who read their native language aloud and was reminded that we all want to be recognized and respected. By recognizing our differences we invite each other to be part of a larger whole. We are one San Jose.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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Times **Local News**

HOLIDAY NOTEBOOK

How to outwit porch pirates and hackers during the Holiday Shopping Season

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Americans' love affair with online shopping continues to grow, and retailers predict a 7 to 10 percent increase in online sales this holiday season, according to the National Retail Federation.

While that news might make retailers giddy, security experts are reiterating their annual warnings that the convenience of online shopping comes with hazards. You could become the target of hackers out to steal your credit card or bank information, or "porch pirates" who prey on those packages left on your doorstep.

"Consumers need to take proper precautions if they don't want their holiday merriment turning into holiday gloom," says Gary Miliefsky, CEO of SnoopWall, company that specializes in cyber security.

Changing all your passwords frequently is one way to protect what's yours. Deleting smartphone or tablet apps you don't use is another smart move, Miliefsky says, because many of those apps may be malware that spies on you.

Even porch pirates – generally seen as low-tech thieves who simply cruise neighborhoods looking for packages – can go high tech by infiltrating your smartphone where they can eavesdrop on your orders and deliveries.

"Both porch pirates and hackers count on people being lax with their defenses," Miliefsky says. "But with a little preparation you can thwart their plans."

He offers a few tips for doing just that:

• **Shop online only from websites you trust.** If you don't know where the merchant is located, don't shop online there. If they don't have a corporate address or are located in another country, it could be iffy whether you ever see the goods you

think you purchased. Also, if their shopping-cart experience is not an HTTPS browser session, then everything you type in – your name, address and credit-card information – is going over the Internet unencrypted, in plain view.

• **Pay with credit cards rather than debit cards.** If you experience identity theft, credit card laws allow you to keep all of your credit immediately, with no responsibility during an identity theft or fraud investigation. With a debit card, your bank's policy can be to tie up your money in the amount of the fraudulent transactions for up to 30 days. Some have been known to take up to 60 days to resolve the issue.

• **Get permission to ship all your packages to work.** That way they aren't left unguarded at your doorstep for hours where anyone walking by could snatch them. If this arrangement works out, be sure to tell all your friends and family also to ship packages to your work address.

• **Ask a friend or neighbor to receive your packages for you.** You might not be home on work days, but plenty of people are. Trusted friends who are retired or who work at home might be happy to let you have packages delivered to them for safe keeping.

"It's wonderful that you can go online and track down those hard-to-find gifts that aren't available in local shops," Miliefsky says. "Just make sure you're taking measures to help keep you and your personal information safe. The holidays will be a whole lot brighter if you do."

About Gary S. Miliefsky

Gary S. Miliefsky is founder of SnoopWall Inc. (www.snoopwall.com), a cutting edge counter-intelligence technology company offering free consumer-based software to secure personal data on cell-phones and tablets, while generating revenues helping banks and government agencies secure their networks.

Charity guide for Holiday giving

It seems some "charities" are better than others...much better! Here's a surprising guide to help you determine the best use of your dollars during the Holiday Season and beyond.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses.

MARCH OF DIMES

It's called the March of Dimes because only one dime of every donated dollar is given to the needy.

THE UNITED WAY

President Brian Gallagher receives a \$375,000 base salary... along with numerous expense benefits.

UNICEF

CEO Caryl M. Stern earns

\$1.2 million dollars per year... plus all expenses paid including a Rolls Royce. Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.

GOODWILL

CEO and owner Mark Curran makes a profit of \$2.3 million a year. Goodwill is a catchy name for his business. You donate to his business and then he sells the items for PROFIT. He pays nothing for his products and pays his workers minimum wage!

Go "GREEN" and put your money where it does the most good!

THE SALVATION ARMY Commissioner Todd Bassett receives a \$13,000 with housing per year for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization. 96% of donated dollars goes to the needy.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Commander receives a \$0.00 salary. Your donations go to help veterans and their families and youth.

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS


National Commander receives a \$0.00 salary. Donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth.

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander receives \$0.00 salary. Donations go to help veterans and their families and youth.

THE MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEARTS

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**Sikh Gurdwara – San Jose wishes you
Season's Greetings and Happy New Year
May God bring peace on earth and beyond**



We invite you to an open house and join us on January 1st any time between 11 am – 4 pm for a cup of Chai or Brunch at the same time our members come all day long to get God's blessings for New Year. On arrival, text Bob Dhillon 408-568-0034 or Surjit Bains 408-394-3595. For advance RSVP, email: bobdhillon@bobdhillon.com

Times Feature

Development

Continued from page 1

a.m. Tuesday Morning and left at 2:40 a.m., Wednesday; a very long day to say the least.

Many citizens decided to leave and not present their views due to the delay in the vote, prompting many to question if it is proper to hold city council meetings on important contentious community issues after midnight.

"I was disappointed that the Evergreen item was heard so late," said Vice Mayor Rose Herrera. "I requested the City Council move the important agenda item to earlier in the evening, but it didn't happen," she said.

Herrera said a very important part of this decision was no housing will be included. "Initially the San Jose - Evergreen Valley College District wanted to pursue housing on their development site which I strongly opposed," said Herrera. "We were able to convince them to withdraw their original plan which included housing and make it strictly about jobs. Also they must stay within the Evergreen Development Policy and Evergreen Specific plan which limits development. Moving forward the community will be involved in creating a master plan for the future development. Any development will have to be approved by the city council and go through all of the processes including planning commission and extensive community outreach."

Liccardo said there have been some shortcomings in the outreach process, but "we do not have the jurisdiction or power to tell college how to run their institution; we can only make decisions on land use issues." Liccardo continued: "I think I've heard very clearly from the community that for many neighbors they do not want development on the site. I understand that loud and clear. I understand there have been some shortcomings in the communication and outreach and so I think there's a lot of work to be done as this moves forward."

Evergreen Valley College leaders insist they are not planning to develop all 27 acres, but they want the City Council designate all 27 acres commercial to allow for flexibility for future development planning. The college says it's better for the builders so they can better place construction where they want it and where entrances (roads) best work for entry to the commercial buildings creating better buy-in for developers.

"Having more land does not make for a higher quality college experience," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "It doesn't more classes; it doesn't mean more teachers. One thing I do know about education is that every school is broke. Even if they've got a lot of capital money from the passage of bonds, they have no money for basic operations and maintenance and paying teachers. Education has nothing to do with land."

This entire issue of re-designation of land use has been the subject of many conversations with many opposed to the change. The audience of this city council meeting at two in the morning was composed of earnest residents and others taking opposite sides. There was a very civil and honorable environment with fifty to one hundred people staying very late to voice their views in hopes of swaying the voting of the San Jose City Council members to their side.

The majority of the speakers were against re-designation of land use for Evergreen Valley College to commercial.

Many speakers said it's OK to build but

build ONLY for educational purposes. Many expressed that the Evergreen Valley College has had a need for many years to expand classroom choices compared with other junior colleges such as Foothill and DeAnza. Thus, they wanted only construction to be that of classroom or educational use.

Proponents of the proposal say the college is so big that it has lots of land for future educational classroom use to build on. They said even if the 27 acres are built commercially and leased for more than 90 years, the remaining "footprint" of available land is vast on the Evergreen College site so it really does not matter.

Others refuted the leasing of land to commercial interests to say that "there is no more land being created and we must look to the future more because we may need to use it for education use."

Some felt there was not a need to expand retail in the area and some wondered what would be built on the commercially leased land.

Here is a synopsis of each one minute speech made by each resident at the podium in City Council Chambers.

1. Evergreen school districts do not need the land.

2. We pay money toward college bonds and we do not want the college to go into the real estate business...if you vote for this you are not representing the will of the people

3. The Evergreen community is under supported in health care.

4. We are concerned. The proposal by the Chancellor can be done in pqp. July 22 and August 4 the Chancellor proposed three possible developments...satellite office, business design for community outreach...

5. The population of San Jose has increased 13% to one million people...San Jose Mercury News says 18,500 students are leaving district to find programs they need... the surplus land use needs to be reconsidered.

6. In 2050 we will need double the amount of land currently on the college land so where will it come from?

7. Keep it for the college because in 2050 the land will be needed for education use.

8. Graduates in automotive technology make \$200,000 a year...and there is a shortage of the technicians... the college should be about creating stable good paying jobs so keep the land for educational use.

9. Although the land was surplus in year 2004, we spent four years and one additional year creating an Envision 2040 General Plan and update. At no time during that hundreds of thousands of hours did staff come before to express the land was needed to be designated NCC. We ask you to hold off before we understand the full ramifications of this decision...we need to have a full community engagement and have all the stakeholders together... not just a push for information. We need to come together to put together a better plan for the site.

10. If you walk through the campus there is absolutely no space available for measure X monies...council members should tour the campus to access for themselves...before the vote on this critical issue.

11. Expand the college...increase the number of graduates!

12. You get to decide the decision as to the fate of the Evergreen College that from the beginning was to be used for educational purposes of its citizens...to designate the land as surplus is a travesty...

13. Your vote should reflect that donations do not buy your votes...we ask you defer the

vote till the community can come back with a harmonious plan...

14. It is hurtful to see the Evergreen College cut short, intimidating when voicing different opinions of what's best for the college...

15. Vote No... No deals...where is our experts...how do you trust this board...they may delay and build apartments...This board takes 20 million dollars of money and builds a building...The police academy they kicked out in the abandoned buildings where the district office should be...

16. There is no more land being created...What are you going to do put a Costco in there...I don't know what you're doing. Our youth...need to be able to be in their neighborhood and not travel all across town to attend Foothill or De Anza

17. Many students travel to other colleges instead of staying here...I am very disappointed how the Evergreen land has not turned into the land it should be...keep it for educational purposes we do not need any more retail...

18. I am opposed to re-designation of land...keep it pqp...my son went to Evergreen and because of impacted classes he had to finish out at Mission College...I spoke to three students in Starbucks and they were all opposed to re-designation of land...they wanted more educational opportunities and more recreational opportunities...

19. I'm tired...There are three other rotary clubs and high tech companies that will build on the campus...look for monies in better ways is what should be done...

20. Should be for educational use and should be a sports field built there...

21. We want to be able to understand what the plan is ...request more stakeholders be involved in the process...

22. Each of you are aware state funding of land prohibits commercial use...

23. Building more strip malls will not is not going to generate reliable long term tax revenue

24. Residents in district 9 and district 10 have absolutely no information about what is happening tonight...I am concerned about long term leases... I ask you defer your decision tonight...I am working on another proposal... to bring...University of California campus to City of San Jose to focus on high tech... and an extension campus to Evergreen campus.

25. This development of land commercially will bring student success money by generating about a million dollars a year for both Evergreen and San Jose City College

26. I understand land will be leased for 95 years it is good to use the land

27. I used to live in Milpitas and they sold off land and made a mistake for now their college district must lease land, ...keep the land for educational use

28. The money will allow us to better serve our students with job training and more

29. It is good to create apprentice jobs, employ college students and more

30. Will help create economic equity with programs like College Promise

31. This rezoning of the land will bring jobs here

32. The 27 acres were designated surplus land in 2004, the college needs all 27 acres for a re-designation of land use for... future tenants need to choose the areas.

33. This will benefit students

34. Leasing the land will help generations of students attend school

35. This land will never be returned for educational use...it should be developed for edu-

cational use not commercial use

36. There is 65percent more autism in the Santa Clara Valley and we need more education for incredible needs of new professions

37. A 95 year lease will not allow use of the land for educational purposes

38. Before it is said educational land is not needed...we have double the population in this area but we serve half as many full time cities as De Anza and Foothill.. the San Jose city and vision general plan extends 24 years but this district plan is 95 years

39. The Evergreen redevelopment policy needs to be reevaluated

40. This is really just an urban village in disguise, as there's 150,000 commercial space available now in Evergreen Valley.

As the morning wore on many citizens waved green signs not in favor of the City Council re-designation of the land into commercial usage. They voiced as did others from both sides that not enough community engagement was done around this important issue.

Other City Council members expressed the city was only charged with the use of the land and not what will be built upon it. That process will be between the community and the college to decide. So, the City voted on land use but not what will be built. A separate process will be done in the future for what will be created.

Some residents said they will not support any business or institution built at the college as a protest, stating the land should only be used for educational purposes as it was originally intended.

SJECCD Chancellor Debbie Budd spoke in favor of changing the land use designation at the City Council meeting. "This land has been designated surplus since 2004," she said. "I am thrilled that we will finally be able to utilize it to better serve students, while also providing much-needed services to the Evergreen community."

How to recycle your holiday tree

Curbside collection of holiday trees is on your collection day beginning Dec. 26 through Jan. 27.

Homeowners must remove stands, tinsel, and decorations. Cut into 5-foot pieces. Set out on the curb near your carts by 6 a.m.

Too much holiday trash?

Use Extra Garbage Stickers, available at City Hall, libraries, Lucky, and Safeway stores in San José. Place extra garbage in a 32-gallon plastic garbage bag labeled with an Extra Garbage Sticker on the curb near the garbage cart on your collection day.

Questions about recycling?

Go to sjenvironment.org/curbside-recycling to view, print, or order a copy of the Recycling Guide, available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

For service questions

Contact your recycling, garbage, or yard trimmings collection company to report missed collections, replace damaged carts, report service issues, or change your cart size. Go to sjenvironment.org/lookup to find your collection company and pickup day, to get street sweeping information, and for the schedule of neighborhood cleanups.

CommunityCalendar



Piano duo, **Klara Frei** and **Temirzhan Yerzhanov**, who have delighted audiences around the globe with their artistry, will appear in a 4-hand piano concert January 21 at Trianon Theatre, San Jose.

Rare four hand piano performance planned Jan. 21

The Steinway Society, the Bay Area announced that International Artists Klara Frei and Temirzhan Yerzhanov Dazzle will dazzle the audience with their with 4-Hand Piano Beauty Sunday, January 21, 2017.

The performance will be held on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Trianon Theatre at 7:30 p.m. in San Jose. The Pre-Concert Lecture will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Graduates of the prestigious Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and winners of prestigious competitions, the duo are co-founders of Gradus ad Parnassum Music Studio and serve on the faculty of the Mountain View Community School of Music and Arts.

The program will include:

- Schubert, Rondo in A major D951
- Brahms, Variations on a Theme by R. Schumann Op. 23
- Mendelssohn, Andante and Allegro brillante Op. 92
- Schubert, Rondo in D major D608
- Schumann, Ballszenen Op. 109

TICKETS/INFO: Single Tickets: \$40-\$60. Senior/Student Discounts Available www.steinwaysociety.com or (408) 990-0872

Temirzhan Yerzhanov, noted concert pianist, conductor and former faculty member at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, has performed and recorded masterworks of the solo, concerto and chamber music repertoire.

His international career began with his winning First Prize and Gold Medal at the

XI International Schumann Piano Competition in Germany. He has since performed throughout Europe, Russia, China, India and the US. In 2007 he was named "Best Performer" by San Francisco Classical Voice.

Klara Frei is Director and Co-founder of Gradus ad Parnassum Music Studio and known internationally for her performances as soloist, chamber musician and in duo piano works, with her husband, Temirzhan Yerzhanov. She studied at the National Conservatory in Kyrgyzstan and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Conservatory and earned a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at Basel Music Academy in Switzerland. In her native Kyrgyzstan, she was awarded First Prize at the National Piano Competition.

A noted and notable concert pianist, as well as teacher, Ms. Frei has toured in Switzerland, France, Czech Republic, UK, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and the USA.

About Us: Steinway Society - The Bay Area is a non-profit organization based in Silicon Valley. Now entering its 22nd season, this dedicated group of musicians, pianists, teachers and arts lovers promotes excellence in piano performance and music education. Each season, Steinway Society presents a series of classical piano concerts featuring international award-winning pianists, and works with students and school leaders to bring musical performances to the schools. For more information on Season Subscriptions, the artists, and Steinway Society, go to www.SteinwaySociety.com.

Events at New Seasons Market Evergreen

Fridays, 5–7pm: Wine Tasting & Cheese Pairings. 12/23: Martin Ranch Winery, 12/30: Hahn Family Wines, 1/6: Epic Wines & Spirits, 1/13: Mountain Peoples Wine Distributing, 1/20: Cima Collina, 1/27: Terra Sávia Wines. Complimentary.

Wednesdays, 8am–9pm: Wellness Wednesdays. Stop by the Solutions Counter and sample a new wellness product, healthy meal recipe, or featured healthy item from our deli and juice bar. Free.

Thurs, January 5, 2–3:30pm: Essential Oils 101. Join Heidi Dagman and learn about the fascinating world of fragrant essential oils—naturally occurring, aromatic compounds found in the seeds, bark, stems, roots, flowers, and other parts of plants, and how you can use them to support your health.

Free.

Fri, January 6, 11am–12pm. Sugar Seminar: How SWEET it isn't! Learn about the negative impact sugar has on the immune system and the body, and how to find where sugar is hiding on nutrition labels and in foods. Become informed and inspired, and kick the sugar habit. With Certified Nutrition Consultant Katie Leadbetter. Free.

Wed, January 11, 10–11am: Golden Zumba. Dance your way into the New Year! Great for seniors and adults new to Zumba; gentle but effective toning dance moves will get you moving to upbeat music. Presented by CareMore. Free.

To preregister for classes, visit the Solutions Counter in the store or go to: www.newseasonsevergreen.eventbrite.com New Seasons Market is located at: 5667 Silver Creek Valley Rd, San Jose. 408-513-8200. www.newseasonsmarket.com/our-stores/evergreen

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Want to submit a news item for the Evergreen Times?

Press day: January 3, 2017
Deadline: December 30, 2016

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com

Evergreen Times

Times **Local News**

YMCA of Silicon Valley honors Burdett with Distinguished Service Award

Jocelle Burdett (pictured, right) is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award 2016 for the South Valley Family YMCA at the annual Red Triangle Dinner held last month at the Crowne Plaza Palo Alto.

Awards for the evening were presented by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, YMCA of Silicon Valley Chairman of the Board David Kennedy, and YMCA of Silicon Valley President and CEO Sandy Berlin Walker.

The recipients of the Y's annual awards go above and beyond in their efforts to serve the public and make a true difference in the lives of others. More than 7,600 individuals volunteer each year providing leadership and talent that are vital to empowering people and communities to learn, grow and thrive.

For the last three years, Burdett has volunteered as a team leader for the South Valley Family YMCA Annual Campaign. "Her contagious enthusiasm has motivated her campaign team to raise \$45,000 in 28 days for critical community programs," said Walker. "Tireless in her efforts to build a strong campaign and motivate volunteers to strive for success, Burdett's thoughtful leadership makes a difference in our com-



munity." YMCA of Silicon Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, YMCA of Silicon Valley serves approximately 240,000 members and participants – regardless of age, income or background - by nurturing the potential of children and teens, improving health and well-being, and providing opportunities to give back and support our neighbors.

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1675 Winchester Boulevard (near Hamilton), Campbell, 95008. Church Office: 378-3472. www.campbell-umc.org. E-mail us at: campbell_umc@earthlink.net. SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Handicapped, hearing-impaired friendly facility. (Nursery Care available). SUNDAY SCHOOL for every age at 9:00 a.m. WHAT YOU WILL FIND: Youth/Young Adult programs, Choirs for all ages, Active Senior Fellowship, a dynamic and diverse congregation of seekers motivated to explore the questions of faith and life; opportunities for fellowship, study, spiritual growth and outreach. Campbell UMC is a Reconciling Congregation ~ ALL ARE WELCOME! Campbell UMC sponsors Bright Days preschool, offering a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum. Call 378-8422 for information.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120 Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham 408 268-0243 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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118 408.265.5837 www.bibleroad.org 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: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open! 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.eastvalley-church.com) VBS: June 13th – 17th (5:45-8:30pm) & Sports Camp: July 18th – 22nd (9am - 12:30pm) For more details or to register please visit our website Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor - Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalley-church.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 10:45AM, 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 espanol, 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 3sixty 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.

THE POINT CHURCH

www.ThePoint.Church 3695 Rose Terrace 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.

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 (CRE-ATE); 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.churchsanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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, 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!

Worship listing advertisements are \$495 annually. (408) 898-7534.

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Times Feature

OFF THE SHELF

Special programs during winter break

By Edith Sutterlin
Special to the Times

San Jose Public Library staff all hope that you are having a delightful winter holiday season.

All of our branches will be closed on Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 2. When we are open during the school break and into the coming month, adults may drop into either Evergreen or Village Square for a chance to contribute to a collaborative coloring mural or to select from individual coloring sheets to relax. Coloring is a proven way to reduce stress!

There are a few special programs planned at Evergreen Branch library during the winter school break while Village Square is continuing their ongoing chess and crafts programs. Evergreen's Tech Challenge engineering workshop for school-aged kids and young teens, Thursday, Dec. 28, 2:30 p.m., will engage participants in the design process to build a model for safely crossing an icy crevasse! This program is in collaboration with the Tech Museum of Innovation and RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching). Sign up at the Information desk or phone 408-808-3060 now to reserve your spot for this workshop. We have just started a waiting list for Evergreen's popular Sew Easy Penguin Pillow workshop on Thursday, Dec. 29 (for 6-10 year olds). If we have enough interest, we hope to repeat this program in January.

Adults, as the New Year approaches, are you thinking about making any resolutions?

If you are committed to becoming more fit or flexible, consider joining Village Square branch's Yoga or Dancersize programs. On Thursday at 11 a.m., learn yoga in a class delivered by a certified instructor. Dress comfortably. On Fridays, stop in to try Dancersize, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., a program that weaves graceful dance steps into physical exercise movements, enhances body coordination, and sharpens memory capability. Chair-exercises are included to protect aging knees.

Would you like to make a 2017 New Year's Resolution to read more books or a wider variety of books in the coming year? Evergreen Branch's Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m. What better way to start than with a beloved classic: Jane Austen's Emma, the Jan. 4, 2017 Book Club selection! In February, the selection will be one of the Silicon Valley Reads 2017 titles, Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison, by Shaka Sengho.

Additional Events

You can view branch library's complete event listings and information on activities at other library locations at events.sjpl.org. Updates on library events are also available via our RSS feeds (sjpl.org/updates) and our Facebook page (facebook.com/sanjoselibrary)

Parking

When Evergreen's parking lot is full, customers may find additional parking available at Grace Church on

the other side of Aborn Road. We thank Grace Church for this generous offer that allows the library to better serve our community.

Edith Sutterlin is a librarian at the Evergreen Branch Library. Evergreen Branch Library is located at 2635 Aborn Road, between Capitol Expressway and White Road. (408) 808-3060. Village Square Branch is located at 4001 Evergreen Village Square. (408) 808-3093. Both are part of the San José Public Library System. For more information, visit the library website, sjpl.org.

Library District earns four-star rating from national publication

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) has been rated among the top public libraries in the United States.

Awarded a four star rating from the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service, the national rating system is designed to recognize top performing public libraries within the nation.

In 2016, 7,349 U.S. public libraries qualified to be rated with only 260 libraries receiving the distinguished Star Library one, two, three, four or five star rating. Thirteen California libraries were awarded the prestigious Star Rating in 2016.

"Receiving a four-star rating such as this reinforces just how invaluable the libraries are to our communities," stated County of Santa Clara Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Chair of the Santa Clara County Library District Board. "Libraries are more than just a gathering place for exploring, imagining or interacting with other community members. Our libraries offer vital resources, special collections and the newest in technologies that help build our communities and create vital learning centers for all our residents."

The ratings are based on five categories, including library visits, circulation, program attendance and public internet computer use and the most recently added category: circulation of electronic materials. Libraries were grouped by annual expenditures and then rated according to these five statistical categories. This year's rankings relied on 2014 data that libraries reported to the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

"We couldn't be prouder of this achievement," commented SCCLD County Librarian, Nancy Howe. "This four-star rating from the Library Journal confirms how much we strive to deliver not only high quality resources, but also ongoing programs and relevant materials to all District residents. We could not have reached this goal without our dedicated staff and volunteers who are committed to providing such outstanding services."

Symphony Silicon Valley outreach program to benefit 2,500 fifth grade children

Symphony Silicon Valley's educational outreach program has returned.

The outreach program to bring 2,500 fifth grade children and teachers to a dazzling professional production of The Nutcracker, performed by the Symphony orchestra and Ballet Stars of Moscow Company at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts on Dec. 15 and supported by gifts from Diane and Lee Brandenburg, Yahoo Employees Foundation, the Kirven-Morse Family Fund, the Leeson Foundation, and the City of San Jose.

The students, most of them from Title One schools, will enjoy an extraordinary morning of music and dance performed by a Russian guest company led by Artistic Director Mikhail Bessmertnov. Symphony Silicon Valley will perform the glorious Tchaikovsky score under the baton of Maestro George Daugherty. Performances for gen-

eral audiences begin on Friday, December 16th and continue through Christmas Eve, December 24th.

The mission of ArtSPARK, a Symphony Silicon Valley outreach program created by General Director Andrew Bales, is to ensure that Santa Clara County students in grades 3 through 5 have the opportunity to experience music, theater and dance at their best. Students are bused at ArtSPARKS's expense to age-appropriate performances by professional arts producers in the theaters built for that purpose. During its first four years, the program served over 20,000 students a year at no cost to their schools.

Bales commented "Arts experiences like this can change lives. Engagement in the arts helps students develop out-of-the-box thinking, teamwork, self-discipline - every aspect of creativity. With ArtSPARK events, we hope to ignite students' interest and motivation to go further; and

teachers tell us it works. This fall when the Brandenburgs expressed interest in supporting an outreach program for youngsters, other generous donors followed suit, and the marvelous result was this all-free Nutcracker performance. The response from schools has been overwhelming: clearly the need and the desire are there."

The 25 schools that are participating bear out that observation. An invitation was sent on October 12 to a limited number of school districts, and the theater filled in less than a week, with a long waiting list. "That's a testament to the need for and quality of the program," said ArtSPARK Director Lee Kopp. "During my two years directing ArtSPARK, we received thousands of letters from students, teachers and parents thanking us and telling us about its impact. The program's return makes this a happy holiday season for all of us at the Symphony."



BUICK BACK ON TRACK

General Motor's Buick has become the first domestic car brand in more than 30 years to be among the top three most reliable brands, replacing Tesla which now ranks near bottom in Consumer Reports magazine's auto testing section.

"One reason why the brand has been able to leapfrog

others in the General Motors' stable has been its limited vehicle lineup---with none of the pickups and truck-based SUVs that have negatively impacted Cadillac and Chevrolet," said Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports' director of automotive testing.

Pictured is Buick's 400-hp, rear-wheel-drive concept vehicle called the Arista. It's stylish, luxurious and peppy and may be produced as a 2018 model.

Coding classes for teens offered at Santa Clara County libraries

Computer coding, a system of signals representing letters or numbers which are then transmitted electronically to a computer to complete a task, is becoming increasingly important in today's electronic world as well as the skills and knowledge needed to write and create these codes.

In an effort to combine Silicon Valley's growing need for skilled tech workers and the unique ability for local libraries to provide classes free of charge in a safe learning environment, County of Santa

Clara Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Chair of the Santa Clara County Library District Board is spearheading the effort of offering robust, free of charge coding programs for youth throughout the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) seven community libraries.

"The earlier a girl or boy can learn to code, the more ingrained and helpful these skills will be," said County of Santa Clara Supervisor Mike Wasserman, the champion behind leveraging County libraries availability to make coding classes free and accessible to Santa Clara County children.

For additional information on SCCLD Coding Classes or Computer Science related events, visit <http://bit.ly/2beCAIG> Visit the Library District website for more information about Library services at www.sccl.org.

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SALE PRICE	\$13,999
JEEP CA 2016 BONUS CASH*	-\$500
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$2,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
JEEP 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH****	-\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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1 AT THIS NET PRICE #787444
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MSRP	\$22,390
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$5,391
SALE PRICE	\$16,999
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$3,000

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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,102
SALE PRICE	\$21,488
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JEEP CA RETAIL BONUS CASH***	-\$500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,741
SALE PRICE	\$18,499
DODGE CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,500
DODGE CA RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$2,000
CHRYSLER NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$500
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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2016 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT
AUTOMATIC, A/C

MSRP	\$28,090
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,091
SALE PRICE	\$23,999
DODGE BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	-\$3,000

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RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$1,250
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL GRAPHICS****	-\$1,000
RAM 2017 FULL COMMERCIAL ON-THE-JOB BONUS ALLOWANCE****	-\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$17,988

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #572854, 542306
*Residency restrictions apply. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. ***MUST OWN OR LEASE A HONDA, TOYOTA, OR VW VEHICLE. TRADE-IN OR TURN-IN REQUIRED. ****PURCHASER MUST UPGRADE THROUGH THE DEALERSHIP TO BUSINESS GRAPHICS.

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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$6,286
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RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL GRAPHICS****	-\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$22,999

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE
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DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP

CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH**

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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2 AT THIS NET SAVINGS VIN# 337302, 349710 *RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

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475 HP V8 - FAST SUV IN THE USA!

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP

CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH**

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #457570

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#1 VOLUME PACIFICA DEALER IN CALIFORNIA!
*PER FCA LLC SALES REPORT OCT. 2016

MSRP	\$29,990
DEALER DISCOUNT	\$5,091
SALE PRICE	\$24,899
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH**	-\$500
CHRYSLER RETAIL CONQUEST BONUS***	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS****	-\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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EXPEDITION AND ENCLAVE BUYERS, CHECK THIS OUT!
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DEALER DISCOUNT	\$3,502
SALE PRICE	\$27,888
JEEP CA 2017 BONUS CASH*	-\$1,250
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$750

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATE

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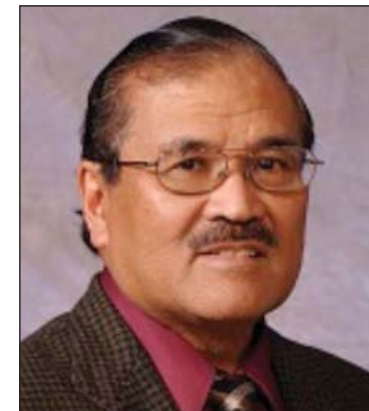
Craig Mann



Wendy Ho



Mayra Cruz



Rudy Nasol

San Jose – Evergreen Community College District Trustees sworn in; new Board Officers elected

Four members of the San Jose – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) board of trustees took the oath of office during the board's Dec. 13 meeting.

Trustees Rudy Nasol, Craig Mann, Wendy Ho, and Mayra Cruz, representing Trustee Areas 1, 3, 5, and 7, respectively, all won re-election to four-year terms in November.

"Consistent, strong leadership on the board of trustees is vital to the continued success of the District," said SJECCD Chancellor Debbie Budd. "The fact that all four trustees who were up for reelection won by such wide margins tells me that the community believes the District is on the right track."

The board also voted to appoint new officers, electing Trustee Mann to serve as board president and Trustee Cruz as board vice president, each for one-year terms.

Mann, a public school teacher, was first elected to the SJECCD board of trustees in 2012. He has previously served as a trustee for East Side Union High School District and was a member and chair of the San Jose Human Rights Commission. "I am honored and humbled by the confidence and trust that my colleagues have shown in electing me to this position," Mann said. "I am looking forward to working together in 2017 to continue serving our students and our community."

Trustee Cruz is a faculty member at De Anza College. She has been a member of the SJECCD board of trustees since 2009 and also serves as board president for the Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN).

Also during the Tuesday meeting, the board approved a calendar for 2017. In 2017, the board will hold regular meetings Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 14 and 28, March 14, April 4 and 25, May 9 and 23, June 13, July 11, Aug. 29, Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and 24, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

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Name change for portions of Murrillo Avenue brings joy to community tapestry of cultures

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

Part of an old road gets a new name in Evergreen Valley to welcome and embrace others. Murrillo Ave. near the Sikh Temple will be renamed Gurdwara Ave (pronounced: gur-d-wara).

The name change will affect approximately a 4,000-foot long portion of Murillo Avenue between Quimby Road and Aborn Rd.

The road name change was created to honor a religious building and bring honor to the path that leads to it. The name "Gurdwara" means "door to God."

This road change was passed by the San Jose City council after having gone through a public process.

The Sikh religion originated in India. The word Sikh means "Student". The founding fathers of the faith are referred to as "Guru" meaning the teacher or enlightener. The present Guru is the Holy Scripture called Guru Granth Sahib.

The Sikhism teaches belief in one supreme God for the whole creation and equality of all human beings irrespective of race, gender or geographical origin. The Sikhism honors the right of all people to practice the religion of their choice. It is important that cultures in our Santa Clara Valley continue to learn more about each faith and by doing so we can better understand their viewpoints and needs creating a community of vast understanding and unity.

Renaming of the road takes another special importance in the North American context. Post 9/11 the Sikhs have suffered from hate crimes in the US due to mistaken identity. Sikh men wear turbans as a part of their religious practice and were mistaken for Talibans (which some were associated as being terrorists). The new name change will help give recognition to this community and hopefully improve understanding of their faith by all.

One of the focuses of the name change for the road is to let the entire community know that this group wants to expand its contributions to the community and take a more active role.

The only building with an address on the street is the Gurdwara, and the road name is changed only to a portion of Murillo Avenue so Murillo Avenue is still there and will continue to share its name with the road to honor the history of Santa Clara Valley. The sharing of the road name will require changing five street signs

This building is an important part of their community in that marriages, birthday parties, family functions and memorial services take place at that building. The building has deep meaning to this Sikh culture in ways that are unique. The building itself is referred to as a place of worship for all.

Three meals of food are served in

the building for all each day. Also, it is very important to know that in other places of the world the street leading to the building often have the same name of Gurdwara (door to God) to honor the culture and religion.

About the Sikhs and the Sikh Temple in Evergreen Valley

- The Sikhs have been a part of California for 125 years (since 1891)

- This Sikh Temple in Evergreen is called The Gurdwara (pronounced gur-d-wara) is the largest in the United States and those honoring the faith come from five counties to visit the building.

- This one building serves five counties, San Benito, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Santa Clara.

- When the foundation stones were laid at this large building the inclusion of five other religious leaders helped lay the foundation stones and these leaders who came were from the Buddhist Faith, the Christian Faith, The Hindu Faith, the Jewish Faith the Muslim Faith.

- The Sikhs have a belief that it is important to respect all religions

- The Sikhs do not proselytize others to try to get them to join their religion

- The Sikhs understand that their way is not the only way to teach about God

- In the Indian culture the Sikhs are known as "faith protectors" which means they defend and fight to protect people

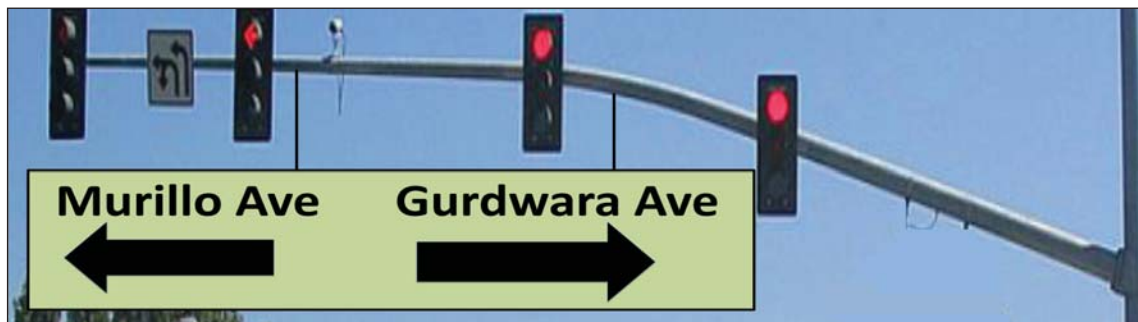
- Service to others is a big part of the Sikh life. Besides serving free food to all visitors in the temple, the Sikhs from this temple have been regularly serving food at the homeless shelters and distributing blankets.

- Organizations like United Sikhs have been going all around the world providing relief to the victims of natural disasters.

Many in the community have stated that there is a tremendous depth of understanding that can take place to better understand one another. At a recent rally a state senator expressed that to help all of us understand each other better in what we do, perhaps we need to increase public education in the schools so the children can learn about cultures in depth in our Bay Area. It is believed that strong education also is the key to lessen discrimination of others. Our America has and continues to battle discrimination issues and through education we can help build bridges of understanding and acceptance for all.

When the Sikhs migrated to the U.S.A. they like many others faced discrimination. There were laws that were made that shored up discrimination with regard to land ownership.

There were cases where a Sikh soldier who fought for the U.S. in World War I had trouble being



The name change will affect approximately a 4,000-foot long portion of Murillo Avenue between Quimby Road and Aborn Rd.

granted his American citizenship. Thus, the Sikhs began a strong movement to create the Gurdwara or Sikh Temple to be a place where all could come and worship and offer community support.

Now the largest Gurdwara in

America has a street name to reflect its importance to all and this group can expand its contributions to the community by letting all better know who they are and what they believe in while taking pride in being accepted into the community.

When residents look at the new sign it is not unlike the holding of hands of the children from different cultures. Different traditions, religions and heritages continue to make up our diverse Evergreen Valley.



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Times **Entertainment**

MOVIE REVIEW

Collateral Beauty

By **Steven Leonard**
Special to the Times

Cast: Will Smith, Edward Norton, Kate Winslet, Michael Peña, Helen Mirren, Keira Knightley, Naomi Harris, Jacob Latimore.

Director: David Frankel.

Length: 97 minutes.

Rating: PG-13 (thematic elements and brief strong language).

Collateral Beauty is one of the best movies of the year. What's interesting about this movie is that 90 percent of the TOP critics are raving that this is one of the worst movies of the year.

TOP critics include: New York Times, New York Times Magazine, San Francisco Examiner, US

Weekly, Detroit News, San Francisco Chronicle, Salt Lake Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Toronto Star, New York Post, Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, Toronto Sun, Tribune News Service, Washington Post, Time Magazine, Newsday, Boston Globe, Associated Press, Seattle Times, Entertainment Weekly, New York Daily News, etc.

The pattern I see is that these are the same newspapers that predicted that Hillary would be our next president. These TOP critics said that this movie was the worst movie ever. All of them believe this movie to be silly with its mystical look at grief.

Collateral Beauty is a fable that



Will Smith in *Collateral Beauty*

means to do good for all people, to soothe and encourage and inspire. The white-hot sincerity of *Collateral Beauty*, its noble, if aggrandizing, self-appointment to the role of counselor, coach and pastor. We need a little kindness in our world aimed at healing our grief. I watched the Star Wars Rogue One last night at the theater. It's a good movie but it's not a movie about healing our grief and I

did not cry during the film. There was no emotional connection in watching the bad guys get killed.

Whit (Edward Norton), Claire (Kate Winslet), and Simon (Michael Peña) play partners in an advertising company whose once fearless leader, played with sadness by Howard (Will Smith), has sunk into a deep and alienating depression since the death of his six-year-old daughter. Whit, Claire, and Simon—love their boss/partner, Howard, but the company is being dragged down in his tailspin, and they need to figure out a way to have Howard declared mentally unfit to make executive decisions, so they can bypass him and sell the company. Whit lives in Queens with his dementia mother because he's broke from a divorce, but Claire and Simon seem to have well-appointed existences in spacious Manhattan apartments.) So Whit hatches a rather insane plan: he'll hire actors

and have them do an elaborate guerrilla theater piece to make Howard seem crazy.

The best thing about reading a TOP critic is their consistency: You get to know when they're on target and when they're off the beam, when you can place faith in them and when you can't.

Take emotional fantasies that star Will Smith. Eight years ago, I warmed to "Seven Pounds" more than the TOP critics and wrote "It will have half your brain asking 'How could this be?' and the other half saying 'Shut up and go along for the ride!' Listen to the latter voice."

If you agreed, trust me about "Collateral Beauty." Many TOP critics will complain about emotional manipulation, but I share Roger Ebert's view: "Some people like to be emotionally manipulated. I do, when it's done well." I think "Beauty" does it well.

Smith plays Howard, head of an advertising agency that begins to collapse after his daughter dies. He goes into an emotional coma as accounts disappear but refuses to sell the company. Long-time associates Whit, Claire and Simon (Edward Norton, Kate Winslet and Michael Peña) reluctantly concoct a plan.

After Howard mails bitterly therapeutic letters to "Time," "Death" and "Love," they hire unemployed actors to embody these beings. Then they pay a private detective to get video of him talking to the "mythical" figures; when the actors are removed from it, Howard will seem crazy, and the board of directors can declare him incompetent.

Each associate pairs with an actor who, not coincidentally, provides sound advice. Time (Jacob Latimore) counsels Claire about the slowing of her body clock; Love (Keira Knightley) leads Whit to repair his relationship with an estranged daughter; Death (Helen Mirren) helps cancer-ridden Simon face the inevitable. Meanwhile, Howard slowly revives through grieving sessions run by Madeleine (Naomie Harris).

At the beginning, Howard declares, "Advertising is about illuminating how our products and services can improve people lives." It's mostly about encouraging us to buy things we don't need, but I suppose this has to be the idea if your hero creates ad campaigns. And the interaction of Howard and Madeleine at the end reminded me of the movie "Sixth Sense" with Bruce Willis.

Death and Time and Love don't offer utterly new insights – how could they, after millennia of philosophers' writings? – but express truths that are always worth hearing.

Most movies today remind us dates in high school are hard to come by, superheroes can beat up aliens, or serial killers are scary. See *COLLATERAL BEAUTY*, next page

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Times **Your Community**

Collateral Beauty

Continued from previous page

dudes. A movie that wisely contemplates how to deal with profound sadness deserves our respect for that alone.

With typical understated euphemism, the military calls the damage inflicted on non-target sites and civilians “collateral damage.” Screenwriter Allan Loeb calls his new film a fable and he asks us to consider the possibility of “collateral beauty,” beauty that is revealed only when our pain forces us to pay attention. Grief forces us to remember back in time when there was just a moment of beauty in our lives. Emily asked in Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*, “Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every second and minute?” The State Manager answers, “No. Saints and poets maybe...they do some.” This movie would add, “And those who are grieving. Poets have long written that if you have just five minutes of beauty in your life, count yourself blessed above all others. Savor those beautiful moments in time. They may never come again. This is what gives us true meaning to life. Death, Love and Time are the great teachers of those beautiful passing moments.

Howard (Will Smith) is confident, charming, and successful when we first see him, asking his partners and the employees of his advertising agency, “What is your Why?” He is not asking them to participate in a discussion of existential metaphysics and man’s search for meaning. He was asking them to think about how to describe their client’s products to answer the potential customers’ Why questions. Death, Time, Life, according to Howard, are what we grapple with. “We long for love, we wish for more time, we fear death.” Products that help people feel that they have some control over mortality and intimacy are the ones that will sell. The purpose of Grief is to remind us to pay attention to the *Collateral Beauty* found in *Death, Time, Love and Life*.

I cried when Howard could say his child’s name at the end. I had a tear in my eyes when

it was hinted that the actors portraying *Death, Time and Love* may not have been actors at all. That was *Collateral Beauty* to me!

'Spend the Night with Billy Crystal' March 2

Tony® and Emmy Award®-winning comedian, actor, producer, writer and director Billy Crystal will be making an exclusive Bay Area stop at San Jose’s Center for the Performing Arts (255 S. Almaden Blvd., San Jose) on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The engagement is part of his 30 city US tour *Spend the Night with Billy Crystal*. Coming off the heels of his recent critically-acclaimed Australian tour, Crystal promises a hilarious and intimate evening.

“This show is unique. There’s stand up, and ‘sit down’ which gives me great freedom to tell stories, show film clips and talk about my life and career and the world as I see it,” said Crystal. “It’s loose, unpredictable and intimate. The most fun I’ve had on stage in a long time.”

A stand-up comic turned television star, Crystal found fame as a movie funnyman with starring roles in blockbusters such as *When Harry Met Sally*, *City Slickers* and *Analyze This*.

He was much loved as the acclaimed nine-time host of the Academy Awards, an achievement topped only by Bob Hope, who hosted the Oscars 19 times. Also an award winning author, Crystal’s latest memoir, *Still Foolin’ ‘Em: Where I’ve Been, Where I’m Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys?* was an instant NY Times best seller.

Tickets will be available online at www.ticketmaster.com, in-person at the City National Civic Box Office (150 W. San Carlos St., San Jose), or by calling 800-982-ARTS (2787). Connect with Billy Crystal on his official Twitter – twitter.com/billycrystal

Richard Aquino Jr. receives National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame Scholarship

Richard Aquino Jr. will be honored by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame with a scholarship which will be presented on March 3, 2017.

The NFFCHF selection committee reviewed 24 nomination applications, choosing three scholarship winners. Aquino is a

senior at Mt. Pleasant High School.

Each year Santa Clara County receives three \$1,000 scholarships to award to Senior Linemen and or Senior Backs who attend one of the high schools located in the Santa Clara County.

The applicants are required to have an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher, showed football ability, and have demonstrated community service and leadership abilities in their school and community.

This year the scholarships will be presented at the 57th Annual Awards Dinner. The banquet will be held on March 3 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel.

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EvergreenAreaMeetings

Adlibmasters Toastmasters Club

A group dedicated to helping develop communication and leadership skills. The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5:15 - 7 p.m. at HGST, a Western Digital Co. and the second and fourth Tuesdays from 12 - 1 p.m. at IBM. For more information, go to www.adlibmasters.org or call Lorraine Myers at 1(408) 717-5552 weekdays or 1(408) 238-4580 weekends.

District 8 Community Roundtable

1st Thursday of every month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: Evergreen Library. (For information, visit d8crt.org)

CalRTA-Area V-Div. 70 Retired Teachers Organization

Meets bi-monthly at various eastside cafes also conducts a variety of holiday socials/activities and scholarship fundraisers. Established in 1983! All teaching levels and others welcome. This organization supports the goals and purposes of the California Teachers' Retirement System. For more information call E. Paros at (408) 274-1609 or email parosej@sbcglobal.net.

East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees

Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the ESUHS Education Center, 830 N. Capitol Ave. 347-5000. Check the web site for

agendas and updates: www.esuhd.org

The Evergreen Al-Anon meetings held at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Thursdays at 7 p.m. have been cancelled indefinitely due to lack of attendance.

The Evergreen Business Association is a free networking group for business owners who live and work in the Evergreen and nearby areas. The purpose of the Evergreen Business Association is to develop and foster connections and to provide a forum for members to share knowledge, promote growth opportunities, and encourage referrals. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Village Square Branch Library, 4035 Evergreen Village Square, San Jose. The group invites business owners and leaders. There is no cost for membership. For more information, please refer to our Meetup page here: <http://www.meetup.com/Evergreen-Business-Association/>

Evergreen-East Valley Realtors Marketing Meeting

Meets each Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The EEVRMM invites realtors, brokers, lenders and related affiliates to its breakfast meeting. Market your listings, match buyers with sellers and share real estate success stories. Meetings are held at MegaByte Pizza Co., 5623 Silver Creek Valley Rd., San

Jose, CA 95138. \$3 admission, coffee and pastries included. For more information, call David Castillo at 238-2000.

Evergreen School District Board of Trustees

Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of every month, in the district boardroom at 3188 Quimby Road. For more information, call (408) 270-6800.

Evergreen School District Parent Advisory Committee

The Parent Advisory Committee Meetings for 2015-16 will meet on the first Wednesday of the months of October, December, January, February, March and May. The meeting is held in the Evergreen School District boardroom, 3188 Quimby Road at 9:30 a.m.

The Evergreen Senior Advisory Council

Meets the third Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Get involved in helping plan events for seniors, volunteering for a good cause, and getting to know your fellow seniors. For more information, call the Evergreen Community Center at (408) 270-2220.

Evergreen Valley Garden Club

Meets at the Evergreen Library on Aborn Road, San Jose the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Each meeting will feature a monthly gardening class FREE to the public. For further information contact Arvind Kumar at (408)

715-7020 or email chhprahiya@yahoo.com

Evergreen Valley High School Athletic Booster Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the school's administration office.

Evergreen Valley High School Site Council

Meets the first Wednesday of every month on the EVHS campus in the administration building D, 3300 Quimby Rd., San Jose. Confirm meetings by visiting the school's web site, <http://ev.ca.campusgrid.net/> home and clicking on school site council in the left hand toolbar or calling the school at (408) 347-7000.

Evergreen Valley Service Organization

For more information, call (408) 274-6756.

Falls Creek Neighborhood Association

Homeowners from the Madison and Pulte area developments are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings. For more information go to the Web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fallscreekneighbors> or call Dave Zenker at (408) 238-2591.

The Evergreen Community Center offers a variety of classes and special events, for kids, adults, and seniors. For more information on our activities visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/prns.

The Senior Nutrition program serves a delicious and well balanced meal to seniors 60 and over every Monday – Friday at noon. The suggested donation is \$3 per person. Please make reservations at least one day in advance by calling (408) 270-1244. The center is located at 4860 San Felipe Road.

Friends of Evergreen Library

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Group Study Room A at the Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road, San Jose. Visit their website at friendsofvergreenlibrary.org or call 408-808-3060 for more information.

Hidden Glen Community

To join a neighborhood discussion egroup, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HiddenGlenSanJose/>

LeyVa Community Action Team Association

This group is bounded by Barbary Lane and Monrovia Drive, Capitol Expressway, Aborn Road, and South King Road. For meeting time and location, please contact the association at (408) 795-5855.

Lions Club - San Jose East Valley

This group meets Tuesday evenings from 6 pm to 8 pm for a dinner meeting at Carrow's Restaurant, 1696 Tully Rd. near the corner of Tully Rd/King Road. For more information, contact Lions Club member Bill Evans at (408) 274-4728.

McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Assoc. Meets second Thursday at 7 p.m. at Tully Library. 365-1300.

Meadowfair Neighborhood Association Meets the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. at Meadowfair Center, 2696 King Rd. For more information, call 539-2308.

Reid - Hillview Airport Association

3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hillview Airport Terminal. (For information, call (408) 251-4939 or visit rhvaa.org)

Rotary Club of San Jose East/Evergreen

Meets every Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Ranch Golf Club, 4601 Hill Top View Lane. (408) 270-0557.

Story Road Business Association

Meets third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Prusch Park, South King

Road at Story. For more information, call 238-5422.

San Jose/Evergreen Community College District Board

Normally meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Meetings in the District Office, Board Room, 40 S. Market St., San Jose, CA 95113.

San Pedro Squares Toastmasters Club

Meets every Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Jimmy's Restaurant, 222 W. Capitol Expressway in San Jose. Contact Barbara at 373-2815, or email barbaramcchesney@sbcglobal.net for further information, or check out the website at <http://www.sanpedrosquares.freetoasthost.org>.

Silver Creek (PTSA) Parent, Teacher, Student Association

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday in the Silver Creek High School Principal's Conference Room, 3434 Silver Creek Road. For more information, call 347-5830. Silver Creek School Site Council Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in room V-1.

Silver Oak Educational Partnership

The Silver Oak Educational Partnership is now called the Silver Oak Elementary PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). SOEPTO will not be meeting over summer. Meetings will resume in September. New meeting schedule will be posted in August.

SIR Branch 114 at the Villages

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Branch 114 meets every first Tuesday of the month in the Villages' Clubhouse Fairway Room. The meeting agenda includes a noon luncheon for all SIR Branch 114 members and a 12:30 p.m. speaker open to all Villagers and friends. For more information, call Lou Figone, SIR 114 BIG SIR at (408) 966-4175.

Tully Ocala Capitol King Neighborhood Association

1st Monday of every other month from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley - Smythe Clubhouse

West Evergreen Neighborhood Association

This group represents the area bounded approximately by Flanigan Drive, South King Road, Aborn Road, and Alvin Avenue. Meets the third Tuesday at O.B. Whaley Elementary School, 2655 Alvin Ave., 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact the association at 535-8613.

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McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Assoc. Meets second Thursday at 7 p.m. at Tully Library. 365-1300.

Meadowfair Neighborhood Association Meets the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. at Meadowfair Center, 2696 King Rd. For more information, call 539-2308.

Reid - Hillview Airport Association
3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hillview Airport Terminal. (For information, call (408) 251-4939 or visit rhvaa.org)

Rotary Club of San Jose East/Evergreen
Meets every Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Ranch Golf Club, 4601 Hill Top View Lane. (408) 270-0557.

Story Road Business Association
Meets third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Prusch Park, South King

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