

LICCARDO PICKS UP ILLEGAL TRASH TO KICK OFF NEW #BEAUTIFYSJ CAMPAIGN – P4



SAN JOSE FLOOD VICTIMS RELIEF FUND ESTABLISHED MORE THAN \$100,000 IN DONATIONS RECEIVED IN INITIAL HOURS – P19

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FEB. 24–MARCH 9, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 5

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Almaden Times

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DRAGON TALES

San Jose Chinese School includes 30 percent non-Chinese speaking families who are interested in learning the Chinese language and culture. Recently, the school hosted a Chinese New Year celebration with traditional dances. *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert*

Chinese School celebrates New Year in style

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Children laugh with delight as a dragon and lions dance, cymbals clash and a drum beats in rhythm. This is all part of the Chinese New Year celebration held by the San Jose Chinese School. The traditional lion and dragon dances are believed to bring good luck; the longer the dragon, the more luck it will bring to the community.

“As a Chinese school, our goal is to not only introduce the language, but also the Chinese culture,” says Principal Anthony Ku. “Celebrating the Chinese New Year has become a tradition for the school. We teach the children how it was in the past for the Chinese people. Language is the tool and culture is their roots and connection with their ancestors.”

The San Jose Chinese School holds pre-kindergarten to grade twelve classes Saturday mornings at Leland High School. In addition to the Chinese language, the curricu-



lum includes Chinese festivals, zodiac characters and the history behind them. Extracurricular cultural courses include painting, calligraphy, dance, martial arts and traditional music.

“One of the things I love about this school is that it’s very inclusive,” says Ku. “As non-Chinese people we’ve been very welcome. My children are adopted from China. Our motivation was to involve them in the Chinese culture and it’s been very rewarding. My wife and I have served on the Board and are learning Chinese.”

Originally, the school was founded by Chinese parents, but now includes 30 percent non-Chinese speaking families who are interested in learning the Chinese language and culture.

“I’m a believer of global studies,” says Ignacio Belagquez, whose children attend the school. “I want the kids to have a good understanding of the world and other languages and

See NEW YEAR, page 6

VTA cutting bus routes in Almaden

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is dramatically restructuring bus and light rail lines, decreasing or eliminating service on less traveled routes and reducing wait times on those heavily traveled. Almaden bus routes 13, 328 and 330 are proposed to be discontinued and Route 63 greatly shortened.

VTA’s goals are to increase ridership by 15 percent, improve its cost-effectiveness and connect with Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). VTA cites its falling ridership and low farebox recovery ratio as compelling reasons to make sweeping changes.

“Although the population in Santa Clara County has steadily grown during the past 15 years, ridership hasn’t followed suit,” says Adam Berger, VTA transportation planner. While passengers numbered more than 57 million in 2001, there were about 43 million riders in 2016.

“Every year, we saw ridership numbers go down,” says Councilmember Johnny Khamis, who served on the VTA Board for four years. “This year, they haven’t gone down steadily, they’ve gone down profusely.”

“There’s a budget and the cost of providing services,” says VTA Chair Jeannie Bruins. “The question is, ‘What will serve more customers and get people out of their cars into a transportation solution?’”

On Feb. 20, VTA completed a series of public meetings and gathering input for their Draft Plan, which their Board will vote on in April. They received widespread support for increasing the number of routes that have frequent (15-minute) service, faster travel times, proposed light rail system changes, creating a Route 60 San Jose



Adam Berger, VTA Transportation Planner, explained VTA’s sweeping changes to a standing-room only crowd. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

Airport connection and free transfers. However, the drastic service reductions proposed for Almaden Valley met with public outrage.

VTA currently operates four transit routes in Almaden Valley: Route 13 and Route 63 offer all-day service and Routes 328 and 330 operate morning and evening peak periods. Routes 13, 328 and 330 are proposed to be discontinued in the Draft Plan, and Route 63 is proposed to not travel south of Blossom Hill Road.

“I think that it is shameful not to continue to offer at least four runs to and from Almaden,” says Almaden resident Sheree Kirby. “Students ride the bus to and from school. There are a number of elderly for whom the bus is their only mode of transportation; my 81-year-old mother has taken the bus to my house from downtown for over twenty years.” Kirby would like VTA to provide buses for

See ROUTES, page 18

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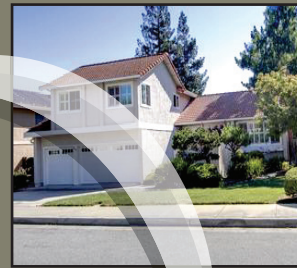


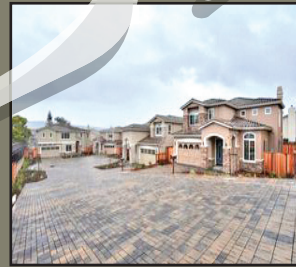

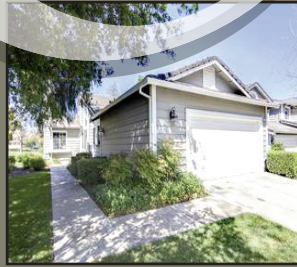





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 <p>904 Briana Ct.</p>	 <p>1043 Krister Ct.</p>	 <p>1152 Holly Ann Pl.</p>	 <p>6392 Lillian Way</p>	 <p>No Picture Available</p>	 <p>419 Clearview Dr.</p>
 <p>7073 Fycroft Ct.</p>	 <p>881 Hampswood Way</p>	 <p>995 Hampswood Way</p>	 <p>6579 Gardenoak Ct.</p>	 <p>1090 Valentine Ct.</p>	 <p>969 Yarmouth Way</p>
 <p>6534 Camden Ave.</p>	 <p>383 April Way</p>	 <p>1335 Shelby Creek Ln.</p>	 <p>6469 Oakcrest Dr.</p>	 <p>787 Almondwood Way</p>	 <p>6970 Hollow Lake Way</p>
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This Week:

COMMUNITY

CDC: Current flu vaccine said to be only 48 percent effective : PAGE 10

OPINION

Is Common Core math being taught incorrectly? PAGE 15

COMMUNITY

San Jose based Opera Cultura presents 'Coyotes and Rabbits'- A bilingual children's opera: PAGE 19



ARTS

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Almaden Times

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Valley Currents

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

Liccardo picks up illegal trash to kick off #BeautifySJ campaign

By William Bellou
 Publisher

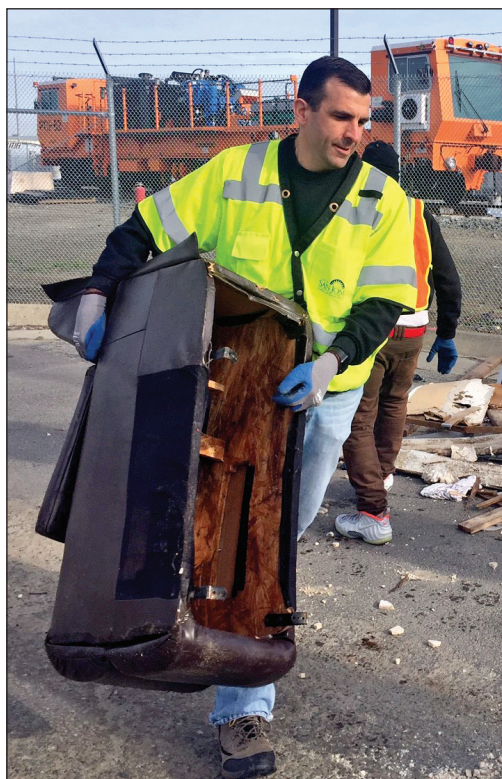
San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo kicked off the #BeautifySJ campaign highlighted in his recent State of the City speech by personally picking up illegally dumped trash on an early cool morning, Feb. 13.

Liccardo said that illegal dumping has been on the rise due the housing crises causing displaced families forced to sleep on streets and riverbanks.

The city recently reported that nearly 320 tons of debris has been recovered including 1,200 mattresses, 620 shopping carts, 148 gallons of paint and 151 gallons of human waste, and more than 400 gallons of motor oil since mid-2016.

The mayor asked the council this week to consider expanding the free junk hauling for single-family homeowners last week. San Jose began offering the free hauling for more than two years. Free hauling pickups have more than doubled to more than 15,000.

Liccardo said during the city's mid-year budget review, that the city council will consider spending more than \$130,000 to install cameras, lighting, gates, and signs in a half dozen



hotspots that account for more than half of illegal dumping reports.

The city's illegal dumping response team reports that nearly 70 percent of the calls it receives are from junk left on public roadways. Last year, the county entered into a nearly \$800,000 agreement with the California Department of Transportation to help with trash pickup.

Large item pick scheduled for March 25

For Almaden residents living in Pierce Ranch, Almaden Valley Country Club or Glenview Serenity neighborhoods may place large items for pickup on March 25, 2017.

City offices explained that an incorrect notice was mailed announcing a free Neighborhood Cleanup on Feb. 25, which is incorrect. A new notice will be mailed out three weeks before the cleanup event on March 25.

The large item collection program offers two free collection appointments per household per fiscal year. Each collection includes up to three large items.

For more information regarding free large item collections, visit: sjenvironment.org/largeitems

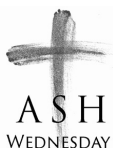
For more information regarding the Beautify San Jose Campaign, visit: beautifysj.org.

Almaden Joint Venture Churches to celebrate Ash Wednesday March 1

Almaden Joint Venture Churches will present "Ashes and Coffee to Go" on Ash Wednesday, March 1, from 6:45-8:30am.

The Congregational Church of Almaden Valley and The Episcopal Church in Almaden (6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, 95120) encourage neighbors to drive through their circular driveway to receive ashes on their foreheads and a free cup of coffee or tea to go, with a smile.

Both churches will bring a moment of spiritual connection and ancient tradition out of doors and into daily life. "Ashes remind us that we are mortal and help us remember what is important in life," said Reverend Shelley Booth Denney. "They remind us that God continually offers the forgiveness of unconditional love, and a new start. Come, start your morning with 'Ashes and Coffee to Go.'"



Preschool with day care planned for Almaden Valley

Kiddie Academy has proposed building a new facility at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Redmond Avenue to provide preschool and daycare services in Almaden Valley.

The new preschool building will occupy 10,625 square feet with a new parking lot.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis, District 10, said city staff is working diligently with the applicant to ensure that the location is clean and ready for development; especially since this was the site of a gasoline station for over 20 years.

"The city continues to respond in a timely manner so that the applicant can move forward with his proposal," said Khamis. "Many members of the community were happy to hear that the City continues to do its due diligence to ensure that the new location provides a safe and healthy environment for children."

For any questions contact Denelle Fedor by email: Denelle.fedor@sanjose-ca.gov



Commendation awarded to Rich and Jeanne Sanders

Rich and Jeanne Sanders were presented a commendation during the evening San Jose City Council on Feb. 7

The Sanders are a dynamic duo volunteering their time to help out the supervisor and staff of the Almaden Valley Community Center when help is needed.

The Sanders have repaired the sound system (on numerous occasions), assisted with lighting, organized community rooms, and other emergency services. They are also active in the Almaden Valley Senior Association where Rich serves as Vice President and Jeanne assists with events.

"I was thrilled to honor them for their efforts in serving our community with a commendation from Mayor Liccardo and the entire City Council," said Councilmember, District 10, Johnny Khamis.

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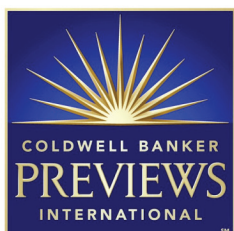
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Times **Local News**



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New Year

Continued from page 1

to be comfortable with the entire world, not just the U.S.”

The school, which has served the San Jose community for 43 years, is a co-op run by parent volunteers. Initially, the school was located at Southside Community Center with a single class of thirteen students. As more students enrolled, it relocated to Pioneer High School in 1979 and John Muir Middle School in 1983, before finding its current home at Leland High School in 2002.

“Chinese School gave me a basis for the Chinese language and a sense of identity,” says Edward Yu, who was one of the school’s first students, as his father, Chiaperr Yu, was a school founder. “Even if we spoke English, the Chinese part was a binding factor. It’s part

of us and why Chinese schools exist. For my son, Devon, we want him to get as much of a foundation as possible in Chinese; it’s more challenging to learn as an adult. It’s a part of him as we have a link back to parts of greater China. We want him to be able to identify with that part of his background, as well as being an American.” *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert*



Seniors St. Patrick's Celebration

Friday, March 17, 2017
12:00 to 2 pm

Join the Almaden Senior Association together with the Senior Nutrition program for some live music and tasty food in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Traditional menu of corned beef and cabbage. Sign up at the Almaden Community Center front desk beginning Monday, February 13th until Friday, March 3rd.

Cost will be \$3.00 at the door for those 60+ and \$8.00 for all others. Doors will open at 11:15.

For more information call Almaden Center at (408) 268-1133.

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Times **Community News**

Pay raise for SJ police may set unsustainable precedent

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

I hope that I am wrong. I hope that in the face of rising pension and retiree benefit costs and with, as Mayor Liccardo has said, “budgetary storm clouds” on the horizon that three years from now we won’t be facing the terrible choice of cutting programs or cutting jobs to pay for the 22 percent pay increase granted to our police officers on Tuesday, February 7.

Don’t get me wrong – I think it’s impossible to put a price on the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day that they go to work, but we do have to arrive at a negotiated pay for our officers.

Given that the City has limited resources and that we must (and do!) focus the biggest amount of these resources to our #1 priority, public safety, the City also has other responsibilities to its residents, such as fire protection, maintaining streets, and providing parks, libraries, and community centers. We also have growing retirement costs to contend with – and we cannot avoid the City’s ever-increasing annual pension expenses.

My other fear with this \$49.3 million annual increase is that it sets a precedent when negotiations begin with the City’s ten other bargaining units and that we place all

of the City’s core services at risk. I don’t want to see us return to the era when we had to lay off over 2,000 workers – including police officers - cut library days of operation, reduce operations at parks, close community centers, and brown out fire stations.

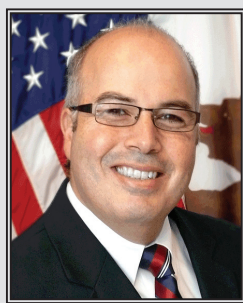
Since I took office, I have consistently supported our police force:

- Voted for all salary increases – an 18.6 percent increase
- Voted for a retention bonus program
- Voted for and supported Measure F which addressed the pension and worker’s compensation concerns that our police officers had with Measure B pension reforms.
- Voted for an aggressive, but more modest, 14% pay increase plan that was rejected by the police union.

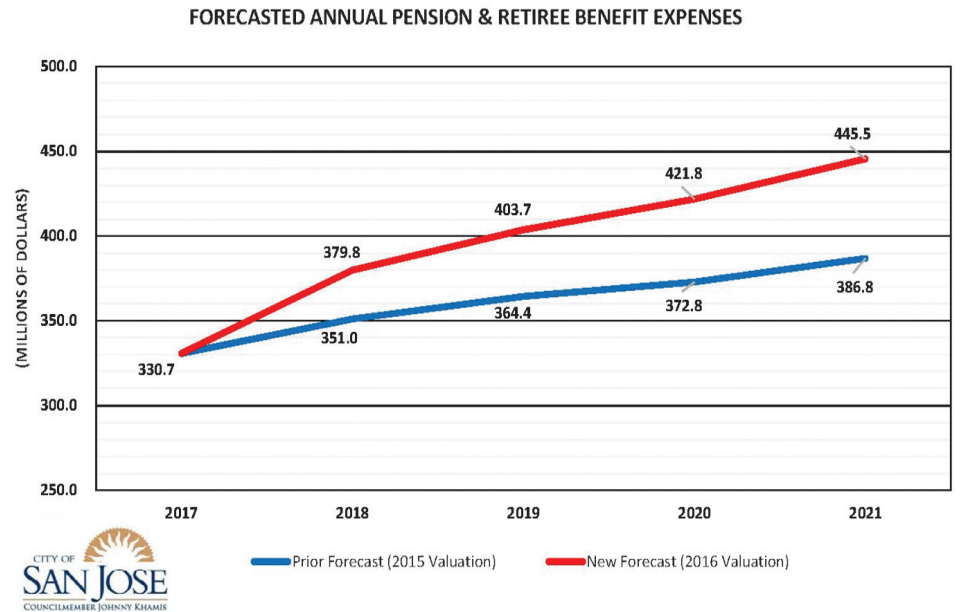
Some may ask about the two new taxes that were just passed

last year. When voters approved Measure B, last June, and Measure G, last November, we were promised increased police services, faster response times, and better streets. Measure B is estimated to generate \$40 million per year and Measure G, \$12 million. In contrast, the contract approved on February 7 will cost, when fully implemented, \$49.3 million per year in General Fund dollars.

Staff also presented a very uncertain picture of our financial health and, in good con-



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember



science, I could not bring myself to vote for an agreement that I do not think we can afford or sustain.

Again, I really do hope I’m wrong and that in three years, when the full cost impact of this agreement, new contracts for our other ten bargaining units, and our pension costs are all factored in, we are able to pay the bill without painful service and employment cuts. I respect and support our police department and all the officers in it - my track record proves it! But, I could not vote for a contract that I believe is unsustainable.

"I think it's impossible to put a price on the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day that they go to work, but we do have to arrive at a negotiated pay for our officers." – Johnny Khamis

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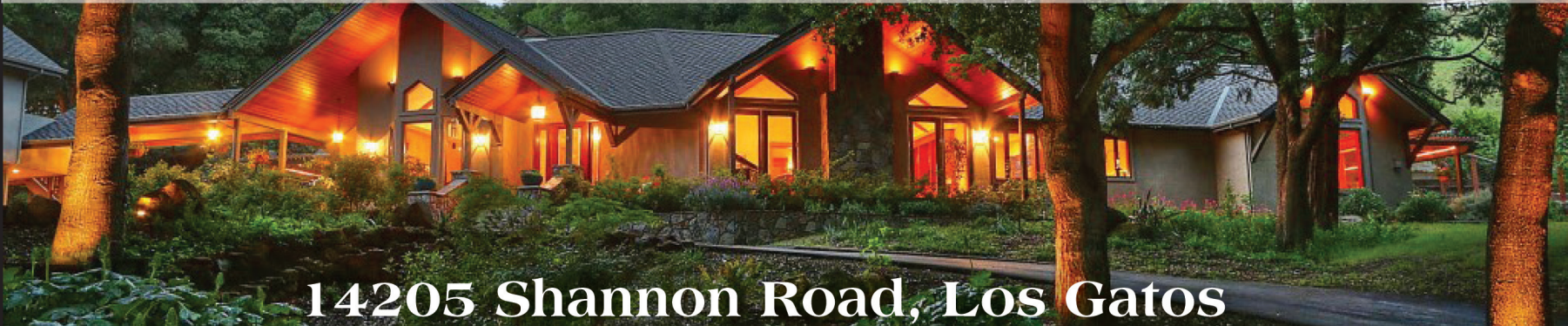
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RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH* -\$1,500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$1,750

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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NEW 2017 3500 SLT TRUCK CREW CAB DIESEL

BUSINESS LINK

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP \$10,827
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH* -\$500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$1,750

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #603375

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BUSINESS LINK

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SALE PRICE \$22,738
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH* -\$1,000
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$2,750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL GRAPHICS**** -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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Times Local News



Saint Anthony Catholic Church volunteers (top row) Mollie Tobias, George Houston, Patti Rottjakob, Richard Tobias, Dawn Georgiou, Jim Georgiou, Mari Escay, and Joann Maier and (bottom row) Ramiro Bejinez, Pauline Golitz, Son Ngyuen, Van Nguyen, and Cely An Escay.

Saint Anthony Catholic Church volunteers prune rose garden

An enthusiastic group of parishioners from Saint Anthony Catholic Church braved the elements on a rainy day in January at the Almaden Winery Rose Garden.

They spent several hours pruning the rose bushes and clearing out the beds to prepare the garden for the onset of spring.

The Adopt-A-Park lead, Arline, who maintains the garden year round, was very grateful that this huge project was completed with the help of the Saint Anthony volunteers.

CDC: Current flu vaccine only 48 percent effective

For those who received a recent flu vaccine, only 48 percent is effective, compared to 60 percent in typical years, according to the Centers of Disease Control.

The difference this year is the recurrence of the H3 flu strain. The strain mutates a lot, and we don't have as good immunity, according to Dr. Richard Zimmerman,

Director of the University of Pittsburgh flu and vaccine research. "The last time we saw the H3 strain was 2014-2015, the year of the vac-

cine mismatch."

Zimmerman said there was a spike of flu cases in early January and we are starting to see another increase approaching now. "We don't fully understand it...but the transmission can be different and obviously people crowd in when the weather is bad outside and so there can be both the crowding issues as well as humidity changes," said Dr. Zimmerman.

Flu attacks the pulmonary system, so people with underlying lung disease or people with underlying heart disease, are especially at risk. If you feel the flu coming on, Dr. Zimmerman said Tamiflu can shorten the duration of symptoms, but only when taken within 72 hours.

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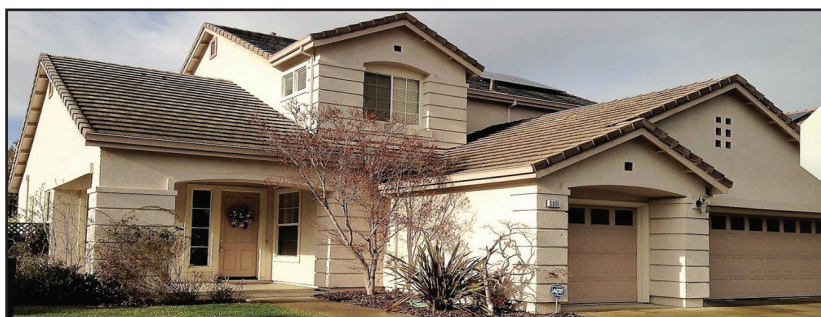
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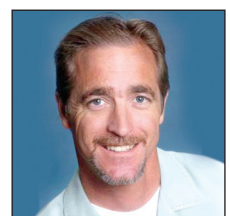
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Times **Features**

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Estate and gift tax laws can be confusing

By **Steven R. Roeser, Esq.**

Special to the Times

This week's question:

"I am confused by current estate and gift tax

laws. Can you provide an overview? What can be done to minimize estate taxes on my death so my children keep more of what I have worked hard for?"

Mary W.,
Almaden Valley

Answer:

Most all of us would rather give our assets to our children, grandchildren, etc. when we (along with our spouses) are gone, rather than having it go to good old Uncle Sam. With some planning, you can maximize what goes to little Johnny, and minimize what Uncle Sam gets.

Let's have a look at the basics of federal estate and gift tax planning. California does not have any estate tax or filing requirements (it was repealed) with rare exceptions, so this article addresses federal estate and tax laws only.

To put it simply, when you die, your estate will have to pay estate taxes if the net value of the estate (assets minus debts) is more than the permissible exemption amount for the applicable year. For 2017, the individual federal estate tax exemption is \$5.49 million per person (it generally increases each year with inflation), meaning every dollar over the exempt amount of 5.49 million is taxed at forty percent!

While you may be thinking hey, I am well under the exemption amount, so I have no worries, the laws could change and exemption amounts reduced, but more so, your assets are likely to grow substantially in value before your death. In Silicon Valley, this is all the more true, where small properties cost millions and appreciate consistently over measured time periods, and some fortunate start up employees come into millions in a matter of years. Or maybe this is your year to win the PowerBall Lottery! (kidding.)

As you and your spouse each get the 5.49 million exemption, a married couple jointly has nearly 11 million in assets they can pass along without paying any federal estate tax. Amounts above the 11 million will be taxed heavily at 40%. If the estate goes up 2 million to 13 million, there would be \$800,000 in tax going to Uncle Sam. You get the point and would be wise to consult counsel and get a proper estate plan, including a living trust, in place, to start, if you have such assets. Getting a revocable trust in place is also wise for those that fall under the exemption amounts and are not at risk of paying any estate taxes, because trusts have many other benefits such as avoiding probate court and bringing certainty to estate administration and distributions, to name a couple.

In addition to the individual estate tax exemptions at death, you can currently make annual tax-free gifts of up to \$14,000 per recipient, and if you are married, you and your spouse together can give \$28,000 per recipient per year. Additionally, subject to specific rules, you can also give an unlimited amount for tuition and medical expenses if you make the gifts directly to the educational organization or health care provider. With respect to real property you want to pass along to your family, you can give your child a \$14,000 "interest" in the property each year, which can be discounted via appraisals under certain conditions, which can be a very effective way to transfer wealth at a discount.

If you want to give more than \$14,000 in a given year, you can do so, but must report it to the IRS and it will begin to reduce your lifetime gift and estate tax exemption of 5.49M. Like estate assets, gifts in excess of exempt amounts

are also taxed at forty percent at the federal level. Some planning here is the key to effectively utilizing annual and lifetime exemptions.

For example, it can be especially wise to gift assets that are appreciating in value, because any income and appreciation that occur after such gift is made are removed from your taxable estate. However, the recipient then may have to pay capital gains tax if the asset is later sold, with such tax calculated using your original basis ... meaning the recipient is taxed on the difference between your purchase price and the sale price. That could be a lot of tax. If the property passes through your estate after your death, the recipient may receive a step up in basis as of the date of your death (basis is the fair market value at your death), which would save a lot of

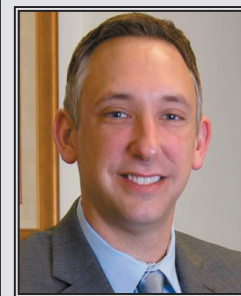
capital gains tax on the subsequent sale of the asset.

No offense, Uncle Sammy, but I want my kids to keep as much of our family assets as possible! Consult counsel and get an appropriate estate plan in place. It makes good sense to take care of your family, whether you are under or over the estate tax exemption thresholds.

Kindest regards,

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at info@almadenvalleylawyers.com, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, or by telephone at (650) 300-5778. Your real name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles, and any information in this article does not constitute legal advice and is not to be relied upon. For more information on our practice, please visit www.almadenvalleylawyers.com



Ask the Lawyer

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.
Attorney at Law

Fireworks Show fund raising in full swing for July 4th celebration at Almaden Lake

The Community Giving Campaign is in full swing for the Fourth Annual July 4th Family Fun Festival and Firework Show at Almaden Lake.

The annual event continues to attract more people each year and we continue to have an outstanding fireworks show produced Almaden resident Craig Cutright and his family with the assistance of Almaden resident Bob Vonderwerth and District 10 staff member Denelle Fedor.

"It's only February, but community members often ask me how they can help, aside from volunteering," said Johnny Khamis, Councilmember District 10. "One of the easiest ways families, businesses and community groups can help is to make a cash donation to the Family Fun Festival Show Community Giving Campaign (CGC)."

There are two ways to donate. Visit: www.almadenwomen.org and click the donation button specifically for festival donations, or write a check to: AVWC and send it to: City of San Jose, Attention: Denelle Fedor, 200 E Santa Clara St, 18th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113.

This is the third year we have partnered with the fantastic volunteers of the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC), a The AVWC serves as the fiscal agent (501(c)(3) non-profit) for the Festival and their non-profit status ensures the tax deductibility of donations.

This event uses no dollars from the City's General Fund, so the Festival relies on Sponsors – whether individual contributors or big, corporate contributors.

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Times Opinion

OpEd: Is Common Core math being taught incorrectly?

By Kevin Larsen
Special to the Times

Is the way math is being taught today better than in the past decade or are vast numbers of children regressing in their math abilities?

It's called "Common Core." Others call it "Constructionism Teaching." One thing for sure, the children in California schools and in other states are being taught very differently than in years past.

Top level educators in California have embraced the "Common Core" methods of teaching; however it's about new teaching standards that are to be covered each school year and not necessarily about how new common core standards are to be taught.

I believe the school district leaders and highly paid training organizations may have pushed the teachers too far in new radical leaning philosophies of how to implement the new standards, including core textbooks and workbooks instead of selecting a middle ground of teaching materials. In some cases the new textbooks with constructionist concepts may have been entrenched into place without the necessary teacher and parent input (see education code 60002). Other textbook choices cover the same common core standards but in more traditional ways. We must not throw a blanket over a bad math program and call it common core as if to say it is the only choice in facilitating the understanding of the new state math standards. So, common core math can be taught in non-constructionist ways. This may have not been properly offered to the teachers by leaders of school districts and highly paid consulting training companies.

Let's focus on math; don't mix other subjects when discussing common core teaching

Math is the subject getting the most attention because math is being taught in new and different ways that tend to let some teachers take a back seat to teaching. Children's inquiring minds are discovering new concepts, so called magical moments of discovery, but is this new way of teaching working? Do the individual test scores for children prove out if this new pedagogy of teaching is successful? Is it all an experiment? Has this gone too far?

Some schools may not be teaching math in ways that succeed in getting students to properly grasp or cover the state standards for a particular segment of learners called the remedial math learning children. In some schools, students are may not be getting much homework in math. Additionally, parents are learning that students are being put in groups to learn math.

Perhaps the remedial learning children on some teams need to be segregated to a more understandable differentiated learning math teaching classroom when they enter middle school. Sixth grade teachers can also

differentiate in cost-free and exciting team ways. Is it proper to put children who are way behind in math skills in a one size fits all classroom using radical constructionist textbook/workbooks in middle school and offering them extra credit work on the side to improve their grades? Should elementary schools also differentiate learning more as students move up the grade levels?

To know we must look carefully at the data.

Teachers are not always to blame, as they are only taking the marching orders of the top brass of administration. However, if the teachers believe there is indeed something going on that is wrong, it is hoped they will speak out more.

To get true understanding of the plight of teachers using math programs private surveys need to be done by the teachers and parents so that if a math product or program is

not measuring up it should be improved or replaced. Some math programs that are radical in nature may need to be banished to be used only for high level preforming math students because those students that are at remedial levels may not get much out of such programs and be regressing in math.

Often by the time the school board figure out the situation to act on it, the children directly affected in elementary school have graduated from high school. Thus deep private surveys by teachers are needed in a timely manner and the school boards need to lead at a faster pace.

Although the textbook adoption processes allows teachers to decide what products to use in the classroom, but often there seems to be a push of one product or another by school district office leaders and in some school districts perhaps put too much pressure on how to teach with

a particular textbook.

Often parents' input is not used in the selection of textbooks. Often no written record or minutes are kept for math school textbook adoptions and parents are not invited into the room who do not work for the school district. Instead parent voice is more of a required protocol than used in a valuable meaningful way. Also, when a parent voices a concern often it takes many attempts for a school district to act and the ratcheted up power of a group of parents to begin to make pressure for change. Perhaps students too need to review the possible math textbook adoptions for their voice is just as important as their parents.

Administrators should perform a simple survey for students on their math textbook/workbook at the end of each year to inquire on a scale of 1-10 how they liked using the textbook and workbook. School board

members (who have power to select and adopt the text books and math books) read the written opinions of deep, truthful, honest children and let the truth be told. It could be that some new Common Core math workbooks or adopted materials might be lacking and teachers decide to skip portions.

Where did the math textbooks go?

In some instances, math textbooks are being substituted with paper workbooks and or massive amounts of math skills run off on copy machines, resulting in schools and classrooms running in different ways. The workbook approach is different and often it does not walk the parent through the process of solving the math (self-learning tutorials) as presented in textbooks, so it's a more difficult solving math problems at home.

See COMMON CORE, page 17

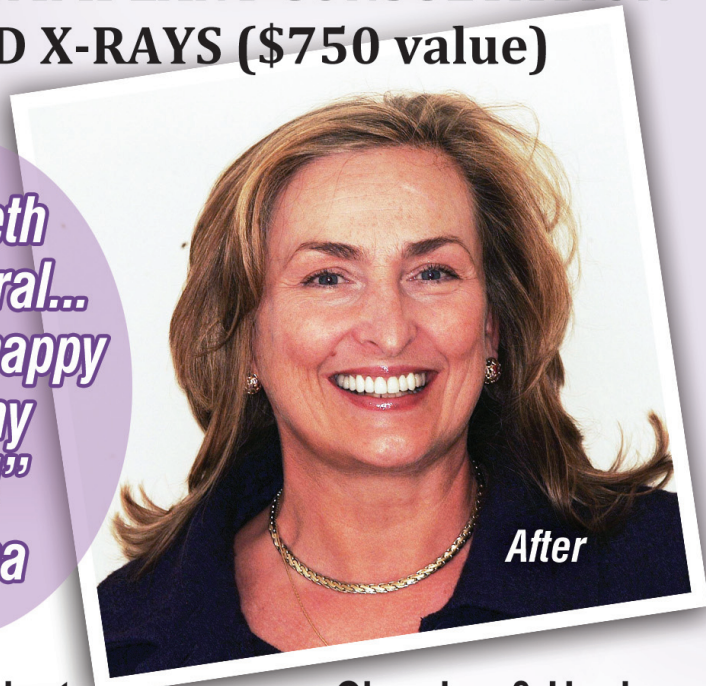
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- Dr. Cooper is a board-certified dentist and Prosthodontic Consultant to the Seattle Study Club.
- Medical College of Virginia – Dental School.
- Baylor College of Dentistry - Advanced Dentistry Residency.
- Temple Dental School - Implant Surgery Residency.
- Fellow and Diplomate of ICOI.
- Specializing in Implants/Cosmetics for more than 25 years.

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Times **Feature**

Opera Cultura presents
Coyotes and Rabbits

A bilingual children's Opera

THE STORY

Two mischievous rabbits (Chiquita and Banana) teach a young Coyote an important lesson -
"Reading is a magical thing."

If you ever loved the old Warner Brothers cartoons (i.e. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck), you'll fall in love with these characters.

March 4 @ 12pm

School of Arts and Culture
1700 Alum Rock Ave.
San Jose CA.



For more information

www.operacultura.org or call 415 845 7216

Callaway 'AeroWagen' Corvette 'shooting' brake first look

First introduced in 2013, Callaway has announced the newest design of its shooting brake based on the C7 Corvette.

The company, which has been gauging market interest and further developing the design, announced the new design on Feb. 3.

Called the C21 AeroWagen, the conversion is only available for the Corvette's coupe body style and can be reversed should the owner desire.

Carbon fiber is used for the panels while the rear piece is tempered safety glass that retains a defogger.

You do not have to buy a Callaway Corvette to get the AeroWagen package. It may be installed on your stock Corvette coupe. Price: \$14,990, inclusive OEM color paint and installation.

The new Callaway design includes:

- Hatch Assembly
- Upper Spoiler
- Halo Bar
- Tempered Glass



By the early twentieth century, "shooting brake" began to be used to categorize custom-built two-door station wagons using chassis of established luxury or sports cars.

- Rear Spoiler
- AeroWagen Badging

"Shooting brake" was first used in the nineteenth century to describe a vehicle that could be used to carry shooting parties, their equipment, their dogs. By the early twentieth century, "shooting brake" began to be used to categorize custom-built two-door station wagons using chassis of established luxury or sports cars.

For information, call Callaway Cars: 860.434.9002.

Pioneer Drama Presents

Footloose The MUSICAL

**\$17 Adults
\$7 Students &
Seniors 62+**

**March 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 & April 1
7 p.m.**

**Pioneer Performing Arts Center
1290 Blossom Hill Road
Tickets sold at door & online at
www.PHSDrama.ludustickets.com**

Mission San Juan Bautista Museum

Spend the day at the historical San Juan Bautista Mission.

A Spanish mission located in San Benito County, California.

The mission was founded June 14, 1797.

Tuesday April 11, 2017

Arrive: No later than 8:15 am

Depart: Bus leaves at 8:30 am

Return: Approximately 4:30 pm

Cost: \$30.00, includes transportation and tour.

Docent lead tour of the Mission then lunch on your own at the Happy Rooster Cafe or a local restaurant of your choice. After lunch there will be time on your own to shop and explore the town.

Sign up M,T,W 9:30 am-11:30 am at Almaden
Community Center.

Trip coordinators:
Sally 408 826-9619
Bea 408 761-4002



Times **Community News****Common Core***Continued from page 15***Dr. Comers wonderful “No Fault Complaint, No Retaliation,” piece**

Dr. James P. Comer is best known for the founding of the Comer School Development Program in 1968. He is very much involved in education today and has received numerous awards. One of his big focuses in improving schools and teaching is to ensure that collaboration of parents, educators and community is in place. He speaks of having a ‘No Fault...No Retaliation,’ complaint process where all stakeholders are free to voice concerns and all listen. If something is wrong then let’s all work solve the problem, and not at a snail’s pace. Steve Jobs has shown us in how he set up a culture and climate in running his business. We need to change the mindset of how school boards, district offices, county offices of education and the California Department of Education function. New educational codes will need to be developed and implemented that will provide the quick turnaround of ensuring children are being taught well.

Are some schools not covering 49 percent of the math textbooks?

It needs to be mandatory that all schools cover 51 percent of all textbook/workbooks. This should be mandated by written school district policy and new education code. This applies to federal law with regard to teaching English as a second language.

Dual math programs needed

If the teachers agree and the parents agree, the school districts will need to get the school boards to adopt two dual math programs (especially for middle schools). Again, teachers and parents need to express if this should be mandatory and the California Department of Education needs to help out more rather than take a hands off approach in all things of curriculum selection. The C.D.E. can with research promote and highlight dual remedial math programs for middle schools that are in place and work to education all the school districts. The C.D.E. can also promote with communication new ways of the ways some schools teach math. In other words the C.D.E. can get the word out and promote wonderful methods of teaching for other schools and districts to learn from. For the year 2017 the C.D.E. really has a hands off policy of helping anyone in the opinion of this parent. The C.D.E. seems to be a giant bureaucracy that needs better leadership to become for effective to help children, teachers, parents and all other stakeholders.

A more efficient way to teach students

Few school districts have sixth,

seventh and eighth grade middle schools. I believe schools and teachers would benefit by having one teacher teach math and another sixth grade teacher teach science, and another to teach language arts. So, if a school has 100 sixth grade students, teachers can teach three classes of math for one day; another teacher to teach third classes of science; and another three classes of science.

This could eliminate the vast lesson planning for a sixth grade teacher to plan out Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Physical Education, Art, etc.

By having the sixth grade teachers transform the elementary classrooms into a middle-school-switch-multiple-teacher experience, there is less lesson planning. Maybe this concept can be explored in a no fault no retaliation environment and the California Department of Education can find ways to inform and collaborate with all school districts better through use of the funding for the County Offices of Education that are placed in each region in California. Maybe such highly paid school district oversight entities need to do much more with their time. Maybe this kind of exploration is a good use of monies spent.

Testing will show us all the way

There is a new push and a new California embraced policy not to “teach to the test.” However the federal government seems to keep battling back California top policy makers in pushing for more testing. We need general testing on basics implemented three times a year and math benchmarks placed included on report cards.

Yeah, but we don’t want to teach to the test

One must look and compare the mastery of math according to barometers of measuring understanding of concepts. One tool that is now used for all children state wide is called the CAASPP test (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress).

Each year the results are mailed to parents. To quickly view how a school is doing in each grade level for the subject of math one can use website choices. An easier way to quickly discover how a school is successfully teaching children at all grade levels one can do an internet search with School Digger.” Parents now can just type in the name School Digger and the name of the school. Then click on “test scores.” You can click on math and navigate it to easily pop up comparative bar graphs that show the percentage of math proficiency, and also other subjects.

For a real eye opener type in this school and view the math scores...(School Digger Katherine R. Smith Elementary School) located in Evergreen School District. Then compare it to another school in the same school district by typing in (School Digger Silver Oak

“I believe many teachers that are now retiring should express their views on common core math at all grade levels. The dialogue should be open.”

— K. Larsen

Elementary School). It is seen that some schools have very low scores in math and others have somewhat higher mastery in math. Look at the variance of math proficiency between the two schools.

It seems that math is lagging in student mastery on a statewide level at many schools and without parent input the status quo may keep going down the road. What if one school has a math proficiency of say 20% but another school has a math proficiency of say 80%... and what if both schools set the same exact goal of raising math understanding of 5 percent for a year. School boards need to step in and roll up their sleeves to make changes faster.

Teacher parent and student voices needed

If a teacher likes the math product then it will be more of a joy for the teacher to use it each day. School board members should develop and build trust with teachers and parents and encourage private input.

Is collaboration cheating or is cheating collaboration

As stated earlier, some math textbooks in sixth, seventh and eighth grade are thought by be construc-

tionism textbooks. Some of the other textbooks in other grade levels also have this constructionism component in the opinion of this parent but the % of it is different for each product. The word constructionism according to Wikipedia is a learning theory when learners construct mental models to understand the world around them.

The solution is for the teachers and parents to have more VOICE in what is going on and for those who oversee the role of the teachers (principals and others) to inquire more with private surveys if math is going well or can be improved. The constant honest and earnest ear to what is going on and if help can be offered needs to be nurtured by each school principal and on up the administration ranks by not only voice but by example.

It’s time to end all combination classrooms

Combination classrooms need to be ended and if a teacher wishes to teach over the mandated amount of students they should be paid extra. Computers should be used to stimulate remedial growth if a child is behind in learning. Computers and apps like Google classroom open up this gift but to have it functioning the school districts need more funding. Perhaps children need to bring their own computers to school.

Local control of schools proposed by De Vos

Betsy De Vos who is Donald Trump’s choice for Secretary of Education is calling for “local control” of schools and wishes to end what is referred to as “the federalized Common Core.” Also President Elect Trump has called the Common Core standards “a complete disaster.” However,

Muhammed Chaudhry, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, said he believes schools across the country need to “stay the course” in implementing Common Core standards in Math and English Language Arts for U.S. students to compete globally. He said the results do not accurately reflect the impact of the new, more rigorous standards since they are still not fully implemented. If parents place too much trust in a new experimental method of teaching math then shouldn’t testing play a role in transparency of student understanding?

The math teaching pendulum needs to move more towards the middle

I believe many teachers that are now retiring should express their views on common core math at all grade levels. The dialogue should be open. Let us honor Comers views of a “no fault, no retaliation” voice of concerns for common core math and if it is determined to not be working out properly for some schools in California, let’s reinvent school district management that welcomes un-varnished parent, student, teacher and all other stakeholder voice and ensure the voice is combined with action.

Let’s not settle for the same old statement by school district leaders and others that the Common Core is new and we are still learning how to teach it so let’s stay the course...after all haven’t we already hit an iceberg in our quest for learning?

The *Almaden Times* welcome your opinion regarding Common Core. Letters regarding this topic should be emailed to this newspaper (editorial@timesmedia.com) with your response.

California state soap box derby championship

The International Soap Box Derby (ISBD) is announcing a new gravity racing program for residences (ages 7-20) of California on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 8 a.m.

The championship will be held at Hanover Street off Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304. Free parking will be available at Varian Parking Lot at the bottom of the hill. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for all divisions.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer this new racing program” said Derby President & CEO Joe Mazur. “We’re excited to have another opportunity for children to experience gravity racing and to further promote the Soap Box Derby’s mission to build knowledge and character, and to create meaningful experiences through collaboration and fair and honest competition.

A registration fee of \$25 is required to participate, and all racers need to be registered by Friday, March 10, 2017. You can register at california.soapboxderby.org.

For further information about the California State Championship, please visit the Soap Box Derby’s website at california.soapboxderby.org or contact them by email at soapbox@soapboxderby.org or by call 330.733.8723 x20.

**About International Soap Box Derby, Inc.**

The Soap Box Derby is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to build knowledge and character, and to create meaningful experiences through collaboration and fair and honest competition.

The Derby’s Core Values and Drivers include: Youth Education and Leadership Development; Family Engagement and Enrichment; Honesty, Integrity and Perseverance; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Teamwork and Collaboration; Mentoring; Volunteerism, and Commitment to Community.

The Derby’s two youth initiatives are the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby racing program and the STEM-based Education Program, which provides educational opportunities for K-12 youth worldwide through Soap Box Derby racing. The Derby dates back to 1934, when the first All-American race was held in Dayton, Ohio. Photo credit: TheGForcers (via Flickr)

Routes

Continued from page 1
students to and from school as well as a midday bus and late afternoon bus for the community. “They can use smaller buses,” she says, “but they should not completely cut us off. There has to be a compromise.”

VTA also received negative feedback regarding discontinuing Route 65 (South San Jose to downtown San Jose via Leigh and Camden Ave.). “The challenge facing Route 65 is that the land uses in this corridor are largely low-density and residential,” says VTA on their website, “which means potential riders are spread over a wide area. The choice that VTA faces is to operate multiple parallel routes (61, 65 and 63) that experience low ridership or fewer routes that might attract higher ridership, but would require longer average walks to access.”

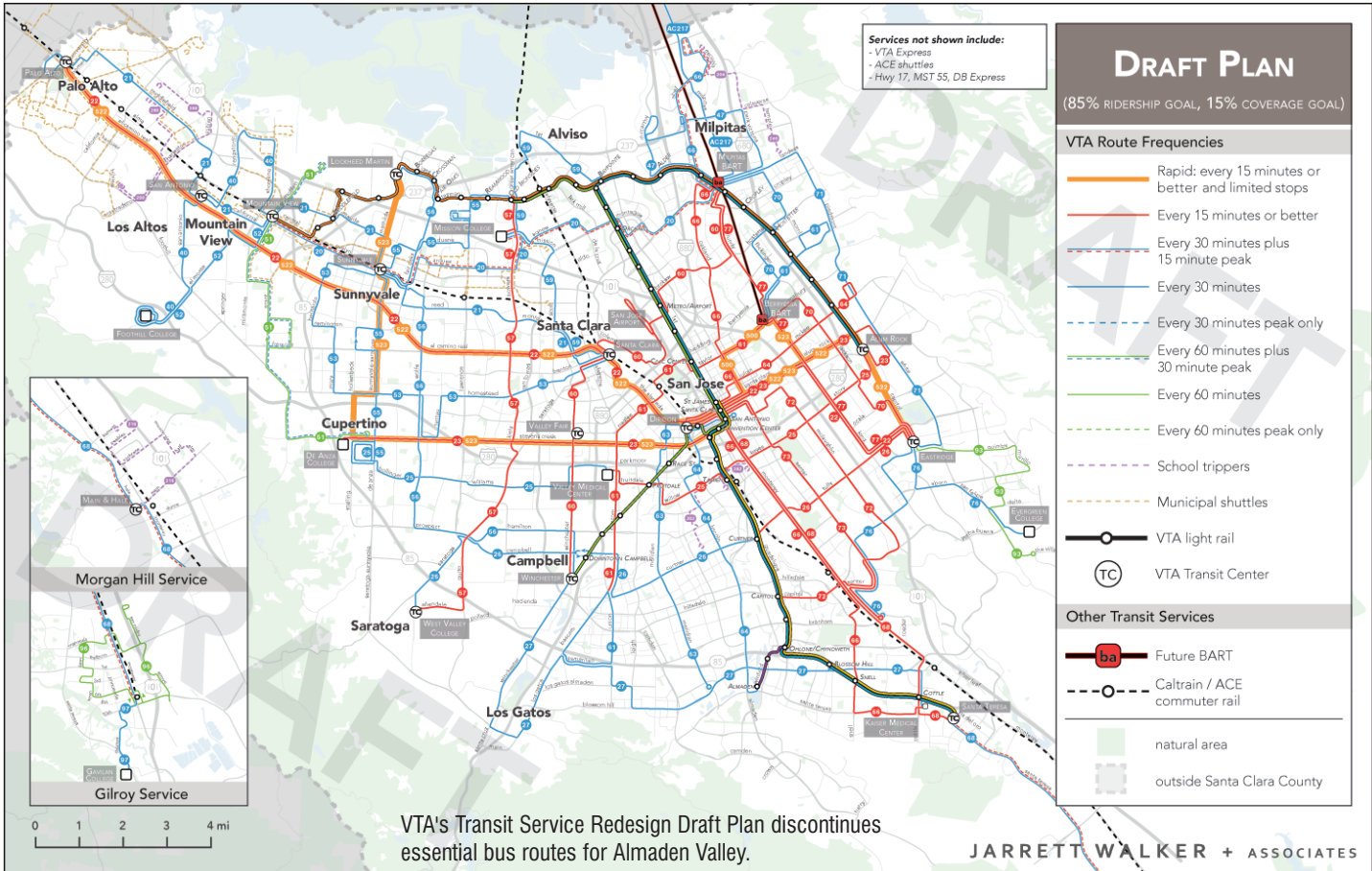
At a standing-room-only public meeting on Feb. 16, at Southside Community Center, about two-thirds of the audience were Almaden residents. Berger reviewed three options outlined in the Draft Plan.

Option A: Extend Route 64 into Almaden Valley (turning around, but not stopping at Crown Blvd.). Provide service every 30 minutes, seven days a week. Add Route 213 school service to Leland High School and Bret Hart Middle School. Provide 30-minute service from San Jose Diridon to Camden Ave. via Almaden light rail station. Provide 30-minute service from downtown San Jose to Blossom Hill.

Option B: Restore Route 13. No weekend service or midday service provided. Provide service every 60 minutes. Maintain existing service to schools. Provide 60-minute peak-only service to Ohlone/Chynoweth light rail station via Almaden light rail station. Provide 30-minute service from downtown San Jose to Blossom Hill. Provide 30-minute service from San Jose Diridon to Camden via Almaden light rail station.

Option C: Extend Route 63 into Almaden Valley to Camden Ave., stopping at Castillero Middle School. Provide service every 30 minutes. No weekend or midday service. No service to Leland High School or Bret Harte Middle School. Provide 30 minute service from downtown San Jose to Blossom Hill. Provide 30 minute peak-only service from Blossom Hill to Camden. Provide 30 minute service from San Jose Diridon to Almaden light rail station.

“All of your options give access to one school, the senior center or another school,” says a resident. “It’s vital to provide transit to



all the schools in the area: Castillero, Simons, Dartmouth, Bret Harte and Leland, as well as the senior center.”

“None of these options provide the level of services we need,” says a resident. “My 74-year-old mother doesn’t drive. She needs to go to the grocery store and Kaiser and to be part of the community. If you take away these buses away, you isolate people. It might not make sense to have a full bus, but how about a DASH or shuttle alternative?”

“Some of us feel the same way,” says Berger. “VTA is trying to add alternatives.”

“How about a community bus that goes in a loop on a regular basis to the places people need to go every day like the bank, grocery store and shopping center?” suggested a resident.

“My wish is for VTA to address the low ridership in this neighborhood by offering a more attractive product,” says Almaden Valley Community Association Board Member Bob Strain. “I think you underestimate the importance of Route 13. It goes down Almaden Expressway, but that’s a huge barrier to pedestrians that don’t live near the expressway. We need buses that go through the neighborhoods,

like on McAbee and Camden Ave., where the people are. Then they will ride them. Do you want all the senior citizens taking golf carts to the senior center?”

“Almaden 13 is used by seniors to get to the

Proposed changes

This is VTA’s first major restructuring since 2008 to its 70 bus lines and 42 miles of light rail. According to its website, proposed changes include:

- Bus routes 120, 140, 180 and 181 will be cut back as BART service to north San Jose comes online, with the Milpitas and Berryessa Station planned to open late this year.
- Service will be reduced or discontinued along lightly traveled routes, including from Eastridge to the Civic Center.
- Buses will travel more frequently along heavily used routes, including downtown.
- Fares may be increased for some tickets for the first time in eight years.
- Bus riders may be able to transfer to another bus or light rail without having to buy a second ticket, saving \$2.
- A new Rapid 523 would serve Berryessa BART, downtown San Jose, Stevens Creek, De Anza College, Sunnyvale downtown, and Lockheed Martin. Rapid 500 would replace today’s DASH, providing a rapid connection between Berryessa BART, downtown San Jose, and Diridon Station. Buses would be scheduled to meet BART trains.
- A new light-rail line, connecting Alum Rock and Mountain View, including the Milpitas BART station, running every 15 minutes all day.
- A new route 20 directly connecting Milpitas BART with job centers in north San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale and Mountain View.

As riders who work in the service and retail sectors expressed frustration with VTA’s limited weekend transit options, the Draft Plan provides nine percent more service on Saturdays and seven percent more on Sundays.

Almaden Community Center for lunch,” says a resident. “If there isn’t any peak service, they would have to take a bus at 9 a.m., wait until lunch, and then wait again until 3 p.m. for the bus. There is also a preschool at the community center. It would be hard for those children to have to wait until 3 p.m. to go home.”

Residents want VTA to keep its existing service and enhance it further. “Buses stopping once per hour on weekdays is not a viable option,” says a resident. “You’ll have more ridership if people can rely on these routes. Let’s talk about increasing rather than decreasing service and your ridership will go up.”

“Getting rid of buses is going backwards,” says a resident. “The spirit of Silicon Valley is about reducing carbon emissions and getting cars off the streets. We’re maxed out.”

Many residents feel that the decrease in transit service is not acceptable and made impassioned pleas on the behalf of the disabled and veterans to have adequate transit services provided.

The American with Disabilities Act requires VTA to provide service within ¼ of a mile of a fixed transit route. However, the paratransit service area is defined by the shape of transit network. The extended area will cost \$16 per ride, as opposed to \$4 inside service area.

“A decrease of service for disabled people affects their independence,” says a resident. “It’s hard for them to get around the community. If my daughter can’t get to Safeway, she can’t get to work. Charging \$16 for the extra mile is a lot for someone on SSI,” she says. “Even \$4 is a lot, but \$16 is outrageous.”

A VTA employee expressed her concern about the proposed cut to the 42 line, which goes around San Ignacio Ave. to the VA San Jose Clinic on Great Oaks. “A lot of vets get their health service by taking the light rail to the VA,” she says. “I don’t want to see them without services.” Another resident agreed. “Don’t mess with the vets,” he says. “Let them get to the clinic.”

“The forums are doing exactly what we want them to do,” says Bruins. “We’re hearing people giving their comments. They’re marking routes on the maps. Staff is identifying changes we’re going to have to do in response. We’ve

See ROUTES, next page

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Times **Community News**

San Jose based Opera Cultura presents 'Coyotes and Rabbits'- A bilingual children's opera

Two mischievous rabbits name Chiquita and Banana teach a young Coyote an important lesson - Reading is a Magical Thing.

If you ever watched the old Warner Brothers cartoon, you'll love Opera Cultura's production of this wonderful tale.

Based on a Mexican folk tale, the children's opera has been performed in Texas and Oklahoma. It's the perfect show for the entire family.

The performance will take place at the Mexican Heritage Theater - School of Arts and Culture, located at 1700 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose CA 95116.

In addition to the production at the School of Arts and Culture, the touring production will visit nine schools in Santa Clara county and Monterey county.

The work was composed by Hector Armienta and the the world premiere was funded in part by the American Composers Forum and Walter and Elise Haas Fund. This production is made possible in part by support from Applied Materials Foundation, Office of Cultural Affairs of San Jose, Silicon Valley Creates, California Arts Council, and Friends of Opera Cultura.

The performance is March 4th, at 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 to 20.00. To

purchase tickets, visit operacultura.org. For more information visit: info@operacultura.org, or call or call 415-845-7216.



The "Coyotes and Rabbits" performance will take place at the Mexican Heritage Theater - School of Arts and Culture, located at 1700 Alum Rock Ave.

New Costco to open in South San Jose June 2017

Ground has been broken to build a new Costco warehouse in South San Jose, according to Kevin Trejo, Costco Bay Area Corporate Office.

The tentative address, 6898 Raleigh Road, is located in the area surrounded by Great Oaks Road, Cottle Road, Highway 85 and Monterey Road.

The completion of the project is projected for June, 2017, but the completion date is subject to change due to heavy rains resulting in a slowdown in construction.

Costco Wholesale Corporation currently operates more than 700 warehouses including 501 in the U.S.A and Puerto Rico, 91 in Canada, 36 in Mexico, 29 in the United Kingdom, 25 in Japan, 12 in South Korea, 12 in Taiwan, 8 in Australia, and 2 in Spain.

With the opening of the new Costco in South San Jose there will be a total of 55 Costco warehouses in the Bay Area.

Routes

Continued from previous page

heard loud and clear that we've hit not close to the bone, but to the bone. For Almaden, there will be more service than what the maps show. Will we bring back what we cut? Maybe. Maybe not. If a bus route doesn't have ridership, it's not viable to continue, but we can consider variations to provide a transit solution."

VTA is looking at creative ways to transport people locally. Bruins believes that community shuttles and a private/public partnership is a cost effective solution. "We'd get more bang for the buck," she says, "if we took part of the Measure B money (Transportation Tax Measure B imposes a 30-year, half-cent sales tax to fund an estimated \$6.3 billion in VTA transit upgrades. About \$500 million, or \$17 million a year, was budgeted for transit improvements) and put it into a community shuttles with other partners than if we took that money and just ran a bus at \$160 an hour and had five or ten people riding it." One idea is to offer paratransit for use to other customers if it's not at capacity. Another is to provide vouchers for subsidized rides via taxi or Uber.

Overall, VTA finds itself between a rock and a hard place. Transit agencies strive to maximize ridership, resulting in few routes clustered around core areas. On the other hand, they also want to maximize the number of people who have access to public transit, providing numerous routes, regardless of rate of ridership. Unfortunately, VTA can't provide more coverage and maximize ridership at the same time with a limited budget. Currently 70 percent of their focus is on ridership and 30 percent is on coverage. Using the input they received from public forums during the summer to create their Draft Plan, they changed

their offerings to 85 percent ridership and 15 percent coverage, resulting in more frequent service and rapid routes, but decreased routes.

Under VTA's current Draft Plan, 1 percent of people in Santa Clara County will no longer have access to public transit, which is about 1,000 people who currently rely on those services. "It's clear we're going to have to put back some of those services," says Berger. "We know those who depend on public transit work in retail or restaurants, which are seven-day-a-week professions. We're looking to offer transit service for frequently used routes for work."

They will also change how the light rail commuter express line works. The Santa Teresa line will now turn around just past Saint James station downtown and make six instead of three trips per day.

Looking to reinvest in the transit service, VTA is considering increasing the base fare of \$2.00 to \$2.25 or \$2.50. It would also offer a discount fare for low-income riders and youth.

Following VTA's presentation, residents had the opportunity to illustrate on maps where they wanted bus routes to go and speak with VTA representatives regarding the needs of paratransit riders, students, seniors and veterans.

Based on the public feedback, VTA says it is looking at alternatives for maintaining service in Almaden Valley. Possible options include keeping Route 13, extending Route 63 or 64 south of Blossom Hill or developing a special school-oriented service for Leland High School and Bret Harte Middle School.

"VTA seems to be open to making changes," says Strain. "I think there were a lot of great suggestions from the audience. We just have to keep our fingers crossed that they listen."

For more information, see: NextNetwork.vta.org.

San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund established

More than \$100,000 in donations received in initial hours

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation established a "San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund" Feb. 22 to help raise funds that can be used to provide assistance to the thousands of families affected by the severe flooding experienced in San Jose over the past two days.

Within hours of the fund being established a number of organizations and businesses have generously donated to this fund including:

- Silicon Valley Auto Dealers Association - \$100,000
- San Francisco 49ers - \$20,000
- California Water Service - \$10,000

In addition, PG&E has generously pledged to match donations made to the fund, up to \$20,000.

"So many individuals, businesses and organizations throughout our community have offered their assistance and support to San Jose families impacted by this flooding," said Liccardo. "These generous donations have inspired me and demonstrate how our community has pulled together to address this emergency — reflecting the compassion, generosity and collaboration that makes San Jose our home."

Donations can be made by visiting sjmayor.org or siliconvalleycf.org/sjflood.

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 2012 NISSAN ALTIMA AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL VIN #567896 \$10,999	 2014 TOYOTA CAMRY AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #823871 \$11,888	 2013 CHEVROLET MALIBU AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, CRUISE CONTROL, LEATHER, HEATED SEATS VIN #288158 \$12,888	 2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM (PRIOR RENTAL) VIN #681566 \$12,999
 2010 HONDA PILOT AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #027750 \$13,988	 2013 NISSAN MAXIMA AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL VIN #042074 \$13,999	 2015 RAM PROMASTER CITY SLT AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #A39747 \$15,888	 2014 CHEVROLET CAMARO AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #248923 \$15,999
 2013 RAM 1500 AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, CRUISE CONTROL VIN #595048 \$16,999	 2008 HUMMER H3 AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL VIN #121335 \$17,999	 2012 FORD F-150 AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, WORK BED, TOOL BOX VIN #D45001 \$17,999	 2012 GMC SIERRA 1500 CREW CAB AUTOMATIC, POWER W/D, KEYLESS ENTRY, V8 VIN #521770 \$17,999
 2015 FORD F-150 XL AUTOMATIC, A/C, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #A20490 \$28,888	 2016 RAM 3500 AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, FLAT BED VIN #280553 \$39,999	 2016 FORD F-250 AUTOMATIC, POWER W/D, CRUISE CONTROL, 4WD, TRAILER HITCH, LIFTED VIN #C44089 \$49,999	 2017 RAM 1500 SPORT AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, NAVIGATION, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #521770 PLEASE CALL

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Times **Community News**



Magic at the mall: 'National Random Acts of Kindness Day'

By Cyndi Goble
Special to the Times

Feb 17 has been designated "National Random Acts of Kindness' Day."

Not deterred by the rainy-blustery weather and armed with nothing but a bucket of flowers, four residents from Brookdale San Jose spread joy and happiness greeting morning shoppers and store employees at the Westfield Oakridge Mall, Feb. 17.

Not knowing what to expect, the group figured it would take an hour or so to give away the 100 flowers they brought to the mall. Just nineteen minutes later, the bucket was empty. Those few minutes, however, were magical.

"I've never had that many hugs before; that was great!" Chuckled resident Hal Ely.

Melva Gosage's favorite moment was when she handed a wheelchair-bound gentleman a flower and beaming he exclaimed, "You're smile is the best part."

Residents Harry Davis and Violet Simms both agreed that we should do this again..."but we'll need to bring a lot more flowers."

National Random Acts of Kindness Day has grown in popularity each year. It is celebrated by individuals, groups and organizations nationwide to encourage acts of kindness.



The Santa Teresa Jazz Band (above) and San Jose High School All Stars (below) recently performed at the San Jose Winter Jazz Fest.



San Jose Winter Jazz Fest offers opportunities for students to shine

This year marks the seventh season for Winter Jazz Fest in San Jose. The many performances scattered about town are meant to appeal to a wide range of musical tastes and interests.

On Feb. 18, the Santa Teresa High School Jazz Band and San Jose High School All Stars performed at Café Stritch as part of the festival.

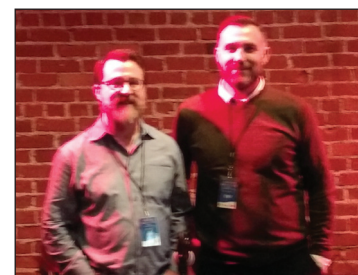
"I feel like I'm back home," said Massimo Chissesi, Marketing Director for San Jose Jazz, after a stint as Associate Director with the San Francisco Ballet. "We're very proud of the Summer Camps program offered for two weeks to an average of 150 students."

This program, offered as a partnership with Valley Christian School, is designed to encourage the next generation of performers by creating opportunities to collaborate.

SJ Jazz has co-commissioned a work by Etienne Charles and will welcome Taylor Eigsti to conduct a Master Class during the Summer Camp this year, according to Chissesi. Students will get a chance to perform in front of Summer Jazz Fest audiences to show off their skills.

San Jose Winter Jazz Fest runs through March 3. For more information, visit SanJoseJazz.org.

— Brigitte Jones



Massimo Chissesi, Marketing Director and Brendan Rawson, Executive Director of San Jose Jazz.



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DAR American History Contest winners announced

Every year each DAR Chapter across the country has an American History contest. The theme this year was "Celebrating a Century: American National Parks."

The Los Gatos Dar chapter recently awarded the following individuals as winners for this year's contest.

Contest winners are:
Grade 5: Anika Thodhani, Challenger School Shawnee
Grade 6: Dylan Nguyen, Challenger School Almaden
Grade 7: Danya Balagopal, Challenger School Shawnee -

District and State winner
Grade 8: Lany Tran, Raymond Fisher Middle School - District Winner

Annually the DAR also honors a senior high student for Good Citizenship encompassing service, leadership and patriotism. This years honorees are:

First Place: Stephanie Ando, Prospect High School

Second Place: Saya Sivaram, Saratoga High School

Honorable Mention: Gavin Erik Rodinsky, Branham High School

The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, DC is a non profit, non political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

**CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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 Bringham. 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.eastvalleychurch.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@eastvalleychurch.com
We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-

0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, 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!

GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchSJ.Net
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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 (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is

open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

6430 Bose Lane, San Jose, CA 95120
Church Office 408-268-3214
Clergy: Fr. Allan Boyd
Experience our Lord Jesus Christ after the manner of the earliest Christians. All are welcome to our warm, multicultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see!
Sunday worship: Orthros – 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am
We also celebrate Liturgy on most feast days.

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.



Girls Softball Sign-ups for Almaden Valley - AVGSL

AVGSL online registration is open!

Please visit WWW.AVGSL.ORG to register or to find all the information regarding our league. We are accepting registration for ages for Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14.

EVERYONE is welcome to join our league and it does not matter what skill level because we have a spot for you. AVGSL's main goal is to insure that all players are in a fun, positive environment while learning and expanding their softball skills. AVGSL promotes a sense of belonging for everyone. We emphasize teamwork and the sense of individual success that contribute to team sports.

If you have questions please email president@avgsl.org and we will be happy to help.



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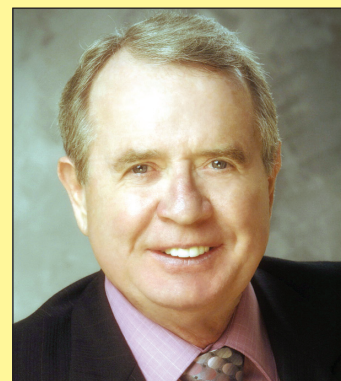
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The Evergreen School District is accepting applications from parents/community members interested in filling a vacancy position on the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Committee. This committee will oversee the expenditure of Measure H Parcel Tax funds, ensuring they are spent as approved by the voters. It is expected that the committee will meet twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit a **letter of interest** to:

Evergreen School District
3188 Quimby Road
San Jose, CA 95148
ATTN: Dan Deguara

Your letter should include a brief introduction of yourself, your contact information, and an overview as to why you are interested in serving on the committee. **All letters must be received at the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 2017.** Applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Karen Wevers at 408-270-6827.

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