

ALMADEN HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RECOUNTS EXPERIENCE SO THAT 'HISTORY WILL NOT REPEAT ITSELF' – P4



CASTILLERO SCHOOL CHOIRS SWEEP AWARDS AT RECENT DISNEYLAND COMPETITION – P20



SUMMERTIME GRILLIN': TIPS FOR COOKING A GREAT STEAK EVERY TIME – P19



JUNE 16–JUNE 29, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 13

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Almaden Times

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SILICON VALLEY LOOMS LARGE

County Assessor Stone offers perspective on local economy

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

With a glance back to the recession, Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone provides a glimpse of how the economy has grown to where it stands today.

“We’ve risen from the depths of the worst economic decline in my lifetime and yours,” he said during a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting. “The world is interdependent and volatile politically and economically, which is both a benefit and challenge.”

While the world’s economy is cyclical, Silicon Valley experiences faster and steeper cycles. Stone believes that a more

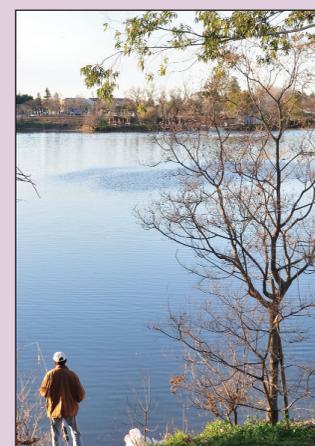
diverse economic base, less dependent on high tech, would be helpful for the region.

CEOs polled by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group repeatedly cite transportation, housing and public education as Silicon Valley’s top issues. Stone sees a parallel between Detroit being the envy of the world in the 1950s and 1960s and Silicon Valley today. “Detroit is in bankruptcy,” he says. “If we don’t solve our problems...we could be in trouble, too.”

Recognizing this crisis, Facebook has committed \$20 million over the course of five years for affordable housing, job training and assistance for tenants at risk
See ASSESSOR, page 16



County Assessor Larry Stone recently offered Almaden Valley residents a sober view of the local economy. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert



Almaden Lake Park is a popular local destination. Photo by Don DeBold (cc / flickr.com)

Unidentified body recovered from the water at Almaden Lake Regional Park

A body has been recovered from the water at Almaden Lake Regional Park on Saturday morning, June 10.

A fire engine was dispatched to the scene at 9:25 a.m. “to reports of someone down in the water,” according to San Jose fire Capt. Brad Cloutier. Once members of the fire department called for a search and rescue team, control of the incident was turned over to police.

The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office said that the person's name was being withheld pending fingerprint identification. The investigation into the death is being handled by the coroner's office, according to San Jose police.

Almaden Lake Park reopened on May 26. Boats are restricted, but pedal-boating is offered from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Recreational swimming is not permitted due to blue-green algae.

Almaden Mercury Boys Soccer Team wins State Premier Cup

Almaden Mercury FC U16 (boys under 16) Soccer Team has won the 2016-2017 NorCal State Premier Cup held in Sacramento, CA on May 21.

Almaden Mercury defeated the Fresno Pumas 1-0 to win the championship.

“I want to offer congratulations to all the players of the Almaden FC NPL 01 team for a great run of 10 unbeaten games including the State Premier Cup Championship,” said Head Coach John Devine. “The team won in great style. It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented and hard working group of young men.”

The State Premier Cup competition elevates soccer by developing players, clubs, coaches and referees through collaboration within the soccer community with an emphasis on learning and development.



Almaden Mercury Boys Soccer Team wins State Premier Cup. Pictured (back row l to r) Andrew Canepa, Takeru Nishimura, Nick Rohde, Andrew Lee, Andrew Jang, William Goodwin, Abel Rivera, and Coach John Devine; front row (l to r) Jesse Cavanna, Ping Yao, Mark Osorio, Santiago Gonzalez, Aidan Whitson, Nolan Roggy, and Carlos Guerrero Pedroza. Not pictured is Assistant Coach Mike Rohde.

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This Week:

EVENTS

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COMMUNITY

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HONORS

Almaden Valley residents celebrate graduations: **PAGE 10**



GETTING OUT

July 4 Family Fun Festival just around the corner, help needed: **PAGE 18**

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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.

Almaden senior recounts experience as Holocaust survivor so that 'history will not repeat itself'

By Dina Duckworth
Special to the Times

Almaden resident Vera Siporen shared her experience as a Holocaust camp survivor with Castillero Middle School's eighth grade class on May 24.

The students were intrigued by Vera's emotional account of the most difficult time in her life; they were so attentive to story you could have heard a pin drop.

Vera could not speak of the horrors she lived through, only when prompted by her youngest grandson did she begin to tell of the atrocities she witnessed.

Though difficult, Vera chose to tell her story so that future generations understand the severity of the Holocaust in the hope that these kids would grow up and make sure her story never repeats itself.

Vera, 89, believes given today's political and cultural turmoil, "It's more important than ever to reach today's youth about what really happened those many years ago in Ferramonte Work Camp in Calabria, Italy," she said. "Many other concentration camps throughout Europe have had lasting effects for many."

Vera has been living at Brookdale San Jose, a senior living community, since 2011.



At left: A group of children sits around a table in the Ferramonti internment camp. Courtesy United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Making a difference



FOSTER CARE MONTH

San Jose City Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmembers Johnny Khamis (District 10), Dev Davis (District 6) and Raul Peralez (District 3) proclaimed June to be National Foster Care Awareness Month. "We appreciate everyone in the organization that makes a difference in the lives of foster youth," said Khamis.

Mailbox



No residential street repair for most San Jose streets

Dear Editor,

In 2016, San Jose voters agreed to two sales tax increases: quarter-cent (San Jose general tax) and half-cent (Santa Clara County dedicated tax). Meanwhile, the Legislature increased fuel/vehicle fees as ways to improve the state's transportation infrastructure, including some local roads.

Few funds will be used to repair the bulk of San Jose's residential streets that represent approximately 61% of

all streets. City's total road stock is rated "fair" with a deferred maintenance backlog totaling \$584.4M.

The City estimates it needs \$75M annually just to "stand still" but estimates revenue maxing out at \$70M annually over the next 10 years with the average being in the \$50M range. This means a \$1.5B deferred maintenance backlog in 2027 with minimal funds to repair crumbling residential streets!

San Jose needs cost improvements for core services like those suggested in the 2012 IBM study done for San Jose; it doesn't need more taxes!

Jerry Mungai
Almaden Valley

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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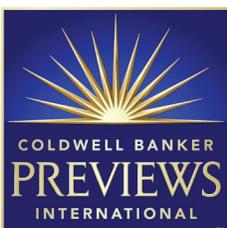
Property Type: **Single Family Home** | Price Range: **0 - 999,999,999** | Date Range: **05/01/2016 - 05/31/2017** | Area Type: **Zip** | Zip Codes: **95120**



Description	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17
Sold Average Price	1,362	1,461	1,410	1,357	1,377	1,498	1,377	1,404	1,493	1,494	1,488	1,473	1,458
List Average Price	1,499	1,570	1,426	1,502	1,525	1,375	1,729	1,082	1,622	1,533	1,519	1,484	1,584
Sold Median Price	1,268	1,375	1,335	1,343	1,420	1,400	1,361	1,312	1,220	1,400	1,426	1,432	1,432
List Median Price	1,370	1,398	1,399	1,400	1,375	1,249	1,399	1,048	1,350	1,400	1,378	1,429	1,480
New Listings	60	54	41	37	36	25	21	3	30	30	45	42	44
Active Inventory	55	62	64	49	47	36	29	8	21	24	27	31	20
Sold Listings	31	47	34	39	35	25	25	19	13	25	29	37	38
Expired or Cancelled	6	14	11	14	11	8	9	9			3	4	4
Accepted Offers (AO)	49	33	28	38	27	28	19	15	17	27	39	34	51
AO / New Listings	81.7	61.1	68.3	102.7	75.0	112.0	90.5	500.0	56.7	90.0	86.7	81.0	115.9
AO / Inventory	89.1	53.2	43.8	77.6	57.4	77.8	65.5	187.5	81.0	112.5	144.4	109.7	255.0
Days on Market (DOM)	25	19	27	25	41	49	36	23	76	29	20	13	12
Mos Supply Inv (MSI)	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	.4	1.6	1.0	.9	.8	.5
Price per Sq Feet	619	620	633	600	575	564	604	616	585	570	614	650	628
Sale Price / List Price	102.7	101.8	100.3	100.1	99.5	99.7	99.4	99.1	101.6	102.1	101.8	104.0	104.5
3Mo Sold Avg Price	1,513	1,486	1,418	1,413	1,380	1,399	1,412	1,428	1,412	1,464	1,491	1,484	1,472
3Mo List Avg Price	1,473	1,525	1,505	1,506	1,482	1,478	1,532	1,509	1,634	1,554	1,552	1,510	1,529
3Mo Price per SqFt	603	611	623	617	602	582	580	593	603	589	592	616	632
3Mo Sale Price / List Price	102.9	102.1	101.6	100.8	100.0	99.8	99.5	99.4	99.8	101.0	101.9	102.8	103.6

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Moving Memorial Day ceremony presented by Oak Hill Funeral Home and United Veterans Council

By William Bellou
Publisher

The United Veterans Council and Oak Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park presented a moving Memorial Day ceremony honoring those who gave their lives in service to our country on May 29.

Medal of Honor Recipient Major General James E. Livingston spoke at the 99th annual Memorial Day tribute.

Dave Cortese, along with Supervisor Cindy Chavez, spoke about Santa Clara

County's commitment to the veterans in the community by providing much needed services, including help for local homeless veterans.

Sam Liccardo said that Supervisor Dave Cortese is "working hard to end homelessness for veterans in our community."

Zoe Lofgren reminded the audience that "we should also honor those that have sacrificed their lives by preserving our Constitution and our way of life."

Photos by Maya Esparza



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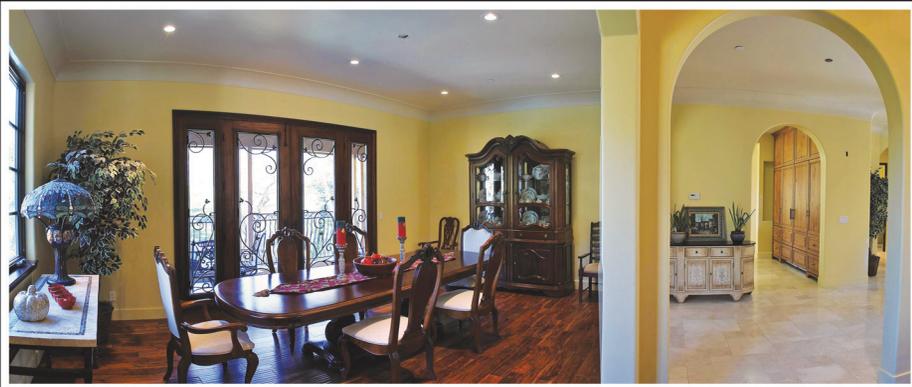
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Virtual Tour



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Times **Community News**



SummerWinds Nursery to close Almaden location

SummerWinds Nursery announced that it will be closing its Almaden Valley location in September, while maintaining its locations in Campbell, Cupertino, and Palo Alto.

The Almaden location, located at 4606 Almaden Expressway, will make way for a new senior housing project.

SummerWinds Nursery has a long history in the South Bay, with many store locations opening under the banner of Woolworth Nurseries in the 1960s and 1970s. SummerWinds will maintain its

strong commitment to supporting local growers and trusted retail partners.

“We share a bright future with this community,” said Frank Benzing, President and Chief Executive Officer.

“We will work to remain as a reliable community partner, a great place to work and the best place to find the products our customers love. We will also continue to work with community organizations that bring garden beauty and food resources to our neighbors.”

VISIT Our Wine Tasting Garden!

Italian American Heritage Foundation presents

37th Annual Italian Family Festa

The 37TH Annual Italian Family Festa is returning to History Park San Jose for its second year on August 26 and 27, 2017, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA. Admission is free! This year our “Villaggio Culturale Italiano”, Italian cultural village, will feature many different art forms intertwined to present one of the largest displays of Italian cultural in Northern California. Join us as we bring together the history and future of Italians in the Santa Clara Valley. Savor authentic Italian foods while listening to the sounds of Italian music, play bocce, get your feet moving at our grape stomp, learn some culinary tips, relax in our wine tasting garden, and learn a little something about Italian heritage and history in our cultural tent. Bring the entire family...

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August 26 & 27, 2017
Saturday - 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

History Park San Jose
1650 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112



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Children's Discovery Museum kicks off nationally recognized summer of service programming

Summer of Service, the museum's award-winning program that connects teens in grades 7 - 10 to volunteer opportunities, kicks off June 12 with the first of four sessions.

With an emphasis on responsibility and purpose, participants have the option of volunteering in one of five focus areas for each four week session including community outreach activities, early childhood education, the environment, activities for museum visitors, and leadership development.

“Our program is really one-of-a kind in the Bay Area,” said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum. “There are so many beneficiaries – the teen, the teens' parents, and the nonprofit organizations. Parents are often surprised how motivated and impassioned their child becomes when they discover they can make a difference and help others regardless of their age.”

There are 14 service sites located in the South Bay that provide rewarding opportunities for teens to earn up to 30 community service hours per session doing such things as sorting and bagging food for low income families at The Health Trust, mentoring preschoolers at Estrella Family Services, clearing evasive species at Ulistac Natural Area, making blankets

and cat toys for Silicon Valley Pet Project, and facilitating activities and conversations with seniors at Live Oak Adult Day Services.

As part of the museum's strategic commitment of Community Service Learning, Summer of Service helps teens develop valuable life skills like empathy and perspective taking, two key EQ skills cited as critical to tomorrow's workforce and a civil society. This program provides many opportunities for teens to experience different perspectives and see the world through someone else's eyes.

WHEN: Session 1: June 12– June 23

Session 2: June 26 – July 7

Session 3: July 10– July 21

Session 4: July 24 – August 4

WHERE: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, 180 Woz Way, San Jose.

For more information, visit cdm.org.

To register, email sos@cdm.org or call 408-673-2833.



Children's Discovery Museum in San Jose.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Tony Zerbo
tony.zerbo@iahfsj.org
408-768-3565
www.italianfamilyfestasj.org



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Times **Local News**

Jason James Ricci of Almaden Valley receives Master of Science degree

Jason James Ricci of Almaden Valley has received a Master of Science degree in physician assistant studies from Clarkson University.

Clarkson University educates the leaders of the global economy. One in five alumni leads as an owner, CEO, VP or equivalent senior executive of a company.

With its main campus located in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Beacon, New York, Clarkson is a nationally recognized research university with signature areas of academic excellence and research directed toward the world's pressing issues.

son received a Fatima medal blessed by Pope Francis. The medals recognized the 100th anniversary of the first appearance by the Virgin Mary to the shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917.

The keynote address came from Clare Vanderpool, an award-winning children's author whose books have won the Newbery Medal and Printz Honor.

"I am confident that you all have wonderful roads, wonderful stories ahead of you," Vanderpool said in her speech. "You will go on to do great things, I have no doubt. But truly great things always start with little things. Little gestures, encounters, graces; and it's all the little things that make up life."

Trazo graduates from Colgate University Magna Cum Laude

Talitha Angelica Trazo, of Almaden Valley, has graduated from Colgate University in the Class of 2017. Trazo majored in Art and Art History & Biology.

Trazo, A graduate of Pioneer High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree Magna Cum Laude at Colgate's 196th Commencement, May 21.

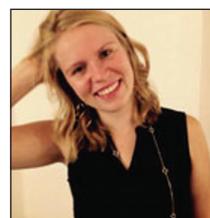
Colgate University is a highly selective residential liberal arts institution distinguished by its commitment to global engagement, student-faculty research, off-campus study, sustainable practices, and the utilization of technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

Julia Johnson of Almaden Valley receives BA in Elementary and Special Education

Julia Johnson of Almaden Valley was part of the largest graduating class in the 159 year history of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Johnson earned a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education, with a minor in Philosophy with honors.

In addition to a diploma, John-



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DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,802
SALE PRICE	\$17,288
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,500
JEEP CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
JEEP CA 2017 BONUS CASH***	-\$500
JEEP CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH****	-\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$12,888

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **FOR FICA SCORES BELOW 620. MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

2017 DODGE JOURNEY AUTOMATIC, A/C AND MORE!

MSRP	\$22,240
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$2,752
SALE PRICE	\$19,488
DODGE CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$1,000
DODGE CA 2017 BONUS CASH**	-\$1,000
DODGE CA RETAIL BONUS CASH***	-\$1,000
DODGE NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH****	-\$1,500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$13,988

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #545706

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **FOR FICA SCORES BELOW 620. MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT AUTOMATIC, A/C ALTITUDE PACKAGE

MSRP	\$26,085
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,086
SALE PRICE	\$21,999
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$3,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH**	-\$500
JEEP CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH***	-\$500
JEEP CA NON-PRIME BONUS CASH****	-\$1,500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$15,999

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

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2017 CHRYSLER 300 S SUNROOF, NAV, LEATHER AND MORE!

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$5,827
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$750
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER 300/300C RETAIL BONUS CASH***	-\$2,500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$10,077

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS VIN #599746

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

2017 DODGE CHALLENGER SRT HELLCAT COUPE OR CHARGER SRT HELLCAT SEDAN

LEASE FOR \$589 /MO. PLUS TAX

36 MONTH LEASE, \$4,000 DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT, 10K MILES PER YEAR, \$.40 PER MILE AFTER 30K MILES. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

1 2017 CHALLENGER HELLCAT AT THIS LEASE OFFER #607082

1 2017 CHARGER HELLCAT AT THIS LEASE OFFER #595196

2017 DODGE CHALLENGER

MSRP	\$28,090
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,952
SALE PRICE	\$24,138
DODGE CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$1,000
DODGE CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$1,000
DODGE CA 2017 BONUS CASH***	-\$500
DODGE CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH****	-\$1,500
DODGE CA REGIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$19,888

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

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2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA 8 PASSENGER

MSRP	\$30,090
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$5,102
SALE PRICE	\$24,988
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
CHRYSLER CA RETAIL CONQUEST BONUS****	-\$1,000
CHRYSLER DRIVE & DISCOVER RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$20,988

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2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED RUBICON 4X4 AUTOMATIC, V6 & MORE!

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP!	\$65,523
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1 AT THIS DISCOUNT #655923

RAM TRUCK CENTER 500 AUTOMALL DRIVE, GILROY CA

2017 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW 4X4 AUTOMATIC, 5.7L HEMI, LEATHER, VOICE ACTIVATED NAVIG. & MORE!

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$6,750
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH****	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$1,500
RAM REGIONAL BONUS CASH*****	-\$1,000
RAM 2017 1500 HEMI RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$15,000

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET SAVINGS

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2017 RAM PROMASTER CITY CARGO VAN AUTOMATIC

MSRP	\$24,985
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$2,486
SALE PRICE	\$22,499
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,000
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS**	-\$500
RAM PROMASTER CONQUEST BONUS CASH***	-\$2,000
RAM CA COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH****	-\$1,000
RAM CPVO BONUS COUPON	-\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$15,999

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #E17779

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **PURCHASER MUST UPGRADE THE VEHICLE FOR BUSINESS USE/GRAPHICS THROUGH THE DEALERSHIP. ***MUST OWN OR LEASE A '99 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. MUST HAVE CURRENT REGISTRATION.

2017 RAM 1500 AUTOMATIC BUSINESS OWNER'S SPECIAL!

MSRP	\$27,715
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,877
SALE PRICE	\$23,838
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS****	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH*****	-\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$16,888

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #602033

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2017 RAM 1500 4 DOOR AUTOMATIC

MSRP	\$32,535
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,897
SALE PRICE	\$28,638
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH****	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*****	-\$1,500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

\$21,888

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #585067, 585070

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Margaret Yost & David Yost,
 CalBRE #00947936
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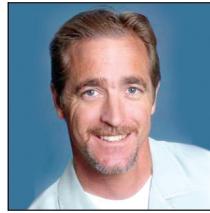
ALMADEN VALLEY \$1,149,000
COMING SOON
 4 BR 2.5 BA Approx. 1955 sq ft single story home on a large lot that backs to the park. Great views of hills. In-ground pool.
Gloria Ashdown,
 CalBRE #01322520 408-398-1516



WILLOW GLEN \$1,099,950
 Close to Downtown WG
 4 BR 2 BA Wonderful home in desirable neighborhood with tree-lined streets & numerous parks within walking distance. Relaxing backyard & patio
Ron Mason,
 CalBRE #01145613 408-896-6794



MORGAN HILL \$999,000
 Gorgeous Views!
 4 BR 3.5 BA Amazing property on approx 2/3 acre for hobby farm, horse or open space. Privacy yet conveniently located Near Hayes Valley community!
Robyn McKeon Powers,
 CalBRE #01378342
 408-582-3785



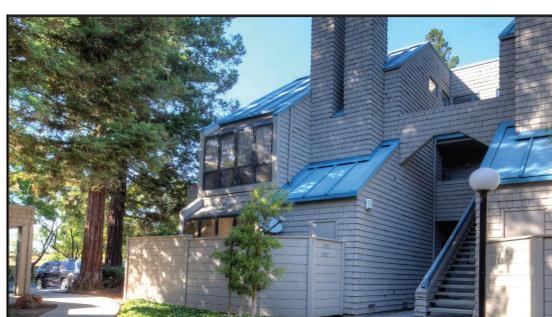
EVERGREEN \$899,000
 Evergreen Gem!
 4 BR 2.5 BA Completely remodeled in 2011. Soaring ceilings in the living & dining room. Beautifully updated kitchen. One bedroom downstairs.
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 CalBRE #01362607 408-314-7070



BLOSSOM VALLEY \$825,000
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 3 BR 2 BA Easy access to 880/237/680. Close to Great Mall & public transit. Corner location with permitted enclosed patio/bonus room.
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BLOSSOM VALLEY \$530,000
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 2 BR 1 BA Great location! Private, end-unit with vaulted ceilings, balcony & no unit above. An abundance of windows make this home very bright!
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Heroes are mindfully honored by County Behavioral Health Board

By Bob Gill

Community Liaison

On May 3 at the San Jose Masonic Center 28 individuals and six agencies were honored as heroes in the Santa Clara County.

These are the helpers to those with behavior health needs.

Each year the county spends large resources of funding in the endeavor to help all with Hope, Wellness and Recovery. Workers and volunteers bring a clarity to our world and a dedication to their individual mission statements. What was once referred to generally as "mental health" in our society is switching to the term "behavior health." We help the people who cannot help themselves. They have nobody to help them. We are the only one who can help to change the world. It takes a com-

munity to save a life of a person who cannot help himself. It's each and everyone's job to do this.

What if a man or woman decided to cling onto a shopping cart and take it wherever they went each day filled with a gathering of items deemed of the highest importance?

What if a woman decided to sleep behind a bank with a small dog in the grass on a regular basis with no guide as to how to find a better place to dwell?

What if a person was just released from jail and contemplates a return to the flow of life that included drugs and alcohol. Also, what if when they entered jail again they had no recollection of what they did. What if this cycle repeats itself?

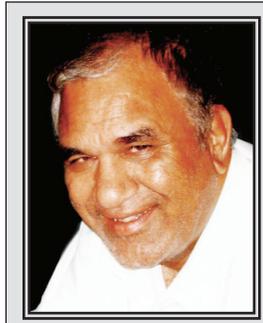
What if a person decides when looking at a mirror it is best to alter consumption of nutrients to reach

an unhealthy weight condition. What if this situation is a battle?

What if a police or sheriff officer encounters a situation where the person is acting out in ways that are disrupting others and not considered normal? What should they do?

These are just some of the situations faced on a daily basis by workers for the County and other agencies. Mayor Liccardo is shaping new visions in how to handle such challenges as our city grows.

People are designing and refining new methods of outreach



Bob Gill
Cares

By Bob Gill
Community Liaison

Things go on unnoticed and in private that gear our city to better levels of assisting those in need. This 6th annual Hero Awards event shined a light on only a small amount of those people and agencies that work each day to make a positive difference.

The mayor is designing and refining how our city implements assistance in all areas of

behavior health. With better and refined programs and new ways of thinking and implementation, our savings of monies can be more efficiently spent on areas of priority

and need which improves the quality of life for those who behavioral-ly choose to gain help.

Hero Event well attended

The Masonic Hall is a wonderful place to hold events because it has a 300+seat auditorium and after the event the large group can walk a few steps to go to a spacious dining area to be served coffee and a meal.

By having a bit to eat after an event, the group can connect more and joyfully communicate to continue the refinement of working together to understand and implement mission statements.

Our world is not a gated community

Ask any neighbor and they will have or know someone who has behavioral challenges. Like a tiny pebble thrown into the middle of a lake it reverberates and influences the calm waters. The same is true of human life. Combine steep rent increases and cost of living in our Valley and it becomes a recipe of pressure put upon those that live here. The infrastructure of the County Behavior Health programs and training for workers acts as a safety net and assists all with needed help.

Keynote speaker Greta Hansen beautifully smart

You could hear a pin drop as Greta Hansen spoke at the microphone with use of clear projected PowerPoint graphics. She spoke on the San Jose innovative 'Pay for Success' program. Her team formulates its introduction with the support of our mayor. She gave praise to keenly intelligent people who crafted the program and refined it. This was a journey into tracking the recidivism of a cycle of negative behavior choices by individuals and how new programs can break that cycle.

The magnificent focus point of her presentation was the graphics of data that shows a measured approach to the reality as to whether or not a program is successful. Thus, instead of a previous practice of documenting all that is done for clients this new method encourages providers to track the progress of those they are helping and to gain a reward if the provider successfully breaks the negative cycle for each individual client.

Social behavior pioneers

The new practice of helping clients does not look the other way when such patients return through the same door be that a jail or a hospital. The mythical beast of the negative mind is fought off laid at bay or conquered now with new treatments of hands on methods and skills in communication and installation of tools that the client can choose to use in their daily lives. This is

See *HEROES*, page 17



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Times Cover Story

Assessor

Continued from page 1

of losing their homes. Other Silicon Valley tech firms like Google, Applied Materials and Microsoft have also invested millions, taking some responsibility for sharply climbing rents and housing prices, but more needs to be done says Stone.

"Either we will come together and address this crisis or Silicon Valley will not be Silicon Valley in 20 or 30 years," says Elliot Schrage, Facebook's vice president of communications and public policy, as reported in the San Jose Mercury News. "It will move to other parts of the country and world."

At the end of June, the County Assessor's office notifies residents of the assessed value of their homes. "If you think the market value of your property is below the value on the notice, you can request an informal review," says Stone. "If we agree it was over-assessed, you can get a reduction." Stone says that about one-third of those who request a review receive reductions. "Appraisal is more an art, than a science," he says. "We try to get it right."

The County Assessor's office regularly goes to bat against large corporations. "Currently there is a \$62 billion value at risk," says Stone. "That's the difference between the county assessment and what tax payers say they're worth. About 85 percent of these are Apple, Google and other major corporations. Last year, after a series of court cases, notes Stone, the County Assessor's office retained 96 percent of what they assessed.

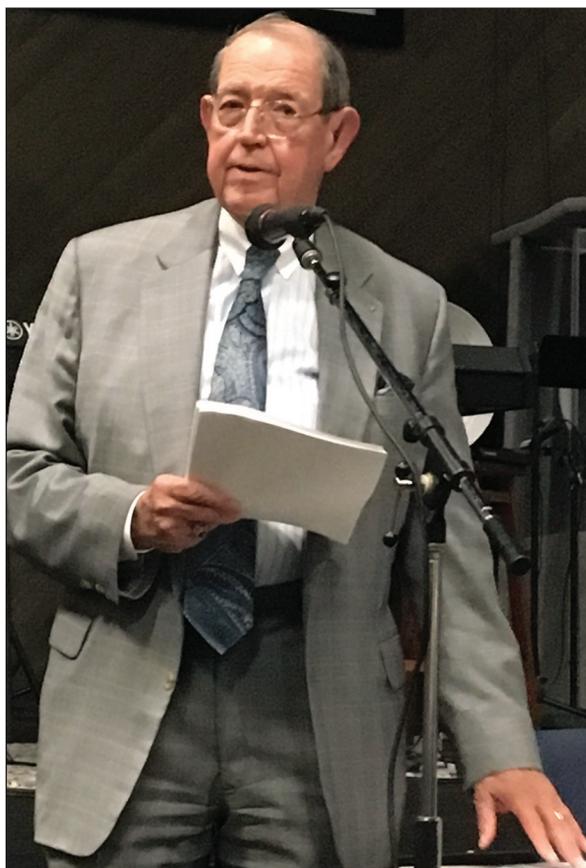
Many residents wonder where tax revenue goes. Stone says that about 45 percent goes to Sacramento for schools. About 18

percent goes to the county to pay for the sheriff's, district attorney's and assessor's offices, jails and fire department. Cities receive 14 percent and 10 percent pays down the redevelopment debt. About 6 percent goes to special districts like water and fire and 7 to 8 percent to community colleges.

Santa Clara County leads the Bay Area, state and nation in job growth. During the past six years, the county experienced job gains of 4.1 percent, compared with 3.3 in the Bay Area and 2.6 percent in the state. However, according to the Silicon Valley Business Journal, tech layoffs surged 21 percent in 2016 with computer, electronics and telecommunications companies shedding more than 90,000 jobs. Stone notes that according to an Oxford study, 40 percent of jobs will be displaced by digital technology in the next 40 years. "I heard a robot in San Francisco makes the perfect salad," he said.

Stone says that last year, PC sales were at their lowest level in nine years, impacting chip makers like Intel. "Global technology spending is expected to drop in 2017," he says, "while smart phones account for 47 percent of consumer technology and spending worldwide." In the future, Stone sees drones, virtual reality headsets and autonomous autos dominating the tech market.

Today, home ownership isn't an essential component of the American Dream, says Stone, especially for millennials who



County Assessor Larry Stone says that millennials prefer a work/live/play lifestyle near shops, work, entertainment, fitness and transportation. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

face six-figure college debt. In fact, home ownership has fallen to its lowest point since 1967. "While older people think renting is throwing your money away, younger people think owning a home is throwing away your freedom," he says.

Stone says that millennials prefer a work/live/play lifestyle near shops, work, entertainment, fitness and transportation. "They embrace an urban culture and compact development," he says. "About 56 percent choose place over job." They want short commutes with jobs they can walk or bike to and flexible work schedules. Today walkscore.com rates cities and neighborhoods on their distance to grocery, retail, school,

taxes isn't voting in their own self-interest."

Although online shopping is growing at more than twice the rate of brick-and-mortar stores, Stone says it goes both ways. Amazon plans to open 300 to 400 bookstores and retailers are investing in showrooms and in-store demonstrations. Nordstrom is investing \$3.9 billion over 5 years to increase online sales. Retailers are expected to downsize storefronts 40 to 50 percent during the next decade. "Millennials are the driving force behind e-commerce," says Stone. "They grew up in a one-click world where convenience was expected."

Stone notes that income gains outpace inflation, but there is an increasing disparity in the region between high and low-tech jobs with fewer jobs in the middle, and with the decline of the middle class, mid-level retailers are struggling. Stores like Circuit City, Mervyn's, Blockbuster, Borders, Sports Authority and Linens and Things closed their doors. Walmart closed 150 stores in the United States and Radio Shack filed for bankruptcy. Sears, JCPenney, The Gap, McDonald's, Pier One, Walgreens, Rite Aid and Office Depot are closing hundreds of stores and even Best Buy is in financial trouble.

Silicon Valley continues to be a leader in the U.S. economy. "Apple and Google are the largest corporations in the world," says Stone. However, according to the Silicon Valley Business Journal, Bay Area start-up funding is at a six-year low with only nine Silicon Valley IPOs in 2016, its

weakest level since 2009.

The U.S. economy is sluggish, says Stone, with a GDP growth of 1.8 percent in 2016. By comparison, Silicon Valley experienced a 3.6 percent GDP 2016. Economists predict a slight recession by mid-2018.

Stone believes that the general 2017 economic outlook is positive, but there are still significant areas of concern. "There is continued dysfunction and gridlock in Washington, D.C. as the President and Congress try to solve problems that don't exist, while avoiding real problems that need real solutions," he says, with an eye towards Medicare, social security and unfunded pension liability. He sees Trump's proposed tax cuts, increased military defense and infrastructure spending, along with deregulation as having a positive impact on economic growth. However, he also predicts negative consequences of Trump's policies, including larger budget deficits, higher inflation and interest rates and a stronger dollar.

"A more expensive dollar hurts American exports, making U.S. goods more expensive overseas and imports cheaper in the U.S.," he says. "It's a recipe for pain for U.S. manufacturers... encouraging them to move jobs overseas." Stone also believes that Trump's trade policies are bad for both the country and Silicon Valley. "He pulled us out of GPP and China filled the void," he says. "Trump promised to renegotiate NAFTA and penalize China for unfair trade practices." Trump's failure to do so hurts American consumers and businesses by driving up the prices of goods from abroad, he says, like technology from China, autos from Japan and even scotch from the U.K. "It's bad for California and it's bad for Silicon Valley," says Stone.

Another problem, says Stone, is immigration reform. The U.S. issues about 400,000 permanent visas annually. According to Joint Venture Silicon Valley, says Stone, about 200,000 Chinese students educated in the U.S. returned to China and will compete with U.S. businesses. Tech company workers are also staying overseas due to Trump's immigration policies, he says. About 38 percent of Silicon Valley residents are foreign born, along with 45 percent of its workforce. About 62 percent of tech workers are foreign born and 1/3 of new U.S. businesses were started by immigrants, as well as 36 percent of Silicon Valley patents. "Population growth is essential for GDP growth," says Stone. "With the decline in the American birth rate and our aging population, immigration is essential for a strong economy. Immigration is not problem, but a solution, especially here."

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Times **Feature****Heroes***Continued from page 14*

just the scratch on the preverbal surface of what is being done in our county, city and state.

Hansen is Chief Assistant County Counsel, overseeing a wide array of projects and initiatives for the County counsel's Office. Her practice focuses on public policy and litigation seeking to advance the County's goal of securing social and economic justice for all of its residents. She has been one of the lead public lawyers in *People v. Atlantic Richfield Co.*, a case that resulted in a \$1.15 billion judgment dedicated to the abatement of lead paint, which continues to poison thousands of low-income children in California each year. She also successfully sued the State to preserve tens of millions of dollars in funding for mental health services for emotionally disturbed children within Santa Clara County. She has done a myriad of other things with her skills and knowledge including frequently lecturing at Stanford Law School and Stanford medical School under which students develop legislative and policy initiatives to advance the wellbeing of County residents. She has served as counsel to the County's Behavioral Health Services Department, Office of Supportive Housing, Office of Data Oversight Management and Evaluation, Human Trafficking Commission, Juvenile Justice Commission and County office of Education. Last year she received the New Leaders Council of Silicon Valley trailblazer of the Year Award.

With all those qualifications Hansen choose to help our County by leading various policy initiatives including the county's two Pay for Success initiatives. By having our County work with such a person we grow in learning new ways to better assist those with behavior health needs.

What was nice in hearing her interact with others is that she is seen to be kind and caring and willing to take precious time stopping and humbly listen to those who wish to ask her help or share actual issues they have experienced with the Pay for Success initiative and other County programs. Thus, she is graceful in how she acts and how she talks with all people of all strata's of our society.

New winds of change

Hansen and others have chosen public service as their calling and it is intellectually refreshing to understand that such a person can join with others in her groups to enact robust change for our society. They do not accept the status quo. They use facts and data to shape new ways to work with old chronic problems dealing with behavior health and other important issues. Flow charts with actual data of behavior results combined with colorful PowerPoint graphics now depict progress instead of the leaning on words. The aftermath of treatment or monies bestowed to programs are analyzed in great detail so that monies are efficiently spent.

Philanthropist organizations pitch in

Hansen and others also harness key players with familiar names in our world to help bring more monies into the important world of engineering social programs that will work. With pragmatic innovation and with encouragement by Mayor Liccardo and others, such companies it was explained team together in offering monies to incentivize agencies with extra rewards for success in helping clients succeed. All things are set up in precise ways dealing with human interaction to stem the tide of negative behavior choices.

Six agencies bestowed Hero Award (in alphabetical order)

Each of these agencies deserve a full page informational, it is suggested the reader web search them to learn more

■ Boldly Me

■ County of Santa Clara Adult Probation Wellness Unit

■ Eating Disorders Resource Center

■ National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Santa Clara County

■ New Directions Program-Peninsula Healthcare Connection

■ Recovery Café – San Jose

Heroes all work together

This title includes you too, the general public. You are heroes too! Each year we have this event and we wish to get public input to help us to do it better. All the general public is invited to this event. The heroes all work together to help those with behavioral challenges in our county, city, state and U.S.A. Heroes are volunteers, police and sheriff officers, doctors, leaders of churches, support people and more.

(In alphabetical order:)

Steven Adelsheim, Jesse Ashe, Jennifer Barry, Kristopher Borer, Phil Campey, James Cooper, Patti Cortese, Robert Dolci, Jon Forward, Terry Gallo, Lee Hickinbotham, Kirt Hogan, Nicolas Jaramillo, Damon Korb, Andrew Lopez, Cindy McCalmont, Susie Martin, Hilbert Morales, Robert Nunez, Gail A. Price, Raul Peralez, Sherri Sager, Heiri Schuppisser, Robert Taylor, Juan De Dios Tovar, Coralía Valdez, Marianna Villaescusa, Shelly Viramontez

The Santa Clara County is striving to be the best in our world

The annual Heroes Award program was well done. The services we provide to the mental health needs of people are strong. As a team we work together to make some positive changes to get more of our community involved. It takes mind body and soul of each person to make a difference in the community. A little time can make a big difference. If you can help someone or something each day, it is like what Mother Teresa said, "if you cannot feed one hundred people, then feed one."

About Robert Gill

Robert "Bob" Gill is currently a Santa Clara County Behavior Health Board Member and Housing Commissioner, Art Commissioner, Former Disability Commissioner, Former Senior Board Commissioner and a humble servant of the Sikh Gurdwara, San Jose, California. You are welcome to email me if you have any suggestions: bobgill-cares@gmail.com

Fighting flood waters begins in the summer with stream maintenance

By **Linda J. LeZotte**
Special to the Times

The Santa Clara Valley Water District's Stream Maintenance Program ensures flood protection projects continue to function as designed to protect homes and businesses along water district streams.

The water district owns 278 miles of streams in our county, but only a portion of them have been improved with flood protection projects. Those are the streams that become stream maintenance projects

Every summer since 2001, the water district has undertaken a five-month-long effort to maintain and improve our stream conditions so they can safely carry water during winter storms. From June to October, our crews trek into streams to remove sediment, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks that have been eroded.

During heavy storms, unruly vegetation and sediment washed down from areas upstream can restrict the flow of water and in some areas, cause a back-up, increasing the risk of flooding. Managing vegetation is an important part of stream maintenance. Removing invasive vegetation, weeds and dry brush improves habitat for wildlife and a healthy stream ecosystem, contributes to improved flows in creeks, and even reduces the risk of fire hazards along neighboring properties.

While the heavy work takes place in the summer, stream maintenance is a year-round effort. Each year district crews inspect stream and bank conditions, especially after storms. Toward the end of the rain season, staff identifies maintenance projects for the upcoming work season.

Throughout the county, the water district works with partner agencies and private property owners to monitor creeks and perform maintenance where the water district either owns the land or has easements. Additionally, maintenance work is very limited on a natural channel, or a creek without a completed flood protection project. Without a completed project

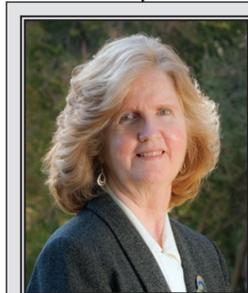
in place, work performed on a natural channel threatens wildlife and properties, harming natural habitat by removing native vegetation and destroying habitat if enlarging the channel to increase the flood capacity. It could also redirect floods to another location downstream. Limited maintenance like removing trash and debris is allowable, if approved by regulators. Each year the water district works on obtaining the necessary permits from regulatory agencies to proceed with labor on identified priority locations. The permits require the work be completed between the months of June through October.

This work season, the water district has identified over 400 projects along water district facilities among 63 different streams, consisting of 16 sediment removal projects, 17 stream bank repairs, and hundreds of vegetation management projects, including an invasive plant removal on Coyote Creek. We are also working with our regional partners, like the City of San Jose, to identify projects in which they can perform maintenance on their portions of streams that they own. If you own property along a creek and have questions or concerns regarding stream maintenance, please feel free to contact our Community Projects Review Unit at 408-630-2650.

The water district and I appreciate the community's role in helping us keep homes and businesses safe. I am grateful for the residents and business owners who have reported potential blockages in our waterways. I continue to encourage reporting of concerns or issues in creeks that can affect the flow of storm water.

If you notice something blocking a stream during a storm, call our flood hotline at (408) 630-2378. We will assist you or direct you to the appropriate agency having jurisdiction.

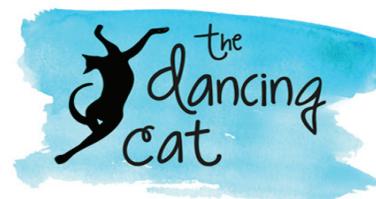
As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative for North Almaden and Blossom Hill neighborhoods of San Jose. Feel free to contact me at (408)265.2600.

**Water District**

Linda J. LeZotte,
SCVWD Representative

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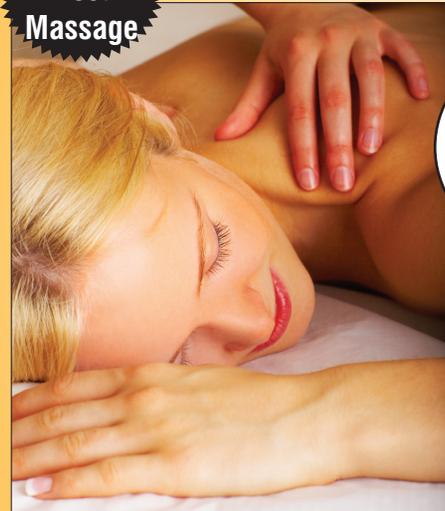
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July 4 Family Fun Festival just around the corner; volunteer help needed

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

It's hard to believe, but it's true, the 4th Annual Family Fun Festival and Firework Show is just a few weeks away!

We sure could use volunteer help on Monday, July 3rd (set up), Tuesday, July 4th (event day), and Wednesday, July 5th (clean up). Here is more information on how you can help:

Volunteers/Volunteering/Training:

We have many needs for volunteers and everyone interested in volunteering must register with Denelle Fedor on or before Friday, June 23rd by 7 p.m. Volunteers must sign a liability waiver form (standard for city-sponsored events) and go through a brief overview of your area of interest. We cannot accept drop-in volunteer sign-ups on July 4th

The date/time needed for volunteer work is listed next to the volunteer title. Please indicate what time(s) you are available. For example, if the volunteer time needed is between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Please list the hours within this timeframe that you are available, such as 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and such, and let us know how you'd like to help.

Note: If you have even an hour; we'll take it!

1. July 3rd—Set Up (between 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM)

Setting up tables, canopies, signage, filling and positioning sand bags, and other set-up tasks for the event.

2. July 4th—Assist Security Checking Parking Passes (7 pm. to 9 p.m.)

Winfield Ave from Coleman to Quarry Road (where Winfield ends) is closed the day of the event. The entrance will be barricaded and only those with passes will be allowed in. Security/Police will be present at this location. Volunteers are needed to help screen vehicles.

3. July 4th—Clean Team to keep venue looking good (3 p.m. until the fireworks begin)

Help picking up debris/discarded items throughout the park. This is a perfect community service program for young adults looking to gain credit for community service hours, a family activity for parents and children, or for others who wish to help. Supplies, such as gloves, trash bags, and pick-up sticks are provided.

4. July 4th—Letters to Soldiers Tables (3 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

We will have at least two tables set up with stationery, envelopes, crayons, and other items for festival attendees to write letters of greetings and thanks to active U.S. military personnel throughout the world.

5. July 4th—Children's Activities (3 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

We have a plethora of activities for kids. Perfect for those who enjoy working with children. If you can help at one of our

activity tables, it would be very helpful.

6. July 4th—Lights after the Fireworks (Immediately after Fireworks)

We have 3 large, portable lights that need to be turned on immediately after the fireworks. These lights are essential to assist spectators with a safe exit from the park.

7. July 4th—Tear-Down (After Firework Show)

Help take down canopies, tables, and chairs, move sandbags, remove signage, etc., after the event is over. With enough help, this will only take an hour or less!

8. July 4th—Miscellaneous and Floaters (3 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.)

Help with assorted tasks, as needed, such as running supplies, helping at park entrances, distributing flyers or programs, or temporarily relieving other volunteers for food or bathroom breaks.

9. July 5th—Park Clean-Up (8 a.m. to Noon)

Meet at the Winfield parking lot of Almaden Lake Park to help with a thorough, daylight clean-up of any trash, debris, and such from the event so that we leave the park in even better condition than we found it! Clean-up supplies are provided –

gloves, trash bags, pick-up sticks. This is a great group activity for youth groups, scout troops, fraternities, sororities, and families, and can provide community service hours to students who need them. Bagels, cream cheese, Danishes, coffee, and juice will be provided to get you energized for the clean-up!

Other Ways you can help:

Outreach:

Please share the 4th Annual July 4th Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show with your family, friends and neighbors. Please advertise the event in your newsletters—community, school, work, and others. The event is Free to the public!

Transportation:

We support and encourage everyone to walk/bike and use public transportation! Parking nearby is limited.

Rules:

Since this is a special, family-friendly event with a high attendance, the following items ARE NOT ALLOWED at Almaden Lake Park at any time on Monday, July 4th:

NO EXCEPTIONS!

- Absolutely—**
- NO Alcohol**
- NO Weapons**
- NO Barbecues**
- NO Illegal Fireworks**
- NO Pets**

If you do not see an area where you feel you could help out, but you want to help - no worries! We can still use your help! Please contact Denelle Fedor by email: Denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov to discuss other opportunities, or if you have any questions!



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

Times Feature



Tips for cooking a great steak every time

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Cooking a great steak seems like it should be easy; but sometimes the results are less than favorable.

Unless you're a beef rancher, a good steak can be pricey, so you don't want a disappointing outcome. You really only need a few ingredients. And the basic steps couldn't be simpler: Just toss the meat in the pan, flip it once, cook it until it reaches your desired doneness, and viola!

In reality, home-cooked steak often ends up tasting bland, tough, or both because of just a few mishaps. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Here are some tips for a great steak:

1. If you want a great tasting steak, look for tender cuts with a good amount of fat marbling, like filet mignon, New York strip, T-bone, or rib eye. That way, your steak will be moist and flavorful.

2. A steak needs to be seasoned in advance. Adding a salt and fresh cracked pepper to both sides of your steak at least 30 minutes before cooking gives the seasoning a chance to get absorbed into the meat, resulting in juicier, more flavorful meat.

3. Make sure you blot the raw steak with a paper towel to get rid of any residual moisture. This will

ensure that the outside of your steak gets crisp and caramelized.

4. Do not use lightweight, non-stick skillets. Steak needs plenty of heat, so use a heavy-duty cast iron skillet to help form deliciously crisp outer crust.

5. Make sure the pan get hot enough. A screaming hot cooking surface is essential in order to achieve a crisp, caramelized crust. If there is not enough heat, your steak will steam instead of sear.

6. Always use a meat thermometer. It's difficult to tell whether a steak is done just by looking at it, so forget the visual cues and use a simple meat thermometer. Cook your steak to 140°F for medium-rare, 155°F for medium, and 165°F for well done. (Note: the steak will continue cooking and reach its final cooking temperature while it rests.)

7. The most common mistake everyone makes is cutting into your meat the minute you pull it off the pan or grill. This will result in all the flavorful juices spilling out of your steak and onto the plate—leaving you with a sad piece of meat. Always let a steak rest for 5 to 10 minutes so that the juices will make their way back to the center of the meat, and you'll be rewarded with a moist, mouthwatering steak and be well on your way to becoming a professional chef, at least in the eyes of your family and friends.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Serve a Sensational Side

This pretty side dish is made for sharing. Made with fiber-rich, whole-wheat pasta, colorful plum tomatoes and balanced out by the crisp, bright flavors of balsamic vinegar and fresh basil, this pasta salad is perfect for outdoor events and gatherings. Find more good-for-you recipes at AICR.org.

Pasta Salad with Tomatoes

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research

Servings: 8

- 8 ounces whole-wheat small pasta (fusilli or farfalle), cooked according to directions
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil, divided
- 1 teaspoon turbinado sugar (optional)
- salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 4 cloves garlic, minced and divided
- 1 medium green bell pepper, finely chopped
- 4 plum or Roma tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 1 slice whole-wheat or multigrain bread

In bowl, cover and chill pasta.

In large mixing bowl, combine vinegar, 2 tablespoons basil, sugar, salt, pepper, red pepper, 2 tablespoons oil and half of minced garlic. Whisk to combine well. Add pasta, bell pepper and tomatoes, and toss gently until well coated.

In food processor or blender, pulse bread to produce coarse crumbs. In medium skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Stir in breadcrumbs and garlic. Sauté 1 1/2-2 minutes until browned and crisp. Remove from heat and let cool.

Top pasta with garlic crumbs and remaining basil.

Easy ALFRESCO Entertaining

FAMILY FEATURES

Warmer weather is often welcome for a variety of reasons, but there's something nearly irresistible about enjoying a meal outdoors. Whether you plan to gather on the patio or pack a picnic for the park, dining al fresco is an easy way to turn a meal into a full-fledged event.

Begin your meal with chicken sandwiches crafted on the grill and a seasonal pasta salad on the side then finish it with a glass of white wine and a dessert made for al fresco entertaining – cheesecake topped with fresh berries and mint.

For more al fresco recipes and entertaining tips, visit Culinary.net.

Pair Like a Pro

When it comes to pairing wine with food, even experts agree that desserts can pose a challenge. A wide variety of flavor combinations can make it hard to find the perfect selection to serve with your sweet treat. While there's no exact science to wine pairing, these simple tips can help you make your selection.

Sweet Cheesecake

A good rule: the lighter the dessert, the lighter the wine. Avoid heavy reds for a sweeter dessert and instead pair with a crisp white like Chardonnay, such as Joseph Carr from Sonoma, California.

Citrusy Lemon Meringue Pie

Lemon flavors can sometimes be polarizing, but complementing this dessert with an equally citrusy wine can work wonders. Try pairing with a food-friendly pinot grigio or a sauvignon blanc.

Rich Chocolate Cake

Red wine with chocolate seems like a no-brainer, but not all red wines are created equal. For a richer delicacy like this devil's food cake, try something like Villa Pozzi Nero D'Avola, a more fruit-forward, easy-drinking red varietal.

For more tips and wine selections, visit winefix.com.



Photo courtesy of 275847/Shutterstock.com

New York-Style Honey Cheesecake

Recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup flour
- 5 eggs
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest, grated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

fresh berries, for garnish

fresh mint, for garnish

To make crust: In small bowl, stir together graham cracker crumbs and butter until well blended. Press mixture evenly onto bottom and sides of greased 9-inch springform pan; set aside.

Heat oven to 350 F.

To make filling: In electric mixer bowl, combine cream cheese, honey and flour. Beat until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Beat in cream, lemon zest and vanilla.

Pour cream cheese mixture over crust; bake 15 minutes. Lower oven temperature to 200 F and bake 1 hour and 30 minutes longer, or until center no longer looks wet or shiny.

With oven off and door ajar, let cheesecake cool 1 hour in oven. Remove cheesecake to rack to cool completely.

Cover and refrigerate cheesecake at least 4 hours before serving. Garnish with fruit and fresh mint. Pair with chardonnay like Joseph Carr.

Go for Grilled Chicken

Few things go better with warm weather than firing up the grill and enjoying a meal in the fresh air. These chicken sandwiches, which are topped with Brie, pesto, fresh tomato and arugula on sourdough bread and toasted on the grill, are just the excuse you need to get outside and enjoy the weather with family and friends. Find more patio-perfect recipes at chickenroost.com.

Grilled Chicken Sandwiches with Pesto, Brie and Arugula

Recipe courtesy of the National Chicken Council

Servings: 4

- 1/2 cup olive oil, divided
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 pound thin-cut chicken cutlets
- 1/4 cup basil pesto, divided
- 1 large tomato
- 8 slices crusty sourdough bread

4 ounces Brie, thinly sliced

1 cup packed baby arugula

Heat grill to high.

Combine 1/4 cup olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper; pour into plastic zipper bag. Add chicken, seal and marinate at least 30 minutes.

Grill chicken 2-3 minutes, turn and grill another 2-3 minutes, or until chicken registers internal temperature of 160 F. Remove and reserve.

Spread each piece of bread with 1/2 tablespoon pesto. Slice tomato into eight slices.

Place chicken on four bread slices. Top with Brie slices, arugula and two tomato slices. Top with remaining bread slices, pesto side toward tomato.

Brush outside of each sandwich with about 1/2 tablespoon of remaining olive oil. Place on grill, reduce heat to medium and grill 2-3 minutes per side, or until bread is nicely toasted and cheese is melted.

Remove from heat, cut each sandwich in half and serve.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

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"A Rising Star," Castillero Choir's annual fundraiser at the Montgomery Theater, is always a popular event.

Castillero School Choirs sweep awards at recent Disneyland Competition

Music Director to retire

By William Bellou
Publisher

The Castillero Middle School choirs swept top awards in various categories at the Disneyland Competition held recently in Anaheim.

Castillero won the award for overall Best Choir for Junior High/Middle School and the Esprit De Corps Award for Outstanding Music Program – beating out all participating middle and high schools. Additionally, the Jazz Choir and Mixed Choir each earned First Place awards and Castillero 8th grade student Mary Majors won Best Junior High/Middle School

Vocal Soloist award.

After 40 years of teaching, including the last 14 years directing Castillero's award-winning vocal music programs, David Finch has announced his retirement, leaving a legacy of inspiring young performers.

Under his direction, Finch has inspired thousands of Castillero students to discover their unique voices and love of music. Finch is credited with building the school's current vocal music programs, which consistently attract large numbers of students.

Castillero has one of San Jose Unified School District's most comprehensive music programs, not commonly available at the



middle-school level. More than 70 percent of Castillero students participate in the school's award winning arts programs, which include choir, band, orchestra, and dance.

There are several choirs as part of Castillero's current vocal music program, including Beginning Choir, Jazz Choir, Concert Chorale (large ensemble), and Bel Canto (small advanced female ensemble). Castillero choirs have consistently received the highest choir scores in competition. The groups have performed at various statewide venues, including Anaheim, Great America, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, KFOX School of Rock, St.

Joseph Cathedral Basilica in San Jose, and at the Mayor's State of the City Address in San Jose.

Several Castillero students shared some of their thoughts about their musical experience as a tribute to David Finch contributions and quality teaching techniques that have enriched many musicians over the past 40 years.

Mr. Finch has helped me move through 7th grade easier because it was always a class I was looking forward to go to. I really liked starting my day with singing.

Matthijs Pikaar (7th Grade)

Mr. Finch teaches me about all kinds of music, not just his favorite type, and makes me feel like I can achieve anything.

Niko Lucich - 7th Grade

Mr. Finch helped me find my love for singing. He's such an amazing teacher, and brings out the best in his students. I will forever cherish the memories and fun times with Mr. Finch.

Isabella Pope (7th Grade)

I was excited to take choir as an

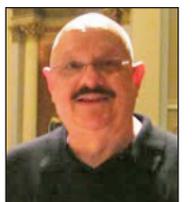
elective, however, the experience of working with Mr. Finch far surpassed my expectations. I will remember this experience forever.

Colin Brannan (6th Grade)

Mr. Finch has made choir a safe haven for every single person who has walked through the choir door. He motivates us to sing out and let our voice be heard. He motivates us to be ourselves.

Kaci Bardel (8th Grade)

Finch, who has a beautiful singing voice, said the community is very fortunate to have such a wonderful choir with so many talented students and the support of their parents. "Castillero has made me a much better person," said Finch. "I will always remember the wonderful 14 years I have spent teaching at Castillero and the many beautiful performances that brought a smile to so many people."



Finch

2017 Awards Received

- Disneyland Competition, May 2017:
 - Jazz Choir - Rating of Superior (1st Place)
 - Mixed Choir I - Rating of Superior (1st Place)
 - Overall Best Choir for Junior High/Middle School
 - Best Junior High / Middle School Vocal Soloist: Mary Majors
 - Esprit De Corps Award
- Vallejo Competition, April 2017:
 - Jazz Choir - Rating of Superior (1st Place)
 - Jazz Choir - Overall Best Choir for Junior High/Middle School

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6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. www.ccavucc.org. We are a welcoming church with a 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 LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday. Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

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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@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.ecca-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, worshiping, 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 See you on Facebook 2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence! Music Institute (408)791 7772 After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool Age 2-6 years caring for your child with God's love and affection (408) 791 7772 Immigration Services Call for Appointment (510)584 1824

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.churchsthanthony.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!

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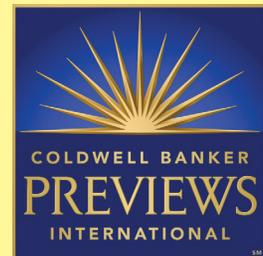
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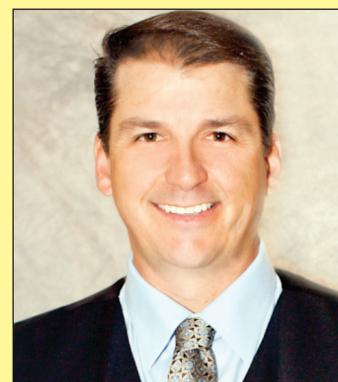
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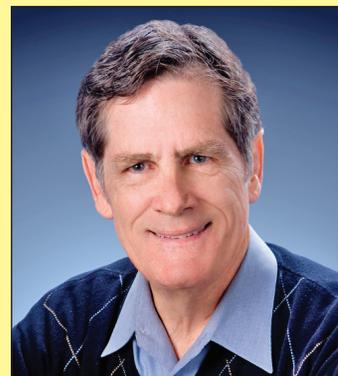
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