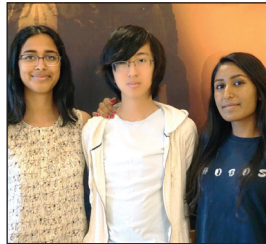


**'PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN' SUPERMARKET CONCEPT MAY TAKE ROOT IN SILICON VALLEY – P3**



**STUDENT RUN NON-PROFIT BRIDGES GENDER GAP BY TEACHING TECH SCIENCE – P4**



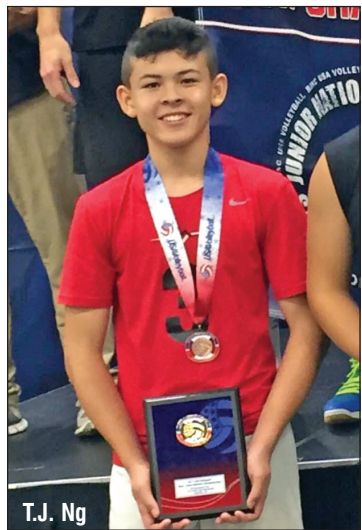
**OPINION: ESD BUDGET SUFFERS FROM WEIGHTY SALARIES, LACK OF BUY-IN – P4**



AUGUST 4 – AUGUST 17, 2017 ■ VOL. 34, NO. 16

# EvergreenTimes

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**T.J. Ng receives the All-Tournament Player Award after his volleyball team wins bronze medal**

By William Bellou  
Publisher

T.J. Ng of Evergreen Valley and his Mountain View Volleyball Club (MVVC) excelled at the 2017 Boys Junior National Championship in Columbus, Ohio held July 1-8.

Playing in the 15-year-old division, the MVVC 15-Black team won the bronze medal after an impressive string of victories in the tournament.

Despite only having seven



## Elk herd up close on Silver Creek Valley Road

By William Bellou  
Publisher

From time to time, motorists and those walking and bicycling heading east on Silver Creek Valley Rd. will see a large Tule elk herd. Elk herds in Santa Clara Valley were on the decline in the 1800's, but in 1978 they were reintroduced into the County's wilderness

areas and are now free roaming across our the back country.

Elk usually stay up in the hills making them difficult to see without binoculars.

Fortunately photographer Frank Langben captured these beautiful elk on Wednesday, July 26 at 12:30 p.m. near Silver Creek Valley Road, about three quarters of a mile east of Hellyer.

players, the MVVC team executed plays as a powerful cohesive unit. At his position of libero (defensive specialist), T.J.'s strong play and exceptional saves kept the team alive during many long rallies.

As a result, T.J. was recognized

with an All-Tournament Player Award.

T.J. developed his passion for volleyball at Chaboya Middle School where he was on Section Champion teams in 7th and 8th grade under Coach Chris Connolly. He currently attends Bell-

armine College Prep where he plays both soccer and volleyball.

"The team exceeded expectations and we're really proud of how well the kids played at the tournament and all year," said Jonah Carson, MVVC club director. "With five teams from our

club in the top 10, I think that's something that separates us from a lot of other club teams nationally."

The MVVC draws athletes from throughout the Bay Area. The next tryouts are scheduled for Aug. 11-12.

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## Sixth grade student wins prestigious national STEM competition in Washington, DC

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Nivedita Sanghavi, a sixth grade student at Evergreen Elementary School, has won the prestigious ProjectCSGIRLS National STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) competition in Washington, DC.

Nivedita invented a system called Peer-to-Peer Emergency Response System (PePERS) for the nationwide 911 network which

will save lives by reducing wait times while attending Evergreen Elementary School. Nivedita, who graduated from Evergreen Elementary School with the Presidential Honor Roll, will be attending Chaboya Middle School in the fall.

She recently presented her detailed invention to the San Jose fire department (SJFD) and it was met with rave reviews.

"I learned that success is not about the limelight that you get, but the impact you make in the

world," said Nivedita. "I believe in making a positive change in people's lives using science and technology." Making positive changes in people's lives is Nivedita's goal in life, as she has her sights set on becoming a doctor or an architect.

### ProjectCSGIRLS competition

ProjectCSGIRLS competition for Middle School Girls challenges participants in 6th-8th grade to build something using computer science and technology that can

See STEM, page 9



Nivedita Sanghavi

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Times **Local News**

Ozharvest in Sydney, Australia features a pay-what-you-can model of commerce.

## 'Pay-what-you-can' supermarket concept may possibly take root in Silicon Valley

By William Bellou  
Publisher

A new food market, Ozharvest Market, has opened to distribute rescued-food at no charge in Sidney, Australia.

Food is sourced from the excess of major supermarket chains and approved caterers, food trucks and restaurants.

Customers pay on a merit system, paying what they can, in an effort to reduce the billions of dollars in food discarded each year. Volunteers stock the shelves while employees are positioned at check-out registers.

The market provides food from blemished apples to frozen sausage rolls as well as other items such as sanitary products,

even toothpaste and shampoo, which would otherwise be thrown out by traditional food stores.

Food waste has become a global problem with an estimated third of all food produced worldwide ending up in garbage bins. It is believed that if we could save that food from being thrown away we would have enough to feed more than three billion people, which could end world hunger.

A group of local entrepreneurs is exploring the idea of opening a "pay-what-you-can" supermarket in Silicon Valley.

*Editor's note: Watch for an upcoming article this fall about the planning stage of a "Pay-what-you-can" food market in San Jose.*

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## This Week:

### COMMUNITY

Magic shows coming to  
Evergreen and Village  
Square branch libraries:  
**PAGE 11**

### DINING

8 Elements restaurant  
creates the 'perfect blend'  
of flavors: **PAGE 10**

### SPORTS

Teen basketball sign-ups at  
Chaboya Middle School  
begins August 14: **PAGE 6**



### EVENTS

Service groups, community  
organizations list meeting  
and gathering times: **PAGE 22**

### ALSO

Worship Guide: **PAGE 16**  
Meeting Times: **PAGE 22**

## EvergreenTimes

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# Valley Currents

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



Code One Programming's first class at the local library.

### GIRLS' TECH WEEK AUGUST 7-11

## Student run non-profit bridges gender gap by teaching coding and computer science

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Code One Programming, a student-run nonprofit in Silicon Valley, founded to teach computer science and coding to students of all ages for free, will offer a five-day STEM course to girls ages 8-13.

High school senior Thenu Senthil and Sang Gi Kim founded the well-run organization and are running programs with Aarushi Karandikar, president of Leland Women in STEM (WiSTEM).

"We began running our organization with the help of a few friends from Leland robotics team Quixilver and WiSTEM last December," said Senthil. "As a member of both clubs, I witness firsthand how introducing young students to multiple facets of technology can open doors for them. It's the maxim of FIRST and WiSTEM to spread STEM to all."

#### Mission statement

Senthil said the mission of Code One Programming is to offer valuable education for free to as many people as possible. "We have taught more than 12 classes (for which we have

now amassed over 200 sign ups from our community), reached 400 people with our website in just one month, and have been publicizing through our Facebook page, which has now made our organization known to nearly 5,000 people."

Over the last few months, Code One Programming has written its own original curriculums, reached out to multiple venues, and has held free and easily accessible workshops -- on topics such as "Visual Programming" and "Java for Kids," as well as newer "Artificial Intelligence" and "Natural Language Processing" sessions. These workshops are in addition to the organization's own "AP Computer Science Summer Preparatory Course," all in an effort to teach STEM courses for free, classes that would normally cost hundreds of dollars-- because as Kim puts it, "something so important as education is not something that should be limited by cost."

#### Girls' Tech Week

Girls' Tech Week, which starts Aug 7, will introduce girls to STEM at the Rose  
*See CODE ONE, page 6*

### OP ED

## Evergreen School District budget suffers from weight of teacher salaries and lack of buy-in from all stakeholders

*New \$400 parcel tax can help all*

By Kevin Larsen

Special to the Times

Does the Evergreen School District suffer from communication frustration? Collaboration of shared decision making between the teachers, parents, students and administration is the prime directive. Our school district must become dynamic to match our new technological age. The true views of the stakeholders are uplifted with a collaborative climate. It all boils down to the use of buy-in by all stakeholders including students! There will need to be constant check-ins between district office, parents, students, teachers and others to ensure all constituents are happy. Trust will need to be forged with constant surveys and actions by all.

Most administration leaders will need to be more down to earth with "grandma's rules," in honestly grappling with issues. A new simple language of plain-speak will need to take over the eloquence of "mirage talk," (a kind of speaking of words that mask the simple meaning of what is trying to be expressed often causing a lack of good communication) ... think acronyms used that no one understands. The school board members could draft new policies and implement new needed changes in reaching out to grab onto the wheel which steers in the direction Evergreen School District is willing to go by the stakeholders? New methods of management can be

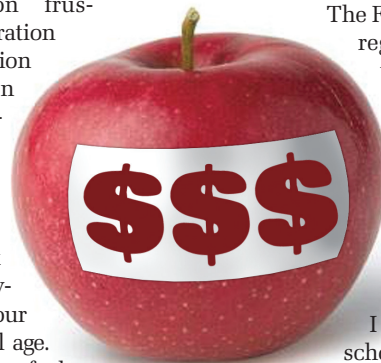
utilized.

At the last Facilities Advisory Committee go-around one brave school board member drafted over twenty questions to help guide the FAC (Facilities Advisory Committee, listen to audio of February 9, 2017 school board meeting).

The FAC committee disregarded the questions in my opinion. Another school board member stated it was not the place for a school board member to offer any input of questions. I say, it was the school board's place to get involved and there

was little or no action in directing the FAC committee in proper paths, in my opinion. So, if a committee goes off course, the school board members need to step in and act especially if parents complain. But, we must greatly honor the one school board member who spoke out concerns at a school board meeting. That is the role of the school board members, to care deeply about how the district is run and to lead the best they can. So, bravo for this one school board member speaking out and some others do too from time to time but much more steering of the ship needs to take place.

The school board is now taking the wheel; Five years ago, in the opinion of this parent, the school board was more hands off leaving most decisions to the superintendent. It was sort of a centralized management situation instead of the board leading. That chapter of management has passed in the opinion of this parent, and things are now changing. It could be that with budget belt tightening the board  
*See ESD BUDGET, page 14*



## LET THE EVERGREEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to [editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com) or mail to: Evergreen Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124



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## SPORTS BRIEF

### Teen basketball sign-ups at Chaboya Middle School begins August 14

Teen Basketball at Chaboya Middle School begins Friday, September 8th for all interested Evergreen-area boys and girls in the 5th thru 8th grade regardless of the school they are attending.

Sign-ups will continue until the two divisions of 60 players are filled.

The league will consist of two co-ed divisions of six teams and no more than 10 players on each team. In this "fun-competitive," league, everyone plays equal minutes for the first four quarters.

Practices are usually no more than once a week and we are looking for coaches (most coaches practice right before their game).

Cost for the league is \$175 which includes a game jersey, games, personal lanyard, participation medal, 1st and 2nd place trophies, facility use and officials.

Be a part of this exciting league every Friday afternoon and prepare yourself for your upcoming school and recreational leagues.

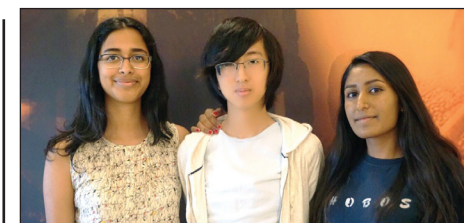
For more information or to register, phone John at (408) 605-1513 or Al at (408) 410-3570 or e-mail E.A.S.Y. Hoops at [easyhoopsbasketball@yahoo.com](mailto:easyhoopsbasketball@yahoo.com) to obtain a registration form. You may also pick up and drop off your registration at Chaboya Middle School beginning August 14.

## Code One

*Continued from page 4*

Garden Library in a five day program. The program will begin with an introduction to FIRST Robotics with a presentation and robot demonstration conducted by Quixilver 604. Over the next three days, the girls will learn how to program and construct robots using the EV3 Lego Robotics kit in a comprehensive workshop. On the last day, students will participate in virtual reality demonstrations.

Girl's Tech Week is led by female mentors from WiSTEM who aim to share their passion for technology with their students. "In just a few days we've received emails and sign-ups from many parents," said Karandikar. "Everyone is excited to take



Pictured are Code One Programming's organizers: (l to r) WiSTEM President **Aarushi Karandikar**, Co Founders **Sang Gi Kim** and **Thenu Senthil**.

part in our five-day program and we are expecting a large turnout for our pilot workshop."

### STEM workforce today

Today, women make up half of the world's workforce, but less than a quarter of the STEM sector-- a surprising statistic, considering that women in STEM outearn their counterparts in other fields by 33 percent.

"Factors that contribute to the discrepancy between women and men in STEM include gender stereotyping and a lack of female role models," said Kim. "As a team, we are here to step in and bridge the gap by inspiring girls to get involved in STEM using an immersive, hands-on approach that makes STEM fun."

A mother of a past participant says, "Our son has always had an interest in coding and robotics. Attending these classes has given him an opportunity to learn in a very warm and encouraging environment. Interacting with older students who have similar interests has really helped him feel comfortable and look forward to learning. He always looks forward to the next class. It's fantastic to have access to this kind of educational environment and staff."

For more information, contact Sang Gi Kim at [kim.sang-gi326@gmail.com](mailto:kim.sang-gi326@gmail.com) or visit Code One's website at <http://codeoneprogramming.weebly.com> (Note: scroll down for specific dates for classes.)

## Evergreen School District

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### Measure H Citizens' Oversight Committee

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 two to three times a year, with the first meeting on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

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 September 15, 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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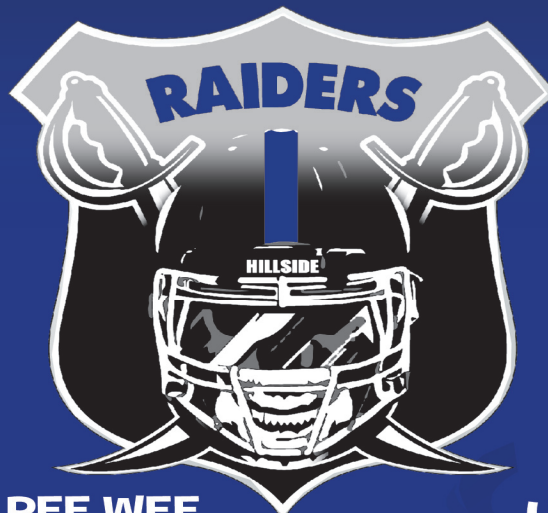
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## Times Local News



## STEM

*Continued from page 1*

help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes - global health, a safer world, or intelligent technology.

Judges select semifinalists, finalists, and national winners. All finalists are invited to Washington DC for the national gala. ProjectCSGIRLS currently reaches more than 3,500 middle school girls in 40 states. More than 700 middle school girls from 35 states participated in the 2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition, the fourth annual competition.

#### Background on Nivedita winning entry

The United States offers its citizens one of the most modern emergency response systems in the world. Typically users across the United States invoke emergency response services by dialing 9-1-1 on their phones.

The 911 calls are routed by the phone service providers to the nearest 'Public Safety Answering Point' (PSAP). The PSAP is a service which collects the information from the distress call and in turn alerts the proper emergency responders and agencies such as the police, fire department or emergency medical services (EMS).

In recent times these crucial emergency systems and services have come under tremendous pressure due to the following

- Higher volume of 911 calls coupled with growth of overall population.
- Declining funding from cash-strapped local counties and states.
- Higher budgets needed to modernize legacy PSAP and 911 call systems

An estimated 240 million calls are made to 911 in the U.S. each year. In many areas, 70 percent or more calls are originated from wireless devices. This mind boggling volume of calls stretches the emergency systems to the brink that ultimately pushes up the time it takes to respond to incoming requests. It is estimated that 15 percent of 911 calls are made for non-emergencies. While average 911 response times are heavily disputed, the American Police Beat estimates the average response time for an emergency call at about 10 minutes. Imagine not being able to receive critical care or first aid during a time of emergency. Those precious minutes spent waiting for First Responders to arrive on the scene could be the difference between life and death.

"I want to help reduce the stress on the overburdened emergency response services and in turn decrease the time it takes for emergency services to arrive when a 911 call is made," said Nivedita. "To solve this problem, my invention allows a 911 call initiated via a smartphone will be routed to a conventional PSAP as well as the PePERS system, which utilizes a nationwide network of smart phones providing identifies of other users in need of emergency services. The advantage of this system is the ability to rush aid to victims before conventional First Responders arrive at the scene."

PePERS will not solve or provide for every type of emergency, however PePERS provides immediate First Aid for as many emergencies as possible, therefore:

- Saving lives by reducing the amount of time it takes for a 911 caller to receive help. This will especially be the case in rural / less populated areas.
- Reducing the amount of time spent by conventional First Responders on non-emergency calls.
- Increasing awareness of local emergencies to a wider audience and by building a community of users who care for each other in times of crisis.
- Preserving scarce First Responder resources at the state and the county level that can be diverted to better use.

#### Nivedita's hobbies, interests

Nivedita's hobbies and interests include - building Legos (she is a master builder), swimming, playing the piano, taekwondo (brown belt), taking care of her two guinea pigs, and traveling with her parents.

#### Background on ProjectCSGIRLS Competition

Founded in 2013, Project CSGIRLS Competition is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit working to close the tech gender gap through running a national computer science competition for middle school girls and workshops around the country. The competition and workshops challenge girls to be makers and use tech to develop projects with social impact, empowering them to pursue technology and confidently step forward into a field as male-dominated as computer science, speaking to their desire to create social change, and providing them with a network of like-minded peers, mentors, and professionals to help support and grow their ideas.

For more information, visit Nivedita's Project Showcase on the web: [projectcs-girls.com/2017-winning-projects.html](http://projectcs-girls.com/2017-winning-projects.html).

## Lower Silver Creek sediment build-up removal begins

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is removing sediment from Lower Silver Creek near Lake Cunningham in Evergreen.

Removing sediment that has accumulated within the creek will restore channel capacity, minimize sediment build-up in the future and maintain the creek's capacity to carry floodwaters while sustaining a stable and healthy creek ecosystem.

Work began July 24th and will take approximately four weeks to complete. Work hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Should delays occur, work hours may

include Saturday.

A five- to ten-person crew is working at the project site using an excavator, a loader, dump trucks, water trucks and street sweepers. A generator, designed to operate quietly, is pumping water as needed around the project site and back into the creek farther downstream.

Expect typical construction noise during work hours from operating heavy equipment.

Trucks and crews are accessing the creek from a maintenance entrance on Cunningham Avenue. Expect no road closures, but traffic control or flaggers may be needed at times during work for safety.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

By Steven Leonard

*Special to the Times*

I liked Valerian and at the same time I didn't like Valerian.

Just like a Thomas Kincaid Painting, while beautiful, sometimes the image seems like an empty dream.

The director of the Valerian, Luc Besson, has directed better films such as The Professional, The Fifth Element, and Lucy.

#### Synopsis

In the 28th century, Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and Laureline (Cara Delevingne) are a special ops team charged with maintaining order throughout the City of a Thousand Planets. Dane and Cara seem miscast in their parts in a film that demands a larger-than-life presence.

The film is beautiful to watch but without substance in plot, dialogue, and acting. The film tries hard to emulate Avatar, the lackluster Jupiter Ascending, and the enjoyable Fifth Element.

The messages in this film about love and sacrifice near the end are compelling and these messages almost redeem our film-going fantasy experience. If I was directing this film, I might have gone another way to deliver these messages. I would've made a film that combined the best of Blade Runner with elements of the classic bantering between Boggart and Beccall.

The City of a Thousand Planets is a multicultural celestial metropolis where

our heroes do a bit of chasing and fighting and its population includes some fine specimens of modern digital and prosthetic creature design.

Rihanna and Ethan Hawke are also in the movie even though Rihanna shows up late and leaves early. She's called Bubble, she dances on a stripper pole and changes costumes in the blink of an eye.

I felt like turning off the rest of the film and could visualize a stand-alone film about Rihanna and Ethan Hawke. In this film, we get to ponder the villainy of Clive Owen in uniform and watch Mr. DeHaan and Ms. Delevingne doing their finger-puppet Rock Hudson/Doris Day imper-



Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne star in "Valerian."

sonations. We also get to come up with names for Valerian and Laureline's babies! Yeah!

In conclusion: "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" feels as if it were made up on the spot, by people so delighted by their stunning fantastical packaging at their disposal that they lost track of what was supposed to be inside.



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RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPT/GRAPHICS**	-\$500
RAM PROMASTER CONQUEST BONUS CASH***	-\$2,000
RAM CA COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH*	-\$500
RAM CPDV BONUS COUPON	-\$1,000
<b>NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES</b>	<b>\$14,999</b>

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY \*\*FOR FICA SCORES BELOW 650. MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*\*MUST TRADE IN A 99 OR NEWER PASSENGER CAR OR LIGHT DUTY TRUCK. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

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MSRP	\$27,690
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$4,941
SALE PRICE	\$22,749
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
<b>NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES</b>	<b>\$16,999</b>

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5 AT THIS NET SAVINGS

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$9,750
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*	-\$1,000
RAM 2017 1500 HEMI RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$500
RAM CA TRADE-IN RETAIL BONUS CASH***	-\$1,000
<b>NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>

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## 2017 RAM 1500 4-DOOR

173 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

5 AT THIS NET PRICE

MSRP	\$32,710
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$5,572
SALE PRICE	\$27,138
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH*	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
<b>NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES</b>	<b>\$20,888</b>

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<p><b>2014 TOYOTA TACOMA EXT. CAB</b> AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS AND MORE! VIN #038548 <b>\$17,999</b></p>	<p><b>2017 FORD ESCAPE</b> AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM (1 DINNER) VIN #A94985 <b>\$18,999</b></p>	<p><b>2015 SUBARU FORESTER</b> AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, NAVIGATION, MOONROOF, LEATHER HEATED SEATS VIN #110646 <b>\$20,999</b></p>	<p><b>2013 CHEVROLET CAMARO SUPER SPORT</b> AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #200776 <b>\$21,999</b></p>	<p><b>2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB</b> AUTOMATIC, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, KEYLESS ENTRY, CRUISE CONTROL, BACK UP CAM VIN #760519 <b>\$23,999</b></p>

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## Times Dining



## 8 Elements restaurant creates the 'perfect blend' of flavors

By Kevin Larsen  
Times staff writer

A person's appreciation of taste and flavor evolves from basic senses.

Sweet, bitter, sour, salty and umami contribute to the sensation and flavor in food.

Other factors include smell, texture, and temperature. All together, these factors result in the 'perfect taste' experienced at the 8 Elements restaurant in Evergreen.

"It's our five year anniversary here in Evergreen and we have evolved to carefully look at different selections and have seen to it that our menu works best for the Evergreen public," states co-owner and manager Jaiganesh Santhanam. "We want to thank everyone in Evergreen Valley who has so graciously supported our restaurant over the past five years."

"Five years ago we came up with a new idea and opened our two locations, Santhanam continued. "One is in San Diego and doing well, and

our Evergreen 8 Elements has also been well received by the community! We had the idea of making our Indian cuisine in ways that all people of all ages and cultures will fully enjoy and come back to," he stated.

"We are celebrating our five year anniversary because we have succeeded in making a fun family atmosphere due to our wonderful staff. We are deeply caring about all customers."

### Consistency is king

8 Elements is a very consistent restaurant. This means when you come in to order an item they have it available. This is due to good management and planning. "We create the dishes very well and people return to taste and experience the eight elements and love the consistency," said Santhanam. "Since the restaurant is run with dignity, respect and dedication from staff, the atmosphere is upbeat and welcoming. This translates to very little staff

See 8 ELEMENTS, page 12

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9160 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92126 | 8elementsdd.com | (866) 968-0307



## OFF THE SHELF: Magic shows coming to Evergreen and Village Square branch libraries

By Edith Sutterlin  
Special to the Times

**M**agic is in the air at both Evergreen and Village Square branch libraries. On Saturday, August 5, 1:30 p.m., you can enjoy Timothy James' magic show for children and adults, blending comedy and magic in a fun, upbeat atmosphere at Evergreen.

Catch Mike Della Penna's Summer Reading Magic show at Village Square branch, 4 p.m. Mike captivates the 3- to 7-year-old crowd with his laughter-filled, participatory magic shows. Village Square's summer of entertainment will continue with featured Bay Area variety entertainer Bri Crabtree on Saturday, August 19, 4 p.m. Bri presents a fusion of circus and vaudeville in a show featuring juggling, magic, illusion, and physical comedy.

### Summer Reading prizes

Summer Reading has ended, but if you haven't picked up your summer reading prize yet, please plan to do that soon. Last day to claim prizes is on Saturday, August 12!

### Evergreen Library Back to School Open House

Be Cool for School: Back to School Open House at Evergreen Branch, Friday afternoon, August 11, 3 p.m. Kick off the school year by visiting your local library for a fun and educational activity! Learn about our FREE tutoring services, online research tools, homework help, and other library resources available for students of all ages. Grade school children can also create custom composition books and school book covers. On Saturday, August 12, at 2 p.m., Village Square invites you to their Be Cool for School activity.

Both branches are still recruiting committed adult monitors or facilitators to help with teen-led programs. These volunteer positions require fingerprinting for adults over 18 years old and extended commitments of weekly volunteering for six months to a year, depending on the activity. Please go to [sjpl.org](http://sjpl.org) volunteer to learn more about these and other volunteer needs across the city of San Jose.

### Additional Events

View all library event listings online at [events.sjpl.org](http://events.sjpl.org). Updates on library events are also available via our RSS feeds ([sjpl.org/updates](http://sjpl.org/updates)) and our



Mike Della Penna's Magic Show entertains young guests.

Facebook page. ([facebook.com/sanjoselibrary](https://facebook.com/sanjoselibrary))

### Parking

When the Evergreen Branch library parking lot is full, customers may find additional parking available at Grace Church on the other side of Aborn Road. We thank Grace Church for this generous offer that allows the library to better serve the Evergreen community.

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



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Times **Dining**

# FRESH DAILY!



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### MOST POPULAR MENU ITEMS

- #12: Shaken Beef Rice Plate
- #26: Oyster Mushroom Salad
- #45: Salted Fish Fried Rice
- #37 Thai Lemon Chicken Pho
- #31 Spicy Beef Noodle
- #13 Golden Bamboo Egg Rolls
- #24 Autumn Rolls
- #63 Yellow Vegetarian Curry
- #05 Oyster Mushroom
- #70 Braised BBQ Pork

## GOLDEN BAMBOO

Vegetarian Restaurant

Monday-Friday, 10am - 3pm 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Sat-Sun 10 a.m. to 9:30- p.m. Viet Holidays: Open all day!

**408.270.8350**

3245 So. White Rd., San Jose, CA 95148



## 8 Elements

*Continued from page 10*  
turnover during the years.”

I witnessed the attentive staff welcome a party of ten which was quickly seated and later a welcome “happy birthday” song was sung to one of the guests. This was an example of a family making a nice memory in part due to the experience of eating at a nice restaurant meeting all 8 elements.

### Reasonable prices for delicious food selections

Prices are very reasonable. Let's go through some of the most often requested dishes (Suggestion: Bring this check list with you to the restaurant for ordering).

#2 Veg or Chicken Samosa (Golden fried flakey pastry filled)

#27 Naan Wraps (Regular or whole wheat bread cooked in clay oven spread with mayo, spices, and stuffing of your choice of organic chicken, paneer, mixed veg, lamb, or salmon).

#44 Elements Mixed Grill (This plate gives you a bit of everything and includes a sampling of sheekh kebob, fish tikka, tandoori prawn, tandoori leg and chicken kebob on a sizzler plate).

#62-66 Specialty Curries (An 8 Elements original.) You first select one meat choice from chicken, lamb, shrimp or lobster and then pick one of six different sauces: Tikka Masala (creamy tomato), Vindaloo (zesty curry), Kadai masala (onion, bell pepper, tomato and ginger), Coconut Curry, or Chettinad Curry.

#67 Classic Butter Chicken (This is one of the most popular house specialties, a boneless tandoori chicken in the chef's secret signature sauce).

#78 Spring Dosa (Mysore Masala Dosa

stuffed with fresh vegetables).

One thing is for sure, the quality is all incorporated in each of the 8 Elements. Care is taken to ensure all things are of the highest qualities. The chicken served is California free range, vegetarian fed and hormone free. The produce is chosen mostly from California farms and 8 Elements uses organic, seasonal and sustainable ingredients whenever possible.

### Cocktails anyone?

This restaurant is one of very few with a coveted license that allows them to serve crafted cocktails such as the Mumbai Mule, Indian Mojito, Coconut Surprise and a new surprise signature cocktail to celebrate the 5 year anniversary. All cocktails are served with top shelf liquor. Also available are many sustainable and organic wines from the California coastline. Local San Jose beers such as Hermitage Brewery are served proudly.

### Specializing in corporate events and onsite dosa parties

Dosas are unique to Indian culture. A “dosa” is a type of crepe made with special batter and it has been in existence for thousands of years. Dosas have a unique special taste. Their catering trucks visit many locations to serve events. They really know how to bring the party to the event. Perhaps serving guests mouthwatering taste sensations is a form of communication all by itself. Special selections are offered to match event needs.

### Recent Yelp quotes...

“...Never have I walked out of here disappointed...I've only tried three dishes here and they are so good that I haven't thought of anything else, honestly...”

“...OK, since my last update I have probably been here 15 times and more and yes they have consistently delivered good food and good service...”

*Continued, next page*

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Times **Local News****New Seasons Market Calendar of Events**

**Fridays, 5-7pm: Wine Tasting & Cheese Pairings.** 8/4: Selections from J. Woods Beverage Group, 8/11: DeRose Vineyards, 8/18: Selections from Mountain Peoples Wine Distributing, 8/25: Classic Artisan Wines pouring Titan Wine Selections and other selections. Complimentary.

**Tuesday, August 29, 12-6pm: Red Cross Blood Drive.** Sign up to donate blood and help save lives. The blood drive will be held in the New Seasons Market community classroom. Snacks and refreshments provided. Preregister to donate at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Free.

*New Seasons Market is located at 5667 Silver Creek Valley Rd, San Jose. 408-513-8200.*

**8 Elements**

*Continued from previous page*

"I have been craving authentic Indian food for a while now. The kind of Indian food that is well made...it tasted like something you would treat yourself to and not just your everyday meal...tasted great and had the right amount of seasoning! I am so happy with this place, I'm sure to return, and soon!"

"The food is always great at this place. We keep coming back for Dosas!"

"Love the food here and the quality and quantity of food is great!"

**The ninth element — kindness**

It's all here because of the ingenuity of the owners carefully planning the 8 elements into

a restaurant that is set to serve family and friends. With a touch of American influence to suit everyone's palette of taste, this restaurant aims to please. Some even come just to order for dessert the Vanilla and cardamom Crème Brule or have a candle put into the favorite called the Chocolate fudge brownie, for a quick birthday celebration. The staff is there to cheer you on and care about all.

Why not enter the world of the 8 Elements and experience fine cuisine at very reasonable prices? Make a date with India even if you've never tried to these taste sensations before.

*8 Elements Restaurant is located in the Orchard Supply shopping center, 1781 E. Capitol Expressway, San Jose, CA 95121, (408)270-2577 Hours: 11:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

**There's a new kid in town...**

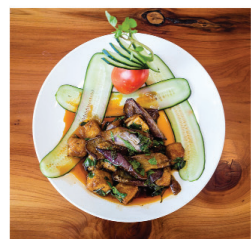
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**CAYDA Restaurant**

Visit our Modern Refined Vietnamese Cuisine restaurant, which offers old world traditions with the modern way of life.



Our extensive menu packed with "signature dishes" offers something for all cultures with plenty of choices for both "meat lovers and vegetarians alike."



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**Phone: (408) 440-8043**

Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
(CAYDA closes from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for dinner preparation)

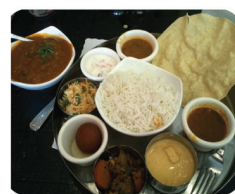


"We greatly appreciate our customers support and staff's dedication in making  
**8Elements**  
a successful journey"

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**\$5 OFF ANY MEAL**

One per table with a minimum \$25 purchase

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Valid for one kid per table

Valid from Monday to Thursday

Valid only at San Jose location | Expires on 9/15/2017

**Open 11:30 am - 10 pm**

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Times **Op Ed****ESD Budget***Continued from page 4*

members are now forced to use more hands on approaches in how monies are spent to ensure their vision is followed so as to improve the school district to fend off any charter or private school competition and school closures. However, it seems to some that our school district often has a preconceived way of directing the future. This is now changing for some school board members are earnestly listening to stakeholders and want the community input on things before moving in a certain direction. Perhaps way too much trust is put towards how education runs. The parents may not get involved too much. This all needs to change, but will it change? Common sense needs to rule over esoteric new test experiments of learning brought about by the common core. The Common Core is interpreted in many ways. Parents will need to lead to mold the school district into what the parents and students desire it to be! No longer are polished words taking center stage, instead test data is king. However, some newfangled methods of common core teaching lack the independent testing to discern if the math program of mandated state standards are taught at some schools in ways that work for the low income children and children with disabilities. Maybe Evergreen School District can adapt to such needs and fend off any charter school or private school moves by parents.

This is an excerpt from June 8, 2017 letter from Fiscal Services Director to Superintendent and School Board members regarding approval of the 2017-2018 Evergreen School District budget, and it states;

“The 2016-17 beginning balance had an available unrestricted reserve of \$14.4 million. In 2016-17 due to onetime mandated cost revenue, the estimate ending available reserve will be \$17.3 million. Despite LCFF per ADA revenue increases, the district will still be in deficit spending. The district will use \$4.7 million in 2017-18; \$7.1 million in 2018-19 and the remaining balance in 2019-20. The district will not be able to meet minimum reserve requirements of 3 percent in 2019-2020. We still need to address projected \$8.7 million funding shortage in a timely manner.”

Governor Brown Update Information, July 2017: The governor is moving to now award all school districts some more monies in the next school year (2017-2018). This additional amount will help, however, it may be a one-time amount of monies and the looming difficulties of falling in and out of deficit spending may still permeate the Evergreen School District, kicking the can down the road so to speak. History does repeat itself over and over and the school district has been in deficit spending in years past. Maybe the state of California will keep pushing and pulling monies as the decades roll on.

Salary increase requests for school districts will keep happening. Are continued requested pay increases for teachers pulling too much drain of monies from the Evergreen School District's general fund causing pressure in providing financial support and equity to all schools and impacting learning? The classrooms may need more monies for materials and tech items. The teachers may be spending too much money out of their own pockets. A sucking of the budget may be going to salaries.

Should two schools close and be repurposed? In the month of April 2017 a com-

mittee formed by the school board of Evergreen School District in San Jose, gave the suggestion of repurposing/closure and reuse of two schools (Laurelwood and Dove Hill Elementary) perhaps the repurpose/closure formal suggestion was due to foreseen lack of monies necessary to keep these schools going due to the district experiencing lower enrollment and possible future years of deficit spending. When fewer students attend a school district the district experiences less economies of scale. The school board decided that next year (2017-2018), all schools will be open as they review, explore, and expand options of fiscal planning. Your public input is requested by the school board and others. Are school closures good for neighborhoods?

The district is focusing on a major ongoing 3-year strategic plan priority for the school district to “Achieve financial stability and sustainability.” When a district falls into deficit spending it spends more than it takes in. The arena of ideas can help.

In May of this year, at a workshop held by the E.S.D. school board, it was stated that the estimated cost of keeping any one school open annually is about \$400,000 (note the audio recording of that workshop can be found under ‘Minutes’ in the Trustee tab of the school district website). Maybe that means that if a school can find a way to generate monies, that school need not close. Money drives decisions.

Should we use Lease-Leaseback methods in a bid process? Perhaps due to budget constraints, our school district also now uses lease-leaseback approaches in new construction. This approach can go around the bidding process perhaps making bidding less competitive. It may cost the district more to use this method and one can form their own conclusions by web searching “lease leaseback school district pros and cons.” Is this approach saving the school district monies? Perhaps old fashioned bidding processes should be used and lease-lease back approaches should stop. If you explore this and form an opinion why not offer input to the school board.

In the past two years, the school board has approved three pay raises for teachers. The March 2, 2017 Budget Advisory Committee report shows that in my opinion, rounded off, the salaries of teachers are shown to be about 50 million with benefits of about 25 million. The entire budget is about 110 million. Salaries make up a tremendous percentage of how school districts operate.

If the district is seen to gain only \$800,000 a year by closing down two schools, should the school board members have decided to vote unanimously to spend \$1,000,000 for all future years from the budget for a third additional teacher salary raise. Did our school district have to cut back on things to afford this salary increase? Currently the teacher salaries in Evergreen are near or at the top of all salaries paid to teachers in California. In addition to salaries, the cost of health care, pensions and unique retirement funding also putting great pressure on the school district budget. Salaries and all benefits are the bulk of spending.

Did we listen to School Site Services company? A letter dated October 27, 2015 from School Site Services Company analyzed the Evergreen School District budget. The following was stated in conclusion (it can be accessed on school district website under Fiscal Services information);

“The district should exercise caution at

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## Times Op Ed

the bargaining table, continue to closely monitor its student enrollment, revenues and expenditures, and work with its Budget Advisory Committee to make recommendations for the Superintendent to consider, in order to ensure that the district can continue to maintain adequate revenues and support its student educational programs in the current environment.”

The district must make careful considerations in spending with regard to salary increases because once they are passed they move into future years and can't be taken back. Raises are not retractable and if a million dollars is awarded then all the years that follow require that same amount to be spent. With decreasing enrollment the Evergreen School District and other school districts feel a pinch in their budgets. Also, perhaps new hires in opening up New Tech Network schools (these are schools inside schools that do project based learning) impacted the budget greatly because such schools are run inside of other schools. Maybe too, these project based schools pulled lots of monies away from other regular schools by their needs for computers, salaries and other needs. Perhaps such new-fangled schools should only be opened with grant monies. Since three such schools are now open, should not grant writing support them? Is the district pushing hard to gain grants? Speaking out for change can sometimes build friction unless environments are created by the school board to welcome differences of opinions. The school board is to lead the district.

Negative pressure builds if people oppose teacher salary increases; In the opinion of this parent, if any school board member opposes any teacher salary increase there is great negative pressure felt from the teachers union and this pressure tends to push back in negative ways towards any school board member which did not go along. It is seen that great emotions build up and this fuels the atmosphere in ways that can be uncomfortable. The teachers all feel and believe they need and warrant salary increases, but the budget is sometimes too small to do this. So, we need to find new and exciting ways to step beyond the budget to handle teacher salary raises as they come forth.

Should new ways be explored to fund the inevitable future teacher salary increase requests to take the burden off the school board members and the district general fund? Something's got to give. Status quo won't due because of declining enrollment. New ideas are needed by the public. We know that overall the teachers are very high quality in the Evergreen School District.

In addition to the teacher salaries there is also a perk of a retirement benefit that is unique to the Evergreen School District. This perk has to do with support for medical costs when an employee

retires and it covers the employee and their spouse (see GASB 45 Post-Employment Benefits). The GASB 45 may be an additional unique cost to Evergreen school district as compared to other districts that might not offer it. Read about it and decide for yourself. Can the school district find ways to afford the rise in salaries, health benefits, and two retirement plans? Can more salary equity be established for new teachers?

New teachers need stronger salaries in Silicon Valley. In the current teacher salary chart, after 12 years a teacher can obtain a \$100,000 annual salary. The new first year teachers only make about \$57,000 (with backbreaking work of long evenings, preplanning and grading on weekends to meet the learning curves in each subject). The classified employees make a very low amount of annual salary and this can be seen on the district website (some yard duty angels work one hour a day and make

only \$12 an hour which amounts to a monthly wage of approximately \$240 before taxes with no benefits...that is about \$2,500 annual part time wage (God bless them).

What if a worker finds an affordable home in Los Banos, is it good for that worker to commute each day (just think of the need for sunglasses for the commute in the spring). Imagine the getting up early, the driving of two hours, then kindly interacting with children, then, the planning for the next school day, then, the getting back in the used car to drive another two hours back home on tires that may soon need replacement (that equals 20 hours a week behind the wheel of a car to get to the school to teach which equals about 800 hours commute time and putting on 40,000 miles on a car each school year)...Whew.

To increase equity in the opinion of this parent, the first year teacher salaries need to be raised to equal 3/4ths that of a tenured teacher

with ten years' experience. That would be the right thing to do. It seems wrong to have a first year teacher instructing the same amount of children in one classroom that another veteran teacher (with ten plus years of experience) has, yet there may be about a \$40,000+ annual wage difference between the two teachers. The seasoned teachers may welcome the new hires to have a loftier wage. This will help entice college students to choose a career in teaching. To be a teacher can be looked upon as a premier job with salary equity. A new parcel tax could be just the answer!

Evergreen School District needs to go big on new parcel taxes to keep pace with other cities. San Francisco voters passed a \$198 parcel tax to pump 28 million dollars each year into the salaries of teachers in year 2008. This was put toward helping teacher wages, professional development and improved technology (children

need more computers and new educationally filtered wi-fi). However, our Evergreen community has a smaller population than the metropolitan city of "San Pancho" (a slang term for S.F.) so a higher parcel tax would need to be passed. Other wealthy areas also recently passed new parcel taxes to help teachers.

Measure X parcel tax was passed by over 79 percent of the taxpayers in Menlo Park, CA. It created a \$360 parcel tax and prevented over 30 teachers from being laid off, in March 2017.

Currently, many teachers are known to be spending monies from their own pocketbooks just to run a good top flight classroom. They need such things as hands on materials for the new common core learning-groups (they speak on this from time to time in brave ways coming up to the public comment podium). They need a bigger classroom budget.

See ESD BUDGET, page 17



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### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243. [www.ccavucc.org](http://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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5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118 408.265.5837 [www.bibleroad.org](http://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!

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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](mailto:info@eastvalleychurch.com) We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.convergeworldwide.org](http://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](http://www.eca-sj.org) At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellow-

ship 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](http://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 español, Domingo 4pm.

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solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

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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](http://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.churchsaintanthony.com](http://www.churchsaintanthony.com). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

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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](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) [www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org](http://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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## ESD Budget

*Continued from previous page*

Do some schools have more equity than others? The Evergreen School District may need to take a more focused approach to checking each school to ensure that equity exists rather than treating each school as an independent island. More school to school comparisons may be in order. This role of oversight belongs to the school board members. The school board can set up new protocols to mandate equity. For example a simple survey could be done to ask each teacher in all grades at all schools the # of hours students spend on computers. It could be that some schools have more new computers than others. Students in some schools may spend more hours with computers each week.

At a town hall meeting this school year, some parents of Laurelwood in my opinion, liked the idea of it closing. It seemed that these parents (as far as I could figure out) wanted the Laurelwood school to be in equity of learning with other Evergreen Elementary schools near it such as Matsumoto Elementary (listen to the audio of the meeting go to Facilities Advisory Committee March 14, 2017 Public Hearing audio on the district website). So, as far as I could figure out, equity in their eyes was perhaps not being found in how one school functioned verses another (this is all about economies of scale, for larger schools may have more than smaller ones). It seemed parents were upset with a lack of monies being spent in my opinion or equity of spending from one school to another. This means the school board needs to check assets to ensure all schools have equal computers, equal activities, equal equipment etc.

The Evergreen School District embarked this year in figuring out what the word “equity” is to mean for it is one of the 3yr. Strategic Plan Goals. Unfortunately, in my opinion, no parents were asked to be involved in setting a proper definition so parent VOICE was left out. Parents also need to help the district and parent input is key to sailing the ship of learning.

Show me the money. In my opinion, It seems like the wealthier schools have a lot higher student test scores due to them getting more monies (sometimes these monies are donated and perhaps not part of the tracking on school district public budgets). Also, the majority of the high test scoring children in the wealthy neighborhoods may be bilingual. Money plays a big role in education. The Evergreen School District needs to be complemented for posting all the monies each school receives on all school websites however it needs to be posted so it is easier to find (to find the School Site Plan go to your school website and hunt for it (you have to go to the school website, then go to administration, then go to Advisory Committees and Councils, then go to Annual School Plans, then click on LCAP site plan for Student Achievement SSP). If you take the time to do this you will be rewarded by a report that shows where all the monies go in each school, each year, however you will still need to scroll down 40 pages. Since it is so hard to find perhaps no one even looks at it).

Transparency goes hand in hand with equity. By nakedly showing what monies each school has to work with, perhaps taxpayers will embrace another parcel tax to help the schools. What was once hidden is now in plain sight with the advent of technology. The school district should make it easier to access on each school district web-

site, it seems like it is hidden away and the paperwork is the skeleton of the operation, so a new easy to understand name of “THE SCHOOL SITE PLAN” could be the title of it, and THE SCHOOL SITE PLAN could be placed with an ease of a click on the front of each school website for ease of access.

Why can't all pages on a school district website offer google translate? Google translate could be placed at the bottom of all website pages for an easy click of translating to many languages (this is done at some school districts in California). Why is the Evergreen School District not doing this (it has been suggested a year ago). In our time of competition with charter schools and declining enrollment due to fewer children being born, the school district must be quick on the draw in implementation of good solid ideas rather than wait years to act. School district must now be more competitive. The SCHOOL SITE PLAN is the heartbeat of how each school is to run but no one reads it. It is also a living document like our U.S. Constitution and can be changed as the year progresses. To make changes the school board must roll up their sleeves and mandate things be done.

A School Site Council is to offer VOICE; The School Site Plan goals state the priorities of what will be done and where monies are to be spent. A new plan is set each school year by parents, teachers, classified workers, principal and members of the outside community at each school site. Each school gets a unique amount of monies allotted to it and those elected to the School Site Council decide how and where those small amounts of monies are spent each year. The district office allots what the lion's share of monies will be used for at the individual sites and L.C.A.P. (Local Control Accountability Plan Meetings) are held to ask the public where meager monies from a budget should go. Remember the monies available are meager due to vast amounts earmarked for salaries and benefits in all school districts. The budget to a teacher's individual classroom is often laughable in the tiny-tiny annual amount of monies doled out. At some schools the P.T.A. pitches in to help out more. Some schools just flat out ask for parent donations at the beginning of each school year to cover extra enrichment programs (the wealthy neighborhood schools). Some schools create with monies more equity than others in the same school district.

So, in my opinion, “being fairs got nothin to do with it” quote from an old Clint Eastwood movie.

It could it be that at some school sites the money purse of spending is kept in tight grasp by some principals and too much of the unspent monies are returned to the school district coffers at the end of a school year (in the opinion of this parent, some of the monies returns back to the same school site the next year). Why not mandate a year end budget meeting at each school site to allow the spending down any unspent monies instead of returning it all to the district office (in one instance years ago I as a parent complained that over \$100,000 was unspent at a Title One School and I believed, in my opinion, all the monies should have been spent down to help the children in various ways. In my opinion, the monies were left over in the year end school site council budget. It did seem to me that the left

over, unspent monies at some schools are returned to the school district but they shouldn't be. I proposed a mandatory month of May School Site Council meeting to view all unspent monies at all schools. I believe this was never put into practice. It could only be mandated if the school board took action on it. This is an actual example of a creative

idea of leadership that the school board could enact as a policy. However, each school in my opinion is often operating as an island. Sometimes changes take time and lots of people need to ask for change. Perhaps some might believe or think monies are sometimes sent back to the district office because the district is in need of more monies, I do not know, that is a question for principals and teachers of schools and for an active school board to explore. By getting more buy-in at SCHOOL SITE COUNCILS all schools will run better. Thus, let's put the “SCHOOL SITE PLAN” portal on the front page of all school websites and label it as such. Let us let the general public see the nakedly transparent spending of monies at each school site and the goals of the site. Let us encourage shared synergy of comparing how one site spends monies to another. Collaboration of knowledge will help all stakeholders.

Will the Evergreen residents positively embrace more parcel tax monies for education! A school district can pass more than one parcel tax (currently Evergreen has one for this school district in effect for \$100 per

home owner, the voters needed to pass it by 2/3{66%} vote and instead the voters passed it by about a 3/4{75%} vote). This shows that our community wants to put money into learning because it grows good citizens. Two years from now (June 2019) this \$100 parcel tax sunsets. In looking at the 2014 data on an earlier parcel tax it is seen that about 26,000 parcels were participating. If we extrapolate that number to an additional \$400 per parcel it would generate an additional 10.5 million dollars per year for teacher salaries, and technology upgrades. All monies unspent could be pushed over to the next year in a fund for teacher raises, but we need more even more “money,” Yes, much more! No more scraping by. The more money in the classrooms the better for all stakeholders! In the opinion of this parent, yes, a \$400 parcel tax is needed.

Teachers create the weather in the classrooms; Educators are all quite unique, some are better liked than others in the eyes of youngsters and parents but all are wonderful for they act as important role models to help build humanity and shape children's minds, beliefs and even aspirations. There are a few children who need lots of extra guidance at each school site (both trouble makers and the silent introverted) and the teachers act to mold those individuals to get her/him ready for the real world (more counselors are now hired to help with social emotional needs of children in our fast paced society, thus pulling more monies away from the budget not used in decades past). No amount of monies can pay for the love and devotion teachers give. Educators make our society a better place to live in. They are word artists and act as the cornerstone and touchstone for each child. Administrators help as agile facilitators to ensure the learning process runs well. Parent input is often not heeded at some schools. It's all got to add up for everyone and this is all called the educational equation (sometimes  $2+2=5$  however).

Silence is often heard loudly; The barriers of hesitancy in adults and students speaking out for changes must be nonexistent or school stagnation occurs. I believe the teacher union is strong because perhaps the Evergreen School District has not set up a healthy environment for Buy-In from all teachers to speak their mind. Also, if a teacher speaks to the administration or school board, will change occur? In the best run schools there is a clamor of VOICE shouted out and bantered around till consensus takes place with all stakeholders. The new tomorrow must have the principals ensure that textbook/workbooks are followed and or all state standards are covered well. If

*See ESD BUDGET, next page*



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## Times OpEd

## ESD Budget

*Continued from previous page*

the teachers or parents do not like the curriculum adopted by the school board, then it is incumbent for the principals to speak up to the school board. However, silence is often heard loudly. Sometimes passionate teachers come to school board meetings with troubles and concerns only to find that very little is achieved for them. The words “buy-in” are premier for all to chisel wonderful healthy learning environments for all. The school districts need parent and teacher input to be healthy and thrive however there seems to be a “bubble” in how the district office incorporates stakeholder input.

Will Evergreen schools gain by better incorporating parent and teacher ideas? In the opinion of this parent, in the past and perhaps at present, our school district is too dictatorially governed by our district office (a lack of stakeholder buy-in thinking). This may have worked well in the agrarian era (when farming was king in the Santa Clara Valley) but not today. In my personal opinion it as though there is often a pre-destined way of doing things rather than the district office getting proper buy-in from educators and parents in deep ways. It could be that new common core rollout of math and other subjects were pushed and done and in my opinion manipulated into how the district functions, rather than use of organic decision making and honoring all teacher and parent input much more deeply. Some products may not be used much because those saddled with using them may not like them much. Now, after many years of prodding some of our wonderful school board members are reaching out more to listen and work with the parents and teachers more in doing things that are wanted. This may be because of the pressure Obama created in launching lots and lots of charter schools across our nation. The school districts are learning to be more competitive but there is a long way to go. To get there, the district must be organic in ensured buy-in at all schools with equity check off lists.

Are school board members listening to stakeholders and acting

on input? Nimble action is being shown a bit more by the school board to carefully look into creative ideas such as exploring the ideas of splitting low enrollment schools in half to welcome dual purpose programs of paid lease arrangement such as a Special Education autism center (leasing out ½ of the school site to the County Office of Education), introduction of full day paid preschool programs (again leasing out ½ of a low enrollment school site), immersion to second language public schools, introduction of grades 9,10,11,12 New Tech High School and more creative shared use ideas. With shared use, the 18 schools may never need to close/repurpose. This idea of a 50% repurpose instead of the old idea of a 100% repurpose/closure of a school is being considered by the school board members. They may roll up their sleeves and do strong exploration and they welcome public input into the process. Without public involvement the board will only be so strong in its decision making. It is a lot like how the Congress of the U.S.A. functions. In California, as some school districts hear from parents great changes occur.

Education Week gives California Schools a C- grade; It seems that malaise is at some schools in the U.S.A. where common core math and other subjects were bowled into the classrooms in ways that pulled too much time from teachers. Some schools have had to do a lot more with much less. Good solid new ideas combined with checking for quality and success are needed. Workable ideas need to be nurtured. I believe the teachers know what is right, what is working and what is not working. However, test scores also paint a general picture as to the measurement of success in math and language arts. Six months ago, Education Week Magazine ranked California as 42nd in the nation. In school finance California received a grade of D+ from this publication. Thus, parents also need to play an important role in Buy-In as to how their child is growing in math and language arts and other subjects. Teachers need to have an open mind in listening to parent concerns with regard to how their child is being educated. All stake-

holders must help out!

One fantastic school board member said that we must not look upon decisions as “binary” and we must instead explore a wide range of possible solutions. In other words we must not be myopic (avoid cyclops thinking). The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) was in the opinion of this parent (me) hell-bent on creating revenue generation by closing schools. It was as if there was a fear of not having enough monies for the school district budget to operate in the future years. Many wonder why this committee did not explore more creative ideas presented to them by parents. Some parents commented, “they are not listening (FAC Committee) so I do not know if it pays to even go to meetings to voice opinions.” This, in my opinion, was an example a school district committee not wishing to hear voices of new ideas. Or maybe they took the time to hear public opinion but chose not to act on it with buy-in from stakeholders. In one case a parent (myself) was asked to call over to the Santa Clara County Office of Education to research if their county program might need space to open or expand an Autism Center at one of our Evergreen School sites. After many attempts with calls and e mails, the Santa Clara County Office of Education did not respond well (I got one e mail back and it said, “what do you want,”) that was it. I even re emailed and made several calls but no response came. Thus, the committee by delegating things to research to a parent outside the group did not succeed in finding out any information on the request. The FAC committee did not follow up, this caused the idea to not explored which caused the idea to die, however this same idea can if nurtured, grow again side by side with other ideas from other parents. We must never

give up on our ideas and instead consider the thoughts we try to put in place are sometimes left to lie dormant not unlike seeds scattered in a desert awaiting a rainfall. We must also know that the school board has the power to make changes occur and to ask for things to be explored. All power of leading a school district lies with the school board and the direction of the school board.

Can we create a New Tech Network High School? The elementary grade levels and middle school levels need to develop a foundation of learning. Too much project based learning and too little use of workbook/textbooks may cripple learning in my opinion. Test scores can prove this out. However, once a child goes into high school it is hoped that s/he has a grasp on all foundational state standards to have been taught in grades K-8. So, it was suggested at one FAC meeting that one elementary school could be turned into a New Tech (project based learning) High School which would allow the natural progression of all students attending Evergreen School District New Tech Network schools from grades K-8 to progress inside our school district, if so desired by their parents, to move into a New Tech High School concept (126 U.S. high schools currently operating with N.T.N). If that new project based high school was created in Evergreen with a 400 children enrollment, it would create new revenue for the district and help eliminate teacher layoffs. Why didn't the Facilities Advisory Committee explore this parent idea? Why did they just brush off idea? Why didn't they contact New Tech Network and ask for advice? Perhaps, the reason why the FAC committee got off to a bad start was composed of too many school district employees (perhaps 6/12) were the voting members. This did

not in my opinion reflect well the community at large. It may have created a lopsided VOICE in the committee which resulted in a cistern of GROUPTHINK where outside views were not welcomed well or explored.

Was the Facilities Advisory Committee representative of the community? In my opinion, too many members on the Facilities Advisory Committee worked for the school district. I think less school district employees would have helped in running the FAC. Also, it would have been good for all voting members on the FAC committee to sign a conflict of interest form. This was suggested but not embraced by Evergreen School District. The school board in my opinion should have stepped in and done much more to help in how this FAC group was run. The FAC needed a lot more help and guidance in my opinion.

One school board member publicly commented that it was not the place of any school board member to offer input to the FAC group but another school board member gave a list of 20 questions for the FAC to grapple with. It all seemed like a problem was moving forward and no one intervened, but that is my opinion and others may have a different view. I think all would agree the functioning of the FAC committee did not go well but that is my personal opinion. I do not think the district was responsive in listening and implementing the parent input well. Title One school, Dove Hill Elementary parents did not get the FAC committee to hold a meeting there (many requests were made by general public and one school board member asked this be done too) however Laurelwood parents did have a FAC meeting. Both schools were considered for repurposing and closure. So one school with the recommendation of being repur-

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Times **OpEd**

posed/closed (Laurelwood) got a public forum meeting but the other school (Dove Hill) did not. Seems like a lack of equity in my opinion (go to FAC webpage and listen to the audio of the March 14 and March 23 public hearings and decide for yourself). At one meeting a parent walked up and complained that there were no translators for Spanish speakers. Complaints are helpful for they help trail blaze new and improved ways of doing things.

Can the district office find new ways of saying “yes?” It could be that new leadership will be necessary at the district office to embrace new opportunities rather than a leaning on the easy lounging (lazy boy chair) status of the status quo. Our school board members will need to watch over and better define the word “success.” If the status quo is not working then parents may move their children out of the school district for there is a “feeding frenzy” with regard to new charter and private schools opening. Instead of thinking, “that can’t be done,” a new attitude of thinking would need to take place with open views of, “why can’t we do that?” Also, there needs to be a separate report done for the school board members on test scores for the low income segment in our school district rather than lumping all rises in test scores to the whole group. Our school district may be

composed of three separate groups, high income, middle income, and low income. We may need to carefully look at test scores for the low income students and implement vast changes. Even the State of California CAASPP review scores may be lacking in helping with analysis. The school board may need to segment all reports to find out if low income children and special education children are doing well. If high income students pull up test scores but low income children pull them down, that overall average may not reflect well the health of the school district. The low low scoring child may be hidden in the analysis. Thus three distinct segments need to be independently reviewed. The school board can mandate new analysis tools be put into effect for all to view. This will honor equity. Low performing schools, no matter how happy or well painted may need new leadership to give the low income children a fighting chance to obtain their piece of the American pie with regard to college and quality jobs.

Should the school board do more heavy lifting and honor increased oversight by parents and teachers? Some of our school board members “get it,” and are vibrantly making a positive difference in how the district is directed. Action speaks louder than words so time will tell. No longer can the school board just

sit back and let the school district run on TESLA-like cruise-control auto-drive mode. I recall one teacher impassionedly asking for help at a school board meeting with troubles with running a combination class. I saw lots of talking by the school board but in the end, over months, in my opinion, no action was taken. In my opinion, the answer was to provide the teacher ten new laptop computers so that the teacher could shift from teaching one grade level from time to time (this involved spending of monies). The problem was in my opinion, a lack of monies to do so. The take away is, after lots of school board talk, the teacher who I think was emotionally asking for help in a public way because of not getting the help at the school level, was in my opinion, not helped by our school board well. So, the solution involved spending more monies. Such avenues of choice may be eroding and more monies need to be garnered to help school districts. Also, the school board must figure out how to help people better who come to the podium for help or concerns.

New fangled schools suck monies from budget; In the expansion of our Evergreen School District building two new middle schools on existing school sites called New Tech Network schools in the opinion of this parent, pulled monies away from existing model

schools (Lobo School of Innovation, Bulldog Tech and Katherine R. Smith Elementary). Instead of calling those who oversee the two middle schools Principals, they are called “Site Directors.” This means we pay more monies to hire extra job positions (it is like we run two separate schools on one site). Also these project based learning schools suck up the monies for laptop carts and other needs. All of the existing schools in the opinion of this parent suffered with less and less annual budgets to work when Evergreen opened up newfangled project based schools (kind of like charters but not considered as such). The project based schools of innovation called New Tech Network should have been funded with grants and other monies instead of pulling and draining the school district general fund dollars away from the traditional school classrooms in this parent’s opinion. The teachers across the Evergreen School District have had to do more with a lot less for many years, again in my opinion. I think the teachers have not complained and are stoic about this pulling of funds away from their traditional schools. The school board members did not hear the silent sucking sounds of the need for monies in opening up new ventures of schools within schools and with a limited district budget in my opinion. Also, new

hiring of new positions drain the school district budget if new fangled schools are opened in my opinion. In some cases parcel tax monies were spent on computers in the past for the new schools when such expenditures should have, in my opinion needed to be spread out with deeper equity so that all schools have the same computer time for students during the year. My idea was to end New Tech Network schools and instead have all schools have a New Tech Network prep time or elective classes in elementary and middle schools. Schools within schools chip away at equity in my opinion and segregate populations of children (can you visualize some kids carrying around a laptop all day while other students (peers) do not use one very much during the week).

Administration and school board members will need to get out of the way and listen to the teachers and parents and then act (make changes). It is not enough to be quiet, nod and then do nothing if a parent or stakeholder has a gripe. They will need to visit the schools with unannounced visits to see firsthand what is going on. What if one new concept project based learning school does not use textbooks much, should not the school board ask why? What if one school decided to no longer assign home-

*See ESD BUDGET, next page*



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Times Op Ed

ESD Budget

*Continued from previous page*  
work in a school wide way. Should not the school board investigate this to ensure equity and protect the welfare of all children. I believe that all math and language arts textbooks need to be used at least 50 percent. That means if a teacher does not like a math program and or language arts program and that teacher does not wish to use it at least 50 percent of the time, then the school board needs to be kept informed so new textbook adoptions can take place. What if new fangled schools decide to not use textbooks much and what if 50% of a textbook is no longer utilized in some classrooms. Such actions, if true, in my opinion, will impede equity for all children in a public school district in my opinion. The teacher is not to create the music, buy the instrument, set up for the performance, conduct the song and grade the work over time. The textbooks are to carry the load of following all state standards.

Does videotaping public meetings create positive synergy? It's is a new day and age where transparency is being used to help the children and their futures. Nothing is to be hidden, everything is out in the open. Board Docs now allows any stakeholder to go to our school district website and to read any document. More eyes on issues help to make things work better. However even today, some school board meetings called "conversations" are not audio taped. One parent told me that they wanted all school board meetings to be audio taped. The parent expressed that when a school board member was sick, that school board member too can be benefited by audio listening to the "conversation" meeting they missed. Why does Evergreen School District not have a policy of audio taping all posted school board meetings?

New Energy Tax can bookend teacher salary parcel tax; It was intelligently stated by one school board member at a videotaped District 8 Community round table that California is the only state in our U.S.A. that does not have an energy extraction tax...and that though has been proposed many times, it seems to be a third rail for politicians (meaning they are avoiding bringing up the taxable subject) but maybe with enough pressure we can get that and have a certain amount of that money involved for education. This very important comment was audiotaped and that taping allowed it to be typed here for all to read. This is a hard example of the value of videotaping public meetings for by having lots of people watch, it creates a dynamic synergy of change.

It takes activism to explore if we can gather up matching monies for all parcel taxes from any future energy extraction tax. Our governor may be inclined to sign such a bill. Transparency brings about equity to children of all economic levels.

Transparency helps create positive change in our world. The advent of the computer and websites rule over hidden agendas! This is why audio taping public Brown Act meetings and videotaping them are of such value! Information is power.

Will the creating of a grant writer position pay for itself in six months or less? We got great wealth in our valley and wonderful people who make donations. We must begin to crack open the shell of finding out how we can better gain funding and support the inevitable requested salary raises by the teacher union. There is a need for grant writer but our school board has not acted. We could cut the job of the district communication director and make grant writing a job requirement too. We have too small of a school district to have a full time director of communication. The job responsibilities of communication should fall under the tasks of the superintendent. The school board must lead in making changes. Time will not allow us to sit back and let things lie. Due to decreased enrollment in the smaller schools, one principal will now need to run two schools at the same time, other school districts do this.

Surveys are needed to accurately measure the pulse of the things that are wanted by parents and teachers and all other stakeholders. Such surveys can be hijacked and buffered by district office leaders so it is important that the school board also carefully oversee the wording of the surveys and ensure they are all done with privacy. The school board will need to micro manage more because things must be done just right. More oversight is needed. Surveys need to achieve a true VOICE being heard on a school board directed inquiry by the intended stakeholder(s). We must make the surveys really matter and have meaning! The way a school board and district office functions and operates is a mirror of how healthy a school district is to be.

Should the school board be paid for working an extra hour and also some Saturdays? A suggestion was made for all future school board meetings to have a mandatory one hour work session with various topics of concern so that vast issues can be spoke about in open session before the 6:30 school board meetings. More time is needed for the school board to lead on issues of concern. Let it be known to all parents that the school board can't meet to go over the vast things that need fixing at the school district unless they call a meeting (they are not allowed to have coffee and have lunch while all together and speak on all issues due to the Brown Act). Only having one meeting once a month is not sufficient. A lot of changes need to occur so more board member time in meetings need to happen. More meetings need to take place and more workshops too, so as a TEAM the school board members can steer the ship of learning and scrape off the barnacles that impede child, teacher, par-

ent and administrator happiness. Also, learning and happiness are both important so it is not good to just be happy and not learn too much.

The need for closing/repurposing Laurelwood Elementary and Dove Hill Elementary can be avoided with the use of creative ideas, thinking and effort by the community as nurtured by our school board members. Remember, the school board members are the decision makers not the superintendents of school districts. The school board members are to set the course on how and where we go.

I wish to thank some of the school board members for leading and being open to transparency and actively trying to lead in ways that direct the superintendent rather than letting any superintendent direct the school board. It takes more work but it is what is Godly for the children to expect this from the school board.

To e-mail the five Evergreen School Board members with your wonderful ideas and input, go to TRUSTEES on the school district website. They welcome stakeholder input and read all e mails.

Shiver me timbers, can ye help steer the ship of learning Here ye, Here ye. Too often in the past, our Evergreen School District some district office leaders or those paid by the district who come before the podium often speak like actors from a Johnny Depp Pirates of the Caribbean movie as though they were representing the British Realm or Empire and I mean many district office workers and paid consultants and such, not just one or two. This has to change and we must move to speaking down and dirty and managing the school district in ways that are easy to understand and work for all stakeholders. Grappling with issues in public is a messy business but helps to root out problems and vanquish them. Data must be used to measure learning and that is called testing. The school board must do this... every time a parent or teacher comes to the podium with a problem, that problem will need to be addressed and follow up will need to take place. In my opinion, often stakeholders have voiced problems but no action was taken. So, more quick action needs to be taken by the school board in my opinion. Brave teachers do speak out and it is sad when lots of discussion takes place but in the long run, nothing is done to change the original complaints. Often, silence rules the day!

Due to budget challenges this school district will need to sail with new courses of action. Ahoy! You may want to help rewrite the navigation chart with the school board

captains and the wonderful hard working crew of teachers and classified workers. Let's pass a new large parcel tax and come up with other funding to create breathing room for our school district budget! Let's open a new hands-on project based High School and when we become a K-12 school district we can change our name.

The Evergreen School District of Silicon Valley; Currently for the state of California our school district is labeled, Evergreen Elementary School District", so it's time for us to reinvent ourselves and shed our status quo. Let's change our school district name to The Evergreen School District of Silicon Valley.



The Generals of change. To transform our Evergreen School District, to make it better for all children and other stakeholders perhaps we need to implement new ideas. Perhaps many administration workers and school board members will need to work harder to meet the direction and guidance of what the 5 school board members want. The school board members are the leaders. They are

the generals so to speak, of change. These five elected school board members decide where and how the district is to go and operate in its future. The easy road is to close/repurpose a school or two, but it is recently found that if this is done the school that has first dibbs in the future is perhaps a charter school (if legislation passes). Perhaps we can find new monies and be able to dual purpose some schools and lease out part of a school for other uses. It could be that some committees in our school district are not truly embracing new ideas of parents and teachers and could perhaps be acting in closed minded ways. If a decision maker group is perceived to be myopic-minded by some stakeholders, those stakeholders may choose the road of silence. If a person does not speak their view and if a decision maker chooses not to give the idea weight, then new ideas of change will be hindered. With current unrest of immigration issues in our society the school board must find ways to tactfully and kindly hear the second language parent views on all things for many may live in fear of attending meetings. The school board will also need improve in how it does it's business of leadership and find ways to tap teacher and parent input in non-filtered ways. To bring about new changes the school board must micro manage things more. It is now seen that to their credit some school board members are indeed doing this.

I remember attending a Facilities Advisory Committee public meeting this year where one of the vot-

ing members said... paraphrasing, if a school closes the kids can have a repurposing party (closing party)... I thought to myself, I do not think that is very innovative thinking and I spoke out about the absurdity of such an idea. Those are my opinions. What are yours?

Try School Digger. There are 5,621 Elementary Schools in California according to School Digger (to find out more about your school just do a web search (SCHOOL DIGGER and your school name). Each school has learning data which plays a role in determining what things might need to be done for needed improvement. One elementary school in our district ranked 5,276 out of 5,621 schools in California and there is a sign on the front of the school that says "Exemplar" school. If that school is using the adjective "exemplar" to describe the school and data shows it's ranking lies at 5,276 out of 5,621 schools in California then we must figure out what about it is exemplar. In today's times, we must now ask why schools are given such accolades with wall mounted shiny signs. I think we must be wary of such fancy words to describe how we are sailing the ship of learning in all of the Evergreen School District schools.

Individual student testing data is premier; However, there are many educational leaders in California who will tell you this is wrong and other factors will need to be used for gaging a child's mastery in education. This elementary school referred to earlier, by looking at CAASPP math score facts, owns one of the worst performing test score results across all grade levels when compared to all schools in California yet there is a sign prominently displayed in front of it that say "exemplar school." Ten miles away, another elementary school that is run by our school district is ranked 62 out of 5,621 schools in California but there is no sign out front that says "exemplar school." Wikipedia defines "exemplar" as; a person, a place, an object, or some other entity that serves as an excellent example of a given concept. I define a school as being exemplar if it is one of the highest CAASPP (this is a yearly state test) scoring schools in all of California. I guess even the word "performance" has many definitions in year 2017 with regard to ranking of how schools are performing. What does it all mean? It means that even the definition of the word "education" is changing in year 2017. Grade inflation at some schools could exist. The meaning of one word for one person may not match the conversational word for another. Test data in my opinion is king, however our state of California school system is now using many factors of analysis for a new "dashboard" as to how each school operates. Thus exemplar is taking on a new meaning.

While we cannot expect the low income schools to be in parity with the high income schools, we must begin to find ways to bridge equity



## Times Op Ed

of learning to ensure all children will be able to have their piece of the American pie. What if one low income school decided to do away with homework, would this be fair to the children if all the other schools mandated homework? It is all up to the five school board members to take additional time (have additional hour before all school board meetings) to explore, discuss, and bring equity to all children, parents, teachers and school site administrators. A lot of change needs to take place in years ahead to handle equity and ensure learning is taking place well for the low income children and those children with disabilities in the opinion of this parent. I think with a proper call to action our school board can make new valiant and positive changes. We must harness meaningful parent and teacher input with use the Comer School Doctrine (see website) of a no fault no retaliation comment policy for all. The time for change is now. However, all change must be measured with test score progress and those scores need to be put on the report cards. We need to bring back benchmarks for math on all report cards with mandated use of curriculum maps. The school board will need to mandate uniformity. All math and language arts adopted products not used more than 50% (if teachers do not like the workbooks, get a new math program for them) will need to be thrown out by the school board. A new \$400 parcel tax to help us gain momentum and achieve educational parity across the divides of earned income houses and apartment buildings. We need to look and honor test data to measure quality individual independent student knowledge across the entire school district so that there will not be any educational divides from school to school.

School board members must also be more responsive to quickly implementing positive changes. It's as though if a parent speaks out for change for their pre-teen child they may only see such changes after their child has graduated from high school and is married with three children. An outside company was hired by the district to analyze the budget and offer advice but in my opinion, advice from hired companies seem not to be followed well by district leaders. This is why we must honor testing and test data to see how a child is mastering their learning on an individual basis.

I challenge the Teacher's Union, the Superintendent and the school board (as a team) to write an OpEd for the Evergreen Times. Let's not let silence rule the day.

Reader, if you have a passionate opinion, submit your views to the paper by e mail. Studies show if you remain quiet no one will know what you think.

Kevin Larsen, a non-exemplar parent, lives in the Evergreen School District and is a member of La Vos (The Voice) Parent group.

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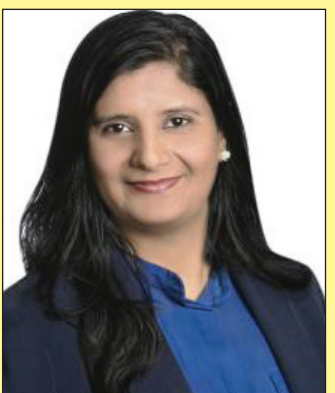
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