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DECEMBER 2017 ■ VOL. 13, NO. 12

Willow Glen Times

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SPORTS WINNERS - Willow Glen Student-Athletes were selected by the BVAL coaches as All-League members of their respective sports. The young men and women representing Willow Glen High School in excellence in sports are as follows: Boys and Girls League Champions; State Finalists Field Hockey 1st Team All League **Quincy Strasilla, Sr.**, Midfield 2nd Team All League **Hayley Piazza, Sr.**, Forward Football **Connell Ryans, Sr.**, Most Valuable Player **Waking Bailey, Sr.**, Most Outstanding Utility 1st Team **Lorenzo Gayles, Sr.**, Quarterback **Anthony Barba, Sr.**, Offensive Line **Gilbert Pizarro, Sr.**, Defensive Back **Alex Garcia, Sr.**, Offensive Line 2nd Team All League **Dylan Pruitt, So.**, Defensive Lineman **Nathan Fuentes, Sr.**, Defensive Lineman **Jacob Soria, Jr.**, Defensive Back **Aaren Zamora, Sr.**, Offensive Lineman **Stephen Neary, Jr.**, Linebacker Girls Volleyball **Katie Carley** - Most Valuable Player **Whitley Moody** - Sophomore of the Year **Charlie Martin** - Freshman of the Year 1st Team All League **Jada Sealy, Sr.**, Middle **Kamryn Oxenford, Sr.**, Outside Hitter 2nd Team All League **Nataly Weir, Sr.**, Libero Boys Water Polo **Jason Arita** - Most Valuable Player **Grant Chiponis** - Senior of the Year 1st Team All League **Jamison Evans, Jr.**, Utility **Connor Brobst, Sr.**, Utility 2nd Team All League **Zach Dietz, Jr.**, Driver **Jack Carlson, Jr.** Utility Girls Water Polo **Ailish Hutchings** - Senior of the Year 1st Team All League **Grace Smith, So.**, Goalie **Caitlin Meusel, So.**, Utility 2nd Team All League **Leah Chiponis, Fr.**, Driver.

Willow Glen High's Ryans named MVP of Santa Teresa Division

The Blossom Valley Athletic League announced the post-season top award winners for all three football divisions.

Among the winners is Willow

Glen High School senior Connell Ryans who is named MVP of the Santa Teresa Division, after leading the Rams to a 5-2 record in league play.

Ryans caught 38 passes for 487 yards and 12 touchdowns, and also ran for 243 yards and a score.



Messiah sing-along held December 18

The audience becomes the choir for Schola Cantorum, Silicon Valley's 51st annual sing-along of Handel's Messiah, Monday, December 18 at 7:30 pm. From treasured arias to the "Hallelujah" chorus, this crowd-pleaser, with a 25-piece chamber orchestra led by Music Director Gregory Wait, is the Bay Area's oldest annual Messiah Sing. Bring your own score, or borrow one at the door. The event will be held at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View. Tickets at 650-903-6000, or www.MVCPA.com.

Jenna Ryan wins first place in InnovateHER Challenge National Competition

By William Bellou
Publisher

A new approach is taking shape to help women fight urinary tract infections which focuses on prevention instead of treatment.

Jenna Ryan, CEO and co-founder of Uqora, a women's health company dedicated to UTI (urinary tract infection) prevention, is the winner of the first place award in the 2017 InnovateHER Challenge.

Ryan, a native of Almaden Valley and a graduate of Leland High School (class of 2008), was presented the award by Linda McMahon, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C. on October 26. With the award, Ryan also received a check for \$40,000 on behalf of Uqora, LLC. Uqora is based in San Diego, CA.

impact on the lives of women and families and in the marketplace. This was the third annual Business Challenge sponsored by the SBA and Sara Blakely Foundation for companies that create positive outcomes in the lives of women.

"Uqora gives women the defense they need against the bacteria that causes urinary tract infections (UTIs), keeping them out of the doctor's office and off antibiotics,"



Jenna Ryan, CEO and co-founder of Uqora

The first place prize was due to the result of the introduction of Uqora, a new preventive drink-mix that gives women a way to flush out UTI-causing bacteria in the bladder when they're most at risk. The product has a nice taste, similar to pink lemonade.

InnovateHER Challenge is the SBA's nationwide live-pitch competition highlighting pioneering products, services, and technologies developed by visionary entrepreneurs. Winners are determined by the measurable

said Ryan. "Cranberry juices and extracts have been officially named ineffective by the American Medical Association. The prevention space is antiquated, and we're very excited to bring an effective, multi-layered approach to this enormous problem," stated Ryan.

"We're out to change that"

"UTIs are incredibly common—actually the second most common infection in the United States," explained Ryan. "Despite the magnitude of the problem, the focus has always been disproportionately

See RYAN, page 3

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Paid for by City of San Jose

Eagle Scout project solicits help from community

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

In Evergreen as well as throughout the world the Boy Scout oath is held in high regard. It is made up of three promises: duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to self.

Evergreen resident, Arnav Bhau, has established his Eagle Scout project for troop 264 of Evergreen Valley. The Boy Scout project reflects his vision of working with nonprofit organizations, such as Community Seva.

He is leading a winter backpack drive for the underprivileged and homeless and the collection of toys and board games for children.

Bhau's project includes a winter backpack drive for the underprivileged and homeless and the collection of toys and board games for children.

Bhau's project is underway and approved by his troop leaders and his volunteer team has already distributed a donation of about 500 items at one of the shelters. He has two more distribution days coming up. Busy time for the 15 year old Bellarmine student!

"Our team of scouts and volunteers will be fundraising, ordering, collecting, storing, and assembling backpacks full of goods," said Arnav. "Multiple separate items will be added to the backpacks such as blankets, beanies, gloves, towels, socks, rain ponchos, a personal hygiene care kit that includes; toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, and body lotion along with a donated food. 100 percent of what is donated goes directly to the project."

"I appreciate everyone's help," states Arnav. "Let's come together for this cause and spread generosity in our community! Any monetary donations that you make



to help the cause will only be used to serve the homeless individuals and needy and under privileged kids in our area. When we think about all that we have, there are people out there that don't have a home or money to buy things that we all take for granted. It has gotten to the point where some people in our community can't afford blankets to stay warm. We have the ability to do something about it! That being said, if this project even helps one needy individual, I will feel lucky!"

If you wish to donate used toys, books, and board games, you can email Bhau: arnav.bhau1014@gmail.com. The volunteer team will come and collect items from your location. Additionally, the team is in talks with local businesses where donation boxes will be placed for convenient drop offs.

Editor's Note: Arnav's proposal has gone through many rounds of approval by the Boy Scout Scoutmasters and Review team. Here is the link to learn more as to how to support his caring Eagle Scout Project; communityseva.org/arnaveagleproject. Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

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SYMPHONY SILICON VALLEY Chorale



PHOTO OP A lunar delight

FULL MOON OVER EVERGREEN VALLEY – This incredible photo was taken about 10 hours after the total full moon, on Sunday, Dec. 3. The photograph was shot with a Nikon D7500 DLSR, 400mm (Tamron 18-400), f/7.1, 1/640, ISO 200. Photo by Frank Langben

Times Feature



InnovateHER winner **Jenna Ryan** poses with judges and officials from the Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C.

Ryan

Continued from page 1 placed on treatment instead of prevention. We're out to change that."

Uqora was picked as the top winner of 10 finalists out of 120 semi-finalists nationwide.

Ultimately, Uqora won the challenge based on the following criteria: Has a measurable impact on the lives of women and families (30 percent); has the potential for commercialization (40 percent); and fills a need in the marketplace (30 percent).

The national finalists presented a live marketing pitch before a panel of judges to compete for the top three awards totaling \$70,000 in prize money, provided by the Sara Blakely Foundation.

Collaboration with molecular biology graduate

Ryan collaborated with her boyfriend, Spencer Gordon, a molecular biology graduate from UC Berkeley in 2015. Together, with the help of urologists, they crafted a beverage mix that could save women and some men from having to deal with the pain and annoyance of recurrent bladder infections.

"We were in a beta product launch period for about a year, and then paused operations while we reformulated, rebranded and prepared for scale. We then fully launched Uqora earlier this year," explained Ryan.

Ryan and Gordon pooled \$65,000 in financing from friends and family, and officially went live with Uqora in February 2017. The end result is Uqora, a powder mixed with water that tastes like pink lemonade that women can drink daily or on a targeted basis.

The formula includes D-Mannose, vitamin B6, vitamin C and electrolytes. Collectively, the active ingredients are designed to flush bacteria from the system and boost immune system function. Ultimately, the caffeine-free, sugar-free beverage add-in, according to Ryan, acts as a defense mechanism against UTI-causing bacteria. "The Uqora formula success is based on proven clinical trials," Ryan said. "Uqora's active ingredients have shown a significant reduction in UTI incidence in controlled studies. From our own surveys, 75 percent of our customers report that they haven't had a UTI since drinking Uqora.

Ryan attended Almaden Schools

Ryan's family moved to Almaden in 1987. She attended Almaden Schools, Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle School, and Leland High School. "One of the best things I did at Leland was enrolling in Speech and Debate with Gay Brasher," said Ryan. "I love public speaking, and speech and debate played no small role in that! Gay Brasher has built such an incredible program at Leland—she makes learning a very applicable skill set really fun."

Uqora can be purchased direct on the Uqora website and the product is also available through Amazon.

For more information, visit the Uqora website: www.uqora.com.



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VTA brings back historic Holly Trolley for holidays

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is bringing back the historic "Holly Trolley" for the holiday season.

Jump on board and spread joy across downtown San Jose as you and the family ride for free on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 31.

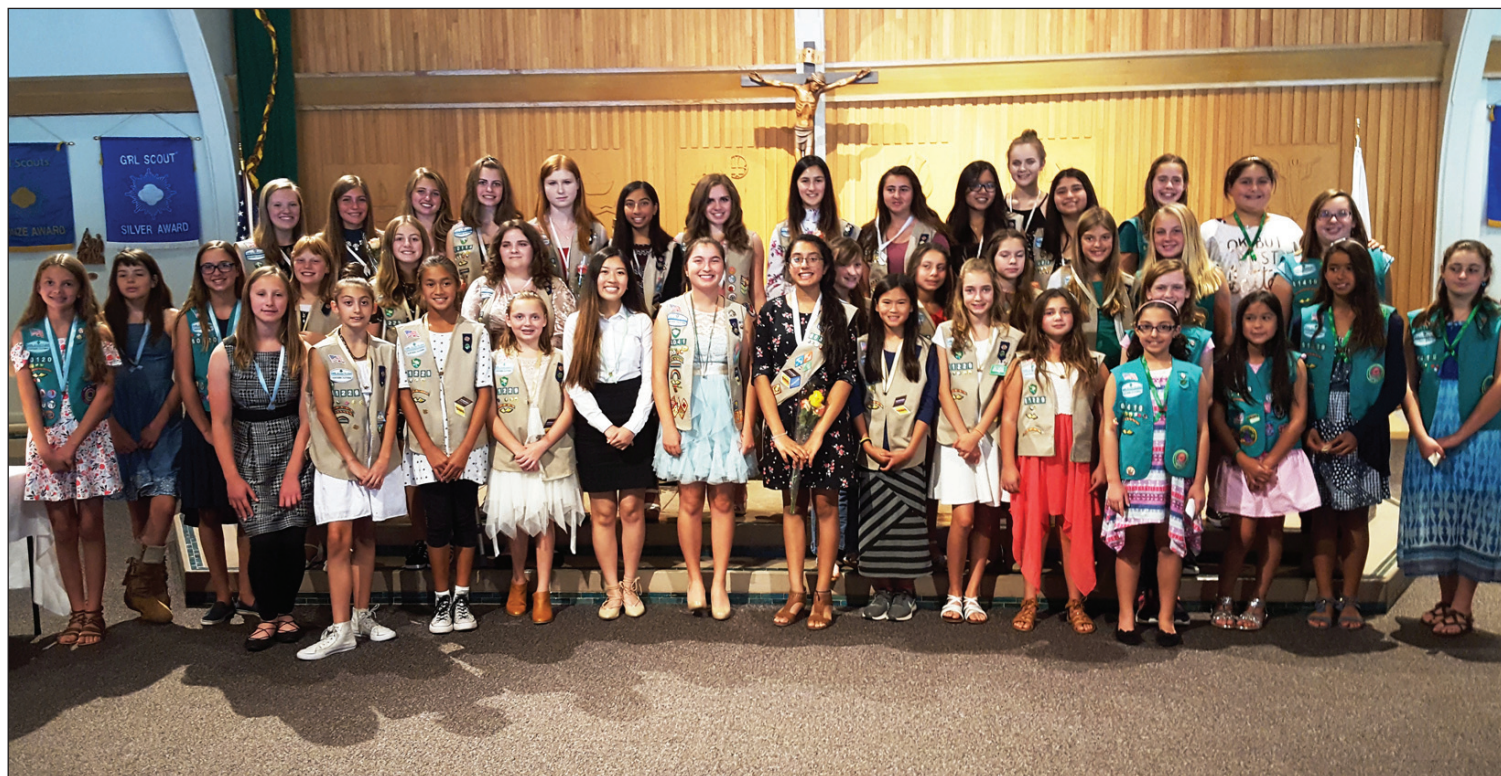
The trolley operates approximately every hour from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday nights and from 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays between the Civic Center and San Jose Diridon Light Rail Stations, weather permitting.

Make VTA a part of your family's holiday tradition and ride the trolley to and from Christmas in the Park, Downtown Ice or any of your downtown holiday destinations.

Editor's note: The Holiday Trolley will not be in service on December 17 and December 24 due to Levi's Stadium events.

Valley Currents

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



Girl Scouts honored for their service to the community

By Marianne Bristol
Special to the Times

The mission statement of Girl Scouts is building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

At a recent celebration, 45 Girl Scouts who earned their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award and any Scouts who achieved 10 years of service received awards. These are the highest awards a Girl Scout can earn which puts into practice the leadership, confidence and courage learned through Scouting.

Nicole Stadelman and My Hoang were honored for achieving the highest honor of Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. My Hoang who attends Leland High School and volunteers at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, collected supplies from businesses and individuals to assemble chemotherapy care kits for her project. Stadelman addressed the shortage of milkweed which has contributed to a decrease in the monarch butterfly population. To help combat this, she grew and distributed 1061 milkweed plants to people in over 40 cities.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Scout can earn. Megha Karthik earned her award for the School Bullying Stops Here project.

The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Karen Fricke,

Isabella Kolano, Nila Mettler, Sonoma Mulvihill, and Lauren Todoroff earned the award for the Art Boxes for Caring project. Gianna Butera, Stephanie Crone, Fiona Entzminger, Gabriella Franks, Sarah Hernandez, Ariana Ramos, Lynette Rondeau, Bonnie Stottleyer, and Sophia Stumpf earned the Bronze award for their Make New Friends Inspirational Art Wall. The Bronze award for the kids' Hospital Happiness project was earned by Natalie Burrill, Katelyn Chervenka, Aralyn Connolly, Hannah Dudum, Samantha Hoyt, Alyssa Keller, Makaila Khanna, Aliana Liu, Simonne Marshall, Allyson Meek Pierce, Mackenzie Osborn, Sophia Paulazzo, Caroline Sarringhaus, and Bethany Tate.

The following Girl Scouts achieved 10 years of service: Catherine Roberts, Kaylan Tate, Gia Tudish, Clara Graves, Jenna Holsen, Indrea Goyal, Annabel Klaben, Brianna Smith, Kaylynn Truong, Angelique Armenta, Sofie Gmerek, Tatiana Kohlbrenner-Rios, and Ariel Syrkin.

The ceremony concluded by recognizing the adult volunteers who support the Service Unit programs and the volunteers who support the individual troops. Everyone then rededicated their service to the Girl Scout program, which helps make the community a better place to live.

Gas prices fall 2.4 cents

Average retail gasoline prices in San Jose have fallen 2.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.14 per gallon this week, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 427 gas outlets in San Jose.

Including the change in gas prices in San Jose during the past week, prices yesterday were 48.1 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 2.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago.

The national average has decreased 6.4 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 28.4 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on December 4 in San Jose have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.66/g in 2016, \$2.64/g in 2015, \$3.02/g in 2014, \$3.52/g in 2013 and \$3.63/g in 2012.



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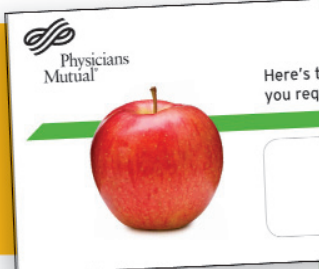
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DODGE CA 2018 RC RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,000
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DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,250
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114 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

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222 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

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Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), Flash (Ezra Miller), and Aquaman (Jason Momoa) form the new Justice League. Photo: Warner Bros.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Justice League

★★★★☆
By Steven Leonard
Times Movie Reviewer

Man kind doesn't deserve Wonder Woman, but boy are we glad she's here anyway.

After stealing the show in *Batman V Superman* and captivating the world in her solo film, *Wonder Woman* (Gal Gadot) is back! This time around, she's helping Bruce Wayne assemble his team of metahumans to fight against an impending invasion.

Gal Gadot's last film was *Wonder Woman* and it was one of my favorite films. *Justice League* is not in the same league as her solo *Wonder Woman*, but don't get me wrong, Gal Gadot as *Wonder Woman* was just as exciting in this film. The film is leagues better than last summer's ragtag villain team up "*Suicide Squad*" and superior to "*Batman V Superman*".

One of my favorite scenes was when Aquaman accidentally sits on Wonder Woman's Lasso of Truth and he tells her against his will that she's a smoking hot babe and her face blushes bright red. I'd have to agree with his embarrassing remarks towards her.

Justice League is flawed...but its flaws are outweighed by some welcome levity and some genuine conversation between Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman, and Cyborg. The film is fun and the extent of that fun lies with its main array of superhero characters. They're great to watch on their own and together, but the film's super villain doesn't do anything for them.

The league is united fighting a super villain (a Big Bad Steppenwolf) who has no real purpose, plot, or motive for destroying the planet or humanity. The *Justice League* needed a worthy villain and plot to

fight against in this film.

This movie should have put out an advertisement in newspapers requesting a worthy adversary for this *Justice League* movie. Actually, the movie would have been a better with a villain, and rather focusing on the league's chemistry between each other with some romance on the side. I would have enjoyed seeing a bunch of super heroes sitting around cracking jokes, waiting for their next super villain to arrive, flirting non-stop with Wonder Woman and Lois Lane with some expensive wine and flowers; bought and paid for by the super-rich Bruce Wayne. We are reminded many times during the film that Bruce has no real super powers except that he's rich, drives fancy cars, and has some really cool lethal gadgets.

If I had a chance to interview the super villain (a Big Bad Steppenwolf) about why he wanted to destroy mother Earth or humanity his answer would probably go something like this, "I don't really know. I never thought about it. No one has ever asked me that question before!" while scratching his head.

Try as he might — and you can see his influence — not even "*Avengers*" director Joss Whedon could save the league from a silly story and a sillier CG villain. Whedon came on board to finish the film after director Zack Snyder stepped down after his daughter's death earlier this year and shares a writing credit in the final movie. This film would have been much better in the hands of Patty Jenkins, the female director for last year's favorite DC solo film *Wonder Woman*.

It's little surprise that Gal Gadot once again steals nearly every scene in which she's included. A bank robbery scene with her early on isn't needed, but it's among the movie's highlights as it reminds audiences why they fell in love with her in the first place. Thankfully, she's not the only hero who will win audiences over. There is a "reveal" superhero that shows up later in the film and I was glad to see in action again, but not surprised.

The takeaway from this entire saga should be that if studios are going to aim for surprise reveals, they need to make the effort to actually keep the secret, and ensure that whatever is unveiled is worth it.

Times Local News

WINTER WOES

Avoid costly repairs with these winter maintenance must-dos

Failure to prepare your home for the upcoming winter months can have dire consequences on your wallet, as well as pose a safety hazard for others.

Even those in warmer climates will want to be careful this time of year: Everyone can benefit from an annual maintenance tune-up, and even in the South a winter frost can come as a nasty surprise.

Fortunately, there are some relatively easy preventative measures you can implement in the fall months to help ensure a smooth winter. The list below provides a few of the low-cost measures you can take now that will save you from the hassles of repairs and from the cost of winter issues.

Clean roof gutters

If your home has gutters you need to make sure that you inspect how they are attached to the roof and that they are clear of debris. You want to make sure no dams or clogs are created. The best time to check is after all the fall leaves have dropped and then again during the spring thaw. Cleaning the drains will help ensure that the drains do not get ripped off from the roof and that water will not back up, which can cause a leaky roof.

Remove foliage and potential tree hazards

Trees and foliage provide great shade for your home in the summer and help keep the heat at bay. However, you want to make sure that you do not have branches and other foliage over your roof or potentially covering electric lines, cable, gas or any

other cables you may have running to your home. It is easiest to trim back or remove any potential problems in the fall. Snow on branches can weigh them down and potentially cause utility problems or even roof damage.

Inspect your furnace. Winter typically requires the use of a heater. Schedule an inspection of your furnace to make sure it is venting properly and will not be obstructed by winter weather. Check and/or replace your carbon monoxide alarms, which is a low-cost fix that may just save your life.

Dryer exhaust

Much like your furnace, inspect your dryer vent. Make sure no lint is backing up the exhaust and that winter weather will not cause any issues. A backed-up exhaust can lead to house fires.

These few safety precautions will help ensure that the winter months pass safely and that your home is protected. Take a few minutes and make your home as safe as possible for you and your family.

Winterize outdoor spigots

As the temperatures start to dip below freezing, any water that is exposed to the lower temperatures will freeze. When water freezes, it expands; water left in a hose has nowhere to expand to. The copper piping that feeds the water to the hose will eventually split because of this expansion. The easy fix here is to remove all the hoses and make sure that there is no water left in them. Also, for more protection, you can place a foam box over the spigot.



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Times **Feature**

Fantasy of Lights returns to brighten holiday season

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

You're going to "ooh and aah" throughout your adventure.

Fantasy of Lights will be lighting up Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos over the holiday season once again for its 19th cherished season.

Friends and family members drive-thru the holiday light show or bundle up and stroll through on foot to witness 1.5 miles of animated light displays up close and personal.

Two "Walk-through magic nights" take place

The Walk-thru nights are set for the week-end of Saturday, December 2 and Sunday,



December 3 from 4 pm. to 9 p.m.

Drive-thru nights run from December 5 through December 30 (closed December 25, Christmas Day) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Whether you are on foot or in your vehicle, visitors will be dazzled by thousands of twinkling lights in large animated displays. See Santa shooting hoops, a pen of playful penguins, cannons blazing into the night, a tunnel of moving lights, a den of dinosaurs, a 90-foot twinkling tree and more.

Santa won't miss this

The Walk-thru weekend includes international food and beverages by Moveable Feast, costumed characters, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus and a holiday photo booth by 94.5FM KBAY (Saturday only). Visitors should bear in mind that Fantasy of Lights is a 3-mile loop making comfortable walking shoes a must! Dress warm for the night air and consider bringing a flashlight too.

There is no parking at the Walk-thru event. Free parking and shuttle service is available at Netflix, 121 Albright Way, Los Gatos. Ridesharing with Lyft or Uber is highly encouraged.

Walk-thru and Drive-thru tickets go on sale Wednesday, November 1 at www.parkhere.org. Tickets must be purchased in advance for both events. Drive-thru patrons purchase tickets by the day of entrance and an allotted time slot of arrival.

Walk-thru Pricing

\$10 adult (13 & up)

\$5 child (4 thru 12)

Free - 3 years old or younger

Drive-thru Pricing

\$20 per vehicle (up to 12 people)

\$50 oversize vehicles (capacity 13+)

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Processing fees are additional. For directions, ticketing and more information visit www.parkhere.org or call (408) 355-2201. Vasona Lake County Park is located at 333 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95037.



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

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www.ThePoint.Church 3695 Rose Terrasse 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.

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3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

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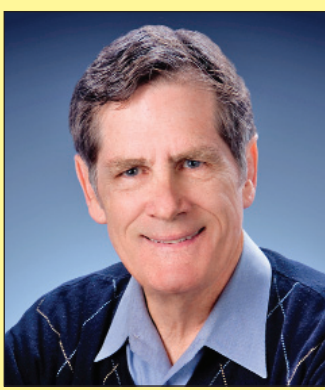
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