



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 Mid-May Newsletter

Neighbor,

It is hard to believe that May is half over and June is just around the corner. My office has been busy the last couple of weeks studying the budget and learning more about the community resources within our District.

On May 2nd, my staff and I held an in-District work session that included a tour of several parks and trails within District 10. We had a wonderful time hearing from staff members from Parks and Recreation while visiting the various parks and trails in our district and discussing future projects. A big thank you to Suzanne Wolf, Marybeth Harasz, Matt Cano and Yves Zsutty for taking the time to show us around. We then spent some time at the Almaden Community Center where we recapped the last few months, analyzed the progress we have made on behalf of District 10's residents, and outlined the work ahead.

With budget season upon us, I dedicate much of this newsletter to informing you about a few things I have been working on in regard to our City's finances. Thank you to those of you who attended our Community Budget Meeting on Tuesday, May 7th. The meeting was hosted by South Hills Community Church, whose members so graciously provided snacks and dinner for everyone who attended. Their hospitality is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Mayor Chuck Reed and city staff members for clearly presenting the budget and for answering our questions. If you were unable to attend, you still have an opportunity to learn about the proposed budget at upcoming Community Meetings in other Council districts. [For a list of the 2013 Community Budget Meetings, click here.](#)



This is my first budget process as a new San José City Councilmember. This month, the City Manager released her Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14. You can view the full budget at www.sanjoseca.gov/budget. If you would prefer to see a handy summary of the budget, you may [view the City Manager's "Budget in Brief" publication here](#).

I am pleased to report that we are not facing large deficits or making deep cuts in the budget this year. This is thanks to employee sacrifices, the thoughtful Council decision to adopt and implement a Fiscal Reform Plan, and valuable input from our residents – including their overwhelming support of Measures V, W, and B. It looks as if we will enjoy a \$10 million surplus in the current FY 2012-2013. This small surplus, along with savings generated by the city's Fiscal Reform Plan will help us to close the \$3.8 million deficit projected for FY 2013-2014 and supply funding for critical, one-time expenses such as necessary maintenance and repairs to City facilities and the replacement of generations-old technology. It also allows us to begin to restore key services and offer employees a modest pay increase. The \$3.8 million deficit represents less than one percent of the operating budget and is in stark contrast to the \$115 million deficit that was closed two years ago.

The challenge this year is to allocate available dollars effectively in order to provide core services that address the priorities of our residents while avoiding decisions that could result in future deficits. It is important to keep expectations in line with what the City can realistically and sustainably deliver. To this end, I oppose the effort you may have heard about to take \$1,000,000 and spend it on pet projects within each Council district. [You may view this proposal from Councilmember Liccardo here](#). We would be better off committing these funds to our residents' #1 priority – public safety. \$1,000,000 represents the cost of four experienced police officers.

Speaking of police officers, I am happy to report that public safety is the top priority in the budget, which includes funding for the opening of the South San Jose Police Substation, the addition of 21 Community Safety Officers, three Crime Prevention Specialists and a Crime Analyst, funding for further police officer recruiting and hiring efforts, and improvements to the SJPD's records management system. The budget also provides for four additional park rangers, two of whom are funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which is a cost-effective way of increasing safety.

The budget contains modest, targeted wage increases for City employees that are not only fair, but also sustainable. I am glad that we are not proposing to use one-time funds to make long-term commitments, which have historically added to San José's budget woes.

I am promoting a number of initiatives to save money and improve services, such as better utilizing the city's existing office space and discontinuing leases of property the City does not own. For instance, the City is paying \$140,000 a year to rent space at the Civic Center Towers on North First Street for City offices while we have vacant space here at City Hall and at other facilities. I also support investing in technology improvements that would allow for more automation in the Planning Department, expediting permitting processes for San José residents and businesses. Some of the technology I have explored can cut the processing time for permits by 3-4 hours per permit request.

I support contracting out small-tree maintenance to organizations such as the local non-profit Our City Forest. In addition, I want to revitalize the City's existing Employee Suggestion Program based on practices by other cities and by lessons learned from the City's own pilot program, in order to better leverage employee knowledge and experience so we can improve city services and processes and ultimately save more money.

I support the City finance team's ongoing efforts to reduce debt and cut the interest that the City is paying on this debt. Paying down the City's short-term and long-term loans will create ongoing savings and benefit us in the future. I, along with my colleagues on the City Council, voted unanimously to authorize the refinancing of \$382 million in bonds for the Civic Center (City Hall) and Civic Center Garage projects. This refinancing provides the City with one-time savings that will be used to pay down other City debt and save the City \$32 million over the life of the debt. About half of this savings flows to the General Fund and can be used to offset the cost of critical services.

Thank you to those of you who have been engaged in the budget process. Your input is critical to the development of a healthy, balanced budget.

On a sad note, my heart goes out to the family and friends of the young girl who was tragically hit by a car near Parkview Elementary School yesterday afternoon. Please remember to be alert and take caution when walking and driving near schools. Thank you for being safe.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. As always, feel free to contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 535-4910 with any comments or questions, visit the District 10 website at <http://sanjoseca.gov/District10> and check out my updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely,

Johnny

P.s. There are many great opportunities to serve your City while doing interesting work as a District 10 representative on a City Board or Commission. I had the rewarding experience of serving on the City's Small Business Commission and the County's Human Rights Commission. Please look for the links below for more information!

Community Needed to Respond to Fire at InnVision Shelter Displacing Homeless Women and Children

Last week a fire displaced about 50 homeless women and children at InnVision Shelter Network's (IVSN) Villa shelter in San Jose. All residents and staff are safe; no injuries or trauma were identified. The Fire Department stated that the third floor had damage from the fire, while lower floors suffered severe water damage. IVSN is requesting help from the community to recover from this disaster. IVSN's first priority is to take care for the client families' safety and well-being. The suffering of homelessness, combined with the trauma and loss of a fire, can be devastating. IVSN is committed to serving its clients with compassion and clinical care. Late into the night, IVSN staff worked in

collaboration with the American Red Cross to find alternative shelter for each family at other IVSN facilities in San Jose: the Haven fire shelter, Commercial Street Inn, and the Georgia Travis Center.

How You Can Help:

- Gift Certificates to grocery stores (Safeway) and department stores (Target, Walmart). Gift certificates can be dropped off at any IVSN facility: www.ivsn.org/donate/where
- Blankets and bedding, in addition to pillows, towels, linens, and cleaning supplies, can be dropped off at Georgia Travis Center at 297 Commercial Street, San Jose / 408-453-3124.
- Volunteer and pro-bono services are needed to fulfill a variety of needs over the coming weeks to get the Villa shelter up and running. To donate or contribute services, please contact Maria Duzon at mduzon@ivsn.org / 650-248-6766.

For more information, visit www.ivsn.org/fire or contact Maria Duzon, Associate Director of Marketing, at mduzon@ivsn.org / 650-248-6766.

Falcon Naming Contest Winners

The votes are in and the three peregrine falcon chicks born atop San Jose City Hall have been given names:

- Comet (yellow leg band, #U/50) – nominated by Dakota, Grade 1 at Hayes Elementary School, San Jose
- Orion (silver leg band, #95/S) – nominated by Nathaniel, Grade 3, Willow Glen Elementary School, San Jose
- Striker (red leg band, #90/P) –nominated by Lauren and Kathleen, Grade 4, Holly Oak Elementary School, San Jose

The falcon naming contest is sponsored by the Office of Mayor Chuck Reed, City of San Jose, and UC-Santa Cruz's Predatory Bird Research Group. This year's judges included reps from the Children's Discovery Museum, Happy Hollow Foundation and Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, the former San Jose Peregrine Falcon Alliance, Santa Clara County Office of Education, as well as Sal Pizarro from the Mercury News and our own expert biologist, Glenn Stewart, of UC-Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group. Winners will receive a commendation from the Mayor, two free passes to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo and a school assembly featuring Glenn Stewart.

[Click here to view all nine finalists' entries.](#)

The three eyasses (falcon chicks) in the 2013 nest are male falcons, called tiercels. The next step in the young peregrines' development will be fledging, or learning to fly. Trained volunteers will be on hand during Fledge Watch. Striker has already attempted to "strike out" on his own, taking off for his first adventure – or being blown off the wall surrounding the nest ledge during gusty conditions last week. He was quickly spotted on Fifth Street by residents who contacted Animal Control and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. Striker is in good health and Glenn Stewart returned him to safety on the roof of City Hall yesterday.

[Click here to view the falcons via the FalconCam.](#)



*Photo courtesy of Councilmember Khamis,
taken from his City Hall office window*

Green Energy Match Helps You Save Money and Energy

Green Energy Match (GEM) helps reduce your PG&E bill by finding wasted energy in your home. This FREE program, sponsored by the City of San José, has more than 650 households participating with an average savings of \$35 per month. [Learn more about Green Energy Match.](#)

Sign up for GEM now and you'll get specific advice based on your home's energy use. Even better, if you save 5% in the next month, you'll receive coupons for 50% off at more than a dozen San José pizza places, restaurants, and other shops -- AND every 5% saved is also an entry into a raffle to win a \$50 gift card from participating San Jose merchants in a monthly drawing.

You can also get weekly energy-saving tips and trivia (and a chance to win a \$10 gift card!) by texting ENERGY to 68398 (or ENERGIA para Espanol). *Message and data rates may apply. Maximum of 8 messages per month. You may opt out at any time by texting STOP.*

King Library In-Service Day

On Friday, May 31, 2013, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Library will be closed for a joint Staff In-Service from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Library Call Center will remain active, providing general information about library services. Our online services, such as databases, library catalog and personal account access, will also be available to customers. The King Library will re-open for business from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will post announcements to the public via the Library website homepage as well as signage in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Music in the Park Returns for 25th Anniversary Celebration

After a one-year hiatus, Music in the Park returns to celebrate its 25th anniversary with

a single concert July 19th. Grammy Award-winner Ozomatli will headline the paid admission show in St. James Park.

“We’re looking to bring back Music in the Park’s tradition of good times and great music,” said Blage Zelalich, Deputy Director, San Jose Downtown Association. “Ozomatli is the perfect band to continue this new model.”

Ozomatli’s “Embrace the Chaos” won a Grammy Award in 2002 for best Latin Rock/Alternative Album. The Los Angeles-based seven-piece band performs a mix of musical styles including Latin, rock, salsa, jazz, funk and reggae.

Music in the Park presented by Metro is from 5:30-9 p.m. Opening acts have not yet been announced. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 day of the show. Children 12-under are free when accompanied by an adult. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Free Pet Adoptions

On June 1-2, 2013, Humane Society Silicon Valley offers free pet adoptions at 901 Ames Avenue, Milpitas. This event is sponsored by Maddie’s Fund Family Foundation. For more information, [visit the Humane Society Silicon Valley website](#) or call (408) 262-2133.

District 10 Community Safety Fair Survey

On April 17th, the District 10 Council Office partnered with the San Jose Police Foundation in presenting the First Annual District 10 Safety Fair. We would love to hear your feedback on what we did well and what can be improved. Please take a moment to fill out a quick survey about the event. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

San Jose Beyond the Bell Learning Guide Available Now

A summer learning guide and online directory that allows parents to see the full range of educational resources that exist beyond their children’s schools is being made available to parents, educators and service providers in the San Jose area thanks to SJ2020, the collaborative effort to eliminate the achievement gap in local schools by the year 2020. Loaded with more than 1,000 after-school and summer programs, Beyond the Bell also offers a summer learning guide with links to articles and events to help parents support learning outside of school. [To preview the San Jose Beyond the Bell tool, click here.](#)

San Jose Public Library Summer Reading Celebration

San José Public Library presents its annual Summer Reading Celebration June 1-July

31. This year's reading celebration features more than 100 events for all ages that include live performances, activities and programs. Signing up for the reading celebration is quick, easy, free and rewarding. Books read or listened to from June 1 through July 31 will count toward program prizes. This year, all are invited to the library's systemwide kick off celebration at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library on Sunday, June 2 from 1-4 p.m. The kick-off event invites people of all ages to participate in a scavenger hunt inside the King Library and will also feature a community resource fair and plenty of live entertainment. For more information, [visit the SJPL website](#) or call (408) 808-2175.

Apply to Serve on a City Board or Commission

San Jose is seeking applicants over the next four weeks for eight city commissions that help shape policy on a variety of subjects. Commissions with vacancies to fill include Airport, Arts, Civil Service, Historic Landmarks, Library and Early Education, Parks and Recreation, Youth, and Senior Citizens. Also needing applicants is a Council Appointment Advisory Commission that screens applicants for boards and commissions. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, May 17. Applicants must be San Jose residents and if appointed would serve terms of two to four years. Those interested can [apply online for most of the commissions here](#). For more information, contact the City Clerk by e-mail at commissions@sanjoseca.gov or by calling (408) 535-1260.

District 10 Youth Commissioner Needed

Our current District 10 Youth Commissioner will be graduating, which means there is an opening for the 2013-2014 school year. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth to get involved and have a direct impact on city government. This is also a great way to earn community service hours and connect with students from other high schools around San Jose. If you know a high school student who may be interested in being a member of the San Jose Youth Commission, please contact Rayshelle for more details at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910, or [fill out the application online here](#).

The Great Gatsby Party - Fundraiser for South Valley YMCA

The Silicon Valley Networking Group invites you to attend and sponsor a charitable event on Saturday, May 25th, not to be missed – The Great Gatsby Party! They hope to raise \$50,000 at the event. Net proceeds of this event will benefit the South Valley YMCA after-school program and Silicon Valley Cares.

The South Valley YMCA after-school program is in desperate need of funding as many of the children's summer programs are at risk of being cut. Without the YMCA programs, many of the children in our communities will not have a place to go when parents go to work often at 2 to 3 jobs. Meal time is another challenge for these

youngsters as there is often no adult at home to prepare wholesome meals; some children go hungry or end up with less than adequate nutrition.

Silicon Valley Cares is an organization of women whose mission is to find the greatest need for dollars within the Silicon Valley and provide donations to non-profit agencies and organizations that benefit children, teens, homelessness, as well as funding crisis situations within Santa Clara County. Please take a moment to [view the website for further details on the organization and the upcoming fundraising event](#), The Great Gatsby Party!

Senior Nutrition Program Focus Group

Attend an upcoming focus group for seniors to make their voices heard about their menu preferences for the Senior Nutrition Program. The focus group will be held on Tuesday, May 28th at 11am at the Roosevelt Community Center located on 901 East Santa Clara Street. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with City, County, and Bateman staff to help design the menu for the coming months and to discuss any ideas they may have to improve the program. Transportation assistance can be directed to PRNS staff member Molly Medeiros. Interested participants are asked to contact her at (408) 535-3579 by Friday, May 24th.

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