



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 Mid-August Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

It is hard to believe that summer vacation has come to a close and the kids are back to school. I wish all of our students, teachers, administrators, support staff, coaches, and parents a safe and fruitful school year! When taking office, I was told that things usually slow down a bit during the summer months, but my office has been busier than ever organizing events, assisting constituents, and looking for innovative ways to make District 10 and our City an even better place to live.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 6th, several neighborhoods in District 10 hosted National Night Out events. I had the pleasure of attending several of these functions, and each one was unique. In Almaden, I visited a few quaint, block party-style gatherings, with neighbors coming together to share stories, food, and drinks. In the Playa Del Rey neighborhood, Bob Vonderwerth and Richard Lazarowich hosted a fantastic event with a steady crowd of about 75 people throughout the night, enjoying popcorn and snow cones and the company of their neighbors. I was joined there by Johnny Gogo from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office, and representatives from Assemblymember Paul Fong's and Senator Jim Beall's offices.





The largest gathering in San Jose was the National Night Out event for the Hoffman-Via Monte Neighborhood. Like I stated in my last newsletter, I was very excited that this event was one of only four in the nation to be sponsored by Target Corp. I anticipated great things for this event, and my expectations were greatly exceeded. With appearances by Gigante from the San Jose Giants, Q from the Earthquakes, and Bulls Eye from Target, it is no wonder there were over 600 people in attendance. We gave away more than 300 backpacks, stuffed full of school supplies, to neighborhood children. Another highlight was when Target presented Acting Police Chief Larry Esquivel with a donation of \$3500 toward the SJPD's Crime Prevention Unit.

With such a phenomenal event, I must extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of those who made it happen. Thank you to lead sponsor Target Corp., Cornerstone Community Church, Almaden Hills United Methodist Church, South Valley YMCA, and Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley for sponsoring the event. I am grateful to Good Karma Bicycles whose volunteers provided complimentary bicycle repairs and to Sunday Friends who hosted a bike safety clinic. Thank you, as well, to Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Vice-Mayor Madison Nguyen, Independent Police Auditor, Judge Ladoris Cordell (Ret.), SJPD Acting Chief Larry Esquivel, and Frances Herbert representing Senator Jim Beall for attending. In addition, it would not have been as lively an event without the wonderful emcee skills of Sam Van Zandt and Lissa Kreisler from "Sam and Lissa in the morning" on KBAY. Thanks also go to John Armendariz from the Black Lab DJ Company for providing us with some great tunes and to the other participants in this tremendous event. Finally, thank you to my staff members, especially Victor Gomez, for all of their hard work in pulling things together for the night's festivities.



The Hoffman-Via Monte National Night Out event was a testimony to the great things that can be done when government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations come together to serve the community. I am optimistic that we made a positive impact in the neighborhood and I look forward to more opportunities such as these; bringing people together, making our neighborhoods safe, and working together for the good of all.

## **REDUCING THE COST OF HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

Last Tuesday was the first Council meeting of the new Fiscal Year and we had a full agenda. The next day, at a meeting of the Rules and Open Government Committee, I presented a memo in regard to permitting fees for small home remodeling projects. The memo was approved by the Rules Committee for a hearing by the whole City Council as part of our Council Priority Setting Session in early September.

In researching the permitting costs associated with a \$30,000 home addition project, I was shocked to learn that they would total over \$5,000, or 20% of the cost of the actual construction work! For many homeowners, these high costs can mean the difference between moving ahead with a project or foregoing the project altogether. What's worse, is that many homeowners may move forward with projects without the proper permitting and inspections, running the risk of shoddy or substandard construction that does not conform to the safety elements of the current building code.

At present, the permits for these single-family home improvement projects absorb a full pro-rata share of executive and managerial overheads, even though very little executive or managerial time is spent on these relatively small remodels. In addition, the Construction and Conveyance Tax imposed is assessed the same as it is for much larger projects, even though a small bathroom remodel would typically have no impact on, for example, streets within the City.

By developing a "second tier" fee structure for small, single-family, residential improvement projects, we can save homeowners money while at the same time improving the City's housing stock, improving compliance with City code, generating additional general fund property tax revenue, and providing additional work to small businesses within San Jose while creating good-paying jobs in the construction sector. This is a win-win-win-win for homeowners, the City, small business, and job seekers.

### **MARTIAL COTTLE PARK GROUNDBREAKING**

I was thrilled to attend the Martial Cottle Park Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 9th. Martial Cottle Park is a beautiful jewel in District 10 and the City. In 2004, Mr. Walter Cottle Lester donated the 287.54-acre Martial Cottle Park property in South San Jose to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and the CA State Parks Department. This new park will be an exciting opportunity for the community to become involved with the County Parks and Recreation Department and CA State Parks in the planning process. While it is a County Park, the City of San Jose has been granted an area for a Community Garden, the first in District 10. Construction is underway for the perimeter trail and other phase one projects.



### **REMEMBERING BOB COELHO**

Bob Coelho, a long-time Almaden resident, passed away on August 10th. Bob was a

community leader and volunteer with a heart to help and make a difference. I had the pleasure of serving alongside Bob in the Almaden Kiwanis and Almaden Cares. Notably, he was a founding member of both organizations. Bob was instrumental in starting the Champs Foundation with Ned Hales and members of the San Francisco 49ers, helping underprivileged youth attend summer camp. In addition, Bob was a long time coach of basketball and baseball in Almaden. I am honored to know him and I will miss him dearly. I send my deepest condolences and prayers to his wife, Gretchen, and the rest of Bob's family.

### **COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS**

The first week of August I resumed my Community Office Hours within the District. These twice a month meetings are a great opportunity for you to meet with me one-on-one without having to drive all the way to City Hall. In the first six months of hosting these meetings in the District, I met with dozens of constituents who asked questions, voiced their concerns, or just took a moment to meet me or get to know me a little better. No appointment is necessary and I encourage you to attend. Below are the times and locations of upcoming Community Office Hours. If you have any questions, please contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

***1st Wednesday of Every Month*** (between August and January, excluding December)

8:30am-9:30am

Almaden Community Center

Community Room

6445 Camden Ave

San Jose, 95120

***3rd Wednesday of Every Month*** (between August and January, excluding December)

5:30pm-7:00pm

Lime Tree Espresso

171 Branham Lane

San Jose 95136

In closing, I wish all of our students and teachers a wonderful school year! Please continue reading below for more important updates and useful information. If you have any questions about the things you have read in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. You can also friend me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

Johnny

### **Business Tax Amnesty Program Deadline Extended**

The Business Tax and Business Improvement District Amnesty Program began on December 1, 2012, and are now set to expire on August 30th, 2013. The amnesty forgives penalties and interest on past-due business taxes and BID assessments for the current year an up to three prior years. The amnesty covers the tax delinquency period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012. As of July 20, 2013, the Business Tax

Amnesty Program had generated approximately \$2.7 million of revenue.

Information, instructions, registration and remittance forms may be obtained on the first floor Customer Service Center at San Jose City Hall, 200 E Santa Clara Street, or by calling 408-535-7055. For more information, please contact Wendy Sollazzi, Revenue Management Division Manager, at 408-535-7005.

## SJ Storefronts Initiative

SJ Storefronts Initiative is a \$250,000 Office of Economic Development grant opportunity to help small businesses lease vacant spaces by offsetting the cost of City permits, fees and taxes. The goal of this Initiative is to strengthen the economic vitality of Downtown San Jose and the City's Neighborhood Business Districts.

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development invites proposals from applicants in the following categories:

- Individuals: entrepreneurs or sole proprietors
- Small business owners
- Nonprofit organizations
- Landlords or property owners working with prospective businesses/tenants; and
- Contractors working with businesses and/or property owners

To apply for a grant under the San Jose Storefronts Initiative please log into and apply through the Web Grants portal.

For questions, please contact:

Tina Kapoor

Executive Analyst

Office of Economic Development

[Tina.Kapoor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Tina.Kapoor@sanjoseca.gov)

## City of San Jose Employment Opportunities

You're invited to explore our job opportunities and experience the rewards of working in a dynamic and diverse public service environment serving the City of San Jose's residents, customers, and visitors. The City of San Jose offers a wide variety of employment opportunities. Job openings are updated regularly. For more information visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs) or call the City of San Jose Employment Information Line at 408-535-6800.

## San Jose Police Department Hiring School Crossing Guards

\$15.98 - \$17.66 Hourly (Part-Time/Un-benefited)

Minimum Qualifications

Able to work morning and afternoon shifts every school day during school start and end times

Possession of a valid State of California driver's license  
Access to a motor vehicle on a daily basis  
Have the ability to satisfactorily pass a Police Department background check  
Be physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of a Crossing Guard  
Have the ability to give and follow oral instruction  
Have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with children, parents, school officials and law enforcement  
Have the ability to use judgment, initiative and remain calm in an emergency situation  
Be of good moral character

Please contact the School Safety & Education Unit at (408) 277-4553 if you have any questions and/or to arrange to pick up an application.

## District 10 School Updates

### ***Graystone Elementary***

Allison Long was appointed principal of Graystone Elementary on July 1, 2013, after serving in the role on an interim basis since January 2013. Ms. Long has served the San Jose Unified community since 2006. During that time, she has been a teacher at Simonds Elementary and an Assistant Principal at both Graystone and Los Alamitos Elementary Schools. She has also served as a San Jose Teachers Association site representative and a CST Testing Coordinator. Ms. Long was named Teacher of the Year for Simonds Elementary in 2012. Ms. Long is a graduate of California State University, Chico and San Jose State University. Ms. Long brings to Graystone knowledge of instruction in the new Common Core Standards, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and leadership development.

### ***Simonds Elementary***

Melissa Howell was appointed principal of Simonds Elementary School on July 1, 2013. Ms. Howell has most recently served as the principal of Joseph George Middle School in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. She was also a Middle School Assistant Principal for Morgan Hill Unified. Prior to these positions, Ms. Howell was a SARB coordinator, Co-Expulsion Coordinator, and District Summer School coordinator in Morgan Hill. Along with these leadership positions, she was a teacher for Lawndale Elementary School District, Hanford Elementary School District, and Caruther School District. Ms. Howell is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, National University, Cal State Fresno, and Cal State Dominguez Hills. As a community resident, Ms. Howell brings to Simonds a deep passion and commitment for its families and students. She has experience and skill in the areas of curriculum and instruction, the new Common Core standards, professional learning communities, fiscal management, community partnerships, and leadership development.

### ***Williams Elementary***

Devin Blizzard was appointed principal of Williams Elementary School on July 1, 2013. Dr. Blizzard is proud to return to San Jose Unified. He served as Deputy Principal of Broadway High School (1996-1998) and Principal of Los Alamitos Elementary (1998-2002). He then went on to become principal of Copper Hills Elementary and Alta Sierra Intermediate School. At Copper Hills, Dr. Blizzard founded the Clovis Central Valley Robotics Project. In 2008, Alta Sierra was recognized as a National School to Watch

Model. Most recently, Dr. Blizzard served as the Chief Executive Office of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. Dr. Blizzard is a graduate of University of California Irvine (B.A., Psychology), Cal State Long Beach (M.A., Social Psychology), and San Jose State University (M.S., Marriage Family/Child Counseling). He is also been a part of the ACSA Superintendent's Academy at Fresno State University. Along with this training, he also earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Fresno State.

Dr. Blizzard brings to Williams a strong knowledge of instruction, the new Common Core standards, community outreach, implementation of grade-level teaming models, technology in education, and leadership development. Dr. Blizzard also has a proven track record of establishing and nurturing partnerships with various community and corporate entities to meet the educational needs of diverse learners.

### Mail Box Theft and Stopping Junk Mail

I want to thank former D10 Councilmember Nancy Pyle for bringing this issue to my attention. It seems many neighborhoods in our District are being targeted for mail theft. Please remember to bring in your mail every day – do not leave mail in your box overnight. If you are on vacation, have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and keep your doorstep free of papers and packages. Having these things pile up is an indicator for burglars that you're not home, and leaving mail in your box leaves it vulnerable to mail thieves. If you are a victim of mail theft, visit [this website](#) to report the crime.

In addition, the City of San Jose has launched a new program called Catalog Choice. Experience freedom from mailbox flooding while reducing your household waste and preserving trees. As you receive unwanted catalogs and mailers, enter them in the online system and they will be automatically terminated. For more information [click here](#).

### Senior Scam Stopper

Senator Jim Beall is hosting a free seminar showing seniors how to spot and avoid scams.

Friday, Aug. 23

1 p.m.-3 p.m., Almaden Community Center

6445 Camden Ave., San Jose

To RSVP [click this link](#) – space is limited so make your reservation today!

### Opportunity for Businesses to Partner with the City of San Jose

The City of San José is now accepting proposals for well qualified vendors to support and supplement its recreational services and provide leisure classes such as camps, educational classes, personal enrichment, and leisure groups to the residents of San José.

A Non-mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be provided on:

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2013  
Time: 10:00 A.M.  
Location: Southside Community Center  
5585 Cottle Road  
San José, CA 95123

All bids, as stated in the RFQ, must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm Thursday, September 19, 2013.

### Almaden Lake Proposed Alternatives Meeting

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will update the community on the progress of its work on Almaden Lake on Thursday, September 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave, San José. The project team will review the hydraulic analysis for the restored creek connection and address the ongoing oxygenation pilot project at the Calero and Stevens Creek reservoirs that could determine new alternatives for addressing methyl mercury contamination at the lake. Given that the room can accommodate only 200 people, please be sure to RSVP by email to [tmercado@valleywater.org](mailto:tmercado@valleywater.org) or phone at 408-630-2342. The water district will schedule another meeting, if necessary, to accommodate high levels of interest.

Residents living near Almaden lake have spearheaded the Save Almaden Lake initiative. They are playing an important role in bringing information about the Water District's plans for Almaden Lake to the public's attention. They have also started a petition to encourage adoption of a plan that would preserve as much of the lake as possible. To find out more or find the link to the petition, visit them on the web at [www.savealmadenlake.com](http://www.savealmadenlake.com), or friend them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/SaveAlmadenLake>.

### Alamden Lake Family Campfire

Almaden Lake Park has joined the company of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services community centers by offering summer camps and special events at the popular regional park. Serving 141 children during their 8-weeks of summer camp, children from 5-12 cooled off at the park's water feature, perfected their skills of bocce and volleyball, and explored the lake by means of paddle boats. Additionally, Almaden Lake Park successfully offered an evening campfire event for families. Nearly 20 attendees took part in the July 20th campfire. The park will be hosting another campfire event on August 24th. To register for the campfire, contact Almaden Lake Park staff at 408-927-0868 or register online by visiting [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/register](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/register). For more information, please contact Steve Hammack, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services at 408-793-5579.



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