



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 September Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend! Even though things didn't seem to slow down during the summer months, there is a certain sense of expectancy that comes with each new school year. The District 10 Council Office has several upcoming events and projects we'll be focusing on over the next couple of months. One of the issues my office has been working on that has received a lot of attention is the Sycamore Terrace Development.

Sycamore Terrace Update

The sale of land for the proposed Sycamore Terrace development at the Northeast corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road was scheduled to come before the City Council on August 27th but was dropped from the agenda. City Staff indicated that they dropped this agenda item because project needed to undergo further analysis. At this point, there it is uncertain when and if the project may come back before the City Council.

I learned about this project shortly after taking office and immediately expressed serious concerns about the potential impact on safety because of the planned ingress/egress along Almaden Expressway near the busy intersection with Coleman Road. I shared these concerns with both City Staff and with Barry Swenson and his team, and pressed for improvements that would help address these safety issues. I also shared information on the project with the public through my monthly newsletter, articles in our local papers, and in direct conversations with San Jose residents to encourage residents to share their thoughts with me on the issue. Before I started publicizing the project I had heard very little from the public on the development.

I did not think that this location was ideal for development nor could I imagine how the City would have paid the surprising sum of \$2.4 million in the 1990s for the property. The \$2.4 million that was spent for the site came from affordable housing funds, so use of the property was restricted to an affordable housing use. In addition, the development permit for Sycamore Terrace had been approved in 2007.

If some below-market-rate housing were not built on the property, the city's general fund would have to repay the affordable housing fund so that an alternate site could be acquired. Next to safety, my next highest concern is our City's fiscal health and preventing a \$2.4 million hit to the General Fund – the same fund that pays for police officers, firefighters, and the operation of parks, libraries, and community centers.

It is worth noting that the developer, Barry Swenson Builder, had been approached by the City of San Jose in 2003 after other attempts to develop an affordable housing project at this location fell through. Barry Swenson's team invested considerable time and energy into coming up with a plan that would accomplish the City Housing Department's goals. Now that the project is on hold, I am encouraging City staff in their efforts to revisit their options and look at various ways in which the Housing Department's requirements can be met without incurring costs to the general fund and in a manner that may be safer for, and more attractive to, the residents of San Jose.

With the new school year underway, I have several safety and traffic-related updates to share with you:

Public Safety

After a year-long hiatus, I am very pleased to say the San Jose Police Department will be reinstating their anti-truancy program. They have opened a processing center at the Police Athletic League (PAL) Stadium for the Truancy Abatement/Burglary Suppression program. There will be one officer staffing the processing center and two others tasked with taking minors who should be in school into custody. The students will either be returned to their school campuses or be taken to the processing center to be released to their parent or guardian. Police have found that daytime burglaries are often committed truant students. I hope this will be an effective, preventive tool for reducing the number of burglaries in our community, with the added benefit of keeping students in the classroom so that they can learn and have a brighter future.

In other law enforcement news, I recently met with Captain Lundy of the California Highway Patrol, as well as his new, two-person anti-graffiti task force that is working here in San Jose and throughout Santa Clara County. This energetic team has already made seven felony arrests and is working hard to put a stop to the proliferation of graffiti that we have seen throughout our City. I applaud the efforts of these hard working investigators as well as those of our own SJPd officers who have been doing an amazing job of catching criminals in our city, despite their limited numbers and resources. I will soon be coming forward with an initiative that will provide a new tool to help the SJPd and the CHP in their work fighting graffiti vandals, as well as in rounding up the perpetrators behind numerous copper wire thefts throughout the Silicon Valley.

In addition to the great efforts being made by the San Jose Police Department and California Highway Patrol, it was an honor to be able to attend two very important ceremonies. On August 16th, I attended the San Jose Police Department Promotional Ceremony and on August 29th, I was very excited to see our very own Sara Wright graduate from the San Jose Police Department Communications Academy. Sara worked in the District 10 office for a short time, but she is missed. I am very proud of her and know she will be an asset to the SJPd Communications team!



Stemming from budget approvals in June, the San Jose Police Department will be hiring 21 Community Service Officers. These non-enforcement officers will handle administrative and investigative work, allowing sworn officers to be patrolling and keeping our communities safe rather than spending valuable time on paperwork. If you or someone you know may be interested in applying for the position of Community Service Officer, Check the City's [website](#) on September 16th for the job announcement and complete job description. For questions, please contact Sgt. Andrew Harsany at (408) 277- 5200.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

In addition to the steps taken by our local law enforcement officials to decrease crime and battle the graffiti problem, I have partnered with DOT to increase traffic and pedestrian safety throughout District 10.

The first improvement which I am very pleased to share is the new crossing guard stationed at Parkview Elementary School. As I am sure that you are all aware, the Parkview neighborhood has suffered from some very serious and tragic accidents in the last six months. My staff and I worked closely with the SJPD and they were very helpful in getting a crossing guard out to Parkview Elementary more quickly than originally anticipated. I was very happy to attend a "ribbon cutting" of sorts to welcome the new crossing guard. This new crossing guard should go far to improve the safety of children in the neighborhood.



I am also happy to announce the completion of the enhanced crosswalk on Blossom Hill Road at Parkcrest, in front of Dartmouth Middle School. The new crosswalk has been enhanced with flashing beacons and a pedestrian island in the middle of the street. Additionally, funding has also been identified to install a permanent flashing speed display sign on Coleman Avenue in front of Guadalupe Elementary.

In addition to these pedestrian traffic improvements, several paving projects are slated for the near future, the first of which is Coleman Avenue. Repaving will begin this fall for the section of Coleman between Camden and Redmond, with the rest being

scheduled for repaving in the Spring or Summer of 2014.

Even with all of these improvements, please remember that the best way to keep our children safe is to be cautious and courteous drivers and pedestrians. Please follow the rules of the road, use crosswalks, and set a good example for your children as you drive, bike, or walk. Also, stay tuned for an exciting program my office will be rolling out to help our teen drivers be safer, more responsible drivers.

Vistapark Community Room Improvements

On August 17th, a handful of dedicated volunteers led by Dave Fadness repainted the interior of the Vistapark Community Room. I was able to stop by and lend a hand for awhile, but all of the recognition goes to Dave and his crew of volunteers. To help make this a reality, my staff and I worked closely with Dave and City parks staff to cut through bureaucratic challenges that had impeded progress. A big thank you goes to Dave and the other volunteers for your dedication to our community and for being persistent in making sure our community room received the care it needed.



The new coat of paint will go great with the new entry gates to the Vistapark Community Room. A project several years in the making is finally coming to fruition. These gates serve the dual purposes of aesthetics and safety and I am happy to see they are finally being completed. Having had issues with vandalism here in the past, I am happy to see these gates installed to protect the Community Room. Thank you to the artist for the beautiful design and for all of those assisting with the installation.

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 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

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 or call 408-535-4910. You can also friend me on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

Johnny

Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival

September 15, 2013 - Almaden Lake Park

Enjoy the last weekend of summer at the 37th Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival, Voted one of the best festivals in San Jose, it features something for everyone! Join me at the Main Stage at 1:00 PM, when I will be joined at the main stage by the San Jose Police Foundation in order to make a special presentation to the SJPD.

All net proceeds from the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival are donated to non-profit organizations and local schools, in addition to supporting merit based scholarship programs for local students. For more information, [click here](#).

Almaden Park User Needed with Strong Back and Big Heart!

Help to water a young memorial tree in the park! This special redwood tree requires weekly care and is watered by bucket from a nearby spigot. The tree is planted between the trail and Almaden Lake, by the South Point Picnic Area. Our City Forest's community-based forestry model relies on volunteer efforts, so if you can help, please contact Bo Firestone (408) 998-7337 x111 or bmelrose@ourcityforest.org

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

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 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.

Applications for the 2013 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards are Now Open!

If you or someone you know is currently a senior in high school and of Hispanic/Latino descent, you can apply here. The last day to apply is October 1st.

For 15 years, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation has honored young Latinos who excel

in the classroom and community. The Youth Awards grants scholarships, (up to \$3,000), and other great opportunities to high school seniors for their focus in various categories, including STEM, Healthcare, Education, Green, Business and Finance, Arts, and Fitness.

Please forward this to deserving students for a chance to receive a 2013 Hispanic Heritage Youth Award. For more information [click here](#).

Almaden Lake Future Design Proposal 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 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, or friend them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/SaveAlmadenLake>.

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](#)

Leland High School Booster Club Golf Tournament

Leland High School Booster Club is holding its 5th Annual Charger Invitational Golf Tournament at Santa Teresa Golf Club on Friday, September 27th. Registration is \$160 before September 1st (\$175 after) and includes goodie bag, golf (four player scramble), cart, practice range, BBQ lunch, awards dinner, drinks on the course, and prizes. Additional fun includes on-course games, a raffle, and silent auction. Register online at www.lelandhsboosterclub.com by September 1st to be automatically entered in a drawing for two tickets to a KRTY concert of your choice next summer season, or a foursome at Salinas Golf and Country Club. All proceeds support Leland High School Athletics. Come out and join the fun!

For more information, contact Scott McLaughlin at President@lelandhsboosterclub.com. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Dave Kehmeier at djkehmeier@sbcglobal.net

Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis
San Jose City Hall
200 E Santa Clara Street - 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113