



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

# District 10 November Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable Halloween! I had a wonderful time trick-or-treating with my sons. I am happy to say the boys are not yet at the age where they are embarrassed to be seen with me, even when I'm donning my best Star Trek uniform!



## **WILD PIGS**

While it would be nice to bask in the fun, candy, and costumes of Halloween, there has been very serious issue facing District 10 that needs to be addressed - property destruction and the threat to safety posed by packs of wild pigs roaming the Almaden Valley. We have already seen how these invasive feral pigs have become aggressive in their search for food, damaging the natural habitat of native species, destroying native plants and trees, and causing tens of thousands of dollars worth of property damage at the Almaden Country Club and neighboring homes.

The state agency that issues depredation permits to control this invasive species is willing to authorize the trapping and control of the wild pigs within San Jose, but these permits require that the wild pigs be euthanized where trapped. Because of the size of the wild pigs and regulatory requirements related to the volume of euthanization drugs that would be required, it is impractical and excessively costly to chemically euthanize the wild pigs. According to the state wildlife biologist with whom we spoke, the common method for putting down the trapped feral pigs is via gunshot – a method currently permitted in County areas but not allowed within the City limits. Because this problem could be seasonal and recurring, the wildlife biologist and County officials recommend that the City alter City Code to accommodate the issuance of the depredation permit, when necessary, to protect the life, health, or property of City residents.

Therefore, Councilmember Pete Constant and I have issued an urgency memo which will be heard by City Council on Tuesday, November 5th, that would allow a very narrow exception to the City's current ordinance for the efficient and cost-effective control of the invasive, wild pigs. The exception would allow for the discharge of a weapon by a state-licensed trapper operating under a depredation permit from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and only to put down trapped feral pigs.

If you have any questions regarding the memo, or would like to learn more, feel free to contact our office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

### **RETAINING POLICE RECRUITS**

San Jose residents have expressed their concerns over San Jose acting as a training ground for other police departments. They have voiced frustration over the fact that the City of San Jose lacks a common-sense retention policy which has allowed the superior training provided by the SJPD's Academy to become a poaching ground for other police departments that would pay our recruits marginally more using the savings they realize by not having to invest in top-of-the-line training.

That is why Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen and I have issued a memo asking the City Manager to explore a "First Five" retention provision for new police recruits to ensure retention of police academy graduates which would include a pro-rata reimbursement by recruits to the City. It would allow the City to recoup part of the cost of training in the event the recruit leaves San Jose Police Department (SJPD) employment for another Police Department before completing at least five years of employment.

The SJPD currently spends approximately \$170,000 to recruit, train, and equip new officers for street level service. By defining a minimum amount of service time that recruits must complete before leaving for another department, San Jose will reduce or eliminate the practice of picking up the cost of providing high-quality training for the benefit of other police agencies. This will ensure that the investment in training an officer is retained within the department for a minimum time period. Such a policy will provide more certainty around SJPD staffing levels and improved retention of the city's exceptionally well-trained new officers.

From the last graduating class of recruits, five left for other agencies - agencies that already have their own retention policies. The cost of training these individuals has resulted in a loss to our city of nearly one million dollars. That is one million dollars that could go toward bolstering our force and providing them with the tools they need to be successful on the job.

Some exceptions should be made to this provision. Officers injured in the line of duty or officers placed on disability should be pardoned from repayment in full.

By establishing a "First Five" retention provision, officers will be incentivized to remain on the force for a minimum of five years. The long-term incentive is that at the end of those five years, the officer will be fully vested for his or her retirement. This ordinance is a win-win-win, providing fairness to our current police force, new recruits, and the City of San Jose's taxpayers.

If you have any questions regard the memo or would like to learn more, please contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

### **SJ BETWEEN THE LINES**

I am very excited about some new developments in the SJ Between the Lines Video Contest! First, I want to thank DGDG Capitol Subaru for creating such a wonderful promotional video. To view the video, [click here](#). Please post the video on your social media sites to help spread the word. I want to be sure that every high school student in the City of San Jose has the opportunity to participate in this contest!

We are continuing to get financial support from local and national businesses. News is spreading and people are eager to be a part of this worthy cause. We have also extended the submission deadline to JANUARY 10th! This gives students plenty of time to create their videos.

If you know a high school student who may be interested in participating in the contest, we are now accepting videos and applications. We are asking students to submit 1-3 minute videos within these five categories: Texting and Driving, Driving Under the Influence, Distracted Driving, Speeding, and How to be a Responsible Passenger. All videos will be judged on content, creativity, and the number of YouTube views they receive. One winner will be chosen in each category, as well as one grand prize winner. For more information about the contest or to learn how to submit a video visit [www.sjbetweenthelines.org](http://www.sjbetweenthelines.org) or call 408-535-4910.

### **VEP CLEAN UP**

In an effort to keep District 10 free of homeless encampments, my office will be partnering with the VEP Community Association, Cal-Trans, and the San Jose Anti-Graffiti & Litter team, to host a clean up on Saturday, November 16th, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. We will be pruning trees and clearing litter from areas of Branham & 87 that have seen recent encampments. By pruning low-hanging tree branches, we are creating a line of sight and deterring folks from hiding/encamping under those trees. Litter bags and pick-up sticks will be provided, but please bring your own pruning sheers and study metal rakes. Also, make sure you are wearing the appropriate clothing for a work day, and closed toe shoes. You may want to bring gloves as well. If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact Dave Fadness at [dfadness@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfadness@sbcglobal.net) or call 408-578-6428. You can also contact Rayshelle in my office at [rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov) or by calling 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!

### **HOFFMAN-VIA MONTE NEIGHBORHOOD HIRES PRIVATE SECURITY**

After many months of working with the Almaden Recreation Club Association, which

includes a large portion of the Hoffman-Via Monte Neighborhood, the Board of Directors has supported and approved the hiring of a private security patrol for the association's units. As many residents in the Almaden Valley are aware, this neighborhood has been plagued with gang activity for many years. I applaud the Almaden Recreation Club for taking the initiative to make community safety a top priority. I am committed to continuing efforts to transform the Hoffman-Via Monte neighborhood into a cleaner, safer place to live.

### **WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM**

The Landscape Maintenance Division has begun its 2013-14 Weed Abatement Program involving a comprehensive and systematic treatment of all medians and roadside parcels throughout the City of San Jose. A thorough application of pre-emergent spray to keep weeds from germinating and growing will take place. This program began in mid-October, and is expected to run through March/April of 2014. My office has received many emails and phone calls regarding median and roadside weed abatement so I'm excited to see the work begin.

### **REPORT FROM WASHINGTON DC AND DUBLIN**

In my October newsletter I informed you that I was making two trips on City business – one to Washington, D.C. and one to the City of San Jose's Sister City of Dublin, Ireland and I am pleased to report to you the outcome of these trips.

For the Washington, D.C. trip, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group put together a very full, well-organized agenda. I met with approximately 70 members of Congress over two days and had productive discussions with them on:

- the importance of locating the new Bay Area U.S. Patent Office within the City of San Jose;
- business tax reform to maintain our competitiveness as a business destination and to ensure companies are investing their profits here in the U.S.; and,
- the importance of immigration reform so that we can keep talented, skilled individuals who are contributing and investing in our community from leaving.

All of these items have an important effect on San Jose's ability to compete globally and to grow jobs in the City of San Jose.

I was also pleased to have had the opportunity to present the benefits of relocating a growing business to San Jose to three CEO's from San Francisco-based start-ups!

In Dublin, Ireland, our Sister City for over 27 years, we visited Intel where they are building a new fabrication plant where they will manufacture the first purely Irish-designed mobile chip for the global market. I took away an important lesson in this – that the success of our city or state is not inevitable. Dublin is succeeding as a globally-competitive city and is capturing manufacturing jobs because it has a highly educated, skilled workforce, low business taxes, and a stable, predictable regulatory environment. Our policymakers at all levels must keep in mind that if intellectual property and manufacturing leave our shores, so do the profits that are reinvested in growing our economy.



Other items on our very well-planned agenda:

- Also at Intel – we learned about an important Digital Cities initiative. Intel is using Dublin as a test bed, but we are encouraging them to consider partnerships with San Jose, given that we already have some of the infrastructure in place, such as the WikedlyFast downtown WiFi and WiFi on our transit system.
- Forum on Green Energy at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce – we learned about the success that Dublin has had with converting waste to energy. I will be looking more closely at how the City of San Jose might incorporate this into our Green Vision.
- Visit to University College Dublin (UCD) -we learned more about the exchange program between UCD and my alma mater, San Jose State University. The program provides a talented engineering graduate student with the opportunity to spend a year at San Jose State and intern with Cypress Semiconductor. A representative of Cypress described to us how last year's intern made important contributions to their research efforts in San Jose.
- Visit to Maynooth University – we received an overview of the first comprehensive, holistic framework for assessing an organization's information technology (IT) infrastructure and prioritizing its IT needs. Developed by the University and a global consortium of businesses and government agencies, this assessment tool could be very useful for the City of San Jose as we look to prioritize future investments in IT.

Overall, the Dublin trip was a great opportunity to see how San Jose compares with a comparable, globally-focused city. Learning what similar cities are doing allows us to glean ideas that we can bring back and apply locally to keep our city competitive in the global competition for businesses and the people they employ. It provides us with a great opportunity to share with others the things that we are doing well here in San Jose, to promote our City, its key resources, such as our newly-expanded and renovated Convention Center, and to promote upcoming events of global interest, such as the 2014 Sister Cities International Convention coming to San Jose.

### **BLUEFIELD DRIVE SPEED HUMPS ARE COMPLETE**

I am very happy to report that the speed humps on Bluefield Drive near Parkview Elementary School have been completed! As many of you are aware, I have worked closely with Parkview School and the Bluefield Drive community to address their pedestrian safety issues. After weeks of hard work by a couple of resident volunteers gathering petition signatures, they were able to compile an overwhelming 76% support from neighbors. I would like to send a special thank you to the volunteers, VEP Neighborhood Association, Parkview School students, parents and staff, and also the City of San José Department of Transportation for all of their hard work.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CLASS**

The Office of Emergency Services no longer offers Emergency Preparedness meetings. However, Alex Fraser has graciously offered to conduct one such meeting for the residents of District 10 only. This class will be limited to the first 30 people who RSVP. Topics covered will include earthquake preparation and reaction, 'go-bag' necessities, fire and flood preparedness, and other emergency situations. This is a special opportunity to prepare yourself and your loved ones for the many possible emergencies that can take place.

This event will be an hour and a half on Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 PM. The class will be held at the Almaden Community Center. To RSVP, email [drew.spitzer@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:drew.spitzer@sanjoseca.gov) with the names of those for whom you wish to RSVP. Please keep RSVPs to a limit of two per household.

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

### Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) Community Meetings

The MGPTF team wants your help. This is a great opportunity for you to share about what's happening in and around your neighborhood. It is a time of collaboration, to give ideas, recommendations and possible solutions. Come and help create a bold new vision and direction. The South Division meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7th from 6:00-8:30 PM at the Southside Community Center (5585 Cottle Rd, San José, CA 95113). For more information call 408.794.1630.

### Friends of the Almaden Library Book Sale

Date: Saturday, November 2

Time: 9 AM to 3 PM (2 PM to 3 PM sale priced)

Location: Almaden Library/Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose 95120.

Over 50 tables of books and media (CDs, DVDs, & audio books) have been donated by area residents. Proceeds go to support special programs at the Almaden Branch Library and additions to the library's collection. Regular sale is from 9 AM to 2 PM. Paperbacks 50 cents; hardcovers \$1; a few specials \$2-\$4; sets priced higher. Media: 1-item CDs \$1; 1-item DVDs \$2; see price on case for media with over one item in case and audio books. From 2pm to 3pm, "Bag of Books for \$5" and media half-price.

Contact information: Web site: [AlmadenFriends.org](http://AlmadenFriends.org)

Almaden Branch Library: (408) 808-3040

Linda Spencer, President, Friends of the Almaden Library

Email: [Linda@spencer40.com](mailto:Linda@spencer40.com)

Phone: (408) 997-7319

### City of San José Helps Restaurants Prepare for New Foam Food Container Ban

On Monday, November 4th, from 2:30pm to 4:00pm, at the Roosevelt Community Center (901 E Santa Clara Street) the City of San José will be helping South Bay restaurant operators prepare for the new Foam Food Container Ordinance, which bans expanded

polystyrene (EPS) foam, commonly known as Styrofoam™, food ware containers. The ordinance takes effect at multi-state restaurant chains on January 1, 2014, and at all other restaurants, including mobile and street vendors, on January 1, 2015. For more information contact call (408) 975-2586 or Email: [greentogo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:greentogo@sanjoseca.gov)

### Vote for Silicon Valley's Airport as the Best U.S. Airport for Public Art

Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) is one of 20 U.S. airports nominated by USA TODAY for the best public art in airports. Join us in giving SJC's public art program the recognition it deserves by voting for SJC today and every day here through November 11, 2013. SJC's public artworks which reflect the spirit of Silicon Valley's role as a global center of technology and innovation can be viewed at [flysanjose.com](http://flysanjose.com).

### 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.

### Elks Care - Highway Clean Up Effort

I want to thank the Elks Club for their clean up effort on Saturday, October 19th. Because of their hard work, they collected 25 bags of trash from Highways 85 & 87. They will be holding another clean up day on Saturday, November 19th. Thank you, Elks Club!

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