



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 Mid-November Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

In this season of Thanksgiving, I cannot help but reflect on how blessed I am to be the representative of a district that is so community-minded. District 10 is full of enthusiastic volunteers taking ownership of their neighborhoods, parks, schools, and trails, ensuring that these places remain beautiful and enjoyable for all. Even during a season of challenges facing our city, you, the residents of District 10, stepped up to continue the legacy of volunteerism within our City. In this newsletter, I have included just a few examples of some of the great volunteer efforts that have taken place over the last couple months. In this newsletter I also provide you with some important information on the SJPD's successful efforts in combating gang violence in San Jose

GREAT VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

On Saturday, October 19th, dedicated and frequent volunteers like Pat Pizzo, Dave Poeschel, and Lee Pauser joined members of my staff and nearly 50 members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity from San Jose State University to finish this season's clean-up efforts at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. My office has organized quarterly park work days in order to keep the park clear of invasive coyote brush and reduce the risk of fire.

Two weeks later, I joined my sons' Cub Scout Pack 282 and Boy Scout Troop 262 in planting shrubs and spreading tan bark at Jeffrey Fontana Park, an activity we do on a regular basis there. Shortly after that, I joined Cub Scout Pack 282 as they walked door-to-door collecting canned goods for our local food bank in time for the holiday season.



On Thursday, November 7th, I had the pleasure of presenting Girl Scout Troop 60224 with a commendation for partnering with the City of San Jose's Department of Transportation in establishing the Walk-n-Roll Program at Williams Elementary School. These young women recognized the safety risks and environmental impacts of traffic congestion around the school and decided to take action. They have been working hard to raise awareness and influence their peers to make walking and riding bikes to school a safe part of their daily lives.



It doesn't stop there! On Veteran's Day, in addition to participating in the Veteran's Day Parade, I had the honor of joining Cub Scout Pack 272 at the Atrium Senior Facility here in San Jose as they thanked our nation's veterans for their service. It was such a great experience, joining these young men to show appreciation to our nation's heroes.

I am so encouraged knowing that District 10 residents have big hearts and helping hands, to help ensure that even in tough times, San Jose remains a great city in which to live, work, and play! If you would like to learn about future volunteer opportunities, please contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.



THE REAL STORY ON GANG-RELATED CRIME IN SAN JOSE

The suppression of gang-related violent crime is a top priority for our hard-working men and women in uniform here in San Jose. Because of their consistent efforts, gang-related violent crime in our city continues to decrease. You may have seen recent media reports that questioned the accuracy of gang murder statistics for the City of San Jose. Unfortunately, by irresponsibly focusing on this one data point and sensationalizing the story, these media outlets did not present the public with a clear picture of gang crime in our city. Here is some important data that you did not see in the news:

Gang Related Violent Crime	2013	2012	Change
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	Jan-Sep	Jan-Sep	
Aggravated Assault	133	148	-10.1%
Robbery	23	35	-34.3%
Simple Assault	29	31	-6.5%

Total	185	214	-13.6%

As you can see, gang-related violent incidents are down significantly in San Jose. These statistics are the best indicator of whether the new strategies that Chief Esquivel and his team have employed are succeeding and if the efforts of the men and women of the SJPD are paying dividends.

The criticism lodged against the police department on one data point – the gang-related murder number – was valid. The department did change the way they defined “gang-related” and failed to note this change in their reporting. In the world of finance, whenever we change definitions and it has an effect on how numbers are presented, we note this in our reports and we present a “what if” scenario so that you can see what the comparative numbers would have looked like under the new definitions. The same protocol should have been followed at the SJPD, as Chief Esquivel has acknowledged.

The bottom line remains, however, that despite significant staffing shortages in our police department, our skilled police officers are making excellent progress against violent gang-related crime within our city. We can be proud that the SJPD is keeping San Jose the safest big city in the Bay Area and among the safest large cities in America. I appreciate all of their efforts to keep San Jose the best Bay Area big city in which to live, work, and raise a family.

VIA VALIENTE AND ALMADEN RANCH

The Via Valiente Shopping Center continues to be a hot topic of discussion among District 10 residents. After speaking with the property manager, I can provide you with a few updates regarding the property.

When you drive by Via Valiente, you can see that construction has been under way for quite some time now and the work is progressing nicely. Crews have been working on façade upgrades since the building permit was issued back in November. Some of the projects have included covering the columns, adding architectural elements, adding plaster, wainscoting, and faux stone. They are also reconfiguring the flow of traffic in the parking lot and improving sidewalks and curbs to bring them up to current code.

In addition to the improvements, the property manager is currently in negotiations with a grocery store to be the anchor tenant of the center. They cannot yet disclose which grocery store they were in talks with because of privacy reasons, but this is certainly a move in the right direction! Once they’ve nailed down an anchor store, they will begin working to attract other tenants to the smaller vacant store fronts. Also, the farmers’ market that currently leases the property understands that their lease will end once the anchor tenant is in place.

In other development news, while Almaden Ranch is not within the District 10 boundaries, it will certainly have an impact on our community and many residents have requested updates regarding the site. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with

Almaden Ranch, it is the property located on the southeast corner of Almaden Expressway and Highway 85, across from the Best Buy and Wal-Mart Shopping Center.

Grading has begun on the property and Public Works recently approved a permit to extend Cherry Avenue to Sanchez Avenue. A building permit was filed in January of this year, but the plan review is still open and could take between 6 and 18 months to be closed. The only tenants that have been confirmed for the site are a Bass Pro Shop and Uncle Buck's Fishbowl and Grill Restaurant, which includes bowling and family friendly games.

Finally, on Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 PM at the Almaden Community Center Community Room, the developer of the Brasilia Way project along Almaden Expressway, southwest of Coleman Avenue, will hold a second community meeting, as they had promised. This will give the developer, JSM Enterprises, an opportunity to update residents on what they have done to address the concerns expressed by the public at the previous meeting on the proposal and allow residents to provide additional input and feedback to the developer.

If you have any questions regarding these developments, please feel free to contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.

CLEAN UP DAY IN VISTAPARK AREA

In an effort to keep District 10 free of homeless encampments, my office will be partnering with the neighbors from the VEP community, Cal-Trans, and the San Jose Anti-Graffiti & Anti-Litter team, to host a clean up tomorrow, Saturday, November 16th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. 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 or camping under the trees. Litter bags and pick-up sticks will be provided, but please bring your own pruning sheers and sturdy metal rakes. Also, be sure to wear the appropriate clothing for a work day, including closed-toe shoes. You may wish to bring gloves, as well. If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact Dave Fadness at drfadness@sbcglobal.net or call 408-578-6428. You can also contact Rayshelle in my office at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov or by calling 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!

SJ BETWEEN THE LINES

I am continuing to get financial support from local and national businesses for SJ Between the Lines, my safe-driving video contest for high school students. 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. The top prize is \$5,000!

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, check out our [video on YouTube](#) or call 408-535-4910.

DISTRICT 10 TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

I am very excited to be partnering with community leader Bob Vonderwerth and local faith communities to present our First Annual District 10 Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Celebration! Please join us on Saturday, December 14th from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, for an evening of holiday light displays, hot chocolate, live music, family-friendly games and activities, and maybe even an appearance from the big guy in the red suit! We will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. This will take place in the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood. Please stay tuned for more details!

I hope you all have a blessed and safe Thanksgiving holiday. I know I have much to be thankful for!

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

Volunteer Spotlight - Lee Pauser

Lee grew up in central Minnesota and after a three year stint in the Army was hired by IBM in Minneapolis, initially servicing computers and peripheral devices. After tiring of Minnesota's two seasons (winter and mosquito), in 1976 he and his family transferred to San Jose. His career with IBM continued until he retired from his work as a computer programmer after 31 years with the company. He and his family feel very fortunate to have lived in the Almaden Valley area all of those years.

In 2002, Lee's wife Janna established a Bluebird Trail in Guadalupe Oak Grove Park consisting of 12 nest boxes. To their surprise and delight Western Bluebirds and several other species actually used the boxes. Eleven nestlings fledged that season! Since then, Lee has been volunteering for the Santa Clara County Audubon Society's Cavity Nesters Recovery Program, a program in which volunteers establish and monitor nest box trails for cavity nesting birds. Since their humble beginnings, he has established numerous trails, and now has over 400 nest boxes of various types. In the 2013 season, over 1000 nestlings fledged from his boxes. Lee gets a lot of satisfaction doing what he can to help the cavity nesters.

As Lee makes his rounds checking nest boxes, he has taken note of declining conditions in our local parks which now beg for care. Over the past several years he has been involved as a volunteer in Guadalupe Oak Grove, TJ Martin, Jeffrey Fontana, and (of late) Almaden Meadows Parks. His goal is to restore the parks to their former conditions, if not better. Lee believes that at some point one should give back to the community - being retired enables him to do so.

Thank you, Lee, for your commitment to the betterment of our community!

Possible Fireworks Display at Almaden Lake Park

One of the calls my office received more frequently than any other in June and July concerned the use of illegal fireworks in neighborhoods. Believe me, I was just as frustrated as many of you at the careless disregard for the law that I saw and heard – especially heard! But, I also recognize that many may not want to drive downtown or to San Francisco to see fireworks so they have taken the festivities into their own hands. My office has been looking at ways to prevent the use of illegal fireworks while still providing the community with fun alternatives. I would love your input on the matter! I will be posting a quick survey on my [facebook](#) page so you can tell me your thoughts on the possibility of a fireworks show, presented by professionals, at Almaden Lake Park, and on the sale of safe and sane fireworks within San Jose. Check my [facebook](#) page soon to take the survey!

Almaden Community Center WiFi

One of the things I had allocated in my office budget was to improve WiFi access at the Almaden Community Center. Our city tech team is currently working on the permanent fixtures, but in the meantime, they have installed 3 wireless routers throughout the building as a temporary solution. You should now be able to connect to the internet wirelessly in several of the community rooms in the building. I will keep you updated on the progress!

Thanksgiving - Hot Meals for Those in Need

During the holiday season it is important to remember how very blessed we are and how we can help those who may be less fortunate. Below is a link to all of the local centers who will be providing hot Thanksgiving meals to those in need. If you know of someone who may benefit from this opportunity, I encourage you to pass along the information. You may want to contact these locations regarding volunteer opportunities as well. [Click here](#) for more information.

Julius Caesar at Almaden Library

Friends, Romans and countrymen, lend me your ears--Julius Caesar is coming to the Almaden Library, thanks to Shakespeare on Tour. The production arrives on the scene complete with professional actors, props and set for its Nov. 23 performance at 3 p.m. The show, which lasts approximately one hour, is intended for audiences ages 5 and older. At the conclusion of the show, audience members are invited to ask questions. Preregistration is not required.

Free Concert - First Friday Special Performance

The Silicon Valley Music Festival presents an evening of free music featuring James Deitz on Solo Marimba on Friday, December 6th from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. The event is located at The Sliding Door Company, 355 S. 1st Street, in San Jose. For more information call 408-642-1571.

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

<http://sanjoseca.gov/district10>
district10@sanjoseca.gov
(408) 535-4910