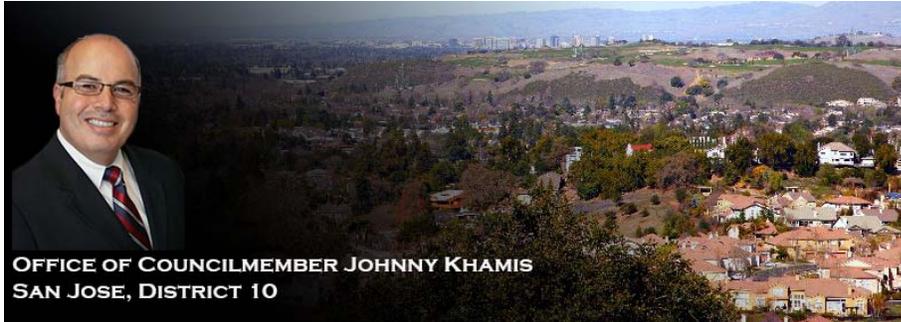


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District 10 December Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah! I am very blessed to have spent the day with family and friends, celebrating and giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Now that the holidays are upon us, my office is busier than ever. And, I have to say, the tasks and events we have been a part of have been incredibly meaningful and thought provoking. In the last couple of weeks I have participated in many wonderful volunteer opportunities, cleaning up our neighborhoods and helping those in need.

THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

On November 24th, my family and I were honored to lend a hand at the New Creation Church's food packing event to help families from Almaden Elementary. A total of 128 boxes were distributed to the neediest families in our area. I want to thank the organizers of the event and everyone who participated.



That same day I joined my son's Boy Scout Troop 262 as they volunteered at Foxworthy Baptist Church packing and collecting nearly 29,000 shoe boxes full of toys and hygiene supplies for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes will be sent around the world to children in need through the organization Samaritan's Purse. It was such a touching reminder that so many children not only go without ever receiving a Christmas gift, but they lack the very basic supplies to survive. I encourage you to look into the work this organization is doing by visiting www.samaritanspurse.org. Since their inception in 1993, they have delivered nearly 100 million boxes to children in need.



EXCITING EVENTS

During the holiday weekend, I participated in three other exciting activities. First, I had a great time participating in Almaden's Run Turkey Run 5k or 10k, sponsored by Bret Harte Middle School's Booster Club. It was great to see so many families out there being active and burning some calories before Thanksgiving Dinner. After dinner had been served, I joined fellow Councilmembers and Kristi Yamaguchi for the grand opening of [San Jose's Downtown Ice](#). Finally, I ended the night by presenting Mohammed Assaf, the winner of Arab Idol, with a commendation for his diplomatic efforts to bring peace and unity to the world through the art of singing and music and for sharing his talents and message of humanity with the City of San José. Needless to say, it was a very eventful Thanksgiving week!



D10 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

In keeping with the spirit of giving, I am very excited about our First Annual District 10 Holiday Celebration and Toys for Tots Drive! On December 14th, from 5:00PM – 10:00PM, we will be closing a section of Blairburry Way in the Blossom Valley area of District 10 to have a holiday block party. There will be incredible holiday light displays, hot chocolate, candy canes, activities for the whole family, live musical entertainment and even an appearance from the guy in the red suit! The event is located on a residential street (585 Blairburry Way, San Jose, 95123), so parking and traffic may be a little congested. Drive safe! I am looking forward to celebrating the holidays with you while giving to Toys for Tots! Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child in need. If you have any questions, contact Rayshelle at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.



SJ BETWEEN THE LINES

Over the holiday weekend, video submissions for SJ Between the Lines, our safe driving video contest for high school students in San Jose, began pouring in! I am so thrilled with the caliber at which these kids have been working. They have created amazing videos about the importance of safe driving habits. It will certainly be a challenge for the judges to decide to whom the \$5,000 grand prize should go! To check out the videos being submitted, or if you know a high school student who is interested in submitting a video,

visit www.sjbetweenthehines.org. If you have any questions, contact Rayshelle at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.

GREAT SUCCESSES FOR SAN JOSE

On November 19th, the United States Department of Commerce announced a US Patent and Trademark Satellite Office will be locating in San Jose City Hall. This is an excerpt from their announcement:

"A permanent USPTO office in Silicon Valley will help grow the regional innovation ecosystem by empowering entrepreneurs to more readily navigate the nation's intellectual property system," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. "The USPTO plays a crucial role in helping protect the cutting-edge ideas that drive our economy and keep the U.S. globally competitive. The permanent satellite offices help advance the Commerce Department's innovation agenda by helping entrepreneurs get their products to market more quickly, provide resources tailored to the needs of local start-ups, and create good paying, high-skilled jobs."

A permanent West Coast office will enable the USPTO to help more entrepreneurs protect their intellectual property so they can attract capital, put their business plans into action, and help create more jobs. The San Jose City Hall location provides office space for patent examiners and Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) judges, a robust examiner training facility, and public hearing rooms for PTAB proceedings, including its trial proceedings, which clarify the quality and certainty of a patent right and serve as a low-cost and efficient alternative to litigation in the federal court system.

In addition, small businesses and entrepreneurs will be able to learn about USPTO services, meet with examiners, and access USPTO's comprehensive search databases. The space will also provide public access to search equipment and teleconference capabilities to facilitate in-person and virtual meetings with examiners. This access to patent examiners and trademark educational initiatives will help clarify application questions earlier on in the process, thereby improving the quality of examination and increasing the efficiency of moving a new product or technology to the marketplace."

This is one of the many things my colleagues and I worked on while in Washington DC, so I am thrilled to see it come to fruition. This is a huge win for San Jose and local entrepreneurs!

On November 22nd, I had the opportunity to join Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Rose Herrera, Councilmember Ash Kalra, and hundreds of others at the opening of the world's largest dry fermentation anaerobic digestion waste-to-energy facility here in the City of San Jose. The facility will process an estimated 90,000 tons per year of commercial organic waste that would otherwise go to a landfill, instead converting it to 1.6MW of renewable energy and 32,000 tons of compost.

I am so excited about these two great successes for San Jose!

SOUTHERN POLICE SUBSTATION UPDATE

In November I, along with my staff, had the opportunity to tour the South San Jose Police Substation. It is an incredible facility that will provide great value to residents who live in the southern reaches of our city. My thanks go to Lt. Chris Monahan of the SJPD for a very informative tour, and for super volunteer Alex Fraser for making the arrangements. The SJPD has assigned Lt. Monahan to the South San Jose Police Substation to begin preparing the facility for eventual occupancy by SJPD officers. He is also busy with the installation, set-up, and testing of the city's back-up Emergency Communications Center, which is located at the substation. The substation is also being utilized for some limited training classes for SJPD.

Through the 2013-2014 budget process, I worked to ensure that funding was made available for the opening of the substation, and that funding is in place. I felt that it was important that Chief Esquivel has the flexibility to open the substation when, in his professional judgment, it would provide the most benefit to our public safety. Right now, the chief does not feel that the department is adequately staffed to enable him to assign the police department's Southern Division to the substation. When the SJPD reaches more robust staffing levels, the chief would then proceed with the substation opening. You can read more about it here:

<https://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/1951502/1/11-01-13Police.PDF>

In order to address the loss of staff in the police department, the Council approved a pay increase of 11% (with compounding) for police officers over the next two and a half years – including a 2% retention bonus. The cost of this pay increase does create a projected hole in the city's forecast of about \$5 million in the next budget year. The City Council will need to address this shortfall during next year's budget discussions. The pay increase,

which fully restores the 10% pay cut that the police union agreed to in order to help the city close past budget deficits, is a necessary step to keeping our department competitive with others in the Bay Area. This, together with more aggressive recruiting efforts and the current and upcoming police academies for which the Council has provided funding, should go a long way to rebuilding capacity in our police department.

CONTINUED CLEAN-UPS IN DISTRICT 10

The November 16th clean-up in the VEP neighborhood was a tremendous success! We had over 30 volunteers pruning trees, cleaning up trash, raking leaves, improving site lines to the road, and preventing future homeless encampments that have been an issue there in the past. Everyone worked so hard, and a huge task was completed because of it!



On November 23rd, the Friends of Almaden Meadows were at it again...beautifying Almaden Meadows Park, with the help of students from Cupertino High School and Piedmont High School! It was a unifying experience, having volunteers come out who don't even live in our area! A big thank you goes out to Mollie Tobias, our city's volunteer coordinator, for recruiting so many helping hands!



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

Breakfast With Santa

Join Almaden Community Center Staff at their Annual Breakfast with Santa Event on Saturday December 14th from 9:30AM – 12:00PM. There will be a delicious breakfast, arts and crafts, and, of course, a visit from Santa. The cost is \$10 per person. If you have any questions, call the Almaden Community Center at 408-268-1133.

Give Us Your Feedback About Fireworks!

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. [Click here](#) 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!

San Jose Library In-Service

On Thursday, December 12, 2013 all library staff will attend a library in-service training from 8:30AM to 1:00PM San Jose Public Library branches will open at 1:00PM King Library will open as usual at 8:00PM. Two weeks in advance of the closure they will post announcements for the public via the Library website homepage as well as signage in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese at all branches.

Winter Leisure Class

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Winter Leisure Class Registration will begin on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00AM. To register, please visit, Almaden Community center or visit them online at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns.

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.

San Jose Family Camp Registration

Returning and new campers need to create their camper profile by logging onto https://familycampreservations.com/reservations/pre_reg.asp

Then on Saturday, December 14, 2013 registration for the 2014 summer season opens online (just click the previous link).

Eager campers can reserve their favorite tent from the comfort of their own home 24/7 on or after December 14th. The system allows campers to view a virtual campsite, select their favorite spot from a map of available tents, and have the flexibility of making a partial or full payment by credit card.

For more information, if you experience difficulties, or have questions while creating your camper profile, please contact the Family Camp office at (408) 794-6208 or familycamp@sanjoseca.gov.

Countdown to San Jose's Foam Container Ordinance - Are You Ready?

The first phase of the City of San José's Foam Food Container Ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2014. This phase only affects multi-state restaurant chains, with all other

restaurants affected on January 1, 2015. Multi-state restaurant chains will be unable to provide expanded polystyrene, commonly known as Styrofoam™, food ware beginning January 1, 2014. They may provide any alternative product of their choice. With just a few weeks left before the ordinance takes effect, we encourage restaurants to take the following actions to be in compliance with the new ordinance:

- Use up your current supply of foam food ware.
- Read the full ordinance at www.sanjoseca.gov/eps.
- Learn about the unique packaging and financial hardship exemptions at www.sanjoseca.gov/eps.

If you have questions, please contact the Green To Go team; they are there to help!

Email: greentogo@sanjoseca.gov

Phone: 408-975-2586

Visit www.sanjoseca.gov/eps for updates on alternative packaging pricing, frequently asked questions, restaurant tips, and other resources.

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