



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 February Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

The first month of 2014 came and went quickly, yet it proved to be fruitful. I was proud to be part of several events throughout January, especially the SJ Between the Lines Award Ceremony. Also, some important progress was made on **fiscal responsibility** by the City Council. There is a lot to look forward to in the month of February, and aside from Valentine's Day, there are several events coming up, including the Mayor's State of the City Address and the Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk & Senior Resource Fair.

### **SJ BETWEEN THE LINES**

As you read in several of our previous newsletters, my office partnered with Almaden Cares, and the Del Grande Dealer Group (DGDG) to host SJ Between the Lines, a safe driving video contest open to all high school students living or attending school in San Jose. We fully expected that our students would produce quality work, but we were absolutely amazed by not only the caliber of the videos, but the incredible thoughtfulness and maturity that was communicated through the videos.

On Thursday, January 23rd, the winners of the contest were announced in an awards ceremony at the DGDG Capitol Volkswagen showroom, where all of the submitted videos were displayed on their giant screen! Coming in at third place, for a \$1,200 prize, was Mackenzie Comer from Santa Teresa High School, with her video, "Friends Don't Let Friends Drink and Drive." To see Mackenzie's video, [click here](#).

The second place winners, and recipients of \$2,500, were Nicolette Lee and Madeleine Jones, from Archbishop Mitty High School, with their video "Save a Life: Don't Drive Distracted." In this powerful video, they interviewed several classmates and friends whose lives have been forever changed by accidents caused by distracted driving. [Click here to see the video](#).

The \$5,000 grand prize was awarded to Matthew Dresden, Ravati Rashingkar, and Sam Schultheis, from Santa Teresa High School, who captured first place. Their video, "Choice", showed the thought process of a young man facing the choice of letting one of his friends drive drunk. "Choice" received the greatest number of hits on YouTube of all the videos submitted. To view the winning video, [click here](#).

I am very appreciative of the hard work of Almaden Cares and the efforts and generosity of the Del Grande Dealer Group, Shaun Del Grande and his staff, as well as for the support of all of our generous sponsors and our incredible judges for making this contest possible. Thank you, as well, to each of the students who took the time to create such poignant and creative videos. Even though there could be only one grand prize, the efforts of all participants were of great value. I know that, someday, someone faced with a decision to drive recklessly, when drunk, or while distracted, will reflect on one of the videos our students made, and make the right decision. As a result, one or more lives could be saved. Well done to everyone involved! I look forward to next year's contest!



### **COUNCIL ACTIONS – New Soccer Fields, Fiscal Responsibility, & VTA Board**

This past week the San Jose City Council voted on several items that may be of interest to you. First, my colleagues and I unanimously approved the construction contract for the brand new, artificial turf soccer fields that will be constructed behind Allen at Steinbeck School. Because of the incredibly generous donation of \$4.2 million from a District 10 resident, these state-of-the-art soccer fields are slated to be finished and ready for use before the end of this summer, 2014.

On Friday, February 21st, at 3:30 PM, the City's Parks and Recreation Department and I will be hosting a groundbreaking to kick off this exciting project. If you would like to attend, please contact Rayshelle in my office for more information. She can be reached at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or at 408-535-4910. It is very exciting to see this project will soon be underway!

Many of you know that **fiscal responsibility** is a primary focus of mine as I represent you here at City Hall, which is why I am very happy to report that the City Council adopted a proposal that I brought forward, with the help of Councilmember Pete Constant, to place greater scrutiny on Lease Revenue Bonds. The Council voted 10-1 in favor of our proposal, with only Councilmember Chu opposed.

Lease Revenue Bonds are a way of financing City projects that rely on a stream of future revenue to make the payments. When these revenues fall short, the City's General Fund – the fund that pays for police, fire, libraries, community centers, and street maintenance – is tapped to make the payments. Currently, the General Fund pays out about \$21.5 million per year toward projects approved by past City Councils – projects like the Hayes Mansion and Los Lagos Golf Course - because the anticipated income had not materialized.

Lease Revenue Bonds can put the City on the hook for expense for 30 years or more,

tying the hands of future City Councils. With the passage of this measure, City staff will return to the Council by mid-year, with a draft policy that would:

- 1) *Ensure that both best AND worst-case scenarios are presented, at a minimum, before the City Council votes to proceed with Lease Revenue Bond-funded projects; and,*
- 2) *Require a 2/3 vote of the City Council in order to proceed with these projects.*

With these measures in place, it is hoped that the City Council will scrutinize the projections of costs and revenues a bit more closely and that more than a mere 6-5 majority can obligate City Councils to General Fund exposure years into the future.

In addition to awarding the soccer field contract and the work done on Lease Revenue Bonds, the City Council also approved my appointment to the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors. Since taking office, I have been an alternate on the committee. I am looking forward to having a more direct role in decision making, problem solving, and envisioning the future of the VTA.

### **WESTFIELD OAKRIDGE WINTER WALK & SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR**

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair. This year's event is scheduled for February 28th and will be held at Westfield Oakridge Mall in the Macy's courtyard. We look forward to hosting several new vendors, in addition to everyone's favorites from previous years. We will also have great prizes for our door prize drawing! Most importantly - new this year - we are encouraging pre-registration through the website, EventBrite. Pre-registration will eliminate the hassle of long lines at the event, and the first 100 guests who pre-register will receive a special gift! To pre-register for this year's Winter Walk [please click here](#). For more information please contact Michele in the D10 office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!

### **MAYOR CHUCK REED'S FINAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

On Thursday, February 20th, at 6:00 PM, San José Mayor Chuck Reed will be giving his State of the City Address at the recently-renovated McEnery San José Convention Center, 50 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95113. In addition to the Mayor's address, City Councilmembers will be recognizing organizations and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to their communities and the city.

This year, the District 10 State of the City honoree will be the South Valley Family YMCA. The South Valley YMCA enriches children, adults and families through health, fitness, and wellness programs, youth and family programs, camps, aquatics, and other activities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. They make a positive impact on District 10 residents and others through after-school enrichment, child care, and their Summer Achievement program for 85 low-income children, not to mention the fact that they put in hundreds of community volunteer hours. The Y builds healthy spirits, minds, and bodies, while instilling the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the City's accomplishments over the past year and Mayor Reed's vision for our City, so please [click here to register](#).

There is no charge to attend this event – it is free and open to the public. I hope to see you there!

## **UPDATE ON CHYNOWETH STREETLIGHTS**

My office has received numerous phone calls and emails regarding the streetlight outages on Chynoweth Avenue, west of Snell. Unfortunately, the streetlights are out due to copper wire theft that has plagued the City over the past few years. The turn-around time for streetlight repairs caused by copper wire theft has grown to 12-14 months, which should begin to improve somewhat since the City Council added resources in the Department of Transportation for an additional electrical repair crew. Due to the fact that this part of Chynoweth Avenue is near an undeveloped park that is completely dark at night, I have asked the Director of Transportation to make repairs to these streetlights a priority. We will keep you posted on a more defined timeline for the repairs, but be assured that it is a priority of mine that they be fixed as quickly as possible.

## **EXPRESSWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

In my last newsletter I told you about the Open Houses being held by Santa Clara County as a means of getting input from the community about their expressways. If you were unable to attend any of the meetings they held in January, you have one more opportunity to share your thoughts on the Almaden Expressway and Capitol Expressway. On Monday, February 10th, representatives from the County Roads Department will be speaking at the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) meeting. This is your opportunity to give your opinions on grade separation at Blossom Hill Rd., the condition of landscaping and weeds, light timing, commute-time challenges, and more.

Your input is important to the future of District 10. As a member of the Expressway Plan 2040 Policy Advisory Board representing the City of San José, I am excited for the opportunity to bring your feedback to the County. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to share your thoughts with me by emailing me at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or by calling my office at 408-535-4910.

## **VISITS TO TiVo and IBM ALMADEN RESEARCH**

I recently visited TiVo in North San Jose. It is fantastic to see a company that was born and bred here in San Jose succeed and expand and it is great to see that they have chosen to continue to make San Jose their home. TiVo had a lot of good news to report, including a strong balance sheet with about \$2 billion in the bank to fund future investments, and solid growth in Europe and South America through partnerships with the cable providers there. TiVo technology, if it is not already built into the products you own, can simplify your viewing experience and, in a short time, save you money on your monthly cable bill. For more information about TiVo and its products, visit their website here: <http://www.tivo.com/>

Amazing things are happening right here in District 10 at the IBM Almaden Research Center and many of you may have friends and neighbors who are among those who are making them happen! The theme of IBM Research is "The World is Our Laboratory" and this was truly in evidence during our visit. The work that is being done here, in San Jose, is as encouraging as it is enlightening. Encouraging, because some of the world's brightest minds are working on solving huge challenges, from how to provide economical access to clean water in developing nations to controlling and eradicating deadly viruses. Enlightening, because we learned about efforts to realize production-scale nanotechnology manufacturing, new techniques for quickly analyzing chemical data, true Big Data Analytics, and progress that is being made toward getting computers to

operate more like the human brain – something that could dramatically reduce power needs of computers while vastly increasing processing capacity. Learn more about what is happening at IBM Almaden Research here:

<http://www.research.ibm.com/labs/almaden/index.shtml>

I am grateful to both TiVo and IBM Almaden Research for welcoming me and for letting me share some of the extraordinary things being done by companies right here in San Jose!

### **COMMENDATION TO A YOUNG SAN JOSE HERO**

At the January 28th Council meeting I was honored to present a commendation to a young man who is nothing less than a hero. District 10 resident and Archbishop Mitty High School student Taylor Palmaffy became a certified lifeguard by the age of 16 and acquired additional life-saving skills while training with the Boy Scouts of America.

While on a family vacation in Hawaii with his family in June of 2012, Taylor was visiting one of the beaches when he noticed two swimmers - a young man and an older woman - struggling against the current and being dragged into deeper waters and quickly recognized they were in danger. Taylor used his training to identify that the swimmers were in distress and rushed, without hesitation, into the water to assist them, first reaching the young man and offering him a boogie board to ride to shore, and then, after ensuring the young man was safely with his father, rushed back into the water to assist the older woman and getting her safely to shore.

In November of 2013, Taylor was awarded the U.S. Coast Guard's third-highest public recognition award, a Public Service Commendation, given to one who displays "unusual courage" in the face of a life-threatening incident on our Nation's coasts. It was my honor to be able to present Taylor with a Commendation from Mayor Reed and the entire City Council, recognizing Taylor's bravery. It is such an inspiration to see young people having such a positive effect on the lives of others. Well done, Taylor!



That same evening, our everyday heroes in the San Jose Fire Department were presented with a commendation recognizing 160 years of "Courtesy and Service with Pride" to the residents of our great City. The SJFD's rich history and proud tradition are carried on by the men and women currently serving our community, and I am very grateful to them for their service and professionalism.

Continue reading below for more updates and opportunities to get involved in our community. If you have any questions regarding what you've read in this newsletter, feel

free to contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. Also, for updates between newsletters, add me as a friend on [Facebook](#) or follow me on [Twitter!](#)

Sincerely,

Johnny

### **Attention residents of the Santa Teresa Foothills area**

Do you live in the Santa Teresa Foothills area? Don't forget to follow the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/STFNA>

### **Lam Research "Heart & Soles 5K"**

Give your New Year's resolution a fighting chance! Join us for the inaugural Lam Research "Heart & Soles 5K". Studies show that kids who eat healthy meals are better learners. We hope you can join us for this year's race to introduce salad bars into Silicon Valley K-8 schools that want them.

Race Details:

Saturday, February 8, 2014~ 9:00 AM

Hellyer Park~ San Jose, CA

5K Walk/Run- \$38 (ages 8 and up), race starts at 9:00 AM

Kids Fun Run- \$12 (ages 2-7), race starts at 10:30 AM

All 5K participants will receive a long-sleeved shirt, bib, and timing chip. All Kids Fun Run participants will receive a t-shirt and a medal.

To register, [click here!](#)

### **San Jose Police Department PAL Cadet Program**

The Law Enforcement Unit (CADET PROGRAM) was created to introduce young people to law enforcement as a career opportunity. The cadet program was first organized by the Boy Scouts of America in 1964. The Explorer Program was then administered by volunteers of the San Jose Police Department. In 1968 the program was transferred to direct sponsorship by SJPD when the Police Activities League was formed. Also in 1968 young women first joined the ranks of the cadets. The San Jose Police Activities League is committed to maintain an outstanding career training program for its police cadets.

Cadet meetings are held every Tuesday from 5pm to 6:30pm. The purpose of these meetings is to educate each cadet in different areas of the San Jose Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. Films, guest speakers, lectures, practical exercises

and demonstrations are used. Field trips are taken to police departments, prisons and other law enforcement related locations. Cadets are required to put in 15 volunteer hours each month. Cadets gain field experience by assisting members of the San Jose Police Department when called upon.

The cadets participate in such events and activities as Fantasy Flight, DUI checkpoints, crowd control and our ride along program.

For more information on our cadet program visit our website at [www.sjdpdpal.com](http://www.sjdpdpal.com) If you are between the ages of 14-20 years and are interested in joining our cadet program please email Officer Saul Duran #3862 at [saul.duran@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:saul.duran@sanjoseca.gov).

## 2014 Crime and Gang Prevention Summit

On behalf of the City of San Jose, we invite you to attend the Sixth Annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit sponsored by the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force. The purpose of this summit is to promote and encourage partnerships among residents, the City of San Jose, and local community-based organizations to build a safer, more vibrant city.

The summit will feature informational workshops, a community resource fair, and a complimentary lunch for participants. Workshop topics include: Gang 102 and a Way Out, Faith Initiative, SJPD Community Safety Strategies, and Parent Engagement and Resources.

**When:**

Saturday, February 8, 2014  
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

**Where:**

Mt. Pleasant High School Theater  
1750 S White Rd  
San Jose, CA 95127

All interested individuals are encouraged to attend. Please [RSVP online](#) by Tuesday, February 4, 2014. Space is limited, so please sign up early. If you have any questions, please call the Mayor's office at (408) 535-4800

## American Heart Association's Half-Marathon Training Program

Check out the American Heart Association's half-marathon training program for runners and walkers. It starts up on 2/8, with training locations throughout the Bay Area. A modest fundraising minimum is required. Walking is a great first step to becoming heart healthy, and the money raised will be spent locally on community education, policy outreach, and medical research. Please see the website for more info: [www.starttrainingbayarea.org](http://www.starttrainingbayarea.org).

## Show Your Love for San José, Pick Up Litter this Valentine's Day

The City of San José's Environmental Services Department is partnering with Litterati to host a litter photo contest this Valentine's Day, February 14th. Prizes include tickets to: Amaluna from Cirque Du Soleil, a Broadway San José Musical, and a SJSU Spartans Basketball Game.

Here's how it works:

1. Find one piece of litter within San José on February 14th
2. Photograph it and share it on Instagram
3. Add hashtags #keepsjclean and #litterati to the caption
4. Throw away, recycle or compost the litter

By photographing and picking up litter, we can increase awareness of litter's impact on the environment and clean up our City one piece at a time.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the contest rules, please contact Emily Kurth at [Emily.kurth@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Emily.kurth@sanjoseca.gov)

## Free Tax Service You Can Trust

Make less than \$52,000? Dial 2-1-1 or go to [211scc.org](http://211scc.org) for the closest location for you.

Help your friends and family save money and get the refund they deserve this tax season by connecting them to Earn It! Keep It! Save It! – sponsored by a coalition of IRS-certified nonprofit VITA community partners. Many Silicon Valley workers do not know about this free quality service or what tax credits they could be eligible for! For the 2013 tax year, a family of five may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to \$6,044.

The VITA Program offers free tax help to people who meet the income guidelines and who cannot prepare their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers sponsored by local nonprofit organizations help prepare basic tax returns and make sure you get all the refund and tax credits you deserve. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are located at more than 45 community and neighborhood centers, libraries and schools throughout Santa Clara County. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. Call 2-1-1 for the location closest to you. Sites are open from late January until April 15th.

Want to complete your taxes on your own?

New this year is a free online tax preparation service for those earning \$58,000 or less. This online service is sponsored by the EKS coalition and United Way Silicon Valley. It is available beginning January 31 at <http://myfreetaxes.com/uwsv>. Eligible residents can simply go online and prepare their taxes themselves using the free service.

What to bring to your VITA free tax prep session

- Photo ID



- Social Security Cards or ITIN
- W-2's, 1099's , 1098's and all other tax forms
- Last year's federal and state returns if available
- Voided check for Direct Deposit

## **San Jose Family Camp at Yosemite: Online Reservations for 2014 Summer Season**

Returning for another year of family memories, San Jose Family Camp at Yosemite is proud to announce a new online reservation system for the 2014 summer season that runs from June 13 through August 9, 2014. The system allows Campers to view photos of campsites, select their favorite spot from a map of available tents on their preferred dates, and make a partial or full payment by credit card.

Family Camp at Yosemite amenities include; all meals, a tent, cots, flush toilets and showers. Camp activities include fishing, swimming, rafting, hiking, gold panning, crafts, relaxing and organized events. Yosemite's West Entrance gate is 20 minutes away.

Reservations are being accepted now - simply visit [www.FamilyCampReservations.com](http://www.FamilyCampReservations.com). Please call the Family Camp Office at (408) 794-6208 if you need any assistance, or wish to pay by cash or check.

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