



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 April Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

I hate graffiti. I do. It is an eye sore, a financial burden to our city, and a glaring reminder of the lack of respect a few people have for themselves, their neighbors, and their city. I know this is not my typical opening greeting, but I am fed up. I am tired of seeing our beautiful city become the canvas for criminals to mark their territory. That is why my staff and I have been working on several projects to not only abate the graffiti in our neighborhoods, but, hopefully, to prevent it from happening again.

I am sure you are all aware of the broken windows theory. If not, it basically states the longer blight remains in a location, it helps precipitate more blight and other crimes. Well, I don't want that for District 10, so my office has planned several painting restoration projects in District 10. One of those is coming up on April 26th. For the Great American Litter Pick Up, we will be painting one of those highly-tagged areas of our community. My office has partnered with the Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program, splitting the cost of the paint, to restore the sound wall along Almaden Road between Kelez and Trinidad. This is a VERY long stretch of wall and we will need an army of volunteers to help us paint the entire thing, so please consider joining us to help beautify and restore this area. If you have any questions please contact Rayshelle at [rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4982.

Also, I have some other things in the works that I will be rolling out in the coming months, so stay tuned!

### **GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICK UP**

Like I just mentioned, it's that time of year again! Time to put on your gloves and grab your pick-up sticks, because the Great American Litter Pick Up is just around the corner! On Saturday, April 26th, from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM, my office will be organizing litter pick-up and beautification projects all around District 10! This is a wonderful opportunity to get out and help beautify your neighborhood while getting to know your neighbors. This is also a great opportunity for students looking for community service hours!

Last year, we increased our volunteer numbers 10-fold from the previous year, and we are hoping for record-breaking numbers of volunteers on April 26th! With staging areas

all around District 10, we have made it convenient for almost every neighborhood to find a spot to volunteer that is near their home and directly helps their community. Below you will find the five staging areas around the District, with the details of the sorts of projects we will be working on:

***Staging Site Number 1: Almaden Community Center***

-At the Almaden Community Center, volunteers will be pulling weeds, picking up trash and spreading wood chips around the center campus. With large flower beds and lots of shrubbery, we want to ensure that the Almaden Community Center remains a clean and welcoming place for everyone to enjoy. If you plan to volunteer at this location, please bring your own gardening gloves, shovels, and rakes.

***Staging Site Number 2: Almaden Road sound wall – between Trinidad and Kelez***

-Unfortunately, the Almaden Road sound wall has been plagued by tagging of all sorts. Luckily, we have a diligent volunteer who has been painting over the graffiti when it happens, but now the wall is left with splotches of different shades of paint. We need A LOT of volunteers to help us restore this wall! We want to make sure the wall is one, uniform color and that all signs of tagging are removed. If you plan on volunteering here, please wear clothes you wouldn't mind getting paint on.

***Staging Site Number 3: Pioneer High School – Hoffman-Via Monte***

-The Hoffman-Via Monte neighborhood has been a hot spot for graffiti and litter. Last year, we collected more bags of trash from this neighborhood than all of the other sites combined. We want to make sure we keep this neighborhood clean and a priority for litter pick up. We will also be working on graffiti removal from public areas. We will be meeting in Pioneer High School's back parking lot and walking over to the neighboring Hoffman-Via Monte community.

***Staging Site Number 4: Playa Del Rey Park***

-This is a new site this year, and we are looking forward to working in this neighborhood. Volunteers will be doing general litter pick up, graffiti removal, and cleaning of park amenities, as well as a possible tree planting. We hope to see a lot of the Playa Del Rey neighbors help with this clean up effort!

***Staging Site Number 5: Del Roble Elementary School***

-This is also a new site this year! District 10 staff members have been coordinating with the principal of Del Roble to ensure that this event is a success. Similar to Playa Del Rey, volunteers will be doing general litter pick up. We are hoping to get families from the school involved, and teach kids the importance of volunteerism and community involvement!

***Staging Site Number 6: Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA Station***

Since a great team of volunteers will be sprucing up Vista Park last weekend, we will be focusing our efforts in a different section of the VEP neighborhood this year. Volunteers can choose from several different projects here; general litter pick up, graffiti removal, and tree and shrub trimming and removal along nearby trails. This is also a great opportunity for students from Gunderson High School to earn community service hours while beautifying the area around their school.

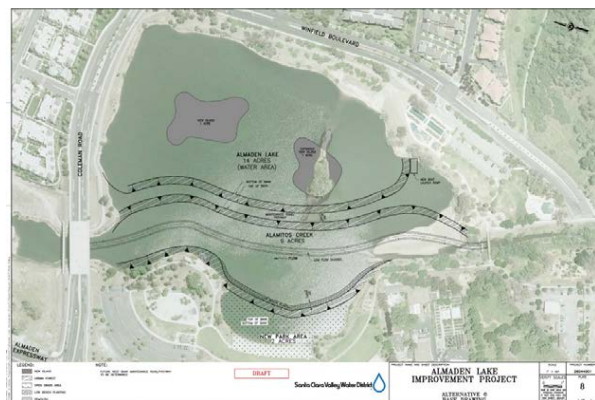
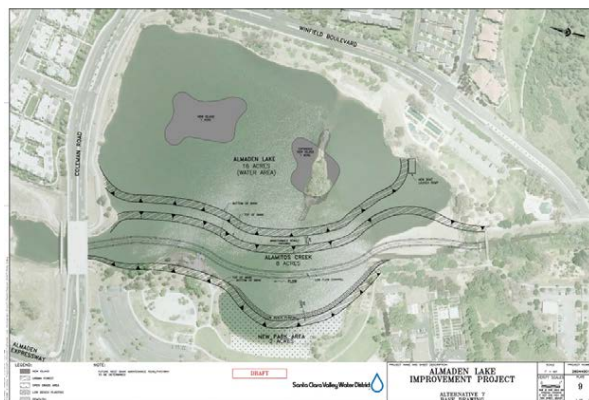
In order to make this event a success, we need your help! This entire event depends on volunteers from our community. Breakfast snacks, coffee, and lunch will be provided for

all who help out, and volunteer service hours will be given to students who need them. If you have any questions, or you would like to join the team, please contact Rayshelle and let her know the staging site at which you wish to volunteer. Rayshelle can be reached at [rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov) or by calling 408-535-4910. I hope to see you on April 26th!

### **ALMADEN LAKE COMMUNITY MEETING**

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has made great strides in digesting the input from District 10 residents, the City, government agencies, and environmental organizations to create two additional feasible alternatives for required changes to Almaden Lake. These new alternatives seem to have created a consensus among the interested parties. Below are diagrams of Alternatives 6 and 7. Both of these alternatives retain the largest amount of open water space possible, while fulfilling engineering and environmental mandates from the State of California.

To learn more about these alternatives, please consider attending the Almaden Lake Community Meeting on Wednesday, April 9th, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will take place at Castillero Middle School, located at 6384 Leyland Park Dr. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more, have your questions answered, or bring forward your concerns regarding the future of the lake. You can also learn more about or view larger diagrams of each of the alternatives by visiting <http://www.valleywater.org/Mercury/AlmadenLake.aspx>.



### **FLAG RAISINGS AND CEREMONIALS**

One of the greatest things about San Jose is the immense diversity of cultures that have found a home in our city. I love living in a city that celebrates the history, accomplishments, and contributions of other countries and cultures. One way that the City of San Jose officially highlights these things is by hosting flag raising ceremonies.

On Tuesday, April 8th, at 11:30 AM, the Offices of Councilmember Johnny Khamis and Supervisor Dave Cortese, along with the South Bay Scottish Society will present the annual Tartan Day Scottish Flag Raising celebration. All are welcome to come hear the pipes and drums, see some traditional Scottish dancing, and join in recognizing the contributions of Scottish-Americans toward the success of our City, State, and Nation.

### **REPORT FROM WASHINGTON D.C.**

Last week, I had the great opportunity to join the Silicon Valley Leadership Group on a

trip to our nation's capital in order to promote the best interests of the City of San Jose and to advocate for policies that greatly affect our City. In a packed two-and-a-half days, I met with over 60 congressional leaders, including the Speaker of the House, John Boehner, to discuss issues like immigration reform, bringing corporate dollars back to the U.S. for investment here at home, and continued access to our fair share of our federal tax dollars for critical transportation infrastructure.

Although 2014 is a major Congressional election year, there was a great deal of optimism expressed by members of Congress about the opportunity for agreement on some of these key issues. Given that it is an election year, there is no better time for citizens to be engaged in our democratic process and to hold our federal representatives accountable for whether or not they make progress on the legislative priorities of our City and its residents.

### **DISTRICT 10 COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING**

Save the date! If you've ever wanted to know more about the city's budget and ask questions of your elected officials in regard to San Jose's finances, you will soon have your chance. I invite you to come learn about the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget proposal and share your thoughts on the proposed budget at the District 10 Community Budget Meeting to be held from 6 PM to 8 PM on Monday, May 5th. We are still finalizing a location, but we'll be sure to update you when we have one.

### **THANK YOU LIME TREE**

For the past year, I have been holding my Wednesday evening Community Office Hours at Lime Tree Espresso on Branham and Snell. Unfortunately, due to the expiration of their lease, they are going out of business. A big thank you to Rich, the owner, for his generosity and hospitality. Lime Tree was a wonderful and welcoming place to hold our meetings and we are very sorry to see them close their doors. I am currently looking for a new venue to hold Community Office Hours and will be sure to keep you posted when I do!

### **WiFi AT ALMADEN COMMUNITY CENTER**

Last year during the budget process, I drafted a Budget Document to transfer up to \$3,500 of my office budget to PRNS for the acquisition and installation of the hardware required to expand wireless internet access throughout the Almaden Community Center and Library. Key areas of the Community Center, including various meeting rooms, lacked the WiFi signal necessary for user access. I am very happy to announce that the wireless system has been installed and those areas previously without signal are now enabled with WiFi! Thank you to the Almaden Community Center Staff and the IT Department for getting it the expanded service up and running!

### **SPRING EGG HUNTS**

This year, I am pleased to have two Spring Egg Hunts for children and families in District 10 to choose from. The first will be held at Almaden Lake Park on Saturday, April 12th, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, and is sponsored by the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department. This event costs \$6.00 and you can pre-register at [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns) or at any local community center.

The second egg hunt will be held at Playa Del Rey Park on Saturday, April 12th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and is sponsored by the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association. For more information, contact Bob Vonderwerth at [rvonderwerth@att.net](mailto:rvonderwerth@att.net).

Both events will have designated hunts for each age group and will also have arts and crafts activities open to all ages. I look forward to seeing you there!

**GUEST COLUMN FROM SCVWD BOARD MEMBER LINDA LEZOTTE**

Please read the following letter below from Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member, Linda LeZotte, regarding the drought situation facing our region.

*"I recently spoke to the Campbell Chamber of Commerce about the severe drought and the how the Santa Clara Valley Water District is dealing with this situation. I wanted to share that information with you. In late February, as a member of the Board of the Water District, my colleagues and I passed a resolution calling upon retail water agencies, the county and local cities to implement mandatory measures to reach a water use reduction target equal to 20 percent of 2013 water use. Despite a few recent storms, our water supply conditions still look bleak. Locally, our reservoirs are only at about half of their normal capacity for this time of year.*

*We called for mandatory conservation due to significant changes between late January and late February. One, a reduction of the amount of water imported from the Sierra Nevada watersheds through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to our county. On Jan. 31, the state Department of Water Resources reduced our allocation from 5 percent of the district's contract amount to zero. This impacts the district's ability to transfer water that has been stored underground near Bakersfield to supplement our Santa Clara Valley aquifer.*

*Two, on Feb. 21, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that the water district's agricultural allocation would be zero, and our allocation for use by homes and businesses would be reduced to 50 percent of historic use. These reductions will require the District to implement aggressive water management techniques.*

*A priority of the district is continued delivery of safe, clean water from its drinking water treatment plants to retail water agencies, the county and local cities. Imported water typically provides more than 85 percent of the supply for the water district's three drinking water treatment plants. In dry and critically dry years, when local water is limited, up to 99 percent of treated drinking water is from imported water sources. With less fresh water flowing through the Delta, the district is working with retail water agencies to maintain our normally high drinking water quality.*

*Because of the lack of local and imported water, nearly all of our groundwater replenishment operations have been cut back to conserve supplies for use this summer. This means most of our groundwater recharge ponds around the county are beginning to dry or are already dry, despite recent rainfall.*

*We've also begun storing imported water in Anderson Reservoir to help ensure that there is sufficient water to supply treatment plants through the year.*

*Residents and businesses can expect over the coming weeks, for their local water provider or municipality to begin implementing measures to reach the 20 percent target. The water district, as a wholesale provider, relies on retailer water agencies, local municipalities and the county to enact and implement local ordinances and water use reduction measures.*

*The Board has also established an Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee to discuss the implementation of actions to achieve the district's water use reduction targets. We all know that water use efficiency is always the right thing to do. In this drought, immediate*

conservation will help ensure that our community has enough water to meet essential needs.

The water district has developed a one-stop website for information about water supply conditions, conservation programs, water saving tips and drought alerts. Just go to [www.valleywater.org/drought2014/](http://www.valleywater.org/drought2014/) and find out what you can do to save today and tomorrow.

We thank you for your efforts.

As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative for the City of Campbell, portions of Willow Glen and the Cambrian, North Almaden and Blossom Hill neighborhoods of San Jose. Feel free to contact me at (408)265.2600.”

### **UPCOMING DISTRICT 10 PROJECTS - PUBLIC HEARINGS**

On Wednesday, April 9th, at 6:30 PM, the Planning Commission will take up two District 10 matters. The first is a zoning change to allow for the construction of ten single-family homes on privately-owned property, currently zoned for residential use, located on the west side of Almaden Expressway at the southern terminus of Brasilia Way. The developer has owned this property for several years.

The 2040 General Plan calls for residential zoning of this property to allow for up to approximately 15 single-family, detached homes. The developer, after much input from the City Planning Department and from residents, including at two community meetings, has proposed a 10-home project that minimizes visual effects on surrounding neighborhoods and preserves a majority of the acreage in its natural state.

The second project is a Conditional Use Permit to allow for renovations, remodeling, and an addition at the Almaden Golf and Country Club. The Club held a community meeting previously to hear input from the community and neighborhood concerns.

All are welcome to attend and speak on these projects. The meetings are held within the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113.

You can view the draft staff recommendations at [www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/hearings/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/hearings/) or by visiting the Planning Department between 9 AM and 5 PM weekdays. For comments or questions, you may contact the Project Manager, Aparna Ankola at 408-535-7845 or via email at [Aparna.ankola@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Aparna.ankola@sanjoseca.gov).

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

**Volunteer with Our City Forest**

Our City Forest is looking for volunteers to help water young trees at TJ Martin/Fontana Park. Volunteers will be rewarded with the opportunity to learn more about the crucial, yet often overlooked, care needed to ensure the health and success of these young trees.

Volunteers should be at least of high school age (with a consent form) or older, and anyone with a truck is highly encouraged to help out! These events usually take place every Friday and Saturday, from 9 AM until noon. Those interested should contact the Tree Care Volunteer Coordinator, Olivia Goguen: [treecarevolunteers@ourcityforest.org](mailto:treecarevolunteers@ourcityforest.org) (408) 998-7337 x 105

### **Inaugural Silicon Valley Contemporary Art Fair**

From April 10-13, the inaugural Silicon Valley Contemporary Art Fair will take place at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center and feature art exhibitions from over 50 select art galleries representing 10 countries. By showcasing how technology impacts art practices around the world, the fair brings together the arts community, industry leaders, and investors.

For a free pass to the event, [click here](#). For more information, [click here](#)!

### **Tennis Play Day**

Come out and join Almaden Community Center for a Tennis Play Day event on Sunday, April 6th from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM! The event will be held at Castillero Middle School and the cost is \$5 per player. Bring your family and friends and enjoy great tennis! There will be music, prizes, and loaner equipment available. This is great for all ages and skill levels. For more information visit us online at [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns) or stop by the Almaden Community Center.

### **Technology Class for Seniors at Almaden Library**

Every Friday at 3:30 PM, a teen technology expert will spend an hour with you to help you with whatever technology issue you may have. This tutoring is limited to senior citizens. Note: Pre-Registration is required for this program, so sign up at the Almaden Library's Information Desk or call 408-808-3040 during regular library hours.

### **West Valley Senior Walk**

Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual West Valley Senior Walk! Councilmembers Constant and Oliverio will be hosting the West Valley Senior Walk on Friday, April 11th inside the Westfield Valley Fair Mall. Registration and free breakfast start at 8:00 AM and will be followed by a Walk and Resource Fair from 8:45 AM to 10:00 AM. This event has

become the largest senior health and wellness walk in the area - a much anticipated event for local seniors and service providers. Last year's event attracted over 450 participants with more than 65 resource tables with information and services geared towards seniors. You do not need to RSVP in advance to participate - just bring your walking shoes and meet us on Friday, April 11th for a fun morning! For additional information, please contact Chelsey Seagraves at [chelsey.seagraves@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:chelsey.seagraves@sanjoseca.gov) or by calling (408) 535-4901.

## **Santa Clara County Citizenship Day**

Saturday, Apr 12, 2014

Protect your family, your community, your future. Become a citizen!

San José City College

Tech Building

(Corner of S. Bascom Ave & Moorpark Ave)

600 South Bascom Avenue

San Jose, CA 95128

FREE orientation on how to become a U.S. Citizen.

FREE financial assistance information for the USCIS application fee.

FREE Referral to ESL and Citizenship Classes.

FREE initial legal assessment, if necessary.

QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS will receive: Assessment of Eligibility, Citizenship Application Assistance, Referral to ESL and Citizenship Classes, 100 USCIS Citizenship Interview Questions

For information available in 12 different languages visit:

<http://www.immigrantinfo.org/events/index.html#CD>

## **Parks - Past and Future**

Sunday April 6th - 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.

New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum -

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/Almaden-Quicksilver-Mining-Museum.aspx>

Join us for a history tour at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum and a walking tour of the New Almaden old town led by Docent Sparky Harlan, a leader for Sierra Club and former Parks and Recreation Commissioner for Santa Clara County and Kitty Monahan, Citizens Advisory Committee member for the Open Space Authority and longtime resident (and former mayor) of New Almaden. Learn New Almaden's mining history and about the resident activists who helped developed the county parks system and the Open Space Authority.

## **Lawn Mower Exchange Program**

Older gasoline lawn mowers can have a significant impact on air quality. To reduce air



pollution, the Air District is providing a rebate towards the purchase of a new, cordless, zero-emission electric lawn mower after turning in your operable gasoline lawn mower for recycling. The Air District invites you to participate in the program and to share this information with other Bay Area residents that may be interested in participating in this program.

Three lawn mower exchange events will be held from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM on the following dates:

- March 22nd, in Novato, at the College of Marin, Indian Valley Campus
- April 5th, in Saratoga, at West Valley College
- April 26th, in Oakland, at the Oakland International Airport

The program will provide incentives for up to 2,400 lawn mower exchanges. Bay Area residents will be able to trade-in their old gas mower and select from two Black & Decker cordless battery electric lawn mowers at a discounted price. Both electric lawn mowers have a 30-day manufacturer satisfaction guarantee and two-year warranties. The two lawn mowers that will be available for purchase at the discounted price are:

- Black & Decker (CM 1836) 18-Inch Cordless for \$110 (normally up to \$350)
- Black & Decker (CM 1936) 19-Inch Cordless for \$190 (normally up to \$400)

Advance registration is required and you must be a Bay Area resident in order to participate. Bay Area residents are advised to pre-register online at <http://www.blackanddecker.com/mowerevents> or by calling the Black & Decker hotline at (844) 262-3495, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Each participant can select an appointment time and mower model.

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](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)  
(408) 535-4910