



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 May Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

About a month ago, I began my newsletter by stating that I hate graffiti, and voiced my frustrations regarding the blight that it brings to our neighborhoods. Well, last Saturday, April 26th, my staff and I, along with over 160 volunteers from all over District 10, decided to do something about it!

For several months, my office staff had been planning The Great American Litter Pick Up, and bright and early Saturday morning, dozens of volunteers descended upon the 6 staging sites throughout the District to pick up litter, remove graffiti, brush up some landscaping, plant a tree, and paint a half-mile long sound wall that has been the target of tagging for a long time! The event was a tremendous success!

At Almaden Community Center, neighbors of the Center and members of the Almaden Swim and Racquet Club came out to pull weeds, clean up litter, and spread fresh wood chips in the flower beds around the campus. They did a fantastic job sprucing the place up! Just a stones-throw away, neighbors were joined by young people and adults from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, members of the Assyrian-American Association, brothers of the California Zeta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at San Jose State University, and staff from the City of San Jose's Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program, diligently painted the entire stretch of sound wall along Almaden Road, from Kelez to Bose. The former multi-colored and blotched wall that had been the target of graffiti is now one, solid color, and the blight has been removed!



At Pioneer High School and Del Roble Elementary School, YMCA staff led a great effort in picking up litter and removing graffiti from street signs, light poles, and utility boxes. In the Hoffman-Via Monte neighborhood near Pioneer, volunteers collected 93 bags of trash and 20 shopping carts! A majority of those volunteers were children and families from Almaden Elementary. What a great opportunity to get kids involved and to teach them how to take ownership of their community! Del Roble was a great success as well, with Principal Yolanda Ross joining the effort!

In the VEP and Playa Del Rey neighborhoods, volunteers collected upwards of 23 bags of trash, removed graffiti, raked up leaves and pine needles, and planted a tree! In addition to the volunteer efforts, my office requested the clean up of the medians along Camden Avenue, and thanks to the Department of Transportation, they were all spruced up! Thanks to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to Yellow Cab of Silicon Valley for donating the funds to feed all of our volunteers! District 10 residents have proven once again their dedication and commitment to making our community great!

### **THIS MONDAY – DISTRICT 10 COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING**

The City's proposed 2014-2015 Budget was released today. [To view it online, click here.](#) To learn more about the City's budget, ask questions, and provide your input come to the District 10 Community Budget Meeting to be held from 6 PM to 8 PM on Monday, May 5th, in the Board Room of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118. Mayor Reed and I will be joined by many of those who lead the City's various departments. There is plenty of free parking at the Water District offices. If you have any questions, please contact my office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. A flyer that shows a complete list of upcoming budget meetings may be [found by clicking here.](#)

### **BRASILIA WAY**

Today, I submitted a memo to the City Council requesting that the Council's public hearing for the proposed Brasilia Way development be postponed to June 10th. District 10 residents and members of the planning commission expressed concerns about the 12 native oak trees that would be removed. I heard these valid concerns and have asked the developer to work with the City's Planning and Public works departments to see how the project might be modified in order to preserve additional native oak trees. Deferring the item to June 10th will give the developer and City staff adequate time to figure out how additional trees might be preserved. You may read my memo to the City Council here: <http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30266>

### **BEAUTIFUL DAY**

Every year, churches from around San Jose participate in an event called Beautiful Day. Church members and volunteers participate in major service projects that make a big impact on the communities benefiting. This year, on Saturday, May 17th, South Hills Community Church in Almaden is organizing several large-scale projects in the area. One will be at Almaden Meadows Park, and another will be a painting project along the Trinidad sound wall. This event isn't only for church members; everyone is welcome to participate in beautifying the community. For more information, contact Michele Dexter at [michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4978.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY & ALMADEN CARES**

With yet another fatal traffic accident in District 10, I wanted to take a moment to urge

everyone to drive responsibly! Please, for your sake, for the sake of your families, friends, and your neighbors, obey the rules of the road, don't text and drive, be attentive and cautious, look out for pedestrians and bicyclists, and never drive under the influence! My heart breaks for the family and friends of those who have fallen victim to reckless driving. These unfortunate events are preventable, so let's all do our part by being safe and responsible drivers.

One non-profit organization that has made responsible driving their mission is Almaden Cares. Many of you may have seen their bright yellow signs along Almaden Expressway reminding drivers to slow down and be cautious. Almaden Cares is looking for more members to help them grow their efforts, especially through speaking at local high schools about the importance of being a responsible driver. If you have a little free time and would like to make a difference, please consider joining Almaden Cares. For more information you may visit their website [www.almadencares.com](http://www.almadencares.com).

### **JULY 4TH FUN FESTIVAL**

I am very excited to announce that the District 10 Council Office will be presenting the First Annual July 4th Fun Festival at Almaden Lake Park. Come and celebrate our Nation's independence with live music, games, a safety resource fair, delicious food, local artisan displays, and a professional fireworks display to end the night with a bang! With the help of sizable donations from our title sponsors and smaller donations from residents like you, we will be presenting this event without the use of taxpayer dollars. Please stay tuned for more details. We are looking forward to a wonderful event! For more information about the event or how you can donate, contact Drew at [drew.spitzer@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:drew.spitzer@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

### **HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE – WHAT DOES YOUR POLICY COVER?**

You may already know that property owners in San Jose are responsible for the sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in front of their properties. Some homeowners are also responsible for the sound wall that runs across their property. You may also be responsible for what happens on that sidewalk, curb, gutter, and sound wall, depending upon the circumstances, so I recommend that you double-check with your homeowners or business insurance agent, or take a look at your policy, to ensure that you are adequately insured and that your policy covers these places.

### **COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS**

As I mentioned in a recent last newsletter, Lime Tree Espresso, our usual Wednesday evening location for Community Office Hours, has closed shop. While we are sad to see such a community-oriented business close its doors, we are looking forward to holding our meetings at City Espresso Gourmet Coffee, located at 630 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA 95123. Please join us the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Almaden Community Center from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM and every third Wednesday of each month at City Espresso from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, to ask questions, share ideas, express your concerns, or to just meet me face to face to discuss the latest happenings in our city... no appointment needed. I hope to see you there!

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

### **Giant Spring BOOK SALE by the Friends of the Almaden Library**

Saturday, May 3, 9 AM to 3 PM  
6445 Camden Ave, San Jose 95120

The large Community Room will be filled with gently-used books & media, CDs, DVDs, & audio books. Most paperback books are 50 cents and most hardback books are \$1. Some special/coffee-table books are slightly more. There will be many cookbooks, science fiction, medical, parenting, house & garden, crafts, computer, music, religion, business, and other categories, & languages. CDs & DVDs are now a bargain for just \$1. Bring some bags, and find books to enjoy for many months! The last hour, from 2-3 PM, is the sale where you can fill a Bag of Books and Media for \$5. What a bargain!

### **Save the Date! STOP IT! (Identity Theft) Symposium**

The San Jose Police Department, Councilmembers Ash Kalra, Don Rocha & Johnny Khamis, and Corporate Sponsor McAfee bring you an exciting new symposium that addresses both prevention and recovery from identity theft – one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States! Your identity is your most valuable asset. Are you doing all that you can to protect it? STOP IT! Symposium – EMPOWER yourself with education, information, and resources.

June 21st, 2014  
8am to 1230 pm  
Branham High School  
1570 Branham Ln  
San Jose, CA 95118

\*Registration will open June 1, 2014. More details to come. For questions please contact the District 10 Council Office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

## **Rec. Day San Jose**

The City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department is hosting its' first annual 'Rec. Day San Jose' event, at Guadalupe River Park-Discovery Meadow on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This is a free family event for the entire community to enjoy games, arts and crafts, music, giveaways and more! Come learn about the amazing summer recreation programming the City of San Jose offers, and participate in some fun and exciting activities! You will also have the opportunity to meet our fantastic summer staff!

Find out more information by contacting your local City of San Jose Community Center. Information will also available in our upcoming Summer Community Center Brochure. Don't forget to like San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services on Facebook for updates on this event!

## **Almaden Lions: I Care Classic Bike Ride**

The Almaden Super Lions Club will hold their 23rd annual I Care Classic Bike Ride fundraiser Saturday, May 10, 2014. 100% of proceeds received will be used to provide eye exams and eye glasses to children in needy families.

There are five separate tours designed to meet all levels of ability; such as 20 miles, 50 km, 100 km, flat 100 miles and hilly 100 miles. We also have a 20 mile route, desirable for families. Routes are clearly marked and well supported. This is a tour, not a race and not a pledge ride.

Please visit our website: [Almadenlions.org](http://Almadenlions.org) to find out more about the lions club and how you can join or donate. The club is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are 100% tax deductible.

Information about the bike ride can be made by visiting [lcareclassic.org](http://lcareclassic.org) web page or by contacting Lois Ferber, Past President at 408-268-6739.

## **Special Parcel Tax Exemption Available for Seniors**

Exemption enrollment period is now open and runs through June 30, 2014

The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers an exemption for qualifying low-income seniors from the 15-year Safe, Clean, Water Creeks special parcel tax. This tax was approved by Santa Clara County voters in November of 2012.

The exemption allows the district to remove the charge from a qualifying senior household's property tax bill. Currently, the charge is around \$55 for a single family home and \$23 for a townhouse or condo. Seniors 65 years and older can apply for the exemption if they live in their own home as their primary residence. Please note that mobile homes in parks, and homes that are in an irrevocable trust, are not eligible for this exemption.

The enrollment period is April 15, and all new applications must be received by the water district by June 30 to be exempted for the upcoming property tax year. Residents who miss the enrollment period must wait for the next year.

Once a resident has submitted the application, there is no need to re-apply every year. In the spring, usually by the end of March or early April, the district will send the resident a letter to verify eligibility. Once the resident has returned the verification form for ongoing eligibility, the water district will remove the resident's property from the property tax roll for the Safe, Clean Water charge for the next property tax year.

For more information on the exemption or to obtain an application form, visit <http://bit.ly/1qgDMnl>, email [JulieWilson@valleywater.org](mailto:JulieWilson@valleywater.org) or call the district's tax information line at (408) 630-2810.

## **Youth Video and Poster Contest Sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Water District**

Linda LeZotte, our representative on the Santa Clara Valley Water District, announced that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is now accepting video and poster entries for its youth media contest until May 12. This contest is a way to create and increase awareness among Santa Clara County youth to contribute to water-saving efforts and to help respond to the severe drought that California is facing.

Entries should focus on water conservation tips and show easy ways to save water in response to the California drought. One of the goals is to get the younger generation to think about sustainability of water and to help them adopt and promote a water-efficient lifestyle. Contest entrants must be residents of Santa Clara County and can compete in two categories – video and/or poster. Each category has two age groups – between the ages of 14 to 18 and 19 to 24. Entries may be a team or individual effort.

Contestants are encouraged to create new and original graphics, visual elements, or concepts to convey the contest theme, as long as the message tips are gathered from the [save20gallons.org](http://save20gallons.org) site.

All entries may be submitted with a completed entry form until midnight May 12, 2014. The contest entry form, complete contest rules and criteria are available online at [www.valleywater.org/youthcontest](http://www.valleywater.org/youthcontest).

The winners will be recognized at a special awards ceremony in late May at the water district headquarters. First prize winners will receive a cash prize of \$250 in each category for each age group. Runners-up will receive other valuable prizes. Prizes sponsored by New America Media and other local retail sponsors.

## **Survey from San Jose Parks and Rec**

The City of San Jose's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services would like to learn how we can serve you better and is conducting a survey to understand how to best meet the community needs. Please take three minutes to complete this brief survey and receive up to \$10.00 off enrollment in a community center class!

Thank you for your time and valuable feedback!

Please forward this to friends, family and other City of San Jose residents!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PRNSNUS2014>

## **Hershey's Track and Field Games**

On Saturday, May 10th at 8:00 AM, at Mt. Pleasant High School (1750 S. White Road San Jose, CA 95127) kids between the ages of 9 and 14 are invited to participate in the annual Citywide Youth Track Meet sponsored by the San Jose Police Amateur Athletic Foundation, SJPd Crime Prevention Unit, SJPd PAL Cadet Program, SJPd TABS Program, Mt. Pleasant High School Track Team and the Hershey Corporation. Volunteer groups from San Jose will assist in the running of the meet. Events include track races, standing long jump, and a softball throw. Youth are encouraged to register for any and all events in their age group. Registration is simple, go to <http://www.sjpaaf.org/track.asp>. Also, print out the waiver and bring it with you to the meet. The Meet is free to all participants.

HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games is the longest-running youth activity program of its kind in North America, and a great entry point for kids ages 9-14 to get active and become engaged in a healthy lifestyle.

More than 10 million kids have participated in games and benefited from learning the basic skills to enjoy a lifetime of activity.

HERSHEY'S Track and Field Games is about helping get kids on the right track, teaching lifelong lessons and having fun with every RUN, JUMP & THROW along the way

For more information contact Sgt. Jason Pierce #3380 at 408-277-4133

## **Discover Coyote Valley**

Discover Coyote Valley is a new initiative, promoted through a website and interactive map that invites visitors to explore agriculture, recreation and nature in the Coyote Valley, in Santa Clara County. Many destinations are open year round. May 10 th is the start date for a series of monthly events, which feature special farm tours and hikes. The initiative is part of a broader project, Revitalizing Specialty Crop Agriculture in the Valley of the Heart's Delight: a Model for Linked Urban-Rural Sustainability. To learn more,

visit: [www.discovercoyotevalley.org](http://www.discovercoyotevalley.org)

## **Foothill College Seeking Part-time Instructors**

The PSME Center at Foothill College seeks part-time supplemental instructors to assist students in our learning center. Successful applicants will work with students one-on-one and in small groups to improve success and understanding in STEM-related classes.

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in a math, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, computer science, network engineering or other engineering field. In many cases, successful applicants will be enrolled in a graduate program. Strong preference is given to applicants who are comfortable and competent helping students in more than one field, and to those with previous TA and teaching experience.

Hourly earnings range starts at \$41.00 and varies based on education and experience. Day and early evening hours are available, and instructors are generally scheduled 5-15 hours per week.

Please contact Eric Reed, PSME Center Director at (650) 949-7091 or [reederic@foothill.edu](mailto:reederic@foothill.edu) for more information.

## **2014 San José Gira de Libro**

The San José Public Library (SJPL) is teaming up with San José Bike Clinic to present the 2014 San José Gira de Libro, the first ever SJPL bicycle tour.

The name of the ride, Gira de Libro, is a play on the name of the famous Italian professional road bike stage race, Giro d'Italia, which starts May 9 and ends June 1. The San José Gira de Libro roughly translates from Spanish to "turns of the book" or "book tour."

A guided community and staff bicycle ride that will visit seven of San José's twenty-three branch libraries, the Gira de Libro is will start and finish at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando St., in downtown San José.

The San Jose's Gira de Libro starts 10 a.m., Sat., May 10 with sign-in and a bicycle safety check. For safety purposes, registration is required and the ride will be limited to 75 participants. The ride will stop at each library to regroup; the total distance is 25km (15.5 miles). We invite you to ride with us and enjoy the City of San José's libraries and bikeways.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.sjpl.org/blog/gira-de-libro-library-bicycle-tour>

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gira-de-libro-tickets-11324294269>

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