



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 Mid-May Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

The weather has certainly been heating up and so is the budget work here at City Hall! I would like to thank all those residents who attended the District 10 Community Budget Meeting last week at the Santa Clara Valley Water District board room, and thank you to the Water District for hosting us. If you were unavailable to attend, you can [view the budget online](#). I am grateful to Mayor Reed and Assistant City Manager Kim Welsh for their informative presentations and the numerous Department heads and other City employees that were there to answer questions and address the community's questions.

As Mayor Reed noted in his presentation, I have strongly advocated for additional resources to be dedicated to one of our core City services – paving and maintaining our crumbling streets. As a result, \$16 million in new one-time funding is included in the proposed 2014-2014 Operating Budget for this purpose. An item included in the proposed 2014-2015 Capital Budget is funding to assemble the master plan and environmental analysis for connecting the Los Alamitos Trail and the Guadalupe Trail and completing this trail system to create a seamless, off-road connection from the Almaden Valley to downtown. To assemble the funding for this work, I collaborated with my colleagues Don Rocha, from District 9, Pierluigi Oliverio, from District 6, and Sam Liccardo from District 3, who each agreed to provide a portion of the funding from their Parks Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund, as well as with Parks staff for funding from the Parks City-Wide Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund. These funds may only be used to pay for Parks-related costs.

By connecting and completing the Los Alamitos and Guadalupe trails, Almaden Valley and Blossom Hill residents, along with others south of downtown San Jose, will have an alternative to commuting on the

busy Almaden Expressway. It will open up a safe off-street route to the transit hubs and jobs to the north and create a convenient route for City residents to access the beautiful recreational spaces around the Almaden Valley.



Other high-priority items funded in the proposed 2014-2015 Proposed Budget include:

- 7 new Police Field Patrol Community Service Officers for a total of 28
- 1 new Crime Prevention Specialist and 1 new Crime Analyst
- Activation of the South San Jose Police Substation to house the new Community Service Officers and serve as an SJPD training center
- Addition of another police academy, bringing the total to 3 per year, up from the current 2
- 3 Park Rangers and 1 Senior Park Ranger
- 3 additional Code Enforcement Inspectors to address routine complaints, city-wide

### **JULY 4th FAMILY FESTIVAL**

Please join me this Fourth of July as we celebrate the birth of our nation with an afternoon and evening festival, culminating with a fireworks show, at Almaden Lake Park! Over the last several years, there has been a marked increase in the use of illegal fireworks. With resources already strained, this creates an additional burden on our Police and Fire departments. Also, with drought conditions increasing the risk of fire, illegal fireworks pose a serious threat to our community. Instead of resorting to illegal fireworks displays, let's gather as a community to enjoy a wonderful family-friendly celebration and a professional fireworks show!

As many of you know, I am a strong advocate for frugality and fiscal responsibility when it comes to your tax dollars. Consistent with this, I have worked very hard to minimize the amount of taxpayer money that will be needed to support this community event. Instead, I am relying on the support of generous businesses and individuals from our community to provide the necessary financial support. So far, the response has been phenomenal but we are still short of our fundraising goal. If you would like to help, the San Jose Parks Foundation, a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, has set up a fund to receive the donations to help pay for this event. Your tax-deductible [contributions may be made by visiting the San Jose Parks Foundation website](#). Click on donate and select "Almaden Lake 4th of July Fireworks." All contributions will go directly to covering the costs of the event.

On the Fourth of July, the Family Festival will occupy the majority of Almaden Lake Park. The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. with live music, safety vendors, local businesses and artists, food trucks, and kids' activities. At 5 p.m. we will have a kids' parade and contest. The band headlining the entertainment will take the stage at 6 p.m., and a professional fireworks display will launch at 9:15 p.m.! Admission to the

festival is FREE TO THE PUBLIC, so come out and enjoy!

### **PORN FILTERS**

My staff and I have been working closely with Library Director Jill Bourne to address concerns that the public has expressed over the potential for children to access pornography on the San Jose Public Library computers. Presently, the computers in the children's area of the library have no filters that prevent access to improper, pornographic images. Recently, at the Almaden Branch Library, library staff conducted a demonstration of two different technological solutions that would ensure safe computer access for children, allowing them to obtain the information they need – such as information on health and sexual development - while blocking access to pornographic content. I attended the demonstration along with members of the community, and was impressed with the results.

The Library Director is committed to rolling out the best, most cost-effective of these solutions over the next few months and has a plan to ensure that it is applied to each of the approximately 130 computers in the children's area of our public libraries. I am grateful to Jill and her staff for their hard work on this project and for their commitment to keeping our children free from pornographic content in our public libraries.

### **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 have a big, positive effect on the community. 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 starting at 9 a.m. and another will be a painting project along the Trinidad sound walls starting at 8 a.m. 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.

### **SJ RETIREMENT BOARD GOVERNANCE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS**

Two important public meetings will be held this month at San José City Hall to provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to learn about potential changes to the operations of the boards for the Federated City Employees' Retirement System and the San José Police & Fire Department Retirement Plan. Both meeting locations take place at San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 95113.

Wednesday, May 28, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

Thursday, May 29, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Wing Committee Rooms 118-119-120

In April, the San José City Council directed the City Administration to prepare a

potential City Charter amendment and other changes based upon a report from pension governance consultants Cortex and the work of the boards of trustees for the two pension funds. More information on this topic, including [Council memos and presentations made by Cortex](#), may be found on the City's website.

These reforms build upon prior reforms that were instituted in 2011 that have brought individuals with investment expertise onto the boards of trustees and created more balance between the stakeholders that fund the pension plans. I encourage you to come out and provide your input, because you, the taxpayers of San Jose, are the largest contributors to the pensions of our City employees, and your voice needs to be heard!

Continue reading below for more updates and opportunities to get involved in our community. If you have any questions with regard to 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

### **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 of 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? Learn more by attending the STOP IT! Symposium – EMPOWER yourself with education, information, and resources.

June 21, 2014  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Branham High School  
1570 Branham Ln  
San Jose, CA 95118

\*Registration will open June 1, 2014. More details to come! If you have, or work for, a safety or security-related business, and you are interested in sponsoring the event or purchasing a vendor space at the Symposium, please contact Shane Patrick Connolly at the District 10 Council Office at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

### **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 of, at least, 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 each Friday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. 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

## **Rec. Day San Jose**

The City of San Jose 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 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 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 has to offer, 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 be 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!

## **Bike to Shop Day**

More than 75 Silicon Valley retailers, including 30 in San Jose, will join local cyclists on Saturday, May 17th for the inaugural Bike to Shop Day in celebration of National Bike Month. Bike to Shop Day connects retailers and cyclists by offering discounts on goods at stores in neighborhoods including Downtown San Jose, Willow Glen, and Japantown.

When: Saturday, May 17, 2014

10:00 a.m.: Stores open

1:00 p.m.: Cyclists convene for lunch in Downtown San Jose

Where: Retail stores in Downtown San Jose, Willow Glen, and Japantown

How: List of participating shops and locations: <http://biketoshopday.org/>

## **River and Creek Clean Up Day**

This Saturday, May 17th, for National River Cleanup Day, community groups and

individuals are invited to work at one of 48 sites in Santa Clara County and then share their actions via Twitter with the hash-tag #keepSJclean. To register, call (408) 630-2379 or visit [www.cleanacreek.org](http://www.cleanacreek.org).

## **2014 Active Adult Health & Wellness Fair**

In celebration of Older Americans month, the City of San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department is proud to announce the return of the Active Adult Health and Wellness Fair. Older Americans are productive, active, and influential members of our society and should be recognized as such. This year's celebration encourages older Americans to stay engaged, active and involved for the benefit of their own wellness and for the well-being of their communities.

When: May 21, 2014

Time: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: History San Jose (corner of Senter & Phelan roads)

For more information please contact Angelina Pascual at (408) 535-5659 or [angelina.pascual@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:angelina.pascual@sanjoseca.gov)

## **Water District 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 special parcel tax. This tax was approved by Santa Clara County voters in November 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 began April 15th, and all new applications must be received by the water district by June 30th 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 each 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.

### **Community Office Hours**

Please join us the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Almaden Community Center from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and every third Wednesday of each month at City Espresso from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., 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!

**Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis**  
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