



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

District 10 June Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

With students counting their last days of school and graduations happening all around us, we celebrate with those who are marking transitions in their lives. Regrettably, we are also compelled to mourn with those who have recently suffered loss. As I am sure you are all aware, on May 23rd a young man went on a murderous rampage killing six UC Santa Barbara students. This tragic event has shaken the foundations of so many in our community. One of the victims, 19-year-old George Chen, was a 2012 graduate of Leland High School which is located right here in Council District 10.

Last Thursday evening I attended a candlelight vigil in his honor, surrounded by family members joined by hundreds of George's friends and former classmates. George was remembered as a very sweet, bright young man. He was majoring in computer science. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with George's family, and with all of the families of those who were lost in this tragic incident. On Tuesday, August 5th, the City Council plans to adjourn the Council Meeting in George's memory.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Mayor's June Budget Message was released late last week (Read the message by clicking the following link <http://sanjoseca.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2405>). I am thrilled that Mayor Reed has dedicated additional resources to public safety, including the restoration of the SJPD burglary unit, and that he chose to include most of the proposals that [I put forward in Budget Documents](#), including:

- Increasing financial transparency by exploring the option of placing the City's financial data online at OpenGov.com. <http://sanjoseca.gov/Archive.aspx?ADID=2348>
 - Adding crossing guards at high-priority locations, including Guadalupe school.
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<http://sanjoseca.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2349>

- Reallocating \$25,000 in funding from the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley to the Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative which is working with property owners to address issues in Hoffman-Via Monte and other rental properties with special challenges. <http://sanjoseca.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2354>

Other initiatives that I brought forward that are included in the proposed budget:

- Allocating \$16 million in additional one-time funding for street repairs. With this investment and other monies budgeted for street repairs, 2014-2015 will be the first Fiscal Year in over a decade where the average condition of our streets will not deteriorate from year-to-year.

- Requiring a thorough analysis and raising the bar when committing the City to long-term debt obligations to help prevent bad investments such as the Hayes Mansion and city-owned golf courses. <http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31061>

- Utilizing the South San Jose police substation: this completed-but-unoccupied City facility will be repurposed to house the 28 new Community Service Officers and serve as a training site for SJPD cadets.

Mayor Reed's budget reflects \$25 million in savings from voter-approved retirement reforms that have made it possible to begin to slowly restore services while maintaining fiscal prudence. It is critical that, as revenues slowly increase, that we stay on the fiscally responsible path that we are now on. We must not return to the bad old days of fiscal irresponsibility when we made commitments that, at the first downturn in the economy, we could no longer keep!

Do you agree? If so, please come to speak out at the public hearings on the proposed budget on Monday, June 9 at 7 p.m. or on Tuesday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. You may also send an email to agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov referencing Item 3.3 on the 06/10/14 Agenda, for distribution Mayor Reed and to the full City Council.

REGISTER NOW for 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 is now open! [Attendance is limited, so register today!](#)

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 or call 408-535-4910.

BEAUTIFUL DAY

Last Saturday, May 17th, was definitely a Beautiful Day! Churches from all over San Jose arranged major service projects to help improve our City. In the Almaden area, South Hills Community Church (SHCC) arranged three beautification projects that made a big impact on our community.

The residential walls on Trinidad Drive, near Almaden Expressway, have a fresh coat of paint! About 20 volunteers from SHCC, along with several homeowners and residents from the surrounding neighborhood worked hard to paint the walls and rake and sweep up leaves and debris. Dan Burnham of Burnham Construction contributed his time and expertise. Not only did he do the spray-painting, he did all the prep work in the weeks leading up to the event. Michele Dexter from my office helped with project coordination and the paint was donated by my Council office.

Almaden Meadows Park was a huge undertaking. About 30 volunteers from SHCC worked along side volunteers from the Friends of Almaden Meadows Park, other community residents, and staff from the City's PRNS Department. They painted the wall around the playground as well as the picnic tables; moved 150 yards of fibar into the playground area; moved 150 yards of bark around the dirt areas to reduce weeds; painted the park signs on the corners; cleaned up the corners around the signs and put in new chocolate bark to reduce weeds and prepare for future planting after the drought is over.

Almaden Elementary School is just across the street from District 10 and is the neighborhood school for D10 residents living in the Hoffman/Via Monte area. The Principal told Pastor Larry Brundage that many of the families at their school can't afford to purchase the required school uniforms. So, the third project SHCC took on was to reorganize a storage shed to make room for new uniform storage; install a uniform closet in the nurse's office; and fill those shelves with hundreds of new uniforms. In addition, volunteers who brought young children spent time planting flowers in pots to put in each teacher's classroom so it could be a Beautiful Day inside, as well.

After all the work was done, the volunteers were treated to a BBQ hosted by SHCC at Almaden Meadows Park. It was great to relax under the shade canopies after a hard day's work and enjoy a good meal with these amazing volunteers. Thank you, South Hills, for all your hard work and for actively helping make our community beautiful. And thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful, Beautiful Day.

NEW YOUTH COMMISSIONER

One of the wonderful things about my job is working with some fantastic young people and witnessing them making a difference in the community. One of these young people is our newest youth commissioner. On Tuesday, May 20th, Joanna Liu was sworn in to take the post of District 10 Youth Commissioner, overseeing our

District 10 Youth Advisory Council. Joanna is a student at Leland High School and has been very active as a current YAC member. She also volunteers in our community, teaching art classes and helping at-risk youth with their writing and speech delivery skills. Join me in welcoming Joanna - I look forward to working with her!

With Joanna joining us, that means our current Youth Commissioner will be saying goodbye. Mason Kimmel has done a superb job over the past year. He has worked hard overseeing our YAC, was an integral part of making SJ Between the Lines a success, and was a great Council Office Intern. I will miss working with him, but I know he is on to bigger and better things! I wish him all the best as his educational goals lead him to Oregon State University. Thank you, Mason, for all of your efforts!



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 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!

BRASILIA WAY

The City Council hearing on the Brasilia Way rezoning and related issues is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th at the 7:00 PM meeting in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose 95113. All are welcome to attend and provide comment on the proposed project. [Documents related to the project are linked in the June 10th Agenda.](#)

In the time since the Planning Commission heard the proposed plan for development of the Brasilia Way property on April 9th, the developer has met with the City's Planning and Public Works departments and altered his plans to reduce the number of native oak trees that will be removed from twelve to six. I am very pleased that the developer and City staff worked together to respond to my call to save more trees on the project site. It is important to note that five of the six trees that are to be removed would have to be removed to bring the driveway to current standards regardless of the number of homes developed on the site – whether one or ten. The developer is committed to continuing to work to save what may be the oldest of the six trees slated for removal. [Finally, he has provided new renderings of the proposed project that show the project from different site lines.](#)

In my mid-April newsletter, the developer provided a guest column to share his perspective on the [proposed Brasilia Way development](#). I invited a member of the community to provide an alternate viewpoint in this month's newsletter:

Guest Column from David Poeschel, Open Space Committee Chair of the local chapter of the Sierra Club

Thank you to Councilmember Khamis for allowing us to respond to the Mid-April 2014 Guest Column by Colin Gray of JSM Enterprises.

There have been many recent articles in newspapers and newsletters regarding the rezoning of 5827 Brasilia Way—commonly called Athenour Hill. Residents neighboring the hill heard the details of JSM Enterprises' development plan at a community meeting and expressed a variety of concerns about the proposed development. We were told that JSM had a right to build 15 houses on the property currently zoned for one home, and that this right was established by the Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan. At that time, we were unaware of this General Plan, but we soon learned that it is a beautifully written, comprehensive guide for future development.

Every one of our concerns about development of the Antenour site are addressed in the 2040 General Plan: preservation of native oaks, protection of viewsheds, privacy, no building on hilltops; there is even a chapter entitled Quality of Life. We didn't understand how JSM could build multiple houses on the hill, when the General Plan said they couldn't. After researching the matter further, we learned that the 2040 General Plan was amended to allow for a Rural Residential zoning designation, allowing for the development of up to 2 homes per acre. How did this occur? JSM participated in the adoption process for the Envision 2040 General Plan. A letter addressed to Envision Planning Staff, City of San Jose, signed by Colin Gray, dated 11/15/10, states, in part, "I am writing to request that the land use designation proposed by the Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update process be changed for the parcels we own at 5827 Brasilia Way...although the city would like to make our parcels a single home and 6+ acres of open space we are not willing to donate this land as open space..." JSM Enterprises purchased property zoned for one home, but wanted to build many more; and through their

participation in the Envision 2040 Planning process, the plan was amended so that it was possible for JSM to request rezoning for multiple homes. The 2040 General Plan does not require more homes to be built and the existing R1 zoning designation allows for one home to be built on the entire property.

JSM's rezoning request should be denied, in keeping with the spirit of an earlier draft of the 2040 General Plan, which included policies and goals that are intended to protect the environment and preserve the quality of existing neighborhoods.

On April 9, 2014, the City Planning Commission heard arguments from both sides of the rezoning issue and split their vote 3-3. They then sent the rezoning proposal to the San Jose City Council without recommendation. JSM Enterprises has been given an opportunity to improve its proposal. We hope that significant changes will be made. June 10, 2014. The City Council will determine the fate of this beautiful hill.

The developer has property rights - no question - but we all have responsibilities to each other and to future generations. These values are codified in the City's General Plan which says that ridgelines and native trees such as valley oaks should be protected. The Loma Prieta Chapter's Open Space Committee believes three-story homes and removal of the trees are unnecessary and inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood. We are very concerned that trees slated for destruction may be hundreds of years old and that mature native oak trees could be lost during the construction process. The Sierra Club supports meeting our housing needs through high density housing in urban villages so that we can preserve our natural heritage and the character of places like this. Ultimately it is up to our elected officials on the City Council to decide what is appropriate.

I greatly appreciate that Councilmember Khamis has directed the planning department to work with the developer to find a way to save trees. We agree with JSM about the significance of the site. To the Almaden community, as the General Plan imparts, "We are blessed to live in this area with great beauty... We must plan carefully for the land remaining under our stewardship so that this good fortune is preserved." Please browse the following links and learn first-hand what will be lost if the zoning is changed to accommodate the desires of a land development company.

Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/474>

April 9, 2014 Planning Commission Hearing:

http://sanjose.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=51&clip_id=7305

VEP NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP DAYS

The Vista Park Neighborhood will be hosting two clean up days and they need your help!

June 7th - VEP Community Room Yard - several big piles of wood chips have been dumped on the ground and need to be redistributed throughout the yard near and around the community room area. Dave Fadness is asking for volunteers to help with this on Saturday, June 7th. Starting around 9:00 a.m. - until the job is finished.

June 14th – Parkview Park II - Volunteers are needed to help clean up dead brush

and foliage around the perimeter of the park, pull weeds, and a general clean up of the entire park. In addition, there will be new sand for the sand box and we'll need people willing to push wheelbarrows and shovel the new sand. Parkview II is located behind (just south) of Parkview Elementary. We hope to see you there!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Last year, National Night Out was a tremendous success throughout District 10. I am hoping that with some advanced notice, more neighborhoods will join the effort and host their own events! National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 5th this year, and I hope you all consider participating! For those of you who may be unfamiliar with National Night Out, it is held each year to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to criminals to let them know that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. We encourage you and your neighbors to spend some time outside, getting to know one another, and making your presence known in the neighborhood. [If you'd like to learn more about hosting an event in your community click here.](#)

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

The City Council is in recess in July, which means we will be holding the last Community Office Hours meeting before the break on Wednesday, June 18th at City Espresso on Blossom Hill Road. Even though we will be taking a short hiatus from Community Office Hours, my staff will still be available to take your calls and emails during the month of July. Please keep reading our newsletter for new dates and times in August.

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 or call 408-535-4910. Also, for updates between newsletters, add me as a friend on [Facebook](#) or follow me on [Twitter](#)!

Sincerely,

Johnny

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 they can serve you better and is conducting a survey to understand how to best meet the community's 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>

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/1qgDMnI>, email JulieWilson@valleywater.org or call the District's tax information line at (408) 630-2810.

You Have the Power: Get FREE Help Taking Charge of Your Energy Use

Do you want to finally understand what's going on with your utility bills, and discover ways your family can lower these household costs? The City of San Jose has teamed up with local nonprofit Acterra to help you discover ways to save energy in your home, whether you own or rent. By participating in Acterra's online Green@Home program, you could save 6% on your family's annual energy costs – that's over \$100 a year!

Our online software, provided by local startup Bidgely, performs an easy-to-understand analysis of your home's energy use and offers personalized recommendations for reducing energy waste and cutting household utility costs. Sign up now at Bidgely.com/Acterra!

For more information, you can contact us at greenathome@acterra.org or call our Operations Director, Lisa Dorn, at (650) 962-9876 x 380. We look forward to helping you save energy and create a healthier community!

Opening on the Library and Early Education Commission

The Library and Early Education Commission is a 15 member commission comprised of 11 members nominated by Councilmembers and 4 members having an expertise in early education nominated by the Council Appointment Advisory Commission. The commission studies, reviews, evaluates and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding existing or proposed library facilities, programs, operations, services and financing. The commission advocates improved library service, and as a forum for public discussion of library needs, the commission facilitates communication between the public, the City Council and library staff. The commission also studies, evaluates, reviews and provides advice to the City Council, the city manager and department heads designated by the city manager on all matters and issues related to childcare, early childhood education, child development, and other issues concerning young children ages 0-5 years and their families. The commission also performs studies and submits reports and recommendations to the City Council on early childhood education and care matters as the council may request.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must live in the City of San José and, if appointed, must remain so throughout the term of office. In addition, applicants should have a commitment to being active in the community. Commission Seats associated with a specific district will be appointed by the Council Member representing that District.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications will be accepted through 5:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2014.

Apply online for the Library and Early Education Commission at:

<http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=330>

For questions or to request a paper application, please call the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 535-1260 or via e-mail at commissions@sanjoseca.gov.

Please note: Early Care and Education applicants should be available June 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to be interviewed by the Council Appointment Advisory Commission for consideration

Starlight Cinemas Free Outdoor Movies Schedule

June 14: "Bend It Like Beckham" Plaza de Cesar Chavez (after World Cup soccer viewing)

June 22 – "Back to the Future 2," St. James Park (after World Cup soccer viewing)

July 16 – "Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade," St. James Park

July 23 – "Ghostbusters," San Pedro Square Market

July 30 – "Pee Wee's Big Adventure," St. James Park

Aug. 6 – "Pretty in Pink," San Pedro Square Market

Aug. 13 – "Gremlins," St. James Park

Aug. 20 – "Airplane!" San Pedro Square Market

All events in downtown San Jose. Starlight Cinemas begin with pre-screening fun and games an hour before dusk. Movies begin at dusk. Free to the general public
Check sjdowntown.com/starlight.

**City of San Jose
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