



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10**

District 10 August Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

August 1st marked the end of the Council's legislative break, and we are back in session for our first Council meeting tomorrow, August 5th. Several tax proposals will be considered, as well as proposals dealing with governance of the City's pension boards, allowing employees who have left City service since Measure B was approved to return to the City in the same pension tier they were in when they left, a modification to the disability retirement provision in Measure B, and a proposal to make negotiations with the unions public. How do you feel about these proposals? The full details of each of the proposals may be found on tomorrow's City Council agenda as Items 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 (click the following link to see the agenda - <http://bit.ly/0804Agenda>). Click on the links within the agenda to view more details. Your input on these City issues is vital to my decision-making, so please email me at district10@sanjoseca.gov, if you have thoughts you would like to share with me about any of the things on tomorrow's agenda.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

In addition to August 5th being the first Council meeting after our legislative break, it is also the date for an event that I encourage you all to be a part of - National Night Out!! 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, to build neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message to criminals 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. As soon as the Council meeting concludes I plan to visit each of the National Night Out events in District 10. If you have not registered for National Night Out and are not on the official list, but would like me to drop by your event, please contact my office with the event address and your contact information!

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

One way that I like to connect with the residents of District 10 is to host

Community Office Hours. I understand how difficult it might be for Almaden and Blossom Valley residents to drive downtown during the day in order to meet with me to share your thoughts or concerns with me. That is why, twice a month, I am out in the district with the specific purpose of meeting with constituents. The locations and times of Community Office Hours are as follows:

1st Wednesday of Every Month

8:30-9:30 AM

Almaden Community Center – Community Room
6445 Camden Ave.

3rd Wednesday of Every Month

5:00-6:00 PM

City Espresso

630 Blossom Hill Road

If you are interested in joining me for one of our Community Office Hours sessions, feel free to stop by. You never need an appointment!

LESS TIME, LESS MONEY FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT PERMITS!

I am thrilled to report that my initiative to reduce the cost and time involved in obtaining permits for small home improvement projects has been implemented. After hearing story after story from homeowners who were discouraged by not only the cost of permits, but the long wait times involved in obtaining a permit, I knew something had to be done. So, last year, I obtained the support of my colleagues on the City Council for my initiative. I then partnered with the Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department (PBCE), to address the issues of cost and timeliness. Together we succeeded in finding ways to reduce the cost and reduce wait times involved in obtaining home-improvement permits. It is now more affordable and less time consuming for residents and contractors to complete projects legally and safely. A big thank you to Harry Freitas, Chu Chang, and the entire PBCE team involved in making these changes!

Fee reductions in permit costs were approved as part of the City's 2014-2015 Budget. In addition to the reduced permitting fees, PBCE implemented a small-projects desk. This desk, dedicated to only small-scale projects, allows for considerably faster processing of permits for home improvement projects. What used to take days is now completed in a matter of minutes!

Another PBCE improvement that has been implemented is that they can now accept plans for large projects on a USB drive (thumb drive). This allows the Planning Department to do electronic plan review rather than needing multiple large-format printouts of plans. This initiative not only saves large amounts of paper, but provides far more consistency and accuracy around plan checks.

If you were discouraged in the past to go through the proper avenues when putting on that small additional or undertaking a small remodeling project in your kitchen or bathroom, you can be assured that the process has been improved - it is now quicker and much more affordable. Be sure to get your permits so that your work is done safely and legally! Obtaining permits and getting the work inspected is essential if you someday choose to sell your home. It will ensure that the work

completed conforms with the latest building codes, which will maximize safety for you and your loved ones.

I am going out to the community to talk about these money-and-time-saving improvements within PBCE. If you are a member of a business association, contractors' group, or other interested organization and would like me to talk with your group, please contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-4910 to get on my schedule!

BROKEN PIPES & WASTED WATER

I have had many calls and emails from residents about broken water pipes in District 10. I share your concerns over wasted water in this time of severe drought. It is important to note that the City has no authority over what the San Jose Water Company does, or how they manage their repairs. They are a public utility which is regulated by the [California Public Utilities Commission](#).

Regardless, when we hear from you about broken water pipes, my staff contacts the San Jose Water Company and they have responded as follows:

"We are also getting a lot of inquiries about leak repairs and appreciate our customers' attention to this matter. There are procedures that we must follow to safely conduct the repairs. The link below explains more about this process. We understand that residents are concerned about water waste, particularly in this time of drought. Unfortunately, it would be prohibitively expensive for SJWC, and therefore our customers, to fix all leaks as they occur. It's important to note the average US water utility loses approximately 20% of its water to leaks and fire protection. SJWC consistently averages about 7%, an incredible accomplishment considering the size and age of our water system."

For more information, [please visit the San Jose Water Company's website](#).

My staff also informs the Department of Transportation of severe leaks that may have a detrimental affect on our roads, so that they can be involved in evaluating the leak and ensuring that leaks are fixed as quickly as possible.

Please feel free to continue to report these leaks to my office or [directly to the San Jose Water Company](#).

NEXTDOOR.COM – BRINGING NEIGHBORHOODS TOGETHER

Nextdoor.com is quickly becoming a useful tool for bringing neighborhoods together. Almost every neighborhood in District 10 is part of a Nextdoor group and several of our highly engaged and active neighborhoods are using it to communicate important issues with their neighbors, quickly.

An increasingly useful part of Nextdoor.com is the ability for government agencies, such as The San Jose Police and Fire Departments, The Office of Emergency Services, or the City Council offices, to post information City-wide, to a Council District, or to specific neighborhoods. While this is very helpful, it can also create some concern by residents who fear that these local government agencies may also be reading their private posts to their neighbors. This is misconception that I hope to clear up.

Nextdoor.com is structured in such a way that personnel from local government agencies are NOT allowed to read the feeds within your neighborhood groups. In fact, there is no way for anyone outside of a designated group to read the posts within that neighborhood. Local agencies are only allowed to post useful and important information to neighborhood groups, see comments made directly in response to those posts, respond to these comments, and receive and respond to direct messages from residents. These are the only posts that City personnel can view. Again, they cannot view conversations within any neighborhood or groupings of neighborhoods.

A question we often receive is whether or not a neighborhood within a larger Nextdoor.com group has the ability to make their own, smaller, Nextdoor group? A Nextdoor representative says "Yes, definitely. Doing so offers residents the ability to communicate privately with their immediate neighbors while also allowing them to stay connected with the community as a whole."

Another issue often raised is the boundaries of the various Nextdoor groups. Some don't line up with previously designated HOA or NA boundaries. According to the Nextdoor representative, it is possible to change boundaries. It is a difficult process, but can be done, if necessary. Alternatively, they recommend the HOA or NA create their own private group. They've found that a private group is a great tool for them to utilize within their Nextdoor neighborhood.

For more information [visit www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

FINAL DUMPSTER DAYS ARE COMING!

Neighborhood Cleanups (Dumpster Days) are coming this September and October to much of the northern part of District 10. Many other neighborhoods had their Cleanups late last year or earlier this year. Postcards will be mailed out two weeks in advance listing specific times and locations of the events. These two Cleanups will complete our District as most other residents had their Cleanup dates earlier this year. The next Neighborhood Cleanups will occur in about three years, unless your Neighborhood Association or other group decides to hold a separate, independently-funded and organized event.

Any time you want to know more about your garbage hauler, how to contact them, what day of the week the street sweeper comes to your street, or when the next Neighborhood Cleanup is happening in your area, [you can go to the collection schedule lookup on the City's website](#).

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

San Jose Offers Preschool Open House

?Parents interested in giving their kids a head start in early education are invited to attend a citywide preschool open house on Wednesday, August 13.

The San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) is holding open house events at each of the following twelve community centers, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., next month. During the open houses, activities for children will be available so that parents can explore the facilities, meet staff, and ask questions.

- Almaden Community Center • Mayfair Community Center
- Bascom Community Center • Millbrook Community Center
- Berryessa Community Center • Roosevelt Community Center
- Camden Community Center • Seven Trees Community Center
- Evergreen Community Center • Southside Community Center
- Hank Lopez Community Center • Willow Glen Community Center

Locations of the community centers can be found at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/Facilities>.

Hispanic Heritage Youth Foundation Awards

?The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is once again conducting a nation-wide search for the best and the brightest Hispanic/Latino leaders. The Youth Awards program offers educational grants in several categories to qualified Hispanic/Latino high school rising seniors. Recipients are eligible to receive an educational grant ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The application is now available online at bit.ly/1npK5bS. The deadline to apply is September 15, 2014.

The 2014 Youth Awards scholarship application has now gone live! Rising Latino high school seniors please visit <http://bit.ly/1npK5bS>!

Movie Night at Almaden Lake Park

?Come enjoy a family-friendly film in a beautiful outdoor setting! Movie begins at 8:30 p.m. or when it becomes dark enough outside! The movie is free, but parking costs \$6.00. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information please call: 408-927-0868

Saturday, August 23, 2014 - THE LEGO MOVIE

Almaden Lake Park
15652 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95120

Free Safety Training for Excavators and Contractors

?Hitting an underground utility can endanger your crew, add potential fines and repair costs, result in lost work time and delay your project. This training is perfect for both the novice excavator and the experienced construction professional. Register now for one of our upcoming free trainings on safe excavation and reducing potential damage to underground utilities.

Wednesday, August 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

Friday, August 8 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway,
Burlingame

You will learn:

How to use the free and easy Underground Service Alert (USA) service
Laws regarding excavation in California
Steps to plan a safe digging project

Complimentary continental breakfast will be served and space is limited. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Breuner at (925) 628-7873 or JCBF@pge.com.

Parks and Recreation Fall 2014 Registration Opens Soon

?The City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department Fall 2014 registration began on Saturday, July 26th at 10:00 am. Find out more information by contacting your local City of San Jose Community Center or visit us online at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns. Register early as spaces are limited!

San Jose Police Department Hiring School Crossing Guards

?\$15.98 - \$17.66 Hourly (Part-Time/Un-benefited)

Minimum Qualifications

Able to work morning and afternoon shifts every school day during school start and end times

Possession of a valid State of California driver's license

Access to a motor vehicle on a daily basis

Have the ability to satisfactorily pass a Police Department background check

Be physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of a Crossing Guard

Have the ability to give and follow oral instruction

Have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with children, parents, school officials and law enforcement

Have the ability to use judgment, initiative and remain calm in an emergency situation

Be of good moral character

Please contact the School Safety & Education Unit at (408) 277-4553 if you have any questions and/or to arrange to pick up an application.

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