



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 December Newsletter

Dear Ray,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! I had a great time, eating all of the turkey-day favorites, enjoying some quality time with family and friends, and taking a moment to reflect on all that I have to be thankful for. It's hard to believe that December is already here, and Christmas is well on its way. There's no better way to celebrate than to join me for the 2nd Annual Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Celebration!

On Saturday, December 13th, beginning at 5 PM, the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association will host a block-party event for one and all! The event will take place on Blairburry Way, and will showcase the crown jewel of holiday bling, the home of Bob and Jenny Vonderwerth! Bob spends months preparing his home with a light display that has been a national media sensation! In addition to the incredible light display, there will be games and crafts for kids, live music, food from Buffalo Wild Wings, and an appearance from the big guy himself, Santa! And don't forget, this is a Toys for Tots Drive!! Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Rayshelle Edmunds at [rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!

### **ALMADEN WOMEN'S CLUB COMMENDATION**

On Tuesday, November 19th, I recognized the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC) with a City of San Jose Commendation at the evening City Council meeting. You will find the text of the Commendation below.

This talented and thoughtful group is dedicated to producing the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival - one of the oldest continuously held festivals in California! It is important to note that all of the monies raised from the festival are donated to groups doing fantastic charitable work throughout the Almaden Valley and greater San Jose.

Thank you to AVWC President Dawn Clarkson and former District 10 Councilmember and Vice Mayor Pat Dando for their heartfelt comments they expressed at the Commendation ceremony.

#### Almaden Valley Women's Club Commendation Verbiage

**WHEREAS:** *The Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC) started in 1965 as a non-profit organization run by an all-volunteer board dedicated to promoting interest in the social, civic and cultural aspects of the community; and*

**WHEREAS:** *In 1976, the AVWC started the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival (AVAWF)—one of the oldest continuously run festivals in California—to provide a community gathering event for the emerging neighborhoods known today as the Almaden Valley; and*

**WHEREAS:** *The AVWC is committed to serving the needs of the Almaden Valley community and those of greater San Jose, through donating funds raised at the annual AVAWF where all proceeds are distributed as grants to children's foundations, educational facilities, teen programs, non-profits and community organizations; and*



#### **HIGHWAY 85 EXPRESS LANES INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

In my last two newsletters, I have written about the terrible gridlock on Highway 85, and the VTA proposal to implement the Express Lanes Program. The Silicon Valley High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Program (referred to as the Express Lanes Program) has been under development since 2003. The SR 85 express lanes project is within the central corridor of the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program being implemented by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). This project will convert approximately 27 miles of existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) lanes to express lanes. The project will also add a second HOV express lane between SR 87 and I-280.

Next Monday, December 8th at 7:00 PM, the Almaden Valley Community Association will be hosting an informational meeting for residents to learn more about this program from VTA staff. The meeting will be held in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Boardroom at 5750 Almaden Expressway. If you have questions, feel free to contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Victor Gomez, at [victor.gomez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:victor.gomez@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910.

#### **FAREWELL AND WELCOME**

Election Day has come and gone, term limits are up, and the votes have been counted. With the New Year approaching, I will take a moment to thank the colleagues of mine who will be leaving office, as well as welcome the newcomers!

First and foremost, I extend my deep thanks to Mayor Chuck Reed. It has truly been an honor to serve beside him. I respect his determination and wherewithal in making tough decisions in order to stop the city from spiraling into financial ruin. He is a dedicated public servant and I appreciate all he has done for our city!

Second, I thank Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen, Councilmember Pete Constant, Councilmember Kansen Chu, and Councilmember Xavier Campos for their service to the city. It has been a pleasure to work with them, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Additionally, I offer my congratulations to Mayor-Elect Sam Liccardo. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity! Finally, I extend a warm welcome to our newest Councilmembers-elect, Charles "Chappie" Jones in District 1, Raul Peralez in District 3, Magdalena Carrasco in District 5, and Tam Nguyen in District 7. I look forward to working with each of them in the coming years!

### **HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

With the Christmas season upon us, here are a few safety tips compiled by the Los Angeles Police Department that you should be aware of to ensure that you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday:

#### ***Shopping:***

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible, and try to keep cash in your front pockets.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

#### ***Driving:***

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area and avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.

- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### ***At Home:***

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.

### **Ethics Commission Vacancy**

APPLICATIONS are being accepted for the Ethics Commission. The San José Ethics Commission (Commission) monitors compliance with all campaign and ethics ordinances in the San José Municipal Code. The Commission reviews and investigates allegations of violations of the Code and makes recommendations for enforcement action where appropriate. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council with regard to campaign and ethics regulations and policies. The Commission is charged under Chapter 12.04 of the San José Municipal Code to investigate complaints alleging violations of Title 12 of the San José Municipal Code and take enforcement action. Formal regulations are adopted by the City Council to ensure that all interested parties are apprised of and understand the procedures by which a fair hearing will be conducted.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The Clerk's Office is recruiting for up to three positions on the San José Ethics Commission to fill four-year terms ending March 1, 2019. Applicants must be registered voters in the City of San José and, if appointed, must remain so throughout the term of office. While serving on the Commission, no member can hold any other public office nor publicly endorse any candidate for City office or engage in any political or campaign activity on behalf of any candidate for City office. Further, no member can participate as a candidate in any election to public office for a period of one year before and after tenure on the Commission.

**APPOINTMENT PROCESS:** All applications received by the deadline will be submitted to the Mayor and Councilmembers who will notify the City Clerk as to whom they would like to interview. Applicants receiving four or more such indications of interest will be notified and asked to appear during a regular or

special Council Meeting to be interviewed by the Mayor and Council. Applicants must receive a two-thirds vote of Council (8 votes) to be appointed to serve on the Commission. The tentative date scheduled for interviews is on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

Applications will be accepted through 5:00 p.m., on WEDNESDAY, January 14, 2015.

Apply online 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](mailto:commissions@sanjoseca.gov).

I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season and I hope to see you on the 13th at our Toys for Tots Drive! Please continue reading for important announcements and upcoming events. If you have any questions regarding the things you read in this newsletter, feel free to contact my office at 408-535-4910 or email us at [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov). You can also follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Sincerely,

Johnny

### **Upcoming Community Outreach Meetings Regarding SJPD Unmanned Drone**

The Neighborhoods Commission is hosting a Community Outreach Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at San Jose City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, in the Wing, Committee Room 120.

Police will give a presentation about the UAS and proposed uses, followed by a question and answer period with the public. View the flier for additional meeting details: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37624>

### **Looking for 2015 ELLA Program Applicants**

The Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley is accepting applications for its 2015 ELLA Program. This 6-month leadership program is designed to give emerging Latina leaders the self-confidence and 21st century skills to effectively advocate for their community. Please note that applicants must be 19-26 years of age and reside in San Mateo or Santa Clara counties.

We hope you will spread the word about this powerful program and encourage young Latinas with leadership potential to apply. For more information and to access the application please go to our website: <http://latinacoalition.org/ella-program/>. The application deadline is December 20, 2014. The program begins the last week in February.

## Silicon Valley Santa Run

Santa is making his list and checking it twice to make sure you're signed up to join him Sunday, December 14 at 3pm in Downtown San Jose for the third annual TiVo "Santa Run Silicon Valley"! Hope to see you out there! Register at [www.santarunsv.com](http://www.santarunsv.com) to be a part of our 12 Days of Santa Run GIVEAWAYS! For the next 12 days registrants will be automatically entered into a daily drawing that will have a different prize to win!

On the 12th day of Christmas the Santa Run gave to 25 lucky registrants... a FREE skating session at Downtown Ice (Skate Rental Included)!

## 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon

The African American Community Service Agency (AACSA) - 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon committee is proud to announce our 2015 Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr., the First African American to walk in space.

**Theme:** DREAM

**Save-the-Date:** Monday, January 19, 2015 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** San Jose Airport Garden Hotel, 1740 N 1st St, San Jose, CA 95112

For tickets, sponsorship packet, vendors application, souvenir booklet ads, and information, please visit: [www.sjaacsa.org/mlkluncheon](http://www.sjaacsa.org/mlkluncheon)

Call (408) 292-3157 or E-mail: [info@sjaacsa.org](mailto:info@sjaacsa.org)

## Our City Forest Holiday Rent-a-Tree Program

Our City Forest is helping Silicon Valley get green this holiday season and change their wasteful practices by bringing living, potted trees into their home or office for decoration and festivities. Participants enjoy the traditional look and smell of a live tree with much less waste, mess, and fire hazard. Plus, a live tree cleans the air in your home, and after its holiday debut, lives on to be planted in a school, garden or park nearby.

For the month of December, Our City Forest invites families, friends, companies and organizations to rent a living tree from its Community Nursery & Training Center in San Jose. Participants can reserve their trees immediately by calling, emailing or visiting the nursery. Tree species available include traditional options such as Western Red Cedars and Italian Stone Pines, as well as non-traditional options like olive trees, also known as the trees of peace. Our City Forest is asking for donations of \$80 - \$100 per tree, which is comparable or less than the cost of

most chopped or artificial trees. All donations are tax-deductible and support the excellent cause of greening Silicon Valley. Delivery and pick-up services are available.

Our City Forest Nursery and Training Center  
1000 Spring Street, San Jose, CA 95110  
Hours of Operation: Thursday - Saturdays, 9AM – Noon  
(408) 99-TREES  
[info@ourcityforest.org](mailto:info@ourcityforest.org)

## **Foam Food Ware Ordinance – Effective at All Restaurants in San José January 1st**

Starting New Year's Day 2015, diners at all restaurants in San José will no longer receive their soups, beverages, or leftovers in foam containers. After one year of compliance required from only multi-state chain restaurants, all San José restaurants, including small businesses and food trucks, will stop using foam food containers this January. To replace Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam containers, restaurants can use any other food containers of their choice. Options for alternative containers include paper, plastic, foil, and biodegradables.

EPS foam food containers are a uniquely problematic form of litter in our rivers and creeks. EPS foam containers do not degrade and tend to break into small pieces. These small pieces are very difficult to clean up, and are harmful to fish and wildlife when mistaken as food. By eliminating the use of foam containers, we improve the health of our water, wildlife, and community.

For more information:

Visit: [www.sjenvironment.org/eps](http://www.sjenvironment.org/eps) (Includes information in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.)

Email: [greentogo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:greentogo@sanjoseca.gov)

Call: 408-975-2586

## **Therapeutic Recreation Services Community Outreach Forums**

We want to hear from you! Please join the City of San José for a community outreach forum to discuss recreation needs of people with disabilities and help us develop an operational plan of how the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services may best address these needs.

How can you participate?

1. Attend one of our interactive Community Outreach Forums listed below, or
2. Take our short survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TR\\_participant](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TR_participant)

**Thursday, December 4, 2014**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Camden Community  
Center, MPR room  
3369 Union Ave  
San José, CA 95124

**Thursday, December 11, 2014**

1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Grace Community  
Center, Basement  
484 E San Fernando St.  
San José, CA 95112

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**

10:00am - 12:00pm  
Mayfair Community  
Center, Chavez Hall  
2039 Kammerer Ave  
San José, CA 95116

**Parks and Recreation Winter Programming Registration Opens Soon!**

On December 6th, you will be able to register for winter classes at all of our city's community centers. To learn more about what classes are offered or to register online, visit <http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=3058>

**GIFT WRAPPING STATIONS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-PROFITS**

Westfield Oakridge is pleased to invite local not-for-profit organizations to provide gift-wrapping services to our shoppers as a fundraising activity for your group. This is also an exceptional opportunity to gain exposure and valuable support for your group's cause since an estimated nearly 1.8 million guests will visit Westfield Oakridge between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

***To participate:***

Email your preferred dates/times to Amy McNeil at [amcneil@us.westfield.com](mailto:amcneil@us.westfield.com). This should give nearly all groups time to see this invitation & plan/respond accordingly. Shifts will be assigned on a first come, first served basis for all requests submitted 9am or later on Wed., Nov 26. I will confirm assigned dates/times by noon the same day.

Groups may initially select up to six shifts to provide wrapping services including one weekend date per week. Host groups must provide all their own wrapping supplies (paper, ribbons, tape, scissors + claim tickets) and enough volunteers to provide wrapping services (usually 4-8 at a time) and may ask for donations in exchange for these services. Westfield will provide a location between the Santa

set and the new Family Lounge (across from Playtown near Sears), two six foot tables and two chairs + general publicity for the service (groups may not post their own signs, stroll the mall advertising their services, etc.). Since volunteers will be interacting with shopping center patrons and representing the host organization, all volunteers should be warmly customer-service oriented, punctual and well-groomed. Volunteers are welcome to wear family-friendly t-shirts or other such attire to represent their group.

Please email Amy McNeil at [amcneil@us.westfield.com](mailto:amcneil@us.westfield.com) for more information.

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