



1



2



3



5



6



7



8



9

Printing paid for with District 6 Office Funds and on recycled paper.

Printing and Graphics created by Able Printing; a small business in District 6



10

# District 6



## Councilmember Oliverio serves on the following commissions:

- Historic Landmark Commission
- San Jose 2040 General Update Task Force
- Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support
- Rules Committee
- Economic Development
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Library Commission
- Diridon Station Joint Powers Board
- Caltrain Maintenance Facility Oversight Board
- San Jose Arena Authority
- Santa Clara County Cities Association
- Sewer Advisory Board: West Valley Sanitation District & City of San Jose
- SJ/SC Clean Water Financing Authority
- South Bay Recycled Water Liaison Committee
- Traffic Calming Community Meetings
- Bus Rapid Transit Board
- San Jose Sports Authority



Is there a utility box in your neighborhood that you would like to sponsor with art?

Please contact  
Tina Morill at  
[tinam777@yahoo.com](mailto:tinam777@yahoo.com)

# The Swing Vote

Back in July 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from England and adopt the Declaration of Independence. However, there were several votes before the final vote that were not unanimous as some colonies voted no or chose to abstain.

Voting is an opportunity not everyone across the globe is afforded. We know that in close elections every vote counts. We also know that in our respective legislative bodies (at different levels of government) that each vote cast by an elected official has a magnified impact.

There have been many times throughout my elected tenure that I have cast the sole no vote. There was the time when I voted against spending \$2.26 million dollars on golf nets for the already problematic golf courses the City owns. Most recently I was the only vote against transferring Old City Hall to the County. Other no votes included funding Mexican Heritage Plaza (again), raising residential recycling fees at a rate higher than inflation, labor contracts that tie the City's hands, converting industrial land to housing, subsidizing Hayes Mansion or housing developments that do not pay property taxes yet require more services.

The City Council met on June 24 to discuss the mayor's proposal on providing guidance on current negotiations for proposed ballot language and retirement reform. There were five councilmembers in support of the proposal put forward by the mayor and there were five against.

It came to me to cast the final vote. I could have supported the Mayor's proposal, however, I needed the negotiations of such an important issue to be public. Negotiations really need to be made public, in my opinion, so that retirees, employees, residents, basically everyone, could see what is being said.

I attended most of the public negotiation sessions for our city attorney union and found the sessions extremely valuable to hear for myself what was being said. These meetings simply let any member of the public sit and listen. No speaking was allowed by members of the public, however they could observe. This seemed to be a fair way of doing it instead of some suggestions like mandating that only certain members of the City Council could attend the negotiations and no members from the public, or that negotiations should be done during a council meeting which would possibly make council meetings last several days.

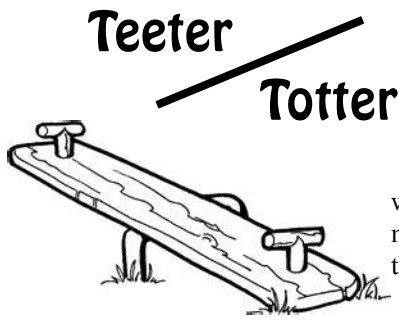
Issues of trust have been brought up and I feel public meetings would make those who feel there is a lack of trust be confronted with the reality of seeing for themselves what is said.

I asked that the motion on June 24 be amended to allow public negotiations for those unions that are open to having them conducted as a public meeting. The city cannot force a union to make the meeting public as they must offer. We debated the topic for 45 minutes going back and forth. The first motion did not entertain making these meetings public if a union was open to it. The vote on the first motion was 5-6 no, which included myself voting no. After considerable discussion a final motion was made that allowed review of proposals for public negotiations. The proposals from the unions would be brought back to the Council for consideration. My preference was to automatically accept proposals that followed the city attorney union public meetings model however there was resistance on the council.

The final motion which included the opportunity for public negotiations passed on 6-5 vote, which included myself voting yes.

Sometimes a single vote can be symbolic and sometimes it can be the deciding factor. In either circumstance my votes are consistent.





## Salary vs. Pension

I was recently approached in my district by a married couple who told me that they hold “very liberal” perspectives on political matters, with the exception of pensions. When it comes to that topic, they said, they are in line with Rush Limbaugh.

It is evident to me that whatever degree of pension reform is put on the ballot—and, yes, pension reform for current employees must go to the ballot since it would require a change to the city charter—will pass. We had a study session on a proposal from five out of the 11 unions that offered a concession on current employee pensions moving forward. Included in the proposal is still retaining the pension system for future city employees. I signed on to a memo requesting that this discussion be conducted as a public meeting. For those keeping track, I believe all union negotiations should be public.

Whatever does go on the ballot will offer some measure of savings to seal the hole in the budget deficit. And it could possibly return diminished city services to residents over time. I say possibly because the existing unfunded pension liability could increase more than forecast due to risk and uncertainty. The unfunded pension liability does not vanish if the retirement board transfers assets into CalPERS, as the liability will always be allocated to the city of San Jose and inevitably with San Jose residents.

However, whatever savings can be achieved from pension reform will not net out as forecast. For example, we know that reducing the 3 percent compounding automatic escalators (COLA) will achieve “X” amount of savings. In my view it will be necessary to reallocate a portion of the savings to increase salaries.

The one-size-fits-all concept of compensation for job roles in government is antiquated. Not every job is equal and not every job has the same amount of qualified applicants. Moving past pension reform, I believe the city of San Jose should allocate more dollars towards higher salaries for certain positions. Compensation going forward needs to be based more on salary than a retirement benefit, because a retirement system can put shackles on the younger generation.

Some city positions have thousands of applicants while others have single digits. Therefore, after pension reform is achieved, it is imperative that salaries are priced so the city can retain and recruit key positions. Ideally, increased salaries are based on performance and not just the position, but in no way should increased salaries be given to entire bargaining units that overlap different city departments.

What are those key positions? We may not know for certain until we get there, however, here are some that I think should be considered: Police — The only enforcement of the Social Contract, enough said. Police Dispatcher — 911 calls require a unique person to disseminate and relay accurate data to the field.

Other key positions might be a city planner with a unique skill set, a chemist for the water pollution control plant, an attorney with litigation experience, an award-winning auditor, an information technology person who can move organizations off of legacy systems and into the cloud, so residents can access information 24/7, etc ...

Regarding retention, it might require pulling back the 10 percent ongoing pay decrease, but only for certain positions where retention may become an issue. For example, I would consider rolling back half the 10 percent pay cut for police and use the other half to hire additional officers. Going forward, surplus dollar amounts above a baseline budget should go as a package to police and let the membership vote up or down whether the money should be allocated to salary increases or hiring officers.

Salaries allow for greater flexibility during revenue downturns, but ratcheting down a pension benefit is herculean and, as we have seen, can take years to consider. With a higher salary, the individual can choose to save or spend. It is his or her choice.

The city will still have to make structural changes so it can afford to allocate a portion of pension savings to salaries of key positions. We may achieve further savings through consolidation of departments and outsourcing non-key personnel while still delivering that same service to residents for less. It's not realistic for anyone to think we can do everything after pension reform is done. However, the impending pension reform simply allows for the proper allocation of dollars to what is most important.

### Public Safety #'s

- Police & Fire Department  
911 = Emergency  
311 = Non-Emergency
- PG&E Power Outage  
(800) 743-5000
- County Emergency Services  
808.7800
- City of San Jose Emergency Services Department  
277-4595

### City/Community Resource Numbers

- City Hall Call Center  
353-3500
- District 6 Office Number  
535.4906
- Pierluigi Oliverio  
Pierluigi.Oliverio@SanJoseCA.gov
- Airport Noise Hotline  
452-0707
- Animal Services  
578-7297
- CEMOF  
(877) 433-0300
- Code Enforcement  
277-4528
- Environmental Services  
535.8550
- Fraud & Audit Whistleblower Hotline  
535.8200
- Parks & Recreation  
535.3570
- Parks Maintenance  
535.3570
- Planning Department  
535.3555
- Recycling & Garbage  
535.3515
- Rose Garden Library  
808.3070
- Senior Assistance  
297.0355
- Sidewalk Grant Repair  
277.3158
- Street Light Repair  
277.5517
- Street Maintenance  
277.4373
- Street Sweeping  
277.2571
- Street Tree Permits  
277.2762
- Willow Glen Library  
808-3045
- Willow Glen Senior Center  
448.6400
- Graffiti Hotline  
1-866-249-0543

# Living Christmas Tree

WILLOW GLEN GOES "GREEN"  
FOR THE SEASON



Neighbors along the block of Camino Pablo Willow Glen are using living Christmas Trees this year instead of cut trees in their lawn and outdoor displays. This year, Willow Glen resident, Humberto Chacon worked with Our City Forest (OCF) to have a living tree that can be replanted. Once the season is over, OCF will replant the trees at local schools and parks.

For more information or if you would like to donate to OCF go to their website at [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org) or call Steve Homer at 408-998-7337 ext. 114.



**Fred and Muriel Schlichting**

Fred and Muriel Schlichting have lived in the Rose Garden since 1967. The Schlichting's have always been very involved with their community. In 1995, Tressie Campen, Colleen Campisi, Gary Cook and Muriel worked together to get the City to improve the picnic facilities at Rose Garden park because some of the beautiful redwoods (over 100 years old in the park) were endangered by the post picnic scattering of hot BBQ coals over the tree roots.

They joined with Terry Reilly and Beverly Hopper (Friends of the Rose Garden) along with hundreds of other volunteers from around the city and the bay area with green vests to bring the Rose Garden off of probation. They enjoy seeing parents with their children and school groups getting involved in keeping our Municipal Rose Garden the Best In America!

## On The Cover District 6 Residents

- ❶ Laurie & Mark Warner, patrons of the Arts for Opera San Jose and San Jose Jazz.
- ❷ Dale & Robert Craddock of St. Leos neighborhood still biking in their 80's.
- ❸ Sheila & Brian Gregory enjoying a neighborhood gathering on Hanchett Avenue.
- ❹ Wade Tai, Lydia Tai & Angella Tai, owners of Teak House on The Alameda.
- ❺ Bill Halleck & Tom Smith of North Willow Glen enjoying documentary film night, Radiant City.
- ❻ Sheila & Dan Breeding philanthropic sponsors of the Boy Scouts, YMCA and the American Cancer Society.
- ❼ Steve Demkowsky AKA "The Bee Man."
- ❽ Sterling Robinson, circa 1968.
- ❾ Stacy, Dan & Sydney Scott and owners of the Tree House in the Glen.
- ❿ Willow Glen Elementary "Walk to School" organized by the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association and Business Association.



Mayor Reed presents a commendation for Italian Festival at the Guadalupe River Park.



Nicholas Spatafore of the Rose Garden turns 103 on December 22, 2011. He has lived in the same house for over 70 years.

Do you know someone else over 100 in District 6?



## Closed Door Vote Revealed

As I have shared in prior blogs, issues that are discussed in closed session meetings are supposed to remain confidential until the City Attorney reports out at a public council meeting. Well, that is the way it is supposed to work anyway.

I have wondered how people associated with interest groups speak to issues that were discussed in closed session that have not been made public yet. I will speak to that in another blog.

Votes that happen within closed session are not always unanimous. Just as in open session, councilmembers sometimes vote "yes" and sometimes vote "no." Of course, since the voting takes place behind closed doors, the public does not know how the electeds vote. However, when the Council chooses to enter into litigation, or sometimes when a legal settlement is reached, the vote is reported out at public session.

At the June 21st Council meeting, the City Attorney publicly reported that the settlement with the County of Santa Clara and the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) was recorded and that the vote was 10-1 with Oliverio voting no. This is the settlement that involved Old City Hall being given to the County due to threatened litigation. In my view the City blinked by giving direction to settle.

To be fair, there was the chaos that RDA was going to end any day, and folks were thinking "how will the City survive?" The County, also fearing the end of RDA, wanted to get what it could before the governor terminated the RDA. San Jose RDA has been paying the County each year, more money than any city RDA pays any county government in the state of California. There were some agreements reached with the County in the past so the RDA could borrow even more money. These terms carried in my opinion loan shark penalties if the RDA was unable to make the full payment—even with the situation of declining property values and thus less RDA tax increment revenue.

There is an old adage that when you owe the bank money the bank controls you, however when you owe the bank a lot of money you control the bank. This was my view of the relationship between the San Jose RDA and the County. I felt we should pay what we could afford to pay at that moment but no more. Thus leaving a small portion of money for economic development, which helps both the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara with new private sector jobs, which increases cash flow in the local economy. Charity starts at home and we need to take care of San Jose first as the Old City Hall could have been sold to benefit the general fund.

In addition, the settlement put liens on 18 city properties, which if ever sold require the permission of the County, and probably require paying the County a portion of the proceeds of land sale. An unnecessary shackle for a future city council in making choices.

## Pension Tension

In June of this year (2011), the Council emerged out of closed session directing staff to communicate and negotiate with the unions regarding the possibility of a ballot measure and pension reform. The goal is to combine these two topics and create/work within a time frame if possible.

For savings to occur, it is important to have something fully implemented prior to next year's budget. The key word is "implemented," as savings need to be delivered in advance of the city manager's budget in 2012 so that we can save services from being cut and save additional city employees from being laid off. Otherwise every city department better hope that federal grants come raining down for every city position because our budget will be entering a \$80 million dollar deficit year. Who knows, maybe once-plentiful federal money will be pouring out of the sky since there will be a presidential election.

I am concerned that the truth regarding pension reform is not being shared appropriately. I think that the process needs to be public so residents, retirees and city employees can hear the information first hand from both sides. The council chambers should be used each time to allow a public audience to observe first hand about the realities and limitations of the current pension system and hear the proposals directly from the negotiator's mouth.

This would eliminate any disconnect from union representatives and the union membership. It would also allow retirees to be fully plugged in as they cannot rely on the current union membership to fully support their interests. Finally, a public process would allow residents to see what each side says as the residents will be the final judge who would approve through a ballot measure. Even changing the current pension match from 250 percent to 249 percent requires voter approval.

For too long we have wasted time back and forth about what was said or what was not said and even the tone of voice in which words were delivered. There is nothing to hide, so let's get it all on the table. If we cannot come to agreement then it is off to the ballot box with an actuarial sound set of pension reforms that include management and the city council. However, if there can be an alternative, through negotiation and education, which delivers true savings to maintain city services then that would be ideal.

Moreover, it cannot be reducing a 250 percent pension match to 230 percent. The savings needs to be verified and substantial since the problem is not small. These changes must go to the ballot box to alter the City Charter whether by fiat or mutual agreement.

Otherwise, we head down the same road of mistrust on both sides with silly games and political posturing with closed-door meetings. Pension systems have dramatically changed as we know in the non-union private sector, however they have also changed in unionized organizations like the construction trades. Local governments are next.

This topic is too important to have behind closed doors. Let's suspend all boards and commissions not in the city charter and put these meetings as the top priority and on TV. There could be no other topic more important to San Jose so let us focus and get it done. We need to move past this expeditiously so we can focus on the San Jose of the future, which is not solely about reducing services.

In other news last week the Council voted 10-1 to exempt affordable housing projects that are in the pipeline from paying park fees. I voted no.



Find us on  
Facebook

Keep in touch via Facebook at:  
Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio





# Operation: Care and Comfort

Founded in 2003, Willow Glen based Operation: Care and Comfort's mission is to provide support and comfort to deployed troops, veterans, and their families. OCC ships monthly care packages to "adopted" military units serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflict regions until they return home. In addition, OCC is proud of the support they give to troops while serving on humanitarian missions, such as the recent Haiti earthquake. Meeting once a month at the Willow Glen American Legion Post 318 on Minnesota Avenue, volunteers aged 5 and up work side by side with volunteers from the military.

OCC also supports military families and veterans through two unique programs, "Adopt a Military Family" and "Tickets for Troops." These programs allow us to support military families who are left behind when a loved one deploys, to continue to support families when their loved ones return home, and to assist veterans.

OCC is an all volunteer organization, and has received numerous prestigious awards including the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher distinguished Humanitarian Award from the Department of Defense, and the National Red Cross' Service to Armed Forces Award.

Please visit OCC's web site to see who you can help support the troops, veterans and their families. [www.occ-usa.org](http://www.occ-usa.org)

## New Teen Program

The Willow Glen Community webpage was designed by the Willow Glen advisory council to keep the community informed. Classes for teens and others are now available on line.

[www.willowglencommunity.org](http://www.willowglencommunity.org)



Bingo every Wednesday Night at the Billy De Frank Center. The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center is located along the historic Alameda, 938 The Alameda.

## San Jose Public Library Foundation



The San José Public Library (SJPLF) enriches lives by fostering lifelong learning and by ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information. Your support of the outstanding services provided by the SJPLF is appreciated, especially during these challenging fiscal times. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.

The San José Public Library Foundation  
(408) 808-2081 • [www.sjplf.org](http://www.sjplf.org)



# District 6 Calendar of Events

## NOVEMBER

### November 9

Holiday Boutique 9am-3pm  
Willow Senior & Community Center,  
(408) 448-6400

### November 18

Downtown Ice Rink Opens  
www.sjdowntown.com

### November 24

Silicon Valley Turkey Trot Race  
svturkeytrot.com

### November 24

Thanksgiving



### November 24

Big Bone Game SJCC  
Lincoln vs. SJ Academy

### November 25

Christmas in the Park  
Tree Lighting

### November 26

Breakfast with Santa at  
Happy Hollow Park  
9:00 am to 10:00 am

### November 26

Willow Glen Alumni  
H2O Polo Game

### November 25-27

San Jose Harvest Festival  
harvestfestival.com

### November 29

Q and A with Independent  
Police Auditor (IPA) and  
Assistant Police Chief Rikki  
Goede  
Willow Senior & Community  
Center. 6:30 PM



District 6 Movie Night in the Park

## DECEMBER

Ballet San Jose's  
The Nutcracker  
balletsanjose.org

### December 1, 2011

Willow Glen Tree Lighting  
Willow Glen Elementary  
7:00 pm

### December 1

Blackford Elementary Parent  
Resource Fair

### December 2

The Alameda Business Assoc.  
Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Westminster Church  
6:00 pm  
Crafts Fair 6:30-8pm

### December 10

Event Breakfast with Santa  
9:30-11:30  
Willow Senior & Community  
Center  
408-448-6400  
sanjoseca.gov/prns

### December 10

The Santa Project Holiday  
Benefit 4pm-11:30pm

### December 19-22

Santa's Work Shop M-Th  
8:00am-3:00pm  
Willow Senior & Community  
Center

### December 20

Hanukkah Candelighting  
Santana Row 6:30 pm

### December 21-28 Sunset

Hanukkah

### December 24

Christmas Eve

### December 25

Christmas Day



### December 25

Billy DeFrank CTR. Christmas  
Potluck 11:00am

## JANUARY

### January 7, 2012

Friends of the Rose Garden  
Winter Pruning Day  
9am-12pm  
friendssjrosegarden.com

### January 12

Mayor Budget Meeting at  
City Hall Public Welcome

## FEBRUARY

### February 6, 2012

Willow Glen History Night  
6:30 PM  
denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov  
RSVP Required

### February 8

Tu B'Shuat

### February 22

Ash Wednesday

### Date & Time TBD

State of the City Address

## MARCH

Lincoln Glen Little League  
lincolnglenbaseball.com

Willow Glen Little League  
Season Kick-Off. wgl.org

SJ American Little League  
sanjoselittleleague.com

### March 8, 2012

Purim

### March 12th

Cat & Dog Documentary  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers  
denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov  
Seating is Limited

### March 17

City of San Jose Great  
American Litter Pick Up.  
8:30-11:30am



## APRIL

### April 1-3, 2012

Ballet San Jose Presents  
"Carmen"  
balletsj.org/carmen

### April 6-13 Sunset

Passover

### April 8

Easter

### April 18

10th Annual YWCA Walk-A-  
Mile in her Shoes

### April 19

Yom the Shoah

### April 23

City Sewer Documentary  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers  
denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov  
Seating is Limited

**Save The Date  
May 12th**

**Willow Glen  
Elementary 5K**

# Small Businesses & People of District 6

## 3 Sisters & Bee Guy



Steve and Carol Lewboski live work and play in Willow Glen. They met in 1969 in Honolulu, HA and married in San Jose in 1970, settled in Willow Glen and raised three children who also live in Willow Glen. Carole is the owner of 3 Sisters on Lincoln Ave. Steve is best known as the "Bee Guy" because of his homemade honey that is sold only at 3 Sisters. The money from the sale of honey is donated to 4H, History Park San Jose and Happy Hollow Zoo. They are also involved with Holidays on a High Note, Valle Monte League, and both of us with the Willow Glen Home Tour.



About 18 years ago a swarm moved into the Lembowskis stucco fence in their back yard home in Willow Glen. From this point on, Steve yearning for information about the bees included reading books, visiting websites and contacting Universities to learn more.

Bees gather the nectar and pollen from the flowers within a 5 mile radius of their hive. The nectar is then converted to honey which in turn is extracted from the hives. When the Lewboskis extract the honey they do not filter or cook it, which allows all the natural enzymes to remain in the honey. It is important that Willow Glen maintains its many diverse blooming flowers throughout the year. The benefits of local raw honey have been documented in many articles and the flavor of Willow Glen honey changes through the seasons. Most important is the pollination of our local fruit trees, flowers and vegetable gardens. Without bees we would not exist.

In 2008, Carole opened Three Sisters on Lincoln Ave. A dream she had for many years. She changes the shop around and bring in different items every two to four weeks and carry's French Soaps and the largest selection of oilcloth in the Bay Area.

**1393 Lincoln Avenue**  
**threesisterswillowglen.com**  
**408-287-3720**

## Antiques Colony



West San Carlos Street has been around just as long and has something to offer everyone. Babyland; Ethnic Restaurants; Crossroads Trading; Antiques Colony; Vespa; Starbucks; Moon Zoom; Sam's Downtown Feed & Pet Supply; Sees Candies and much more. If you haven't been down to the "Street" lately, it's time to check it out!

The Antiques Colony has been repurposing old furniture and restoring old treasures for over 30 years. Some might say that we created the Green Movement by taking the old and making them new again. Over 40 collectors sell in this 9,000 square foot showroom. We have fine estate jewelry to vintage Christmas trees with color wheels. If you need a solid oak chest of drawers for the bedroom-or a chandelier for your Mid-Century Eichler-or a 100 year old glass doorknob in your Victorian house-the Antiques Colony is the place to come!

**Recycle with Style!**  
**1881 W. San Carlos St.**  
**408-293-9844 • antiquescolony.com**

## Details



Details clothing store on Lincoln Avenue turned 39 this year and will celebrate its 40th birthday in April 2012. Bernie and Robin Levine own Details and live in Palm Haven.

## All in the Family Sterling Barber & Stylists



Sterling Barbers and Stylists, a family owned and managed small business, started in 1958 (53 years ago) on West San Carlos Street. Mr. Sterling Robinson opened his barber shop with two barbers. At the time Sterlings served men only and cuts were about \$2.25 and boys cuts were about \$1.25.

In the 1960's, Sterlings began incorporating styling hair rather than just cutting it. Then, in the mid 1970's he hired his first woman barber. He then hired Kathy, his youngest daughter when she graduated from beauty school. Sterling continued with the barber shop until his passing in 1995. At that time his other daughter, Bonnie joined with her sister and they continue to his their dad's dream alive.

Be sure to visit this historic family owned business!

**1770 Shasta Avenue • 408-297-6705**



## Tree House in WG



Treehouse in the Glen, a Willow Glen original business, is the 1st Green Certified Toy Store in Silicon Valley. This whimsical and charming toy store and art studio opened three years ago in September 2008, by Stacy, Dan and Sydney Scott.

The Scotts have made Willow Glen their home for 12 years. As an eco-friendly business this store specializes in open-ended toys, green family living products and art supplies that are made responsibly in the USA, Europe and around the world. Treehouse in the Glen is more than a toy store, it is a special place for families, kids and the community to play, imagine and find wonderment for life. As their company song says, "Life becomes magic. Life becomes simple. In your Treehouse in the Glen."

**1275 Lincoln Ave Ste 2  
San Jose, CA 95125  
(408) 294-8699**

## Rosie's NY Pizza



In February of 2008 Rosie's New York Pizza was built especially for the Rose Garden neighborhood. Rosie's is family owned and the owners proudly support our schools, churches, fundraising events. We have 80 seats in our pizza place so we serve for dine-in, take out and catering

Our neighbors have been very excited about our restaurant and they support us.

**1285 The Alameda  
408 292 6767**

Manuel Sanchez , Manager  
Bryan Garret , Owner (Rose Garden Resident)

## Grapevine



In March of 2008, Valerie Evans completed the Professional Culinary Institutes Sommelier Course. In December of the same year, Valerie purchased the Grapevine but not after she received her Master Sommelier from David Glancy which allowed her to participate in the Court of Masters Sommelier Certification exam which included going through a grueling process of wine fundamentals, blind tastings, wine and food pairing and service performance testing she passed and received the world recognized title of "Certified Sommelier."

Experience the wonderful world of wine while enjoying the elegant, yet relaxed, fun & unpretentious surroundings at The Grapevine. A dynamic menu of handpicked, small production wines, unique bottled beers, and hard cider, with delectable cheese-centric food menu and decadent desserts.

The Grapevine has nearly 200 labels for retail sale and we are a full service cheese shop with specialty and artisan cheeses from around the world. Be sure to wish Valerie a Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary!

**1389 Lincoln Ave., San Jose, CA 95125  
Phone: (408)293-7574  
www.grapevinewillowglen.com**

## Teak House



Left to right is Wade Tai, Lydia Tai & Angella Tai.

Lydia Tai and her family started The Teakhouse in 1970. Over the course of 40 years the The Teakhouse has held locations in Oakland, Menlo Park and San Jose. In 1992, Lydia consolidated all the business locations in to 1343 The Alameda in San Jose. The Teakhouse building became a neighborhood architectural landmark. During the past nineteen years at The Alameda location, Lydia has become a passionately involved member of this community. She slowly began retiring in 2010. Lydia's children Angella and Wade have transformed the family business into a thriving real estate firm that retains the Teakhouse's commitment to customer service and community involvement.

**1345 The Alameda  
San Jose, CA 95126  
408-293-8686**

## Opa! Restaurant



Opa! Started 4 years ago in a tiny location on Lincoln Ave. I had always dreamed of opening up a small Greek Restaurant. Though times were tough and the recession was in "full steam", I decided that I would build a business model around the times.

I recently teamed up with Partners Molly & Marcus Adams, and Dave Bibb, two local residents, and it has been a blast. They have brought a fresh new perspective to our business model. It is our hope to be able to take this concept to the next level. We would like to create a chain, and set up Opa! locations in neighborhood communities all over the country. "The clouds of the economy maybe hovering outside, but the sun is always shining in Opa!" Angelo C Heropoulos

**1384 Lincoln Ave • 408-998-870**

## Kidical Mass

Kidical Mass in the Glen is a family inspired series of bike rides that will return in the Spring on Sunday mornings





SOT Members

## HISTORY OF SAVE OUR TRAILS (SOT)

The history of Save Our Trails could make a case study in a textbook on participatory democracy.

Since the former Southern Pacific railway lines stopped being used in 2001, Willow Glen was assured by the elected officials and city staff of San Jose that this railway corridor would come under the umbrella of the City as a walking and biking trail. The City had the ability to purchase this land in 2002, but failed to act in purchasing it.

In February of 2009, Riverside Drive resident Tai McMahon was stunned to read a letter from Councilmember Oliverio regarding a community meeting about the rail roads company proposal to build homes on the railway property. The Councilmember shared that since the City did not purchase the property and since it was still legally private property the Railroad Company had a legal right to build homes on it. The parcel of land in question already was zoned decades back for housing. Obviously this went against what was promised back in 2001. As a result, Tai decided to form Save Our Trails ("SOT") as a citizen advocacy group to promote trails throughout Santa Clara County.

The upward struggle to protect this land from development proved hard, but resulted in successful outcome. Tai's first recruit was her father, Bruce Tichinin, a successful land use lawyer.

SOT started with 30 people including residents Bill Rankin, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Mary Ellen Petrich, Rick Hernandez, Roland Lebrun, Jack Nadeau, Richard Silva and Lars Thurfjell formed a Board of Directors. The group is now at 200.

SOT has been successful in others areas as well. They have attended the many public meetings where this issue was discussed in addition to ensuring that the 3 Creeks Trail was the legal name of this property; successfully sought commitment from the County Board of Supervisors, Open Space Authority and Santa Clara Valley Water District to fund additional millions to buy the Western half of the corridor and for making sure that the 3 Creeks trail is listed in the updated Greenprint and General Plan.

For more information visit their website at: [saveourtrails-scc.org](http://saveourtrails-scc.org)



## *3 Creeks Trail Prevails Rails to Trails*

Rails to Trails is a term for the conversion of obsolete rail lines into recreational trails. This has been done all over the United States. Railroad lines provide unique and scenic routes through cities. These trails lend themselves to both recreation and transportation that is not dependent on gas.

Last month, the Council authorized \$6 million to purchase an 8 acre linear property from Union Pacific railroad for the Three Creeks Trail/Willow Glen Spur. It was a long process as the railroad was not a willing seller in 2007. Back in 2002 prior to my tenure, The City declined to purchase the property for a trail as The City had "first right of refusal" to buy the property then. This property was historically zoned for housing and Union Pacific had the right to build housing without going to the Planning Commission or City Council for approval according to the Planning Dept. Unfortunately, cities are not allowed to re-zone railroad property to lower the value prior to purchase and thus must pay highest and best use for the land. The use of eminent domain is not viable since the Railroads have been notorious for suing cities against having their land taken away. Railroads have protection under federal law. Inverse condemnation lawsuits end up costing cities more since the railroad usually receives the highest and best use of the land value plus penalties for the intentional action by the public agency.

The true testament in moving forward with the trail was the unanimous approval of my memo in 2007 to purchase the property and start a more open communication with the railroad company. The housing bubble/recession thwarted housing construction on this property in the interim which gave us time to persuade the railroad.

The City does not have the money to pave an asphalt trail at this time but I welcome you to enjoy the trail today. This trail extends from Minnesota Ave

past Willow Street, past Coe Ave ending at Lonus St. We will have no mortgage payment on this property and the maintenance will be adopted by volunteers from Save our Trails, who will be signing a formal agreement to adopt the trail and will pick up litter and cut down weeds.

This parcel also includes a beautiful trestle bridge that goes over the creek. Making the bridge safe for pedestrians and bicycles is the first priority and grant money has been obtained to start this process.

The City obtained grants from the County of Santa Clara park trust fund, Santa Clara Valley Water district, Open Space Authority and a State of California grant to come soon. In the interim some funds from the Construction and Conveyance tax are covering the purchase price and will be replenished once the State funds are received. These grants are specifically for the trail and cannot be used for anything else. This real estate transaction is expected to close in January 2012.

I am very thankful for all the people that worked on this project however I have a question. Should cities rely on grants to fund projects? It seems like local government is always begging for money from larger government, even though larger government takes money from local government frequently. Or when our own City policy of exempting affordable housing developers from paying park fees created a lost opportunity of approximately \$90 million dollars that could have been used for parks and trails. Thus, leaving San Jose to apply for State grants that if we are lucky may add up to \$10 million rather than \$90 million that was left on the table. It would seem simpler for local governments to fund their own projects rather than having to anticipate the different and changing priorities of State and Federal office holders.

# **& CITY OF SAN JOSE & COUNCILMEMBER PIERLUIGI OLIVERIO**

**A Documentary  
on the most basic  
service The City  
provides . . .  
Sewers.**

**DATE/TIME:  
April 23, 2012  
6:31 PM**

**LOCATION:  
City Council Chambers  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113**

**Please RSVP  
(408) 535-4906 or  
[denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov)  
Seating is Limited**



# GRAND JURY VALIDATION

In the past, I have written about how fire services are deployed in San Jose with an emphasis on the data that shows the overwhelming ratio of medical calls to actual fires. In addition, I have shared that San Jose's minimum staffing contract requires four people per fire engine while every other city in the county requires three firefighters or less. The full report is posted on the District 6 website

The Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury, which investigates waste, fraud and abuse, released its report last week on fire services in the county including San Jose. They found that "these agencies remain entrenched in old service and old cost structures" and that "taxpayers can no longer afford to fund the status quo." The Grand Jury wanted to make a distinction from the 1970s by stating, "it is extremely important to separate the iconography of shiny red trucks and Dalmatians from the reality of today's fire fighting." Inevitably all organizations need to change as the touch points that engage them change over time.

The Grand Jury interviewed all fire chiefs and public safety chiefs in Santa Clara County responsible for fire departments plus city managers. They, "generally agreed that fire department operations as currently configured are unsustainable." Unsustainable in that, "it is common to see fire departments over-deploy multiple fire fighting apparatus in response to non-life threatening emergencies, seemingly a waste of taxpayer dollars."

Each extra staffing position on a fire engine equals three police officers or approximately six librarians based on covering all the shifts in a month based on the historic 24-hour shift.

Restructuring fire services has zero to do with the actual fire department employee but everything to do with the allocation of resources based on demand and budget. Some of the interviewees described fire fighting as "the best part-time job in America" and said "firefighters are paid for 23 hours of sitting around for one hour of work because that is how insurance works." Fair point on the insurance analogy but can this cost be maximized or do we want to increase our insurance premium for police instead?

Also from the report: "Fire departments can be more successful and cost-effective when fire chiefs have the latitude to assign and manage staff according to the situation." San Jose does not have this latitude. Interviewees "describe union pressure to retain minimum-staffing contract clauses, also known as 'entitlement operations.' Yet Fire Chiefs pointed out that there are clear peak and low demands for service on any given day, day of the week or season of the year, such that a more flexible staffing model would make much more sense both administratively and economically. Those cities [like San Jose] with fire contracts mandating minimum staffing levels and crew size are at a disadvantage compared to those with the discretion to staff as needed." It would make sense to have more resources during peak demand time and less during non-peak demand time but not below a certain threshold.

The report also examined consolidation of fire departments across the county to reduce costs by cutting management while maintaining service levels. Consolidation would also look at sharing expensive fire equipment between cities, the cost of maintenance and personnel training.

I believe allowing fire chiefs more flexibility on minimum staffing and length of shifts would enable staffing per peak demand and at the same time produce costs saving for other city services like police.

On a related note, council approved the ambulance contract with the County last week. State law give the County authority over the ambulance contract. Unfortunately our fire department will continue to respond to the jail for medical calls even though the jail has medical personnel on staff and it is the ambulance that actually transports the inmate to the hospital. This is totally unnecessary and an unnecessary risk to firefighters which I tried changing a few years back.

In addition, the San Jose Fire Department under the County contract will still have to respond to sprained-ankle calls. There is a re-opener on the contract which I hope will allow SJFD to stop responding to both the jail and minor injury calls.

# Testimony of a City Employee

At the June 21st (2011) Council meeting, a city employee (who was about to be laid off) spoke during the open forum section of the meeting.

"Thank you Mayor and Council. My name Michael Medlin. I am a resident of District 4. I quickly wanted to thank the City for the opportunity of working at city hall for the past 5.5 years. This is one of the highest levels an unarmed security officer without a Department of Defense clearance can achieve and I have enjoyed serving the both residents and employees of San Jose.

"To Councilman Oliverio, I sometimes raise my eyebrows and do double takes at some of your ideas but appreciate your out of the box thinking. I would simply ask that you continue your efforts to reevaluate the current seniority system to include performance evaluations.

"As I talk with many co-workers I sense the majority consider evaluations as a positive rather than a negative tool. In fact many have said the feedback on their performance has been helpful in them achieving exceptional status. The problems that council faces with our current deficits is truly unique and one question will always remain while others have been answered.

"How many of the city's best and brightest will leave employment each year before we finally address this issue?

"It is time to level the playing field and send the message that bias and favoritism claims do not hold merit." He ended with: "I thank you for your time and hope our paths will cross again."

Michael's testimony is a reminder that layoffs and step increases (salary increases) are done 100 percent based on seniority and zero about performance. Michael's question is a good one in that many of our best and brightest are laid off through no fault of their own by simply getting hired a month after someone else.

What do you think? Is it fair to lay off outstanding performers in any organization while others who may be burned out remain?

CITY OF SAN JOSE  
& Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio



# Willow Glen History Night

Local Historian will tell the story of a Willow Glen family  
back to post Civil War era.

**DATE/TIME:**

**Feb. 6th, 2012**

**6:31 PM**

**LOCATION:**

**Willow Glen Library**

**RSVP Required**

**(408) 535-4906 or**

**[denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov)**

**Very Limited Seating**





# **15 MPH** FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

Ensuring that cars travel slowly near schools should be a priority for San Jose. Local governments should embrace tools that make streets safer for pedestrians, especially when those pedestrians are overwhelming children walking and biking to and from school.

In 2008, Assembly Bill 321 (AB321) was signed into law with support from the national organization, Safe Routes to School. AB321 allows cities the flexibility to lower speed limits adjacent to public and private schools. Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Pennsylvania have already implemented lower school speed limits successfully.

Reduced school speed zones in California were quickly implemented in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, Lompoc and Santa Maria among other cities. In 2010, I proposed implementing AB321 on Dana Avenue in front of Trace Elementary and Lincoln High School. Parents, teachers, principals, residents and the school superintendent have proclaimed the reduced speed on Dana Avenue a great success. As a result I wanted to expand this city wide.

Allowing schools to choose if they would like to have a 15-mph speed zone for their school—if their school meets the criteria—would then allow for an easy and affordable way to reduce accidents and the degree of injury. This is timely as funding for crossing guards may be eliminated in next year's budget.

Lowering the speed limit is also a benefit to residents and neighborhoods adjacent to schools. If we look back at history, we know that former schools in San Jose are closed like Cory, Kirk and Lincoln Glen. That means student population at remaining schools has increased. As a result, residents who live by an elementary school that was designed for 350 students may live next to an elementary school with over 800-1,000 students, thus higher car volume. By lowering the speed limit, we will bring piece of mind to the residents who live by schools. Also, it will offer the opportunity for more kids to walk or bike to school.

The cost to procure and install new 15-mph speed limit signs per school in San Francisco is approximately \$1,750. It may be less if we simply put a 1 over the 2. Even with our budget woes in San Jose, this is affordable and I have already heard from school parent groups and residents that they would be willing to pay for the cost of implementation.

Council voted on November 15th to support my proposal of allowing schools the autonomy to choose for themselves. Roll out of the lower speed limit for the first three schools will occur in Spring 2012.

## WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE!!!

2011  
*Red White & Rose Parade*



*Pierluigi with D6 resident Gregory Jurkoski at the Veterans Day Parade*



*Dog Walking Club*



*Grace Avenue Halloween Parade*



# CITY OF SAN JOSE & COUNCILMEMBER PIERLUIGI OLIVERIO

*Cats and Dogs become best friends, soul mates and family members. Attend a documentary on Cats and Dogs followed by a discussion about our Animal Care Services division.*



**DATE/TIME:**  
March 12th, 2012  
6:31 PM

**LOCATION:**  
City Council Chambers  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Please RSVP**  
(408) 535-4906 or  
[denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov)  
Seating is Limited

