



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

District 10 September Newsletter

Dear Rayshelle,

In addition to the hustle and bustle of transitioning my family into “back to school” mode, the District 10 Council Office has been transitioning as well, and has seen several staffing changes.

Shortly after our very well-received July 4th Fun Festival at Almaden Lake Park, Drew Spitzer, a Council Assistant and lead on that event, moved on to a job in the private sector. I appreciate the work Drew put in to creating a successful festival, as well as his daily efforts in the office. I wish him all the best in his new career!

On August 10th, the District 10 staff and I were able to witness our very own, Rayshelle, get married! It was a beautiful wedding filled with family, friends and fun! I wish Rayshelle and her husband Mike, a regular volunteer at District 10 events, a long and happy life together!! Rayshelle has, in turn, changed her last name meaning she has a new email address, rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov.

In addition to the changes mentioned, I am very pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team. First, Dang Nguyen, a graduate of UC Davis, was an intern in our office for several months before officially joining our team. He has an extensive volunteer background in public service. He will be working part-time on special event scheduling and other tasks. I am glad to have him join us!

I also want to express my excitement in our latest addition to the District 10 Council Office. Denelle Fedor, former District 6 Chief of Staff and D10 Council Candidate. Denelle and I established a relationship during the District 10 Council race in which we both ran. I respected Denelle from the get go. She is highly qualified and brings a great skill set to our team. I am very pleased to have her join us and because she is a District 10 resident, look forward to the knowledge and experience she will bring to the table.

OVERVIEW OF MY RESEARCH TRIP TO COPENHAGEN

I was recently invited to travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, a trip paid for by the Knight

Foundation, in order to research alternative modes of transportation, the city's tremendous bicycle culture, the walkability of Copenhagen, as well as their incredibly creative parks. During my stay I rode a bike every day and was introduced to alternative modes of transportation. While Copenhagen and San Jose are quite different in size, density, and how people spend their income, there are also similarities and many things to learn.

People in Denmark choose to walk and bike because Copenhagen's infrastructure has been developed in a way to promote walking and biking over the past twenty years. In addition, cars are taxed at 250% of value and gas is \$12 per gallon. It's also usually faster to walk or bike to work than to drive unless one lives in the suburbs. Further, Copenhagen has made bicycling much safer with connected, raised bike lanes which feel much safer to ride in than those in San Jose. Furthermore, people in Copenhagen have a longstanding bike culture and they tend to obey the bicycling laws to a great degree.

Copenhagen's vast walking and bicycling infrastructure did not arise overnight. For many years, city planners tested taking away parking spaces along busy streets (in high employment areas) to expand bike and pedestrian traffic. These experiments produced tremendous results. Local businesses, such as restaurants and shops, had a sharp increase in sales and car traffic actually decreased on the roads. Will it work for us? If we don't try, we won't know, and the good thing about temporary measures is that they can be reversed.

Another thing I appreciated about Copenhagen, is the increased community outreach in the planning of parks and other public destinations. This helps them achieve highly activated public spaces. I was especially impressed with the use of science and culture in the many parks that we visited. Parent-friendly playground equipment is used to keep parents and kids entertained and playing together. Park staff measure the use of parks before and after features are added to gauge the popularity of new features. Many parks have a specific theme and attract residents from other areas of the city. In many cases, activating a space has brought new life to neighborhoods and increased the values of the surrounding homes.

As San Jose's downtown population continues to grow and our high density housing expands and with the inclusion of our downtown attracting more employers, it will be necessary for San Jose to provide a variety of transportation options rather than just a car. Thus, providing public transportation that is safe, fun, convenient and affordable must be a priority. Plato said that "necessity is the mother of invention" and as long as our city continues to grow, it will be necessary to be more creative in addressing our mobility and other needs.

The San Jose's 2040 General Plan has set many goals for public transportation, pedestrian, and bicycling in San Jose. I think it is important to continue to revisit those goals and update and change them when able and necessary. With all the new ideas surrounding alternative ways to build and utilize transportation options, we need to make sure that San Jose's General Plan is updated with all options for transportation needs.

PATTY O'MALLEY COMMUNITY SPORTS FIELDS

After several years of negotiations and an extensive building process, the Patty

O'Malley Community Sports Fields were finally unveiled last Wednesday, August 27th! I am thrilled to see these brand new, artificial turf fields open to the community! The facility is beautiful and I know they will be put to great use by our District's youth soccer and little league teams!

During the tenure of my predecessor, Nancy Pyle, a resident of Almaden, Patty O'Malley, came to the City with the incredibly generous donation of 4.2 million dollars to go toward the building and maintenance of a sports field facility for our youth. With a tremendous partnership between Patty, the City of San Jose, and San Jose Unified School District, this facility came to fruition!

At the ribbon cutting event you could feel the excitement of everyone involved! I am grateful, of course, to Patty for her generosity and her dedication to the youth of our city. I want to thank The San Jose Unified School Board for allowing this project to be built on their land, and the City of San Jose Parks Department for their hard work in managing the construction of the facility. The Patty O'Malley Community Sports Fields are an asset to our community and will be enjoyed by generations to come!



ALMADEN ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Traditions are part of what makes the District 10 community strong. An example of this is the upcoming 38th annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival; one of the oldest continuously held festivals in CA. The festival will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Almaden Lake (corner of Almaden Expressway/Coleman). For more information, visit almadenwine.org

Each year, my two sons, my wife and I look forward to attending the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival to enjoy the day with our extended family and friends within the ambiance of our local community. We value the festival for many reasons including the unique blend of handmade arts and crafts, sought after wines from neighboring wineries, delicious food prepared by our local schools, entertainment provided by nearby entities and an abundance of activities for children.

The festival is especially meaningful this year because Pat Dando, former San Jose Vice Mayor and District 10 Councilmember, will be honored for her work as a former member and past President with the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC). Some people may not be aware of this, but the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival was the brainchild of the AVWC. Although the all-volunteer AVWC began in 1965; their first

Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival occurred in 1976, when Pat Dando was actively involved in the club. Prior to 1976, the AVWC hosted a travelling summer carnival located in the Safeway parking lot in Almaden. The AVWC will present Pat with a grant that she has chosen to give to The Stroke Awareness Foundation, a non-profit organization she co-founded in 2002 with local businessmen Chuck Toeniskoetter and Chuck Hoffman.

During the late 1960's and early/mid 1970's, Almaden Valley was beginning to transition from farm country to a suburban residential area. Many Almaden neighborhoods (Shadow Brook, Orchard Creek, and Montevideo, among others) were newly developed. As such, the AVWC wanted to move away from a carnival to an event that would provide a community gathering place for the "new" Almaden Valley that was beginning to form.

The original AVWC goals for the festival (which still hold true today) included that it be a place where families could enjoy the day together, residents could be thankful for the new budding Almaden community and local talent would be promoted and provided by Almaden schools and churches. They also wanted to ensure that their new festival would generate a profit to raise money for schools and provide grants for the Almaden area and over time; for the greater San Jose community. Initially, the AVWC purchased a Jaws of Life for the San Jose Fire Department and a piano and books for the newly built, Almaden Library. Most importantly, the AVWC wanted the festival to continue to grow and sustain itself every year.

As a bit of history, I was told that the first Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival was so successful that the AVWC ran out of ice for the 1000+ festival attendees. As a result, the spouses of the AVWC had to drive as far as downtown San Jose in their station wagons to purchase ice. The day was so hot that the ice was melting in their cars! Although the spouses will not need to worry about the lack of ice anymore; they are still put to work with other tasks assigned by AVWC!

Here we are, 38 years later, and the all-volunteer AVWC continues to organize, host and raise funds for the greater San Jose community through the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival; staying true to the clubs original intentions. Thank you Pat Dando and the other AVWC members past and present for your vision, tenacity, patience and love of your neighborhoods in bringing the Almaden Valley and greater San Jose community together through this much beloved annual event.

SOUND WALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

An ongoing project that my office has tackled is the updating/painting of the soundwalls throughout the district that are in disrepair. Well, this weekend, we're painting another wall in District 10! On Saturday, September 13th, we'll be painting the sound walls on Santa Teresa at Summerbrook as well as further down Santa Teresa at Foothill Glen. We'll be starting at 8:00 AM and, with enough help, we'll be done by noon. Orchard Supply Hardware on Kooser Rd. has generously donated the materials for this project and a few of their employees will also be helping with the painting. Dan Burnham, owner of Burnham Construction, is continuing to partner with us and donate his time and expertise. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to earn community service hours, as well as a time for families to come out and beautify their community! If you're in the area, stop by, grab a brush, and join the fun! For more information, contact

Michele at Michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910. I hope to see you there!

DISTRICT 10 BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

As a strong supporter of our local small business owners, I enjoy celebrating and highlighting new businesses in District 10! Bettina's of Los Gatos is coming to Almaden. Their new store is located in the Safeway shopping center between UnLeashed and Maple Leaf Donuts. They are having a Grand Opening party this Friday, Sept. 5th from 5:00-8:00 P.M. Stop by and check out their amazing clothing, jewelry and shoes, as well as special sales for the Grand Opening event. I am glad to welcome Bettina's to District 10!

UPCOMING DISTRICT 10 TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Please read below for information regarding upcoming transportation projects in District 10.

Blossom Hill Road Relinquishment Project:

9/8 - 10/10 (Weeknight Work, 9pm-6am) on Blossom Hill Rd between Almaden Expy and Santa Teresa Blvd.

2 Lanes of traffic will be closed at any given time to perform complete roadway rehabilitation. The project will be conducted into 2 segments in which all construction activity in one segment must be completed prior to work starting on the second segment. The segments are Santa Teresa to Winfield and Winfield to Almaden Expy.

Santa Teresa Blvd Slurry Seal Project:

9/22 - 9/26 (Weekday Work, 8:30am-3:30pm) on Santa Teresa Blvd between Hwy 85/87 and Blossom Hill Rd.

This is a tentative schedule since the construction contract is still being processed. 2 Lanes of traffic will be closed at any given time to apply a surface seal to the roadway. The surface seal is temperature sensitive so the application must be completed during the day.

MEASURE Q

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, as an elected official, I am often asked to endorse candidates or ballot measures in order to, hopefully, increase the support for that candidate or measure. When asked, I very carefully consider the options, and try to do what is right for the residents I represent. I was recently asked to endorse a measure that will be on the November ballot. The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority has placed a \$24 annual parcel tax measure on the ballot to raise funds for the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of open space around Santa Clara County.

Measure Q would raise nearly \$8 million dollars a year for 15 years for the Open Space Authority to execute the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint. Some of the land slated for purchase, if the measure passes, is located in District 10. I am a strong proponent of preserving our open space, but I also know that another tax can be burdensome on the homeowners in our community. This is where I need your feedback! I want to be sure

that my endorsement reflects the priorities of my constituency, so I have created a very short survey. Please take a moment to check out the Measure Q informational website (<http://www.openspaceauthority.org/about/openspacefunding.html>), then let me know what you think by taking the following survey: <http://bit.ly/MeasureQ> . I look forward to your feedback!

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!

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

Kiwanis Volunteer Work Day and BBQ

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Almaden Valley Kiwanis has recently adopted Parma Park and Jake's Play Lot next to the Almaden Community Center.

On Saturday, September 27th, Almaden Valley Kiwanis will be hosting a community service event and lunch at Parma Park from 11:30am –2:00pm. If you would like an opportunity to give back to your community and while having some fun with a great group of people, please contact Mike Montanari or Tom Sisto at ok3green@aol.com or tom_sisto@hotmail.com for further details.

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. 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!](http://bit.ly/1npK5bS)

South Valley Family YMCA 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Thursday October 2nd at Cinnabar Hills Golf Course.
Registration time - 10:00AM
Lunch -11:00AM
Start time - 12:00PM

Get your group together, and come on out. Guaranteed great time while knowing that you are sending kids to camp by participating. Last year, 140 golfers teed it up for the 12th annual event. Our goal is to beat that number! I'm so thankful for all of your support over the years - let's keep it going! For more information, contact Rebecca Boylan at 408-513-3145 or email rboylanr@ymcasv.org. For more event details visit the South Valley YMCA Website at www.ymcasv.org/southvalley

Elections Officers Needed at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters is always in need of dedicated volunteers seeking to preserve and promote civic engagement. Volunteering to become an Elections Officer at the Registrar of Voters is a great way to be a part of the democratic process, serve your community, and make money for yourself or your favorite organization. Experience is not necessary! Paid training is provided. There is always a critical need for bilingual volunteers in order to ensure the fairness of the system for non-English speakers. Volunteers will be paid \$95-180 stipends, and Bilingual Election Officers will be paid an addition \$5. Elections officers must be at least 18 years old and either a registered voter (U.S. citizen) or a legal permanent resident of the United States. However, high school students may also become Election Officers if they are 16 years or older, with at least a 2.5 GPA, and approval from parents and the student's high school administration. More information and online registration: www.sccgov.org

Business Seminar - Worker's Compensation Fraud

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
101 W. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be co-hosting an informational seminar for our region's business community on efforts underway at the County of Santa Clara to address business fraud in general, and worker's compensation fraud specifically.

This seminar will cover a wide range of topics regarding business fraud concerns throughout the county, and will inform attendees on actions being taken by the District Attorney's office to combat these crimes. Special attention will be paid to worker's compensation fraud. Information will be distributed on the impact of committing worker's comp fraud (namely the driving up of prices for all businesses), as well as an explanation of how violators are caught and prosecuted. Please plan now on attending for an important informational morning.

Community Meetings – State Housing Element

Every several years, cities are required to plan for their regional housing needs through the State Housing Element process. Last fall, City staff from the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department (PBCE) and the Housing Department began planning for the 2014-22 housing needs projection period and the 2015-23 planning period by holding a series of community meetings and focus groups to provide information on the process, and to receive input on how to plan for those future needs.

A draft of the proposed Housing Element will be available soon. Once the draft is published, you will receive an announcement by email. The City will host several community meetings and hearings to receive public comment before the draft is submitted to the State of California for a 60-day review. Additional public hearings will be announced in the fall leading up to City Council adoption in December 2014.

Each of the community meetings will cover the same material. All are welcome so please feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and/or anyone else who may be interested. Spanish and Vietnamese translation services are available if requested at least seven (7) days in advance by contacting Adam Marcus by email or by phone at 408.975.4451.

The community meetings are scheduled as follows:

Community Meeting

Saturday, September 6, 2014 10:00 a.m. San José City Hall
Room Location T-332
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

City Council Study Session

Monday, September 8, 2014 (Tentative) 1:30 p.m. San José City Hall
Council Chambers
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Planning Commission Hearing

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:30 p.m. San José City Hall
Council Chambers
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Housing & Community Development Commission Hearing

Thursday, September 11, 2014 5:45 p.m. San José City Hall
Wing Rooms 118 & 119
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

City Council Hearing

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 7:00 p.m. San José City Hall
Council Chambers
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Written comments can be emailed or mailed to the following address:

City of San José Housing Department
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 12th Floor
San José, CA 95113
Attn: Adam Marcus, Housing Element Update

You can stay up-to-date with the Housing Element update process by signing up for future announcements and notifications. Just send an email to housingelementupdate@sanjoseca.gov or visit the City's website. If you have further questions about the Housing Element Update, please contact Jenny Nusbaum with the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department by email or by phone at 408.535.7872, or Wayne Chen with the Housing Department by email or by phone at 408.975.4442.

Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis
San Jose City Hall
200 E Santa Clara Street - 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113