



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

District 10 October Newsletter

Dear Ray,

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, September was a busy month filled with wonderful events and volunteer opportunities. Last weekend, I participated in two of those volunteer efforts!

Early Saturday morning, September 27th, the Almaden Kiwanis Club and I met at Parma Park for a volunteer clean-up day. The Almaden Kiwanis is a fantastic organization, that is committed to the betterment of our community. That day, we pulled weeds, picked up garbage, and otherwise beautified Parma Park. The Kiwanis club is looking forward to adopting Parma Park, and continuing their beautification efforts not only there, but at the neighboring Almaden Community Center as well! I had a wonderful time lending a hand, and I would encourage you to learn more about the Kiwanis and all of the wonderful things they do for our community!



The second event I participated in was the Annual Heart of the Park Event held by the Martin-Fontana Parks Association. This hard-working group of volunteers has been helping to maintain, beautify, and protect trees at Jeffrey Fontana and TJ Martin Parks for many years. Each year they host the Heart of the Park event, a fundraiser to help

them raise the money to support all of their efforts. I had a great time this year being a judge in their “Doggy Parade!” The Martin-Fontana Parks Association is a tremendous asset to our community and I greatly appreciate their dedication to making our parks beautiful and enjoyable for everyone!



COUNCIL TAKES FURTHER ACTION TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

At the September 16th City Council meeting, my colleagues and I took another step in our efforts to retain experienced police officers by approving a [Patrol Staffing Retention Plan](#). Mayor Reed, Councilmember Liccardo, and I brought this plan forward as an additional way to stem the loss of police officers who would otherwise be eligible for retirement, and to keep experienced these officers on patrol. The Patrol Staffing Retention Plan would allow experienced, retirement-eligible officers to stay on the job while being able to collect on their pension in some way. You may sometimes hear such a program referred to as a “DROP” program, which is a Deferred Retirement Option Program. City staff will now take this proposal to the police union, the SJPOA, with whom any such program will need to be negotiated.

Another important step that the City Council took to encourage our police officers to stay with the SJPD was to defer for another year the implementation of a 4% reduction in pay to help pay for the almost \$3 billion in unfunded liabilities in the retirement system. This salary adjustment was part of the reforms in Measure B, an alternative to a voluntary lower-cost opt-in pension plan for existing employees. Since the IRS has not yet ruled on the less-costly, opt-in plan and the union challenges to Measure B are still winding their way through the courts, the City Council felt it would be prudent to defer any action that would make officer retention more challenging.

Despite the very low ratio of police officers to residents in San Jose, our police do excellent work and their efforts have resulted in an overall decline in crime over the past 18 months. I thank each of the men and women serving us at the SJPD for their continued dedication and professionalism.

HOUSING IMPACT FEE

The City is considering whether to impose a [Housing Impact Fee on new residential rental development within San Jose](#). Many “affordable housing” advocates whose organizations profit from their advocacy and other activists have been clamoring to impose such a fee so that the City Housing Department can take the money generated and go out and build “affordable” units. The fee, as currently proposed at \$17/square foot, would increase the cost of developing a 1,000 square-foot apartment by \$17,000.

Some argue that such a fee would increase rents and make housing even less affordable, or perhaps even discourage developers from creating rental housing in the first place. If this happened, the fee could actually make the problem of a lack of supply of affordable housing even worse. What do you think? It is important that we hear from ordinary residents and not just activists on this issue. Feel free to email me at district10@sanjoseca.gov to share your thoughts or take advantage of one of these upcoming opportunities for you to speak out:

Housing & Community Development Commission Thursday

10.9.14 5:45 p.m. City Hall, Room 119 - 120
200 East Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Developer Stakeholder Meeting Tuesday

10.14.14 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 120
200 East Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Meeting for the General Public Wednesday

10.15.14 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Bascom Branch Library
1000 South Bascom Ave.
San Jose, CA 95128

Meeting for the General Public Monday

10.20.14 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. City Hall, Room 118-119
200 East Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Please continue to monitor the Housing Department's website for updates on the City's Housing Impact Fee process. To receive automatic emails on news and information regarding the Housing Impact Fee, please sign-up and select "Housing Impact Fee Study - Updates."

If you have questions on the process, please contact Tom MacRostie either by email or by calling 408.975.4449.

EFFORTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PBCE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES

One of the complaints I quite often heard from constituents when I was running to serve as your Councilmember and in the time since I was elected, was that obtaining permits for construction and home improvement projects from the City of San Jose was too costly and too time consuming. As you may have read in a previous newsletter, I have worked on initiatives to lower the cost of minor home improvements and [to speed up permitting processes](#).

The City's permit and inspection process ensures that work is done according to the latest, safest building codes and that unapproved work doesn't impede a resident's ability to sell his or her home or cause a drastic reduction in a home's value. We certainly want to do everything we can as a City to encourage people to obtain the proper permits for their projects and have the work properly inspected. To do so, we need to ensure that the process is as painless as possible.

We have made some great progress on these efforts through Council action and the efforts of people like Chu Chang, who is the City's Chief Building Official, and our Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE), Harry Freitas. We still have many challenges to tackle, such as further improving the customer experience for those interacting with the Planning and Building divisions, finding ways to make costs more predictable and keeping them down, and improving the consistency and timeliness of the inspection process. The City Auditor took an in-depth look at these issues in her recent audit report, "Development Services: Improving the Experience for Homeowners." [I encourage you to take a look at this fantastic report.](#)

In the Auditor's report, she identifies many of the same issues that I have been discussing with City leaders. Director Freitas concurred with the auditor's findings, and in a report to the City Council's Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee, he provided a summary of the improvement initiatives his department is pursuing. These initiatives include those that would address the City Auditor's concerns, and other improvement efforts. In response to the Auditor's report, [I submitted a memo to the Committee](#) requesting further details from PBCE on their plans. In my memo, I emphasize the fact that goals should be measurable and the strategies need further tactical details so that the City Council can have a more complete understanding of whether or not we are making progress toward our goals, and where we might need to make targeted investments in technology and training in order to support PBCE's efforts to reach their goals. I am pleased that the CED committee included my memo in their acceptance of the PBCE report.

PBCE will now be reporting out quarterly on their progress and, as I requested, will be filling in more details of their improvement strategy and identifying measurable goals when they make their reports to the CED committee. I look forward to seeing more positive results and will support PBCE as they implement changes to continue to improve the customer experience.

YOUTH JOB FAIR

On Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, I will be hosting a Youth Job Fair in the Nordstrom Rack Courtyard at Westfield Oakridge Mall. This has always been a successful event and we are looking forward to another great turn out. We are expecting participation from at least 30 businesses who are looking for youth to fill seasonal and part-time positions. If you know of any high school or college-age students looking for entry-level positions, this will be the place for them to be! For more information contact Rayshelle at rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4982.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE BEING MAILED SOON

Absentee ballots will be mailed soon and the League of Women Voters has provided helpful information for us to find out more about the State-wide Initiatives and Referenda on which we will be voting. You may access this information by visiting <http://cavotes.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Nov2014-ProsCons-color.pdf>. This page also provides links to the pro and con websites for each of the ballot issues.

For information on all of the candidates at National, State, and local levels, including who is supporting each candidate and the candidate platforms, [you may visit the SmartVoter.org website.](#)

An educated and informed voter is a responsible voter, so be sure that you know the facts about the Initiatives, Referenda, and candidates before you mark your ballot!

CURB PAINTING CAUTIONS

It has come to my attention that some residents in District 10 have been approached by folks offering to paint house numbers on the curbs outside the resident's homes. Please read the note below from the Erikson neighborhood in District 9.

"Someone came to Erikson recently offering to paint house numbers on people's curbs, and in some cases doing it without homeowner permission, and getting the numbers wrong. One house ended up with just the white background. Peter Hamilton in Councilmember Donald Rocha's office researched the rules for us. A homeowner can paint their own curb without permission. Anyone else needs to have a city permit and the homeowner's permission before painting. If someone offers to paint your curb numbers, make sure they have a permit and contact info. If not, call 311 to report them to SJPD. Peter is working with the City of San Jose Finance department to get us a list of licensed companies and the painting specs. After we can find a legitimate company, we can pursue a neighborhood discount in return for encouraging as many neighbors as possible to refresh their numbers. This would make it easier for emergency responders and visitors to find our homes, beautify the neighborhood, and discourage scammers, since our numbers will be fresh."

If this happens to you, please follow the instructions above. We want to make sure our neighborhoods are safe, and the hard-working people who do business legally are able to get work.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

San José is seeking applicants for several of our city's commissions that help shape policy on a variety of subjects. Commissions with vacancies to fill include Human Services, Civil Service, Council Salary Setting, Housing and Community Development, as well as the Appeals Hearing Board. Also needing applicants is a Council Appointment Advisory Commission that screens applicants for boards and commissions. Applicants must be San José residents and, if appointed, would serve terms of two to four years. Those interested can apply online for most of the commissions at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sjccCommApps>.

More information is available from the City Clerk at (408) 535-1260 or at commissions@sanjoseca.gov.

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

Friday, October 10, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

San José City Hall Rotunda and Plaza - 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José

This year's Disability Awareness Day will take place on Friday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. here at City Hall. This free, city-wide event is a celebration of diversity, awareness, and empowerment for persons with differing abilities. I am once again partnering with the Valley Medical Center Foundation and members of various organizations throughout the City of San Jose to host this exciting event. The overall purpose is to build an integrated community by empowering people with differing abilities to overcome barriers through access to resources, education, and employment opportunities and increasing the appreciation of people with differing abilities by showcasing their talent and gifts. Disability Awareness Day is a fun filled, family friendly event. There will be live entertainment throughout the day, art displays and demo's and carnival games for everyone to try- with prizes! We will also have 60+ vendors consisting of non-profit and for-profit organizations and of course a crowd favorite, food trucks! Attached is our event flyer. For more information contact the District 1 office at (408) 535-4901.

Become a Child Advocate

What: Open House Volunteer Recruitment Event to learn about becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

When: Wednesday, October 8th from 6:15-8:00p.m.

Where: Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, 1400 Parkmoor Ave, San Jose

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley recruits, trains and supports volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one on one with foster children, providing critical emotional and educational support, ensuring that each child's needs are met and their voice heard while navigating the court dependency system.

Becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Santa Clara County is a truly gratifying and impactful volunteer experience. Children who have a CASA receive more services (medical, dental, academic etc.) and are less likely to reenter the system than those who do not have a CASA.

For more information about Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, visit:

www.bemyadvocate.org

Adult fitness series with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Saturdays, October 11th – November 15th (6 weeks)

8:30 to 9:30am

Ages 18 and Up
\$30/members, \$40/non-members

Step by Step, you'll be healthier as a result of this class that leads you through the paved trails along the Guadalupe River. Join Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and fitness instructors Kristin Strellis and Janet Schumacher, Saturday mornings for fun, fitness and friendship along the Guadalupe River trails. Whether you are looking to start a fitness program or add to your current program, they will be out on the trails with you providing instruction, motivation, and accountability. Interval training, safe for all fitness levels, will be used along with additional strength and flexibility exercises.

This healthy living series meets at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Visitor & Education Center, 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. For more information, visit www.grpg.org or call 408-298-7657.

BOOK SALE -- Friends of the Almaden Library

Saturday, November 1, 9 am to 3 pm - the Community Room in the Almaden Library/Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave., San Jose, will be filled with books & media, CDs, DVDs, & audio books. Around 50 tables will be filled with over 5,000 books & media!

Select from children's fiction and non-fiction books, adult fiction and non-fiction in a large variety of categories and themes. Most paperback books are 50 cents and most hardback books are \$1. Some premium items, like coffee table books, are priced slightly higher. CDs & DVDs are only \$1, and audio books are individually priced.

From 2:00pm-3:00pm is the "Bag of Books" sale. Bring your own bag (sized like a paper grocery bag) and stuff it with books & media for \$5! Cash and checks are accepted; no credit or debit cards. All proceeds go to the Almaden Branch Library for special programs for children and adults, additions to the collection, and library services. For more information, see the Web site AlmadenFriends.org

Los Gatos: Carry the Vision-Awakening the Heart of Compassion

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm, reception at 9:00am

Location: Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos

At each conference 30 to 50 nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, governmental leaders, and faith communities come together to inspire and support our community in the work of nonviolence. The conferences provide a direct connection with known leaders in the nonviolent movement such as Arun Gandhi, Dolores Huerta, Dr. Lawrence Carter, and Yolanda King. The conference will include: Inspiration from Community Leaders, Interactive Workshops and Panels, Youth Leadership Summit,

Community Dialogue & Community lunch provided by Jain Center of Northern California and San Jose Sikh Gurdwara. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$30 for adults.

More information: www.carrythevision.org

Silicon Valley Neighborhood Development Training Conference

Saturday, October 11th
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
San Jose State University

The Silicon Valley Neighborhood Development Training Conference (SV-NDTC) is an annual event that is attended by over 400 neighborhood local neighborhood residents. This unique training opportunity invites resident service coordinators, neighborhood leaders as well as seasoned community development practitioners to participate in workshops focused on public safety, health, and neighborhood improvement. This year, we are honored to host key note speaker Dr. Manuel Pastor, Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

[To register for this great event, click here!](#)

\$10 Pet Adoptions!

Since opening its doors 10 years ago, the San José Animal Care Center continues to pave the way nationally in finding new approaches for reducing the number of animals in need of new homes. The shelter was among the first in the U.S. to create a program for trapping, neutering, and returning feral cats back to their territories and transferring little dogs to places where there is high adoption interest.

October 1 marks the Animal Care Center's 10-year anniversary. To celebrate, the shelter will reduce all pet adoption fees to \$10 from Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 12, 2014.

For more information visit www.sanjoseanimals.com or call (408) 794-7297

Call for Entry in the 2014 CreaTiVe Awards

CreaTV San Jose is proud to announce the Call for Entries for the 2014 CreaTiVe Awards. Videomakers from the Bay Area and Santa Cruz are invited to submit videos and TV shows for competition in one or more of 10 categories at www.creatvsj.org through November 15, 2014.

Categories include: Business, Citizen Journalist, Educator, Filmmaker, Non-profit, Student, CreaTiVe Excellence (Producer, Director, Editor, Cinematographer) and Bay Area Public Access TV Series

Important Entry Links:

Award Categories & Descriptions: <http://bit.ly/1aQaVk7>

Entry Instructions: <http://bit.ly/1dYJczv>

Entry Form: <http://bit.ly/1a4vIVr>

Finalists announced December 8. Winners announced on January 10, 2015 at The CreaTiVe Awards Gala at the California Theatre in San Jose. Questions? Contact Pam Kelly at (408) 295-8815 ext. 307 or pam.kelly@creatvsj.org.

Creative Industries Incentive Fund (CIIF) - Round 3

The City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs and the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) are pleased to announce that the application and guidelines for the third round of the Creative Industries Incentive Fund (CIIF) are now available.

CIIF aims to fund projects that support the growth and sustainability of small creative businesses in San Jose. Examples of eligible activities include marketing campaigns, equipment purchases, or hiring business consultants/coaches. Of course, these are just examples. Applicants are free to define their projects based on their own business and capacity needs.

Now, with matching support from the Surdna Foundation, CIIF provides project support between \$2,000 – \$8,000 to arts-based commercial businesses involved in the production and distribution of the Arts. Incentive awards support creative industries of all types such as manufacturers, service providers, presenters and designers, among others.

The deadline for receipt of application is 5:00 p.m. (PST) on November 7th, 2014 for projects completed between February 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015. A brief information session will be held on Friday, September 26th from noon to 1 p.m. at San Jose City Hall. Please RSVP to arlene.biala@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 793-4332.

For information on submitting a grant application contact the Center for Cultural Innovation's Program Director, Jayna Swartzman-Brosky at jayna@cciarts.org or by phone (877) 288-0530.

San Jose Striders Walking Club

A brisk walk every morning can have numerous health benefits including lowering blood pressure and reducing the risk of heart disease and diabetes. To encourage daily physical activity, the San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services is now offering a senior walking program at all 12 City-owned community

centers for the first time, from Monday, September 29, through Friday, October 24.

Seniors can meet at a community center and walk for one to two miles a day around the community center. The goal is for participants to walk 33 miles each week —that's equivalent to the distance from San José City Hall to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. As an incentive, residents who participate every day in the program will be eligible for a free trip to Santa Cruz.

What: San José Striders: A Walking Club

When: September 29 – October 24

Where: Meet at local community centers

Walk 1-2 miles a day

Cost: Free; Registration is required

Visit www.sanjoseca.gov/prns for locations

The first 300 people to sign up will get a free pedometer to help them keep track of their progress. Preregistration is required. Volunteers are needed to help lead the walks.

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