



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS  
SAN JOSE, DISTRICT 10

## District 10 November Newsletter

Dear Ray,

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Halloween, and that the much-needed rain we received didn't hinder the trick-or-treaters too much. With November upon us, don't let a sugar coma from Halloween treats keep you from voting! Today is the big day! Don't forget to cast your vote, and if you vote via absentee ballot and you haven't mailed it in yet, it's too late! Be sure you drop off your ballot at your local polling place or the County Registrar of Voters! [To find your polling place, click here!](#)

### **HIGHWAY 85 EXPRESS LANES – TO BE OR NOT TO BE?**

Commuters here in the Bay Area endure 61 hours per year of delays, tied for second place with Los Angeles among the nation's 15 largest metropolitan regions. As commuters sit in traffic, air quality is negatively impacted, quality of life is affected and stress levels rise. That is why it is prudent to move forward with Silicon Valley transportation projects that help us address these concerns.

The Silicon Valley High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Program (referred to as the Express Lanes Program) has been under development since 2003. The SR 85 express lanes project is within the central corridor of the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program being implemented by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). This project will convert approximately 27 miles of existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) lanes to express lanes. The project will also add a second HOV express lane between SR 87 and I-280. The project limits are between US 101 in Mountain View and Bailey Avenue on US 101 in south San Jose. The project will also convert the existing HOV direct connector in south San Jose from US 101 to SR 85 to an express lane connector.

On Thursday, November 6th, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority will be considering options on how it will move forward with the concept of express lanes on SR-85. As you may have learned, the San Jose City Council supported

my memo in support of keeping the additional express lane between SR-87 & I-280 in the scope of the project. Unfortunately, this additional lane is now in limbo. I would like to encourage you to either attend this meeting and speak or submit your written comments to me in support of this project with the additional express lane.

Meeting Information:  
VTA Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 6th, 2014 4:30pm  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
County Government Center  
70 West Hedding St.  
San Jose, CA. 95110

This project would be tremendously beneficial to District 10 commuters and other residents. If you are supportive of this project I would encourage you to contact the Valley Transportation Authority's Board of Directors listed here: <http://www.vta.org/get-involved/board-of-directors> .You can also contact Victor Gomez, my Deputy Chief of Staff at (408) 535-4979 or [Victor.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Victor.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov) with any questions.

### **CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT ON CASH HANDLING PROCEDURES OF SENIOR MEMBERSHIP FEES**

On Tuesday, October 21st, the City Council unanimously accepted the Auditor's report entitled [SENIOR MEMBERSHIP FEE REVENUE: THE CITY'S POLICY SHOULD BE CLARIFIED](#) and also approved my request for the City to continue to work through the Memorandum of Understanding process with our senior associations to ensure that their concerns around the new procedures are adequately addressed. Accepting the audit did not diminish the need for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) to continue to work with the City's legal department and with the individual non-profit Senior Associations. In fact, it is quite the opposite. The Council's action affirmed the need for the City to continue its efforts to craft unique, mutually agreeable terms that provide our Senior Associations with the flexibility they need to continue to serve their members effectively. I appreciate the leaders of the Almaden Senior Association and others who came to the City Council meeting to express their concerns and provide their suggestions to the Council and City staff.

Last March, the City Auditor began an audit of the cash handling procedures around senior membership fees at our community and senior centers. A discrepancy in cash receipts at one senior center outside of District 10 prompted the audit. It brought to light the fact that the City did not have consistent or prudent cash handling processes. Until November 1, 2014, each center throughout the city had different cash handling procedures, different ways of tracking membership fees collected, and different rules as to who could collect the funds or how they were distributed. From the Auditor's Report came the following recommendations:

#### ***Recommendation #1: The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services should:***

**a)** Take full responsibility for standardizing the City's senior membership fee at all community centers with senior programs, designating that the revenue from this

City fee be used for senior services;

**b)** Ensure City staff follow the City's cash handling policy when handling senior membership fees (that is, secure cash, issue receipts, deposit funds into City accounts like any other PRNS fee);

**c)** Establish staff guidelines regarding what types of programs and expenditures the membership revenue should support; and

**d)** For those centers with senior advisory councils, collaborate with senior advisory councils regarding what events and activities the senior community would like the City to organize with senior membership fee revenue.

These recommendations caused a great deal of concern among our senior community, and I have been advocating for the City departments to address these concerns. While the process for cash collection must change from what it has been to ensure that there is a consistent process and City accountability for the handling of senior membership dues, the City must ensure that our senior associations are treated as the unique entities that they are. The Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that are required of any non-profit that utilizes City funds must also be crafted to recognize this uniqueness.

The Almaden Senior Association (ASA) is an exemplary senior association. It is a tremendous organization that I am proud to have in District 10! For years this group has put on high-quality special events, established excellent social activities for our community's senior population, and donated countless dollars and volunteer hours to making the Almaden Community Center an enjoyable place for people of all ages, and from all over San Jose. While most senior associations throughout the city have had trouble maintaining a membership of over 150, the ASA has reached membership numbers nearing 2000! Such factors are what makes the ASA a unique, model organization.

From the beginning of the outreach process, I encouraged Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff to work closely with the Almaden Senior Association in pursuing a solution to this issue that would recognize the uniqueness of their organization and their contributions to the lives of seniors in the Almaden Valley and throughout San Jose. Each association and advisory council is unique and should be treated as such. Other than creating a more responsible way for the city to collect membership fees, any other efforts to try and standardize the practices of the ASA or create uniformity among all of the city's senior advisory council's is not in the best interest of Almaden, the City of San Jose, or any other association.

I strongly feel that PRNS staff has been working hard to make that happen. On several occasions, PRNS Staff, and Rayshelle Edmunds from my office, sat down with the officers of the Almaden Senior Association to work through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the ASA. This MOU would allow for the city to comply with the auditor's recommendations by standardizing cash handling procedures, while still giving the ASA the flexibility to continue with organizing the events, activities, and donations much as they have done all along.

This has been a hot button item my staff and I have been working on for several months. When my fellow Councilmembers and I accepted the Auditor's Report unanimously, we did so with direction and requests to staff regarding the aforementioned concerns. To highlight a few important points:

- 1.) By accepting the Auditor's Report, I did not accept the draft MOU. The MOU is a working document which is still being edited to ensure the Almaden Senior Association is satisfied, and continues to hold onto their great practices and individualism.
- 2.) The standardization of the City's cash handling procedures is simply good stewardship of the membership fee money. Consistency around cash handling will provide greater accountability for City staff so that seniors will be able to trust that their membership fees are secure.
- 3.) Recommendations C and D in the report are practices that have already been strongly established between City Staff and the Almaden Senior Association. The Association and Center Staff have been collaborating and working together for years. Accepting the report will not change that relationship.

If you have any questions regarding my decision to accept the report please feel free to contact my office at 408-535-4982 or email Rayshelle Edmunds at [rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov). [You can also read the full auditor's report here.](#)

### **UPDATES FROM THE MOUNTAIN LION MEETINGS**

Thanks to the work of some of our engaged residents, we learned a great deal more about the mountain lions living in the vicinity of District 10 – including the ones spotted near Williams Elementary and in the Santa Teresa Foothills area. Thank you to Terri Henry and the others involved in organizing these informative meetings for the public at Williams Elementary and as part of the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association meeting.

The presenters included a spokesperson from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), as well as a wildlife biologist, and a game warden. Here is a quick summary of what we learned from these presenters from the CDFW:

The CDFW has 350 game wardens to cover the ENTIRE state of California.

The CDFW has been in operation and gathered experience in dealing with wildlife over the past 150 years. They are, therefore a reliable resource for information dealing with wildlife in California.

The estimated population of mountain lions throughout the state is 6,000.

The primary food source for mountain lions is deer. They will also eat raccoons and other small animals. It is a good idea to keep pet food dishes indoors at all times. During drought conditions, deer and other wildlife make their way to easy sources of water – and this can include fenced back yard patios (since deer and mountain lions can easily jump most fences, and other wild animals can scale the fences). If you attract deer to your home, you may also attract mountain lions.

Under no circumstance should anyone feed wild animals – it is not only a bad idea, but illegal and can result in a citation and large fines.

Young male lions can be forced out of their initial habitats if the habitat is already occupied by an older male. The young lions then sometimes show up in populated areas during their search for a territory to call their own.

Mountain lions cannot be hunted. They are a “Specially Protected Mammal” in California and, as such, it is illegal to hunt them.

It is the policy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to NOT relocate mountain lions, since relocating them to another area would likely recreate the same territorial conflicts, just in another location.

Mountain lions are typically nocturnal and normally avoid being around human beings. They avoid noise and lights. If you are using recreation trails in lion habitats, such as in the parks and open spaces that surround District 10, especially in the early morning or late evening, a bell or other item that makes sound when you move will help keep the lions away. Keep dogs on leashes when out using recreation trails so that they do not frighten and chase the mountain lions (or become dinner)!

Since 1986 there have been only 15 reported attacks by mountain lions on humans in California. Only six of these attacks were fatal, and all occurred in State parks and recreational open spaces – none of the attacks occurred in residential neighborhoods. The recent daylight attack on a child on a recreational park trail near Cupertino was a very rare exception. A lion that attacks a human will be captured and immediately be put down.

Always jog, hike, and bike with a friend, keep a close eye on children, and if you encounter a mountain lion, do not run. Instead, make yourself look larger by waving your arms, make noise, throw things in the direction of the lion, and pick up small children.

Mountain lions may attack when startled or frightened but their first instincts are to get away from people, lights, and noises. Mountain lions can run up to about 35 miles per hour.

Actually seeing a live mountain lion with the naked eye is a very rare occurrence – rarer, in fact, than your chance of being struck by lightning!

[Visit www.keepmewild.org for more mountain lion facts.](http://www.keepmewild.org)

If a mountain lion attacks a person – call 9-1-1 (408-277-8911)

To report a mountain lion sighting, contact the Regional Manager for the Bay Area Delta Region of the CDFW at (707) 944-5500 or email [askbdr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:askbdr@wildlife.ca.gov).

### **GUADALUPE OAK GROVE PARK CLEAN UP**

This Saturday, November 8th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm, my staff and I, along with community volunteers, will be continuing our work at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park.

This park is a beautiful piece of undeveloped land in the heart of Almaden Valley, but with overgrown coyote brush and non-native oak saplings, it is also a fire danger and a concern for hikers who cannot see through the brush. We will be pruning trees and removing coyote brush, so please wear the appropriate clothing and shoes. Tools and gloves will be provided, but feel free to bring your own, as well (no power tools). This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours! Water and snacks will be provided to all volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Rayshelle at [rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov) or call 408-535-4910. We hope to see you there!

### **HELP PROTECT SAN JOSE CITRUS FROM A SERIOUS THREAT**

A dangerous pest was recently found in the city of San Jose. It's called the Asian citrus psyllid, and it can be a carrier of Huanglongbing (HLB). To date, HLB has not been detected in Santa Clara County, but if it takes hold, it will be deadly for citrus trees in the region.

Everyone in the city is being asked to do their part. The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program and the Santa Clara agricultural commissioner offer the following tips:

- Inspect your trees — Look for signs of the pest and disease each month or whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees.
- Learn what to look for — Visit [CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org](http://CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org) to see photos of the pest and disease, or use the Save Our Citrus app, which can be downloaded from the website.
- Don't move citrus — Do not bring any plant material into the city from other states or countries. Also, if you live in the areas surrounding recent detections, do not move citrus off your property, as you may be violating restricted areas set up by agriculture authorities.
- Cooperate — Cooperate with agriculture officials on detection and suppression efforts of the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB.

If you think you've found the psyllid or the disease, call the California Department of Food and Agriculture hotline at 800-491-1899.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Senior Pedestrian Safety and Advocacy Workshop

SENIORS: Make sure your safety concerns are seen and heard! The San Jose Steps Coalition will discuss city-wide safety and advocacy on Wednesday, 11/12, from 10 AM – 11 AM at the Almaden Community Center. If you need assistance getting to the meeting, please contact Jaime Fearer at 408-693-0602 or email Jaime at [jaime@californiawalks.org](mailto:jaime@californiawalks.org).

## Knight Cities Challenge

Five million dollars is up for grabs, and a slice of the pie only requires a good idea and a Twitter account. The Knight Cities Challenge—an offshoot of the Knight Foundation—announced a first-of-its-kind grant program in early October, and it will be open to anyone who has an innovative idea to make his or her city more successful. A pool of \$5 million is available to people in 26 communities across the nation, with submissions being accepted until Nov. 14.

“What we are trying to make clear is this is open to anyone, not just the usual suspects,” George Abbott, interim program director for the Knight Foundation’s San Jose/Silicon Valley branch, said in a recent interview.

The Knight Foundations says it has identified three “drivers of success” for cities across the nation: 1. Attracting and retaining talent; 2. Expanding economic opportunities; and 3. Creating a culture of civic engagement.

“We think if you can move those three levers, you’ll be moving your city to a better place,” Abbott said. The application process is relatively simple. The Knight Cities Challenge website requires visitors to create an account and write a brief description of how their idea will make their city better and what they intend to learn from the project. From there, the applicant needs to send out a Tweet about the idea, according to Abbott.

A review board will look at all the submissions and select finalists, who will then be asked to come up with a more detailed plan and budget proposal. The minimum amount for a grant is \$1,000, but there is no maximum.

[For more information click here!](#)

## Trail Count

The Department of Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services provided the Transportation and Environment Committee an annual Trail Program report last week. As part of that report, they have shared some findings from the City's recent Trail Count.

They documented that trail usage continues to increase year after year. The Guadalupe River Trail system was paved about 18 months ago - and it has drawn many more users. There has been an increase of 50% over last year's numbers at the Coleman Avenue count station. A 40% increase at the San Fernando Avenue count station provides further evidence of the growing popularity of trails.

The linked Fact Sheet below provides an overview of the Trail Count. PRNS will follow up in the coming weeks with a more detailed summary report that explores the count, as well as survey findings.

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35667>

## San José Water Use Rules Change with Daylight Savings

Effective November 2, outdoor watering allowed in mornings up to 10:00 a.m., hand watering allowed after 3:00 p.m., and watering with sprinklers remains restricted to after 8:00 p.m.

With cooler weather approaching, the time restriction on the use of potable (drinking) water to irrigate outdoor plants and landscaping is changing with the end of Daylight Savings on Sunday, November 2. Beginning Sunday, hand watering with an automatic shut-off nozzle will be allowed after 3:00 p.m., and watering with sprinklers will now be restricted to before 10 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m. Irrigation with gray water or recycled water continues to be allowed any time of day.

Watering during the cooler hours as outlined in this restriction means less water evaporates and plants have time to absorb more water.

Local water officials emphasize that every resident and business needs to keep conserving water, even when it rains, because of the drought severity over the last three years.

All other outdoor water restrictions remain in place. San José's Every Drop Counts campaign expresses the mandatory restrictions as follows:

Be cool — water when it's coolest, by HAND before 10:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. or with SPRINKLER systems before 10:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m.

Be quick — fix leaks as soon as possible.

Be in control — don't let water flow into gutters or streets



Be a sharp shooter — with automatic shut-off nozzles on hoses  
Be a sweeper — use a broom to clean outdoor surfaces

In alignment with actions of the State Water Board and Santa Clara Valley Water District, in August, the San José City Council declared an emergency drought and a 20 percent water shortage citywide, triggering water use restriction under San José Municipal Code. All residents and businesses in San José and across the state are asked to reduce their water use by 20 percent.

### **Memorial Bench for Errick Wright**

The family of Errick Wright, the young man who was killed in Guadalupe Oak Grove Park last year, has started a kickstarter campaign in order to raise funds for a memorial bench to be placed in the park. If you are interested in donating to this campaign, please visit <http://www.gofundme.com/ezcxs0>. They are already half way to their goal!

### **Spooktacular a Success!**

Thank you for helping to make the Eighth Annual Almaden Community Center and Library Harvest Festival and Holiday Boutique was a “Spooktacular” Success!

The Almaden Community Center and Almaden Library hosted the Eighth Annual Harvest Festival and Holiday Boutique event on October 25. Approximately 2,500 people attended the event and enjoyed attractions such as the Haunted Hallway, Transylvania Town, pumpkin patch, petting zoo, and carnival games. The Holiday Boutique had 25 vendors who sold items for holiday gifts, and the Granny’s Bake Sale completely sold out of baked goods. The event raised \$3500 to support the Almaden Youth Advisory Council. The Harvest Festival was also supported by the Almaden Valley Women’s Club through donations and volunteer assistance. For more information, please contact Suzanne Wolf, PRNS Deputy Director, at 408-535-3576.

### **TSA Improvements**

The Transportation Security Administration is making it easy for Silicon Valley travelers to join TSA Pre™ with the recent opening of an enrollment center in San José.

Pre?allows eligible frequent flyers traveling on participating airlines at SJC and other participating US airports to voluntarily share personal information with the TSA so that a risk assessment can be completed prior to arrival at the airport checkpoint. With Pre?, travelers don't have to remove shoes, belts and jackets,

and laptops from carry-on bags. [Learn more about the TSA Pre? application process.](#)

The facility is located at 1735 North 1st Street, Suite 104, San José. Operational hours are Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. This is the fifth enrollment center now open in the Bay Area.

## Call for Entry in the 2014 Creative Awards

CreaTV San Jose is proud to announce the Call for Entries for the 2014 CreaTiVe Awards. Video makers 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](http://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](mailto:pam.kelly@creatvsj.org).

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