



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

District 10 Mid-December Newsletter

Dear Ray,

Happy Holidays from the District 10 Team! I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year! As we enter our last weeks of December, we are saying goodbye to our termed-out City Council colleagues and many of their Council District staff members and welcoming our new class of City Councilmembers and new staff members. One person we are saying goodbye to is very close to us here in District 10. Victor Gomez, my Deputy Chief of Staff, has accepted the position of Chief of Staff for Councilmember-Elect Magdalena Carrasco. Victor has been a tremendous asset to my office and he will certainly be missed! I know that he will serve the residents of District 5 well and will excel in his new role. Please join me in wishing him all the best!



TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS!

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Second Annual Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Celebration hosted by the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association! More importantly, we filled to overflowing four large boxes of toys to be given away to local children in need! It was a fantastic way to get into the holiday spirit, with a live band playing favorite holiday tunes, candy canes and hot chocolate, an incredible light display, Stomper from the A's, and even the big guy himself - Santa! Bob Vonderwerth and the Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association were the driving forces behind making this event successful and I thank them for providing our neighborhood with such a festive event! I also thank the performers of the Affordable Cover Act for entertaining us with great music, the San Jose Parks Department for organizing fun crafts for the children, and Buffalo Wild Wings for providing delicious wings free of charge. Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who donated toys for children in need!



2015 PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

I am very excited to announce several District 10 streets will be getting some much needed TLC in 2015. With the City Council passing the largest City investment into pavement maintenance in over a decade, streets around the city will be getting the much-needed maintenance and pavement that has been deferred for so long. I have been advocating heavily for District 10 streets to be included, and I am happy to see it will finally come to fruition. The streets in District 10 include Almaden Road from McKean to Almaden Expressway, Blossom Hill Road from Meridian to Meadowbrook, Vistapark from Branham to Capitol, Trinidad from Almaden Expressway to Camden, and Camden from Coleman to Harry. While this is definitely a step in the right direction, we still have a long way to go in order to improve our city's outdated infrastructure, and you can be sure that I will continue to advocate for our neighborhoods! For a list of all of the streets slated for repaving, visit

<http://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/2435642/1/12-12-14DOT.PDF>

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES AND HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

Within the past week, we had some very good news. Through the hard work of an SJPD officer working on a burglary case through the contact-to-completion process, and with help from the public, the SJPD captured a serial burglary suspect who may be responsible for several of the recent burglaries that have occurred within District 10 and elsewhere -

<http://www.sjpd.org/iNews/viewPressRelease.asp?ID=1993>

The professional men and women of the SJPD have been working hard to solve these types of crimes and have had a lot of success in catching some of these serial criminals. I am aware of the rise in property crime that the residents of

District 10 have been experiencing this month and am very concerned about it and the fact that there are more criminals out on our streets due to State's Realignment plan, and voter-approved Propositions 47 and 36.

I met with Chief Esquivel to express my concerns and yours. His team is committed to preventing and solving crime within District 10 despite the challenge of low staffing levels. My office has also been in touch with Captain Williams who heads up the Southern Division that patrols the South San Jose area, including District 10 and he is aware of your concerns, as well.

What is the SJPD doing to help reduce burglaries? Aside from capturing burglars, a task in which they have been having some success, they will continue to assign burglary suppression cars to patrol neighborhoods throughout the Southern Division. These special burglary patrols are intended to deter burglaries. To address the spike in burglaries that parts of District 10 have experienced, Captain Williams has redeployed resources to the areas of D10 with the highest numbers of incidences.

What can you do to help deter crime? Firstly, be vigilant and call 9-1-1 to report suspicious activity. Secondly, hold a Neighborhood Watch meeting to raise awareness among your neighbors so that neighbors know what to look for when they are watching out for one another. Neighborhood Watch training also arms you with information on how to minimize your chances of being a target of crime, and provided you have an adequate percentage of your neighbors participate in the meeting, you can obtain the Neighborhood Watch signage to warn potential burglars that you and your neighbors are on the lookout. To schedule a neighborhood watch meeting, please contact my Chief of Staff – Shane Patrick Connolly – at shanepatrick.connolly@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-4910. More information on the Neighborhood Watch program may be found here: <http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/neighborhoodwatch.html>

You can also help by volunteering any clear video or photographic evidence you have if there has been a break-in in your neighborhood. Sign up to join the video camera registry that will be coming to the SJPD in January. To sign up to be on the mailing list to be alerted when the registry becomes available, visit here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/FormCenter/Police-39/Register-your-Surveillance-Camera-244>.

If you are a neighborhood leader, you may be interested in participating in the SJPD's South Side Community Engagement Plan. My Chief of Staff can put you in touch with Rey Cedeno from Crime Prevention if you are interested in participating – contact him at 408-535-4910.

What am I doing to improve police staffing levels? From a Council policy-setting standpoint, there is no magic wand that will increase police staffing overnight. Since I was elected two years ago, I have been supporting adequate funding to increase police staffing, restoring pay to police officers, offering increased incentives for POST certification and language skills, supporting incentives for trained officers to come work for the SJPD, and modifying the plan for service-connected disabilities. I support finding ways to keep retirement-eligible officers on the job, as well, and I have asked the new leadership of the SJPOA (police officers' union) to meet with me. I am hopeful that the New Year and new

leadership in both the City and at the SJPOA will create an opportunity for a cooperative spirit to take hold. Something we could do to help supplement the efforts of the SJPD more quickly, regardless of staffing levels, is to improve utilization of police reserves. This is an item that must also be negotiated but could be a faster way to supplement the efforts of our active duty officers while we rebuild staffing and thereafter.

On November 7, the latest SJPD academy graduation was held, and 23 cadets were badged as new SJPD officers. There are 20 more cadets who are in the current academy. The next academy will begin in February and will be held at the South San Jose Police Substation. I will continue to support efforts to increase recruiting, training, and deployment of additional officers.

It will take considerable time before we are back to the police staffing levels we need to be at, so in the meantime it is of the utmost importance that we stay alert, watch out for our neighbors, get informed about crime prevention, and support the efforts of our police officers to prevent and solve crimes. I also hope that you will encourage both the City and the SJPOA to work cooperatively to expand the use of our police reserves, to keep retirement-eligible officers on the job, and to recruit new police officers.

GRAND OPENING OF MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

This past Saturday we celebrated the grand opening of Martial Cottle Park. This 287-acre park, located within District 10, was donated to Santa Clara County and the State of California by Mr. Walter Lester. Mr. Lester was determined to preserve a small portion of the "Valley of Hearts Delight" and maintain the site for agricultural use. The Grand Opening marked the completion of the new Visitor's Center, pavilion, and parking lot. The City of San Jose will have a plot of land designated as a community garden. There will also be plots used by the Santa Clara County Master Gardeners, as well as 4-H clubs in the area. I am so happy to see the incredible progress in the park. It is truly a treasure, and will be for generations to come.



DECEMBER SHOWERS BRING...FLOODING

With all of this blustery, winter weather we've been experiencing, you may be interested in some helpful tips to prevent your street from flooding. The most prevalent cause of flooding is debris like leaves or trash clogging storm drains. Because street sweepers only sweep once a month on residential streets, please do your part in making sure the gutters in front of your homes are free of debris. During rainy weather, try to keep your yard debris off the streets until the night before it is scheduled to be picked up. For more helpful reminders, visit the City of San Jose website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3365>

SMALL BUSINESS CORNER

95120 Almaden Lifestyle Magazine is a local family owned business. Chrissy Derksen, the owner and founder of the magazine, wanted to create a way to showcase and promote volunteers in the community. Because of this, she has met hundreds of wonderful community members through the years. The magazine allows local businesses and charities to co-market to the neighborhood in a classy, high-end glossy print magazine which also highlights leaders, heroes, events, schools, churches, and many great individuals making a positive difference within our community. The look and feel of the magazine has often included elements of nature and even historical and architectural photos of personal residences to highlight our lovely community. Thank you, Chrissy, for your dedication to our community!

If you'd like to learn more about what Chrissy does, she is hosting a wonderful event, reflecting on the past 7 years the publication has been in print. Visit www.NightToRememberEvents.com for more information.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

I love to learn about students in our community who are making a difference and achieving their goals. Katherine Labosky is one of those students! Katherine, a resident of District 10 and student at Leigh High School, has been studying ballet

since the age of two! One of her goals as a classically trained ballet dancer has been to achieve the qualifications necessary to take on her own class of young dancers. With hard work, determination, and intense study, Katherine has now realized this goal with her appointment to the Capitol Dance Company teaching staff. Miss Katherine is now teaching Ballet 1 for ages 6-9 on Saturdays at 10 AM. Her class will meet weekly at the studios in the Princeton Plaza Center, located at the corner of Meridian Avenue and Blossom Hill Road. Congratulations, Katherine!

If you know of a young person who is deserving of recognition because of his or her achievements or service, let us know! Please contact Rayshelle Edmunds at Rayshelle.edmunds@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4910.

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

Sincerely,

Johnny

San José City Hall, City offices to close for Holiday Furlough

SAN JOSE, Calif. - San José City Hall and other City offices will close on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 through Thursday, January 1, 2015 for the holiday furlough. All City offices will reopen on Friday, January 2, 2015. The Police and Fire Departments, along with other critical City services, will remain unaffected by the closure.

Customer Contact Center: The City's Customer Contact Center will be answering calls on Friday, December 26, Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. An after-hours answering service will provide City information and assistance during the evenings, weekends, holidays and other closure days. Non-emergency requests requiring follow-up will be routed to the proper department and handled during open business hours.

Library Schedule: All libraries will be closed from Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 25; and also from Wednesday, December 31 through Thursday, January 1. Please refer to the San José Public Libraries website at www.sjpl.org.

Community Centers: All community centers will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 31 through Thursday, January 1. Senior Nutrition Programs will operate limited hours on December 26, 29 & 30. Please call your local community center to inquire about general operating hours during the remainder of the holiday season. Community center contact information is available at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns or in the Citywide Activity Guide.

Park Holiday Hours: Neighborhood Park outdoor features will be accessible to the public from sunrise to one hour after sunset every day. After hours and weekends, emergency staff may be contacted through City Communications at (408) 277-8956.

Regional Parks will be accessible as follows:

- Edenvale, Kelley, Guadalupe Oak Grove, Guadalupe River and Rose Garden Parks will be open every day.
- Almaden Lake, Overfelt Gardens and Prusch Farm Parks will be closed on December 24 & 25 and December 31 & January 1, in addition to their regularly scheduled Monday closure.
- Alum Rock Park will be closed on Monday as regularly scheduled.
- Lake Cunningham Park will be closed on December 24 & 25 and December 31 & January 1.

For more information, contact Steve Hammack, Deputy Director, at (408) 793-5579.

Looking for 2015 ELLA Program Applicants

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

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

Happy Hollow Foundation Presents An Intimate Evening with Jack Hanna

January 15th, 2015

7:00PM

Montgomery Theater

Jungle Jack Hanna explores the corners of the globe as one of the most respected animal ambassadors. His enthusiasm and “hands-on” approach to wildlife conservation has won him widespread acclaim as a conservationist, television personality, author and Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and the Wilds.

Recognized as America’s favorite zookeeper, Jack has made countless television

appearances on shows such as Good Morning America, CBS's The Talk, and The Late Show with David Letterman.

Happy Hollow connects people to nature through play by using your Zoo's creative environment and it's connections with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums to lead initiatives and inspire a new generation. Happy Hollow has raised over \$120,000 for Gorilla protection in Virunga National Park in the last eight years. Together, we can have a huge collective impact on protecting wildlife.

To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE!](#)

All proceeds benefit Happy Hollow Foundation's efforts in wildlife conservation. Happy Hollow Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Charitable contributions are tax deductible under IRS guidelines.

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

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

Theme: DREAM

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

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

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

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

Our City Forest Holiday Rent-a-Tree Program

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

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

for donations of \$80 - \$100 per tree, which is comparable or less than the cost of most chopped or artificial trees. All donations are tax-deductible and support the excellent cause of greening Silicon Valley. Delivery and pick-up services are available.

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

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

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

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

For more information:

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

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

Call: 408-975-2586

Ethics Commission Vacancy

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

understand the procedures by which a fair hearing will be conducted.

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

APPOINTMENT PROCESS: All applications received by the deadline will be submitted to the Mayor and Councilmembers who will notify the City Clerk as to whom they would like to interview. Applicants receiving four or more such indications of interest will be notified and asked to appear during a regular or special Council Meeting to be interviewed by the Mayor and Council. Applicants must receive a two-thirds vote of Council (8 votes) to be appointed to serve on the Commission. The tentative date scheduled for interviews is on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

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

Apply online at: <http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=330>

Parks and Recreation Winter Programming Registration Opens Soon!

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

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