



D10 News: January 2016

Don't miss all of the updates in the District 10 January newsletter! Be sure to check the side bar for important **upcoming events and other **announcements!***

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year!!! I hope you and your family had a safe holiday season and that you are ready to get started on a prosperous 2016.

We closed out the 2015 City Council calendar with several items related to preparations for the extreme weather anticipated from El Nino. Part of those preparations involved addressing the homeless problems affecting our entire City. The City Council has been working with the County of Santa Clara on the issue of homelessness for many months. Through this collaboration, along with the work of the County's Housing Task Force, several best practices were identified and many are now being

Upcoming Events

JAN [Light Up the New Year for Peace](#)
15 4:30-5:30PM

Announcements

Click on the links below to learn more...



pursued. As you can imagine, the homeless population is very diverse and faces complicated challenges. Here is a link that will give you a good overview of what our community is dealing with in addressing the impacts of homelessness:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/44747>.

An important consideration in evaluating the effects of homelessness are the costs to the community. Here is a link to an assessment of the costs associated with our homeless population:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=2298> and you can read about a more recent assessment of the costs here: http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_28188893/santa-clara-county-report-puts-520-million-year.

Recently, the City Council was presented with the opportunity to alleviate some of the red tape connected with houses of worship opening their doors as temporary inclement weather shelters for the most vulnerable in our community. Each congregation that participates could house a maximum of 15 individuals on a given night. I voted with the Council majority to accomplish this so that those willing to step up could quickly alleviate the struggles endured by our homeless population in what could be one of the most severe El Nino weather patterns in decades. In our district, Holy Spirit Catholic Church was one of the parishes willing to help.

The District 10 community has expressed some understandable concerns about this initiative, given the proximity of Holy Spirit to residences and to the church's own elementary school. We connected with church staff and visited the site so we could have answers for our constituents with respect to the program. Here are two links with details of the Holy Spirit shelter proposal:

<http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/48647>

<http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/48646>

We also spoke with Fr. Brendan McGuire and he assured us that the shelter will have zero tolerance for any deviation from their rules. Clients will be asked to leave the shelter if they are found to violate the program's requirements.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not address the subject of sanctioned homeless encampments. I was on the losing end of a recent vote to pursue City-sanctioned homeless encampments. A majority of my Council colleagues chose to have the Housing Department work to develop sanctioned encampments, over the objections of City staff. I am not convinced that sanctioned

Calling all artists, designers, or anyone with a vision for what San Jose is today and what it could be tomorrow to create a visual expression of his or her San Jose experience. Submit a design, or multiple designs, to the [Design Contest](#) and show your San Jose! Need a bit of a design nudge? Check out the [50 San Jose Symbols](#) for a bit of inspiration! <http://www.screenprintshowdown.com/>



HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

Faith.Knowledge.Community.

Holy Spirit School: Upcoming Jan. 31st
OPEN HOUSE

[CLICK HERE FOR FLYER](#)



Upcoming Water Career Job Fair at San Jose City Hall!

[CLICK HERE FOR FLYER](#)

South Bay
Mentoring
Coalition



[South Bay Mentoring Coalition Opportunities HERE!](#)

Find out more about their FREE mentoring Fair on Jan 23 and how you can become a mentor!

encampments will work toward solving the homelessness issues in our community, nor do I want us to establish permanent encampments. Unfortunately, in other cities where encampments were meant to be a temporary solution, many have now been in place for ten or more years. Regardless, I will continue to work to ensure that any sanctioned encampments that are ultimately proposed are not placed in our residential neighborhoods or far from supportive services and transit.

In 2015, the City's Housing Department presented several options for providing our homeless population with permanent housing, and I have supported all of the department's recommendations related to establishing supportive housing and focusing federal and other housing funds on constructing more units to house the homeless. Taking our attention away from permanent housing and shifting it toward establishing a sanctioned encampment that will cost us over \$270,000 in annual operating costs and over \$550,000 in service costs and will delay the development of permanent and supportive housing units. We have a finite amount of money to invest in solving the homeless issue in our City, and taking money and staff time away from permanent housing seems ill-advised. Here is the memo prepared by our Housing director regarding this issue:

http://sanjose.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=&event_id=1476&meta_id=547335

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding homeless encampments, please contact Jose Salcido in my office at 408-535-5979.

Mark Your Calendars for the 9th Annual W.O.W.!



Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

[Learn more about their "Wake up to Aging: Financial Planning Options" workshop on Feb 9th HERE!](#)



Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

Latinos in Technology Scholarship - APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

[APPLY NOW HERE](#)



El Nino Emergency Preparedness

- [CLICK HERE FOR A DISASTER CHECKLIST](#)
- [CLICK HERE FOR HELPFUL TIPS](#)
- [SIGN UP HERE FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS](#)

Latest Happenings





The Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair is coming up on Friday, February 26, 2016. This **FREE** event is hosted by Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Donald Rocha, and Ash Kalra, and is always fun and informative!

On-site registration starts at 8:30 AM, and a light breakfast will be provided. The event ends at 10:30 AM following our fabulous door prize drawing of gifts provided by our generous vendors. You don't want to miss it!

Westfield Oakridge Mall (Macy's Court)
925 Blossom Hill Rd.
San Jose, CA 95123

Via Valiente Site Update



One of the most commonly asked questions that I receive from residents in the south part of Almaden Valley is, "What is happening with the former PW Shopping Center at the Via Valiente Plaza?"

Although the property owner has remodeled the plaza and, within the past year, has partnered with a Farmer's Market, she has yet to solidify any additional long-term tenants. You may have also noticed that Unwined, the wine tasting bar located next to Elements in the plaza, has closed. The owner relocated the business to Cupertino.

Like you, I am concerned about the long-term vacancies at Via Valiente Plaza. Since taking office in 2013, I have

Last week, I was honored to join Mayor Liccardo at the home of the Counsel General of China for an evening dinner at which we discussed our mutual interests.



On Dec 17, 2015, we joined FOP Lodge 52 to honor our Fallen Officers at Christmas in the Park. Thank you to our Councilmembers, Mayor Liccardo, and Nikki Johnson for also taking part in this commemoration.



Last month, the City of San Jose proudly welcomed eight new public safety dispatchers into our workforce. Thank you for choosing San Jose!

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provided leads to the property owner from multiple parties who have expressed an interest in the former PW Supermarket space as well as from people who would like to purchase the entire center and have it fully occupied. I continue to encourage the owner to engage those interested in purchasing or occupying space; however, a representative for the owner has shared with my office that she is not interested in meeting with anyone to discuss sale of the property. I have also met with Kim Walesh, the Economic Development Director for the City of San Jose, and have asked that she provide any assistance the owner may need in finding tenants for the vacant space.

Many community members have also asked me how they can help with finding a tenant for the vacant PW space. I share that it is important for all of us to patronize the businesses that are located in the plaza, like CVS, Elements Restaurant, Round Table Pizza, Almaden Yoga, Tulip School, New Double Duck Chinese Food, and other businesses that may come to fill the current vacancies. Shopping at the businesses shows that neighbors will support the plaza.

I also want to take this opportunity to quash any rumors that you may have heard about opening the Via Valiente property to residential development. The City of San Jose went through its General Plan 2040 (GP2040) process over five years ago. A GP2040 Task Force was formed and included a representative from each Council District (the District 10 representative was Dave Fadness, a Vista park neighborhood advocate), various interest groups in San Jose, and a few Councilmembers. The Task Force was chaired by then-Councilmember Sam Liccardo and Shirley Lewis, a former Councilmember, and they met over the course of three years to carefully analyze San Jose's land use.

During this time, property owners brought forth properties they wanted the GP2040 Task Force to rezone from their current retail, commercial, or industrial designations to residential. However, the Task Force was charged with the responsibility of keeping San Jose's employment lands intact and, therefore, did not entertain conversions. Keeping employment lands intact throughout the City of San Jose was an approach collectively pursued by the GP 2040 Task Force and ratified by the full City Council.

I share this extensive background information with you so



[View email in a browser](#)

that you are aware that the Via Valiente Plaza will remain a retail and commercial center. Unfortunately, the City has no power to force owners to fill vacancies. Some residents have asked about the use of eminent domain, which is when government takes land away from a private property owner through a legal process. I would be very apprehensive about utilizing the blunt instrument of eminent domain against a business owner. However, I will be looking into other tools that might be employed by the City or the community if the center continues to remain vacant – for example, incentives to fill storefronts and penalties if storefronts remain unfilled.

Recently, the broker representing the Via Valiente owner informed me that they had thought they had found a grocer who was interest in moving into the former PW space. Unfortunately, the deal with the grocer fell through.

We will continue to keep the community updated with any new information that we receive regarding the Via Valiente Plaza.

Mo's Restaurant



"When will Mo's be open?" is the most-asked question from Almaden residents about local businesses that I receive.

With Sonoma Chicken Coop gone, Mo's of Almaden will occupy its space at Old Almaden Plaza (corner of Almaden Expressway and McAbee). I've known one of the owners, Angelo Heropoulos, a District 10 resident, for quite some time. He is very excited to bring the family-friendly Mo's to Almaden. Over the past few months, he has been busy renovating the restaurant. Like you, I am excited to see the changes while enjoying a good meal.

If you have visited Mo's in Campbell, then you may already know that Mo's serves breakfast all day, as well as burgers and other wonderful meals. Angelo anticipates an

opening sometime in late February or mid-March. We will get the word out when we hear the exact date, and we hope to see you at the grand opening!

Las Delicias del Mero, Mero! - A New Restaurant in Town



Continuing with family tradition, Hector's son, Hector Jr. (right) and his son-in-law, Ricardo Ibarra (left) also work with Hector (middle)

Although District 10 residents will miss Lupe's Taqueria, the family-owned Mexican restaurant that served one of the best taco salads around, I am delighted to share that Lupe sold her business to a family friend, Hector Plascencia, who has recently opened with his own menu and a new name —Las Delicias del Mero, Mero! Mexican Grill.

Hector's menu includes fresh and healthy food, including grilled fresh fish (salmon, tilapia, octopus, and others), oysters on the half shell, salads, and more! Hector has been in the restaurant business for over 15 years and has other restaurants in addition to Las Delicias del Mero, Mero!.

I encourage you to stop by and don't forget to mention this article to receive a FREE COKE!

Las Delicias del Mero, Mero! Mexican Grill
San Jose, CA 95123
5899 Santa Teresa Blvd.
(Right across the street from Santa Teresa High School)
408-578-4077

My Che' Vietnamese Coffee, Tea & Pastries



I am happy to introduce My Che', a Vietnamese coffee, tea, and pastry café that occupies the former location of Café Legatto. My Che' offers a variety of freshly made Vietnamese coffees and teas with a favorite called My Che' Special. If you have never tried a Vietnamese drink, this is your opportunity! If you have had Vietnamese tea or coffee before, then you will love the flavors of My Che'.

My Che'
5663 Snell Avenue
San Jose, Ca 95123
408-613-2434

Almaden Ranch Update

Almaden Ranch, the new shopping area in [City Council District 9](#), at the corner of Highway 85 and Almaden Expressway, welcomed the opening of Bass Pro Shops last year. In addition to a beautiful store, Bass Pro also features a bowling alley and restaurant.

Here is an update for you regarding the additional stores that will be located at Almaden Ranch: **City Sports, MOD Pizza, Habit Burger, European Wax Center, Panera Bread, Fractured Prune Doughnuts, SmokEaters Hot Wings, Starbucks, and Verizon**. All expected to open within the next year. There is a plethora of retail space, so expect more stores and restaurants to be announced.

These retail establishments and the other businesses in Almaden Ranch will generate significant sales tax revenue for San Jose. Growing our business tax base is critical to our long-term goal of improving our per-capita revenues so that the City can adequately fund essential services, and continue to restore services that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

For continued updates
visit: <http://www.almadenranchsanjose.com/web/>

Become a Tree Amigo

Love working with plants and people? Want to commit to be a leader in the community? Sign up for Our City Forest's Tree Amigo class. Graduates will become committed volunteers to help OCF promote a greener and healthier Silicon Valley.

They are offering a Tree Amigo course beginning the week of January 25th. The class will be a mixture of online and hands-on learning. Participants are asked to commit for the full month (January 25th - February 27th) and to come to each Saturday morning in-person class in order to earn the Tree Amigo title and OCF t-shirt. The online material will be released at the beginning of each week and participants will have until that Friday to complete the reading and short assignments before the Saturday in-person training. Saturday sessions will be about 3-4 hours, beginning either at 8AM or 9AM (depending on that week's hands-on project).

If you or someone you know may be interested, email volunteer@ourcityforest.org to sign up. A volunteer coordinator will send you back a Tree Amigo application to fill out before the course begins.

For more District 10 information, visit www.sjd10.com or email us at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

Happy New Year,

Johnny

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