



## Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Johnny Khamis  
District 10

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** August 16, 2018

APPROVED:

8/16/18

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>th</sup> FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL  
AND FIREWORKS SHOW SPONSORED BY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10  
AS A CITY COUNCIL SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT TO EXPEND  
CITY FUNDS AND ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS AND  
SERVICES FOR THE EVENT**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Festival & Fireworks Show scheduled on Thursday, July 4, 2019 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the September 11, 2018 Council Agenda for action.

### BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution 72517 which requires Councilmembers to submit a memorandum to the Rules Committee regarding proposed City Council sponsored Special Events and the proposed use of any funds.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Festival & Fireworks Show will be held on July 4, 2019 at Almaden Lake Park and is sponsored by Councilmember Johnny Khamis. This special event will include community and vendor booths, live music, kids' games, a children's dress-up contest, food vendors, a magician, face painting, and a fireworks display. The event is free and open to the public.

Please see the attached information:

- (1) Media Coverage provided by local, independently-owned Times Media Inc.
- (2) District 10 Thank You Newsletter distributed to over 30,000 households.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

August 16, 2018

**SUBJECT:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Festival & Fireworks Show

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### **ANALYSIS**

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events.

In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Councilmember Johnny Khamis will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on his Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 10, City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City's normal financial and budgetary procedures.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the August 29, 2018 Rules Committee Agenda and the September 11, 2018 City Council Agenda.

### **CEQA**

- ☐ Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment.
- ☐ Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.
- ☐ Exempt, File No. PP12-080. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.
- ☐ Exempt, File No. PP13-056, Activities associated with citywide litter clean-up activities.
- ☐ Exempt, File No. PP11-046, Graffiti removal services.

Reviewed by:

TONI J. TABER, CMC  
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.

**NON-PROFIT  
FOUNDED BY  
SAN JOSE TEEN  
EMPOWERS  
YOUTH – P4**



**NATIONAL  
NIGHT OUT 2018  
REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN  
TO PUBLIC – P8**



**BASIS  
INDEPENDENT  
SENIOR TEACHES  
UNDERPRIVILEGED  
STUDENTS – P18**



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# Almaden Times

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JULY 13–JULY 26, 2018 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 15



Apoorva Panidapu is shown working on a custom art request for her charity.

## Creating art for charity's sake

By Apoorva Panidapu  
*Special to the Times*

"Five-hundred and eleven, five-hundred and twelve, five-hundred and thirteen... We have raised over five hundred dollars! That's enough for 10 goats," my fourth grade teacher exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with joy.

I cheered and clapped along with my peers, delighted that my small fourth grade class was able to make a difference for underprivileged people around the world. We did it just by making and selling bracelets, origami, and artwork at our school fair. That the goats would provide entire villages with milk, cheese, and butter day after day simply thrilled me. I couldn't stop thinking about the class project even after it ended, wanting to make more art to buy more goats!

Throughout my life, my parents have always given me unconditional love and support. I think I took the incredible opportunities they provide me with for granted.

See CHARITY, page 6

**'JUNGLEBALL' COULD BE HEADED TO THE BIG SCREEN**

## Steve Dini's screenplay is a top finalist in Los Angeles, Nashville

By Jane Johnson  
*Special to the Times*

Ever hear a story that needs to be told?

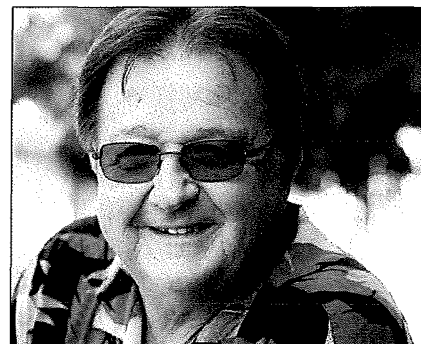
"Jungleball" provides hope, perseverance, fun and a little redemption against the backdrop of fate and the larger loss. The story's not only a true to life adventure, its screenwriter and long-time local teacher and resident, Steve Dini, lived through it all.

I don't know about you, but when I hear a story set during this time I can't fully realize the effects on the returning soldiers, because I never had to bear something that is societally judgmental and hurtful on such a large

scale. I wasn't there to experience the crushing barbs hurled through crowds at young men who'd been swept away in a draft only to return defeated and pensive.

Over the years with each new revelation of the larger picture or the details that hadn't previously declassified, our country learned to slowly begin healing. It was a heavy loss, the kind we weren't accustomed to swallowing. Barb-hurling citizens grew into thoughtful adults shamed themselves who, as seen in Ken Burns' documentary, wanted nothing more than to go back in time and apologize to

See SCREENPLAY, page 16



"Even in a world where defeat and loss loom, it's the little victories that count."

—Steve Dini



One of the spectacular fireworks displays at Almaden Lake Park on July 4.  
Photo: Amir Attia/Ready Proof Design

**5TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

## 25,000 celebrate 4th of July activities at Almaden Lake Park

By Denelle Fedor  
*Special to the Times*

More than 25,000 people converged on Almaden Lake Park to enjoy the 5th Annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show on July 4.

The 65-acre park was adorned with people sitting on blankets, chairs and under canopies enjoying a pleasant picture perfect day.

The annual patriotic event provides a safe place to watch an amazing fireworks show and also to honor those who have served our Country.

The festival, provided by Major Skyrocket Sponsors: Skip's Tires, Brandenburg Foundation and Casino M8trix, was in full swing starting at 3 p.m. as Sharky

Cats, Almaden Valley residents George and Cindy Nowicki's live band began to play.

Children played pick-up games of soccer, were flying kites, playing tag and enjoying the interactive children's booths within the festival area, celebrating America!

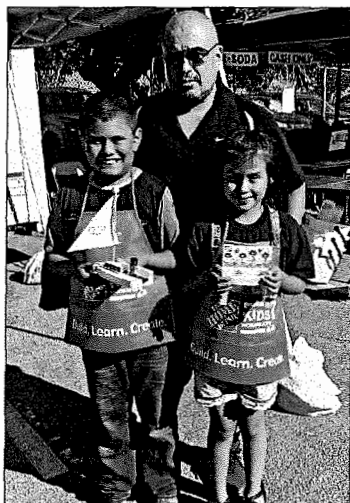
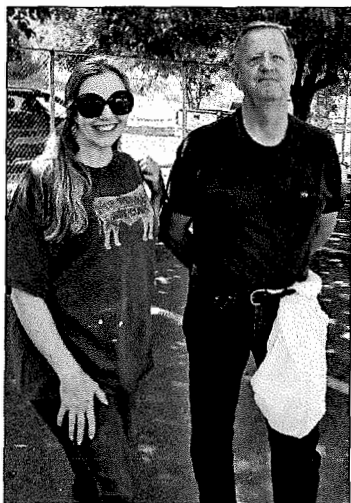
Food was plentiful from Art of the Barbeque and Sweet Rendezvous ice cream along with Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley, Falafel Fresh & Gyro, Los Jarocho's Food Trucks, and Dippin Dots.

A "Most Patriotic Contest" was held this year and included the following categories: Best Patriotic Family; Best Patriotic Teen and Best Patriotic Child. Pete G. Magic performed his annual magic show to the delight of the many

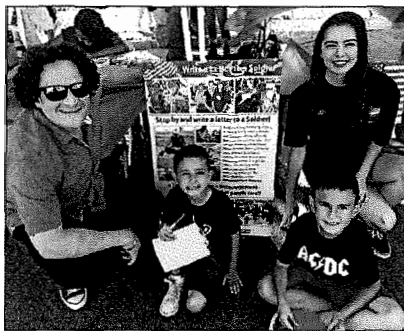
See FOURTH, page 14

**SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER**

## Times Cover Story



Above: Denelle Fedor and Bob Vonderwerth (photo by Mollie Tobias); above right: Alberto Jr., Alberto Sr. and Cleylas with their Home Depot projects (photo by Denelle Fedor); below: Clean Up Volunteers (photo by Denelle Fedor)



Above: Rob Lindo (Casino M8trix), Cheyanne Segura and two dedicated Letter to the Soldier writers (photo by Denelle Fedor); above right: Councilmember Khamis with D-10 Intern Peter Kuo Cleaning Park (photo by Michelle DeOcampo)



Fireworks burned brightly over Almaden Lake. Photo: Amir Attia/Ready Proof Design

## Fourth

Continued from page 1  
families and children eagerly awaiting his act.

Dozens of booths were set up this year and included: Doris Dillion Cambodia School, Almaden Senior Association, VEP/District 10 Leadership Coalition, Just Serve, Santa Clara County Water District, Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association; Vineyard Library, Rocketship School, Almaden Tae Kwon Do; Minela Int'l San Jose Airport; Legal Shield; Starship Technologies; Letters to the Soldiers and interactive children booths provided by Home Depot and Westfield Oakridge Mall, and San Jose's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, was accompanied with a snow machine provided by Casino M8trix.

## Event history

Five years ago, District 10 resident Bob Vonderwerth had an idea. As an avid enthusiast of fireworks, Bob wanted to produce a firework show at Almaden Lake Park, so he shared his thought with San Jose City District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis. True to his entrepreneurial spirit, the Councilmember said, "Let's do it!" and thus, the first Family Fun Festival and Firework Show FFF&FS took place.

FFF&FS is now a community tradition attracting thousands of residents to enjoy the spectacular fireworks show produced by Almaden Valley resident Craig Cutright, owner of Devastating Pyro. Craig's devotion to providing a safe and stunning fireworks show is unsurpassed.

This year's event was made

possible through donations provided by: Skip's Tires; Casino M8trix; Brandenburg Foundation; Millcreek Residential; Westfield Oakridge Mall; Naprotek; Republic Services; Hunter Properties; Schoennauer Company; Almaden Senior Association; CA Apartment Association; CORE Development; San Jose Earthquakes; Garden City Construction; County of Santa Clara; City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs. City of San Jose general fund monies are not used to fund the FFF&FS event.

Community partners provide on-going unconditional support and guidance for this event: City of San Jose Parks and Recreation; City of San Jose Department of Transportation; San Jose Police Department; San Jose Fire Department; City of San Jose Public Works; City of San Jose Environmental Services; City of San Jose Special Outdoor Events Team; City of San Jose Park Rangers; City of San Jose City Clerk's Office; City of San Jose Attorney's Office; VTA; Rapid Waste Response Team; County of Santa Clara; County of Department of Health; Corina Beal and the Almaden Valley Women's Club; M&R Services Security; Almaden Times; and the Vonderwerth Family.

A grant was provided by the Office of Cultural Affairs, which provides event grants from monies collected through the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) which is a tax proposed by and for hotels.

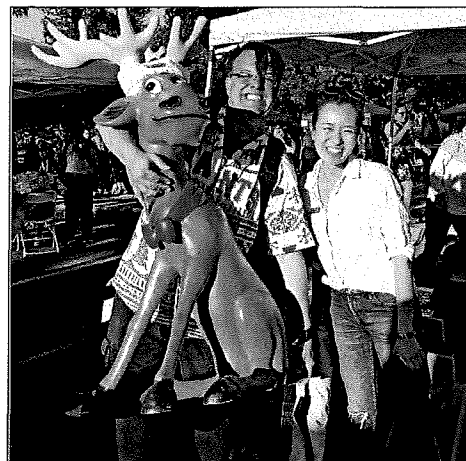
A special thanks to the community for their continuous support of the FFF&FS.

Times **Cover Story**

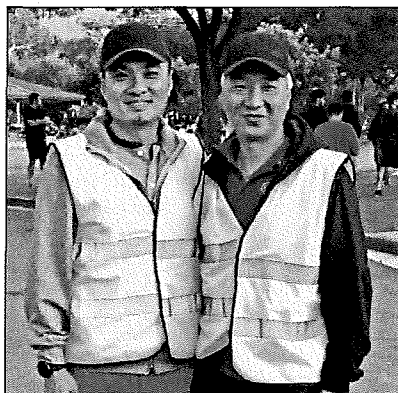
The bombs bursting in air were a lovely sight to see on the Fourth of July over Almaden Lake. Photos: Amir Attia/Ready Proof Design. Pictured above, center: fireworks wait to be launched after the sun sets.



# The rockets' red glare over Almaden Lake



Above: The Home Depot Children's Activity Booth was the place to be; above right: Joe Noolan with Christmas in the Park and Cherrie Chen with Westfield Oakridge (Photos by Denelle Fedor)



Above: Layla and Anya Segura with Councilmember Johnny Khamis at the District 10 Leadership Booth; above center: Joseph and Dong, Volunteers (photos by Denelle Fedor); above right: Cheyanne Segura and the mailbox she made for Letters to the Soldiers (photo by Michelle DeOcampo)

## **District 10 Thank You Newsletter sent to over 30,000 households.**

Dear Neighbors,

Five years ago, we had the first Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show at Almaden Lake Park. Five years later, the festival has become a community tradition attracting over 25,000 residents. This fantastic event is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors and many dedicated volunteers. This year's major "Skyrocket" Sponsors were Skip's Tires, the Brandenburg Foundation, and Casino M8trix. The spectacular fireworks show was produced by Craig Cutright, owner of Devastating Pyro (and a District 10 resident)! Craig's devotion to providing a safe and stunning fireworks show each year is unsurpassed.

The event started at 3:00 PM to the sounds of the Snarky Cats, a local band led by Almaden Valley residents George and Cindy Nowicki. The festival area included the following booths: The Doris Dillon School in Cambodia, the Almaden Senior Association, VEP/District 10 Leadership Coalition, JustServe.org, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Association, Vineland Branch Library, Rocketship Schools, Almaden Tae Kwon Do, Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, Legal Shield, Starship Technologies, Letters to Soldiers, Pasatiempo Golf Club, and Sarah Elisabeth Studio. Many vendors had fun activities for children, including the very popular workshop from The Home Depot and art activities from Westfield Oakridge Mall. Another booth not to be missed: San Jose's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas in the Park, and their magical snow machine!

A "Most Patriotic Costume Contest" was held this year and included the following categories: Most Patriotic Family, Most Patriotic Teen, and Most Patriotic Child. Pete G. Magic performed his annual magic show to the delight of the many families and children eagerly awaiting his act. Food was available from District 10 small businesses - The Art of BBQ and Sweet Rendezvous - along with the Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley, food trucks from Falafel Fresh & Gyro and Los Jarocho Grill, and Dippin' Dots. The 65-acre park was adorned with thousands of people sitting on blankets, chairs, and under canopies. Children played pick-up games of basketball and soccer, flew kites, played tag, and enjoyed the booths within the festival area.

At 9:00 PM, four Boy Scouts from Troop 294 in Almaden raised the American flag to kick off the main event. The National Anthem was sung by Sarah Elisabeth, followed by the spectacular fireworks show. It was another successful event on a beautiful day, enjoyed by a big cross section of our community who all came together to celebrate the birthday of the United States of America! In addition to our major Skyrocket sponsors, the other generous donors who made this year's event possible were: Millcreek Residential; Westfield Oakridge Mall; Naprotek; Republic Services; Hunter Properties; The Schoennauer Company; the Almaden Senior Association; the California Apartment Association; CORE Development; the San Jose Earthquakes; Garden City Construction; the County of Santa Clara; the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs; Eldon Cherniss; and, the Steinhoff family. A wonderful, in-kind donation of utility vehicles was provided by The Golf Club at Boulder Ridge, A Bay Club Property. Because of the generosity of our community, no (ZERO!) City of San Jose general fund dollars are used to pay for this event.

Thank you to our Community Partners for their on-going, unconditional support and guidance for this event. From the City of San Jose: Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services—special thanks to Adriel Castro and Dan Greeley; Department of Transportation—special thanks to Anh Nguyen; Police Department—special thanks to Sgt. Stephen Payne; Fire Department; Department of Public Works—special thanks to Frank Crusco and Pat Anchondo; Environmental Services Department—special thanks to Linden Skjeie and her team; Special Outdoor Events Team; Park Rangers; Office of the City Clerk; City Attorney's Office; and the Rapid Waste Response Team. We are also grateful to the County of Santa Clara and their Department of Health—special thanks to Suzanne Lew; Carina Beal and the Almaden Valley Women's Club; Maurice Johnson and M & R Services Security; and, Dan Connolly with ACS Armored. Special recognition and gratitude go to Bob Vonderwerth and his family.

Thank you, as well, to volunteers Aiko Fadness, Josie Supencheck, Dorothy Courtney, Lynne Brown, Kundan Kakaria, Collin Thrower, Dong Li, Tiffany Spaulding, Rosaura MacFarlane, Amir Fahey, Robin Solinsky, Mariel Weiner, Jack Weiner, Serena Desai, Cheyanne Segura, Andrew Mark, Mathew Herbert, Sarah Herbert, Peter Kuo, Stephen Dexter, Marilyn Rodgers, Michelle & Tony DeOcampo, and all who came by to help with the set-up on July 3rd and the clean-up on July 5th. We very much appreciate your help! I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my wonderful staff, led by event manager Denelle Fedor, for all their efforts. Many of them worked day & night to bring you a safe, well-organized, enjoyable event. Finally, thank YOU - the community - for your continuous support of this event celebrating the birth of our country and honoring those who serve, and have served, our great country!