

# Councilmember Kansen Chu

VOLUME V/ISSUE I FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012



Councilmember Chu visits First Station 5 on New Years Day.



Councilmember Chu with Drobo CEO, Tom Buiocchi at a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 11, 2012.



Councilmember Chu, Daisy Chu & volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on January 14, 2012.

## Door-to-Door in District 4 Newsletter

Office of Councilmember Kansen Chu  
A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER CHU

Dear District 4 Neighbors,

The City of San José continues to face significant fiscal challenges. While the coming year's \$25 million projected deficit is much lower than last year's \$80.5 million shortfall, the available solutions are fewer. Every department is looking at significant cost reductions that will likely have a noticeable impact. Currently, in order to close the preliminary General Fund shortfall, targets for non-public safety departments may range between 5.7% and 11.4% and for public safety departments 1% of adjusted base budget expenditures.

There is still much uncertainty regarding the 2012-2013 General Fund shortfall due to forthcoming actions by the Police and Fire Retirement Board, future actions of the Oversight Board for the Redevelopment Successor Agency, and a comprehensive review of all expenditures and revenues as part of the development of the Five-Year General Fund Forecast scheduled for release late February.

Throughout the next several months, budget conversations will be happening in many different forums as the City Council, community members, and other stakeholders debate proposals. I will continue to keep you updated through my weekly e-notices and on my website. Please visit my website frequently for the latest information. If you would like to share ideas about ways the City can save money or generate revenue, please email me at [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov).

Best Regards,



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2011 Accomplishments
- BART Update
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- District 4 Heroes
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Sign up for regular email updates from District 4

Email [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov) so you can be added to the email list.

District 4 Website: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district4>

### DISTRICT 4 OFFICE

200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95113  
Telephone: (408) 535-4904  
Fax: (408) 292-6459  
Email: [District4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District4@sanjoseca.gov)



## District 4 2011 Accomplishments

2011 has been an incredibly busy year serving the City of San José and District 4. It has been a pleasure serving you another year and I look forward to serving you in the new year. I also welcome any comments and feedback from you. You are the eyes and ears of the community. If you have any concerns that I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov).

As we embark on the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the District 4 successes and achievements for 2011.

1. Grand opening of Alviso Educational Center
2. Expansion of the Berryessa Branch Library Parking Lot
3. Winning the Great American Litter Pick-Up 2011 Award for the 2nd time
4. Moving forward with Commodore Park
5. Establishing the Berryessa Business Association
6. Expanding businesses at the @First in North San José



*Councilmember Chu attends the grand opening of the Alviso Educational Center on September 16, 2011.*

For a complete list of District 4's 2011 Accomplishments, please visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district4/accomplishments.asp>. I look forward to working with you to continue to make District 4 a better place to live.

## BART to Berryessa Update



*Rendering of the Berryessa BART station.*

BART to Silicon Valley extends the existing Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system to San José, Milpitas and Santa Clara. This will extend the current BART system 16 miles beginning at the future BART Warm Springs Station in Fremont and proceed on the former Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way through Milpitas to south of Mabury Road in San José. The extension would then descend into a 5.1 mile-long subway tunnel, continue through downtown San José, and end at grade in Santa Clara near the Caltrain Station. A maintenance and vehicle storage yard would be at the terminus of the project in Santa Clara.

In early January, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) was notified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that VTA's \$900 million grant request for the BART Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project has received all of the administrative approvals. VTA is now one step closer from being awarded the anticipated funds through the full funding grant agreement (FFGA).

The execution of an FFGA with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is the final step before active construction can commence on the project, planned for Spring 2012. The FFGA is the multi-year contractual agreement between the FTA and VTA that formally defines the project scope, cost and schedule, and establishes the terms of the \$900 million in federal financial assistance.

VTA submitted a grant application to the FTA in June 2011. In mid December 2011, following review of VTA's grant request, the FTA presented an FFGA packet to the Federal Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. Both of these federal offices approved the grant packet. Following this approval, the grant packet—complete with the project scope, schedule and cost summary—was submitted to Congress in early January with a recommendation for the grant award, and to begin the mandatory 60 day congressional notification period. During this period, House and Senate committees may seek additional project information prior to the execution of the grant award.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.vta.org/bart/index.html>.



## SR 237 and I-880 Express Lanes Opening Soon!

VTA is converting a section of the existing carpool lanes along SR 237 and I-880 corridors which will open as express lanes beginning in Spring 2012. Express lanes will provide more reliable travel options for Bay Area commuters. Similar to the carpool lanes, express lanes will be available free of charge to carpoolers with 2 or more occupants, and eligible vehicles. Solo drivers will be given the option of paying a toll to use the new express lanes.

Carpoolers and solo drivers that utilize the express lanes will experience several changes, such as new signs, road striping and traffic laws, limited entry and exit points, and hours of operation.

### **Striping and Signs**

In January 2012 new striping on SR 237 express lanes will replace the familiar dashed lines currently used for the HOV lanes. The new striping will delineate express lanes from general purpose with a 2 foot wide buffer zone featuring double solid white lines. It is a violation of the state vehicle code for any driver to cross double solid lines and the California Highway Patrol will enforce traffic laws. Related fines can range from \$381 or more.

As drivers approach an express lane they will see a series of signs indicating both the oncoming express lane, as well as current tolls. These rates will vary depending on the time of day and level of congestion in the express lane.

### **SR 237 Entry and Exit Points**

One thing all drivers need to know is that the new express lanes will have limited entry and exit points. The limited entry and exit points will allow for a smoother flow in the corridor with minimal merging. It is good to plan ahead and determine if express lanes are appropriate for each driver's commute.

Commuters driving southbound I-880 can enter the express lane in Milpitas, south of Dixon Landing Road. As commuters continue westbound on SR 237 toward Mountain View, the double white lines will end after the North First Street exit. Toll paying drivers will have until Lawrence Expressway to exit the carpool lane.

Traveling eastbound on SR 237, commuters can enter the express lane between North First Street and Zanker Road. The double white line striping begins just after Zanker Road and will continue through northbound I-880, ending south of Dixon Landing Road in Milpitas. Toll paying drivers will have until Dixon Landing Road to exit the carpool lane.

### **Hours of Operation**

Express lanes will operate the same hours as carpool lanes, with the exception of an extended hour on westbound SR 237, 5 a.m. until 10 a.m. Eastbound commute hours will remain 5 a.m. - 9 a.m. The afternoon hours of operation in both directions remains 3 p.m. - 7p.m.

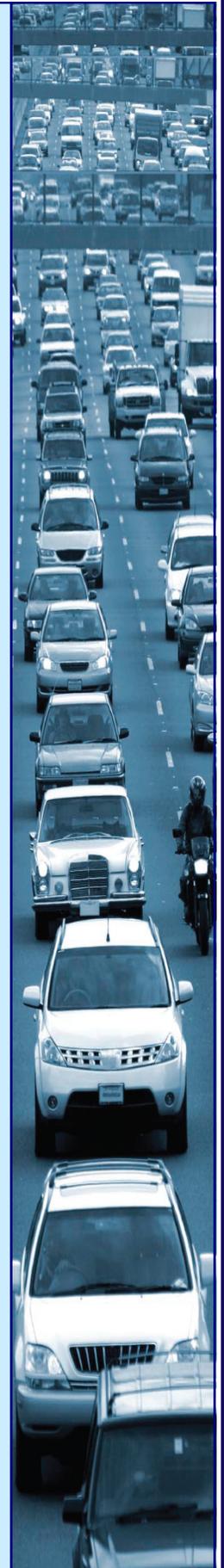
### **Tolling and FasTrak**

Tolls for solo drivers will be collected electronically using FasTrak technology already in use on Bay express Area bridges and express lanes throughout California. Revenues from these tolls remain in the corridor and will be used for operation, maintenance, enforcement costs, and transit improvements.

When a car equipped with a FasTrak transponder passes under an express lane antenna, the antenna will read the transponder, and the correct toll will automatically be deducted from the prepaid FasTrak account.

You can get your FasTrak transponder from [www.bayareafastrak.org](http://www.bayareafastrak.org), or from one of several retail locations throughout the Bay Area. You will need to register your transponder and set up a pre-paid account through [www.bayareafastrak.org](http://www.bayareafastrak.org), or phone, 1-877-229-8655.

For more information, please visit [www.vta.org/expresslanes](http://www.vta.org/expresslanes), email [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org), or call VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575. YouTube video "SR 237 Express Lanes (December 2011)" also explains how to use the new express lanes and can be found at [www.youtube.com/scvta](http://www.youtube.com/scvta).





## Neighborhood Groups

**Alviso Neighborhood Group**  
**Meets every 1st Thursday**  
**at 6PM at Fire Station 25**  
**Contact: Betty Brown**  
[betty@maileater.net](mailto:betty@maileater.net)

**Alviso Water Taskforce**  
**Meets every 2nd Wednesday**  
**at 6PM at the**  
**Alviso Library**  
[www.alvisowater.org](http://www.alvisowater.org)  
**Contact: Alviso Taskforce**  
[alvisowater@gmail.com](mailto:alvisowater@gmail.com)

**Berryessa Citizens**  
**Advisory Council**  
**Meets every 2nd Monday**  
**at 7PM at the**  
**Berryessa Community Ctr**  
**Contact: Ty Greaves**  
[tgreaves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tgreaves@sbcglobal.net)

**River Oaks**  
**Neighborhood Association**  
**Scheduled as needed**  
**Location TBA**  
**Contact: Jean Marlowe**  
[jean@jeanmarlowe.com](mailto:jean@jeanmarlowe.com)

**Townsend Park**  
**Neighborhood Association**  
**Meets twice yearly**  
**Location TBA**  
**Contact: Lori Wallace**  
[lori\\_wp@yahoo.com](mailto:lori_wp@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in starting a neighborhood group, please contact my office at [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov) or call (408) 535-4904 for assistance.

## District 4 Outstanding Citizen Award Honorees

I made a call for nominations with your help in nominating an outstanding individual, group of individuals, company, or organization that live, work, or volunteer in our community. Nominations were closed on December 16, 2011 and I received an overwhelming response.

I wish to congratulate the following for their efforts to make District 4 a true community.

<b>BETTY BROWN</b>	<i>"Current Chair for the Alviso Water Task Force and Alviso Neighborhood group, Betty gives so much of her personal time in making the Alviso community a better place to reside." - Richard P. Santos</i>
<b>BOBBIE EVANS</b>	<i>"As the President of the North Valley Council PTA, Bobbie has proven herself to be a dedicated and caring leader who wants to help promote the well being and success of all the students in the Berryessa Union School District." - Kim Gomez</i>
<b>GAYLE CALHOUN</b>	<i>"As Principal of Majestic Way Elementary School, Gayle has not only supported all PTA functions but she gets excited about them." - Anh Le</i>
<b>GEORGE GANGE</b>	<i>"George serves as a City of San Jose Airport Commissioner, member of American Legion, Northside Post 858, Veterans Supportive Services Agency, Inc., &amp; active member of the Filipino Community." - Tito Cortez</i>
<b>LINDA CHEN</b>	<i>"Linda is a teacher for the Santa Cruz School District and is always willing to help with any project or serve on any committee at school." - Linda Talmage</i>
<b>LISA BICKFORD</b>	<i>"Lisa coordinates many functions and fundraisers with several organizations in District 4 and is a great asset to the community." - Dean McCully</i>
<b>MANJU RAMACHANDRAN</b>	<i>"As PTA President at Noble Elementary, Manju is a great leader, takes initiatives, and takes the time to talk to individuals at a personal level." - Matt Murphy and Kelly Kwong</i>
<b>MASAKO DUNN</b>	<i>"Masako has been a dedicated volunteer parent at Northwood Elementary School for the past four years." - Kim Gomez</i>
<b>MIKE FLAUGHER</b>	<i>"Mike is a compassionate, hard working community member and has tackled many projects in Berryessa." - Rose Whitcomb, Larry Whitcomb &amp; Frank Cancilla</i>
<b>PAT GARCIA</b>	<i>"Pat has been a resident in District 4 for over 35 years and is first and foremost an active volunteer in the community." - Patty McDonald</i>
<b>PATTY MCDONALD</b>	<i>"As a Principal at Summerdale, and formerly at Northwood, Patty has provided leadership to teachers and community members in the implementation of programs that support success in "schools for all students." - Bobby Infelise</i>
<b>RACHEL IMAZUMI</b>	<i>"Along with her husband, Willy Imazumi, Rachel supports the community with baked goods delivery to the Berryessa Community Center." - Charles Bunchanan</i>
<b>SANDRA BLISS</b>	<i>"Sandra is the President of the Parent Boosters, and coordinates a handful of volunteers and manages several projects at the school." - Brenda Koehler</i>
<b>TED LOPEZ</b>	<i>"Ted was very active as a volunteer when he was an active member of the San José Fire Department and he continues to serve as a retiree." - Richard P. Santos</i>
<b>TELMA RANGEL</b>	<i>"Telma Rangel has been an active volunteer and PTA board member of Noble Elementary PTA for over 3 years focusing on teaching children the value of being Green." - Manju Ramachandran</i>
<b>WILLY IMAZUMI</b>	<i>"Willy plays an important role in the community by working for many years at the Berryessa Community Center." - Charles Bunchanan</i>
<b>BERRYESSA SENIOR BREAD PROGRAM</b>	<i>"The Berryessa Senior Bread Program volunteers has one of the best volunteers in the community." - Charles Bunchanan</i>
<b>BERRYESSA CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	<i>"BCAC has provided valuable recognition, leadership development, and political awareness." - Ty Greaves</i>
<b>JOY OF DANCING – DYNAMIC DANCE TEAM</b>	<i>"Joy of Dancing - Dynamic Dance Team has the most supportive parents and teachers and they will have a lot to contribute to their society in the future." - Ann Wong</i>



## Great American Litter Pick-Up

As Co-Chair of the Silicon Valley Anti-Litter Campaign, I would like to invite District 4 community members to do their part in helping to keep San José clean, improve the environment, and contribute to a better quality of life by volunteering in the 2012 Great American Litter Pick-Up. The event will take place on Saturday, March 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Kick off locations will be at the Berryessa Community Center, the Alviso Youth Center, Piedmont Hills and Independence High Schools.

The Great American Litter Pick-Up event is part of a national effort to help keep our country beautiful. This is an annual event where hundreds of volunteers citywide come out to help pick up litter in their neighborhoods. At the Great American Litter Pick-Up, the City of San José will provide the litter clean up supplies: gloves, pick-up sticks, safety vest, and trash and recycling bags. A lunch celebration at the Berryessa Community Center and the Alviso Youth Center will be organized for volunteers on that day as well.

Last year's event was a success! District 4 once again received recognition for having the most volunteers participate in this citywide event. Despite the rain, over 400 volunteers in District 4 showed their commitment to the community through their service, and this truly exhibits the dedication that embodies the spirit of District 4. I was impressed by the level of dedication demonstrated by our volunteers. Keeping our neighborhoods clean takes a community-wide effort and I want to commend all the volunteers who participated in this event for their effort and hard work. I hope that we can all continue to take pride in our communities and do what we can to keep our City clean and beautiful!

Please contact my office at (408) 535-4904 or email [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov) for more information or if you are interested in volunteering.



Councilmember Chu with volunteers at the Small Business Start Up Seminar on January 7, 2012.



Councilmember Chu attends Noble Elementary School's Spelling Bee Competition on January 19, 2012.



Councilmember Chu attends the Vietnamese New Year Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall on January 23, 2012.

## COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012**

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

**Alviso Branch Library  
5050 North First Street**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012**

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

**Berryessa Branch Library, Room C  
3355 Noble Avenue**

Since I have been elected to serve you in 2007, I have committed over 200 hours in community office hours to receive feedback and provide assistance to residents with over 200 cases. Over the past four years, I have enjoyed meeting with many of you and being able to assist you regarding City issues. I encourage you to continue to take advantage of the community office hours so that I may be of assistance to you all.

Please call the District 4 office at (408) 535-4904 to book a 15 minute appointment.

*Dates and locations are subject to change. Please call for confirmed times and locations.*





## City & Community Contacts

City Hall Call Center

(408) 535-3500

Abandoned Vehicles

(408) 277-5305

Alviso Branch Library

(408) 263-3626

Alviso Youth Center

(408) 423-1706

Anti-Graffiti & Litter

(866) 249-0543

Berryessa Branch Library

(408) 808-3050

Berryessa Community &

Senior Center

(408) 251-6392

Berryessa Youth Center

(408) 715-6557

Code Enforcement

(408) 535-7770

Crime Prevention

(408) 277-4133

Garbage & Recycling

(408) 535-3500

Our City Forrest

(408) 998-7337

Parks & Recreation

(408) 535-3570

Sidewalk Repair

(408) 277-3158

Street Lights

(408) 794-1903

Street Sweeping

(408) 283-4800

Tree Trimming & Removal

(408) 277-2762

# Meet Your District 4 Team

**Stephanie Fong, District Director**

[stephanie.fong@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:stephanie.fong@sanjoseca.gov)

### FOCUS AREAS

Land Use, Budget, Capital Improvement Projects, Intergovernmental Relations, Labor, Personnel, Intern Coordination, and Media Relations.

### COMMITTEES

Rules and Open Government



**Margie Espinoza, Executive Assistant**

[margie.espinoza@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:margie.espinoza@sanjoseca.gov)

### FOCUS AREAS

Councilmember Scheduling, Office Administration, Constituent Services, and Event Planning.

**Sheila Ngo, Policy Analyst**

[sheila.ngo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:sheila.ngo@sanjoseca.gov)

### FOCUS AREAS

North San José Neighborhood, Land Use, Environmental Policy, Airport, Economic Development, Newsletter, Social Media, and Constituent Services.

### COMMITTEES

Community and Economic Development; Transportation and Environment; Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support



**Rosa Santiago, Council Assistant**

[rosa.santiago@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rosa.santiago@sanjoseca.gov)

### FOCUS AREAS

Alviso Neighborhood, Parks & Recreation, Trails, Community Centers, Libraries, Schools, Public Safety, Constituent Services, Event Planning, and Neighborhood Watch.

### COMMITTEES

Neighborhood Services and Education; Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support

**Anh Tran, Council Assistant**

[anh.tran@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:anh.tran@sanjoseca.gov)

### FOCUS AREAS

Berryessa Neighborhood, Transportation, Housing, Environment, Mobilehome Communities, Code Enforcement, and Constituent Services.

### COMMITTEES

Neighborhood Services and Education; Transportation and Environment





## DISTRICT 4 CALENDAR

For up-to-date event information, visit [sanjoseca.gov/district4](http://sanjoseca.gov/district4) and email [district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov) to receive e-Notices.



# FEBRUARY

### LUNAR NEW YEAR in BERRYESSA

11:30AM-4:30PM  
Berryessa Branch Library  
3355 Noble Avenue

Call (408) 808-3050 for more info.

### 2 ALVISO NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP MEETING

6:00PM-8:00PM

Fire Station 25  
5125 Wilson Way

Contact ANG President, Betty Brown at [betty@maileater.net](mailto:betty@maileater.net).

### 8 RIVER OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING for

401/405 River Oaks Parkway Rezoning

Meeting starts at 6:00PM

405 River Oaks Parkway

Contact RONA President, Jean Marlowe at [marlowe@ro-na.org](mailto:marlowe@ro-na.org).

### 8 ALVISO WATER TASKFORCE

6:00PM-8:00PM

Alviso Branch Library  
5050 North First Street

Contact Betty Brown at [AlvisoTaskforce@betty.maileater.net](mailto:AlvisoTaskforce@betty.maileater.net).

### 9 THE 2012 STATE of the CITY ADDRESS

Doors Open at 6:00PM

San José Civic Auditorium  
135 West San Carlos Street

Contact the Mayor's Office at (408) 535-4800 to register.

### 13 BERRYESSA CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

7:00PM-8:30PM

Berryessa Community Center  
3050 Berryessa Road

Contact BCAC President, Ty Greaves at [tgreaves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tgreaves@sbcglobal.net)

### 16 BERRYESSA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

9:00AM-10:30AM

Panera Bread  
1706 Oakland Road

Contact BBA President, Frank Cancilla at [fccreaty@gmail.com](mailto:fccreaty@gmail.com)

### 20 PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY

City Hall Closed



# MARCH

### 1 ALVISO NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP MEETING

6:00PM-8:00PM

Fire Station 25  
5125 Wilson Way

Contact Betty Brown at [betty@maileater.net](mailto:betty@maileater.net).

### 3 FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

8:30AM-1:00PM

Cherrywood Elementary School  
2550 Greengate Drive

Contact Rosa Santiago at (408) 535-4904 for more info.



### 10 DONATION & E-WASTE DRIVE

10:00AM-1:00PM

Northwood Elementary School  
2760 Trimple Road

Contact Sheila Ngo at (408) 535-4904 for more info.

### 14 COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

6:00PM-8:00PM

Berryessa Library, Room C  
3355 Noble Avenue

Please call (408) 535-4904 to schedule a 15 appointment.

### 17 GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICK-UP

9:00AM-12:30PM

Alviso Youth Center  
Berryessa Community Center  
Independence High School  
Piedmont Hills High School

Call (408) 535-4904 to volunteer.



Councilmember Chu presents Bill Hughes with a commendation at the Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council Meeting on December 12, 2011.



Councilmember Chu leads Brooktree Elementary School on a tour at City Hall on December 13, 2011.



Mayor Reed & Acting Director of PRNS Julie Edmonds-Mare, Councilmember Kalra recognizes Councilmember Chu as the 2011 Great American Litter Pick-Up Winner.

Event dates are subject to change. Please contact the District 4 office at (408) 535-4904 to confirm events.

# VOLUNTEER IN DISTRICT 4!



## Friends of the Library Program

District 4 is proud to have two libraries to serve our community. Call today for volunteer opportunities!

**Friends of Alviso Library • (408) 263-3626**  
**Friends of Berryessa Library • (408) 808-2181**



## Celebrating 25 Years **Santa Visits Alviso**



Santa Visits Alviso has been serving the Alviso Community since 1983 and is dedicated to bringing gifts & the Spirit of the Holidays to hundreds of toddlers and teens every year. Santa Visits Alviso is an all volunteer organization & is active year long.

[rpsantos@scvwd.dst.ca.us](mailto:rpsantos@scvwd.dst.ca.us) • [www.alvisosanta.com](http://www.alvisosanta.com)

## Adopt A Park Program

Adopt a Park Program strives to protect and enhance San José's neighborhood parks and open spaces by volunteer support, and at the same time dedicated to educating San José residents about the importance of parks. Adopt a Park today!

**(408) 793-4190 • [www.sjadoptapark.org](http://www.sjadoptapark.org)**



## Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley strives to provide high quality care and rehabilitation for injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife within the Silicon Valley Community. Volunteer to assist our wildlife!

**(408) 929-9453 • [www.wcsv.org](http://www.wcsv.org)**

## Berryessa Community Center Advisory Council Recruitment

BCCAC is recruiting for new members! BCCAC supports activities and events throughout the year at the community center. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Lauri Yarwasky: **(408) 521-6392 • [Lauri.Yarwasky@sanJoseca.gov](mailto:Lauri.Yarwasky@sanJoseca.gov)**

## Help an Adult Improve Their Reading and Writing!

Become a volunteer tutor for the adult literacy program, Partners in Reading, at the San José Public Library (SJPL). One-on-one tutoring will take place within branches of the SJPL & other public sites in San José. All sessions are required and participants must register in advance.

**Partners in Reading • (408) 808-2361**

