Kalra Capitol Report





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Today

Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Honored During the Month of May

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and to recognize our AAPI community leaders Assembly-member Ash Kalra hosted an intimate gathering for honorees and their guests at Sushi Confidential in Downtown San Jose. Five distinguished individuals and organizations were honored for their exemplary service that has empowered our diverse community: Adam S. Juratovac, Esq., India Currents, Khang Q. Vuong, Akbayan San José State University, and Professor Teck Ky.



Leader in Advocacy Award: Adam S. Juratovac, Esq. is a California Employment Law Attorney who has successfully championed causes such as employee rights and fair pay. In 2021, Adam organized two #StopAsianHate Community Rallies in San Jose which captured the nation's attention at a time when hate crimes against Asian communities were on the rise.

Leader in Media Award: India Currents has been a well-recognized nonprofit, nonpartisan, multi-platform ethnic media organization for more than thirty five years in the Bay Area. Over the past three years, India Currents has produced more than twenty awardwinning pieces and co-hosted Civic Leadership Forums to build civic leadership in Asian American communities.

Leader in Public Service Award: Khang Q. Vuong (aka Kayla) served as non-clinical manager of Santa Clara County's Public Health Department Mobile Vaccination Clinic, and previously as a Support Staff between May 2021 and March 2022. Kayla's team helped expand access to safe vaccination against COVID-19 and ensure healthcare resources were distributed to those most in need.

Leader in Student Advocacy Award: Akbayan San José State University is a respected and well-recognized student organization. Founded in 1976, Akbayan started out with a group of Pilipinx/Pilipinx-American college students gaining consciousness about their heritage and culture. Since then, this organization has strived to increase our knowledge of the Pilipinx/Pilipinx-American culture.

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FY2022-23 APPROVED CALIFORNIA BUDGET

K-12 Funding Includes:

• \$1.2 billion in ongoing Proposition 98 General to fund reimbursements for the universal school meals program.

• \$500 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the special education funding formula to increase the base rate to \$820.

<u>Higher Education Funding Includes:</u>

- \$1.2 billion for student housing projects across UC, CSU, and CCC campuses.
- \$125 million each for UC and CSU for deferred maintenance and energy efficiency projects.
- \$30 million for community colleges to support healthcare-focused vocational pathways for English language learners.

<u>Small Business & Non-Profit Funding Includes:</u>

- \$870 million to provide full rebates for upcoming increases in federal Unemployment Insurance costs for the first 250 employees for every business.
- \$250 million for relief grants for small businesses and non-profits with up to 150 employees to offset costs of recently enacted Paid Sick Leave program.
- \$100 million for additional COVID Relief Small Business Grants, in addition to ensuring small businesses and non-profits can access existing grant programs.

<u>Labor & Workforce funding Includes:</u>

- \$50 million for the Statewide Reentry Employment Grant Program.
- \$8 million to support microenterprise home kitchen operations by allowing home cooks to apply for local permits and receive financial support.
- \$281.1 million to support workforce development programs for careers in behavioral health, public health, primary care and reproductive health.

<u>Housing & homelessness funding Includes:</u>

- \$350 million for the CalHome program.
- \$200 million for the new Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program to assist in the preservation of affordable housing.
- \$75 million for the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention program.
- \$30 million for eviction defense.

Working Families Relief funding Includes:

- \$8 billion for the Better For Families Rebates plan to provide relief to Californians from the impacts of high gas prices and other growing costs due to inflation.
- \$200 million and trailer bill language establishing the Workers Tax Fairness Credit and requiring that the credit level be set in the annual budget act.
- ullet Expands Medi-Cal to all eligible Californians regardless of immigration status.

<u>Health funding Includes:</u>

- **\$1 billion** for immediate, clinically enhanced bridge housing solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness.
- \$261 million to protect access to abortion and other reproductive health care.
- \$290 million for youth behavioral health and suicide prevention programs.
- \$31 million to expand eligibility for Medi-Cal coverage for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Hearts & Minds Activity Center Expands Services to Meet Growing Demand



The Hearts & Minds Activity Center in San José has always been an essential part of the community that long supported and served our residents living with Alzheimer's and Dementia. As the demand for care increased, Hearts & Mind Activity Center expanded their services by opening a second adjacent location. On May 12th, Assemblymember Ash Kalra joined the community in celebrating the ribbon cutting ceremony of the second facility, which was made possible by the Summit League.

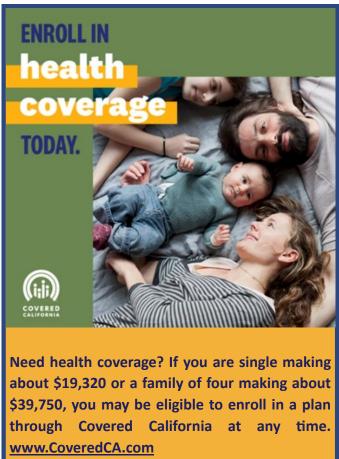
Established in 1957, Summit League is a non-profit organization committed to raising funds in the areas of education, health, welfare and the arts. To date, Summit League has donated over two million dollars to enhance the

lives of the Silicon Valley community. The organization held a garden party fundraiser to help fund the new activity center on Enborg Lane. The grand opening celebration included activity center clients and their families, staff, and Summit League volunteers.

The Hearts & Minds Activity Center helps enrich the lives of people affected by Alzheimer's Disease and related conditions by providing interactive, safe, nurturing, intergenerational services and support. They most importantly create a culture that respects, protects and values people with Alzheimer's by treating their center participants like family and giving them the resources necessary to be safe, independent, and just be themselves again. The center serves on average 80-90 clients per day at their adult daycare, with roughly 246 individuals being served annually. In addition to their adult daycare, Hearts & Minds also offers childcare, serving an average of 15 children per day.

To learn more about the Hearts & Minds Activity Center and how it can help your loved one living with Alzheimer's and Dementia, please visit https://www.heartsandmindsactivitycenter.org/.





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EARN \$500 FOR 5 HOURS OF ONLINE TRAINING

You are invited to participate! The online FutureFit Fundamentals Contractor Training provides the latest in all-electric building practices to prepare contractors for the growing demand for all-electric residential systems.

General contractors, electricians, heating and air conditioning contractors, plumbers and solar installers who live or work in Santa Clara County will receive a \$500 stipend upon completing the FutureFit Fundamentals Contractor Training. The course covers allelectric HVAC, heat pump water heating, all-electric home appli-



ances and home solar+battery storage. The training is provided by Silicon Valley Clean Energy in partnership with the San Jose Evergreen Community College District – Workforce Institute.

After completing the course, eligible contractors may also qualify to receive up to \$5,000 for applying what they learned and installing selected electric appliances in their home or business. Visit SVCleanEnergy.org/FutureFit-Fundamentals to learn more and sign up!

Kalra Kicks Off Alum Rock Counseling Center Luncheon



On April 15th, Alum Counseling Rock Center (ARCC) welcomed guests back to their in-person Annual **Fundraisina** Luncheon at the beautiful Mexican Heritage Plaza in east San José. With a mission to address the

needs of at-risk youth, ARCC has been a trailblazer in building strong communities for local youth and families by providing resources and programs for behavioral health and emotional crisis. This year's theme for their luncheon was "Unmasking the Potential in Today's Youth," and Assemblymember Kalra was invited to kick off this event with welcoming remarks. Kalra applauded the counseling center's positive energy and advocacy, highlighting the importance of the work to be done on academic, social, and behavioral health issues for underserved individuals and communities.

"As we heal individually and collectively from the losses and challenges each of us has faced during the pandemic, agencies such as Alum Rock Counseling Center will be critical in making sure our most vulnerable youth and families are not forgotten," shared Assemblymember Kalra. "They have a voice -- a voice to access the behavioral healthcare and other resources they need to heal."

CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program Appeals Process

If you have received a CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program Denial Letter and do not agree with the decision, you have up to 30 days from the date the letter was disbursed to visit the hyperlink in the Denial Letter and submit your appeal. Once you have submitted your appeal, you will be redirected, and a confirmation email will be sent. Additionally, your participation status will change from Denied to Appeal Submitted. Please note that new or updated documentation must be submitted through the Appeal Portal and not Neighborly. Once the appeal is submitted, a case manager and supervisor will review and/or escalate your case for further review of the submitted documentation

Appeals coordinators have 30 days from case assignment to make an appeal determination. The exact time it takes for the Appeals Coordinator to reach a decision is dependent upon the information you provide and the complexity of the situation.

If you need support with completing the appeal, you should contact the call center at (833) 430-2122 or email appeal@ca-rentrelief.com. If more direct support in another language is needed, you can reach out to (833) 687-0967.

AAPI Community Honored (continued from pg. 1)

Norman Y. Mineta Legacy Award: Professor Teck Ky currently teaches Mathematics at Evergreen Valley College (EVC). He arrived in the U.S. as a teenage refugee in 1981 from Cambodia and overcame many challenges. Unsurprisingly, having been an outstanding professor at EVC for the last twenty five years, Teck discovered that he has taught mathematics to three generations of one family – his current student, her mother, and her grandmother.

Due to the recent passing of Norman Mineta, former San Jose Mayor and first Asian American Cabinet Secretary, the AAPI Legacy Award was re-named after Mr. Mineta to reflect the legacy he left in San Jose and across the nation. Congratulations to our 2022 AAPI Heritage Month honorees!

Let's Welcome La Michoacana Las Delicias



On May 21st, La Michoacana Las Delicias opened its doors in Assembly District 27 to residents of East San José and surrounding communities. Owners Sergio and Yolanda Correia hosting a ribbon cut-

ting celebration that was attended by community members and elected representatives, including Assemblymember Ash Kalra. Sergio and Yolanda are Portuguese & Mexican immigrants. Together, they wanted to bring those childhood antojitos, snacks many Latino immigrants remember with nostalgia, back to life and share them with the community!

At La Michoacana Las Delicias, you will find a wide variety of snacks ranging from sweet and creamy paletas made with 100% natural ingredients and fresh fruit to savory and spicy esquites (corn topped with sour cream, cotija cheese and seasonings). No matter what you are into, La Michoacana Las Delicias will fulfill your cravings! We are grateful for the economic contributions and authentic Latino food La Michoacana Las Delicias will bring to residents of Assembly District 27 and wish the Corriera family continued success for this milestone accomplishment! Located at 1163 E. Williams Court, Suite 25, you can find La Michoacana Las Delicias as your new home away from home

choacana Las Delicias as your new home away from home. Feel free to visit their website at https://lamichoacanalasdelicias.com/ to learn more about the delicious food they have to offer, and please stop by and support your local business.

Alum Rock Park Celebrates 150th Birthday



There has been an ongoing debate in the park community regarding which park is the oldest in California. Some may argue that it's Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and some may say it's Balboa Park in San Diego. But one thing is for sure (only be-

cause we are San José loyal): Alum Rock Park is the oldest municipal park in California.

On May 14th, Alum Rock Park located in the East Foothills celebrated its 150th birthday. Joined by hundreds of families, elected officials, and park lovers, the birthday celebration was a reminder of how lucky we are in San José to have a natural area that is a piece of history.

Founded in 1872, this 720- acre gem is known for its natural, rugged beauty. From 1890 to 1932, Alum Rock Park was actually nationally known for being a health spa with 27 mineral springs, an indoor swimming pool, tea garden, restaurant, and dance pavilion. They even had a small zoo. Now, visitors of Alum Rock Park can hike, bike, horseback ride, picnic and bird watch.

There is also the Youth Science Institute which opened in 1953 that offers hands-on, nature-based, science education to children and parkgoers, in addition to science safaris and summer camps.

On the day of the celebration, visitors were able to enjoy resource booths, a rock climbing wall, giveaways, and live music. It was the perfect birthday party! "This park has been a part of history and a part of the lives of many residents here in San José," said Kalra. "We are so fortunate to have this beautiful natural habitat preserved for all generations to enjoy, and to remember that we are home to the oldest municipal park in state history."

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SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE for children of farm workers

Saturday, June 25, 1 p.m - 3 p.m.

SUPPLIES IN NEED (NEW ONLY):

- Backpacks (always in great need; no red or bright blue, no military/camo, no corporate logos/promotions and no personal or promotional)
- Spiral notebooks (college and wide rule, 1-subject, 70-120 sheets)
- Composition Books (college and wide r-Rule)
- Glue sticks (small)
- 2-pocket folders (students)
- Highlighters (standard)
- Mechanical pencils
- Pencil pouches (zip bags) that fit into 3-hole notebooks

- Standard ballpoint pens (blue, black)
- Large erasers and pencil caps
- Pencil sharpeners
- Rulers
- Crayons (24-pack)
- Colored markers (regular tip, 8 or 10 pack)
- 3-ring binders (1 or 2 inch)
- 3-ring binders (large)
- White, lined 3-hole filler paper (college and wide r-Rule, 200sheet packs)
- Pencils
- Basic handheld calculators



Happy Lemon 567 Coleman Ave Suite 10 San José, CA 95110

First 50 people to donate will receive a free fruit tea!





For more information, visit: Foodispower.org/SSD

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47th Annual Black April Commemoration Returns to San José City Hall

April 30th marks an important day in history that brings the Vietnamese community and allies together to pay respects. You will see yellow-and-red-striped flags of the Republic of Vietnam raised in remembrance of the tragedy and lives lost during the Fall of Saigon, which marked the end of the Vietnam War. Black April honors the historic date of April 30, 1975, when hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees fled their homeland in search of freedom in foreign lands because their rights would suffer under the incoming communist regime. Because many escaped through the sea, the term "boat people" was coined. This year, the remembrance ceremony for Black April officially returned since going virtual due to the pandemic.



The 47th Annual Black April Day event was hosted on April 30th by the non-profit organization, the Vietnamese American Roundtable, at San José City Hall. Assemblymember Kalra who participated in the remembrance delivered an emotional tribute about the refugees' struggle to find a better future for themselves and their families in a new country. Knowing the value of this complex history, Kalra encouraged young generations to seek opportunities to be informed about the legacy of Vietnamese refugee communities and to stand in solidarity with them.

Assemblymember Kalra shared that, "Since each refugee's story is the story of our community and country, I firmly stand with the honorable freedom flag of the Republic of Vietnam in the defense of dignity and democracy, and hope that our future generations will continue to do the same."

Union Pacific Railroad Quiet Zones Becomes a Reality for San Jose Residents



May 20th, 2022 marked a celebratory moment for residents (and a collective sigh of relief) as the City of San José unveiled the creation of a partial Quiet Zone in the Warm Springs and Japantown neighborhoods For a few years, the residents of Warm Springs and Japantown have had to endure the sudden change in Union Pacific Railroad's (UPRR) operating hours, which created the inconvenience and nuisance of multiple and daily nighttime horn uses. To paint a better picture, these horn noise levels would reach between 96 and 110 decibels, which is equivalent to the sound of a jet taking off or a nearby rock concert.

This all started back in October of 2018 when UPRR adopted a new operating plan, which modified its operations, including an increase in train operations at night. Because UPRR operations fall under federal oversight, the only option was for the City of San José to work with the Federal Railroad Administration to apply for and evaluate the potential for a Quiet Zone, which is a segment of a rail line situated on one or more rail crossings where trains cannot sound their horns.

In 2021, after hearing from dozens of residents about the nightly train horns, Assemblymember Ash Kalra submitted a budget request to allocate \$8 million in one-time funding to partially fund the Quiet Zone rail crossing improvements in the Warms Springs and Japantown neighborhood. This was then signed by Governor Newsom so that the City could begin its work. Since the partial Quiet Zone went into place, neighbors have been able to sleep throughout the night and not have to worry about hearing those incessant horns again.

"What a relief it is for our residents to be able to sleep soundly each night now," said Kalra. "Getting this Quiet Zone was quite literally a team effort: from our residents who voiced their concerns, to our elected officials from San Jose, the County, and State and Federal levels all working together to make this a peaceful reality for our community."

California Student Borrower BILL OF RIGHTS



What you need to know

The California Student Borrower Bill of Rights was established by AB-376. These rights apply to all Californians with federal and/or private student loans.

- Loan servicers must provide borrowers with accurate information about loan terms, repayment options, and benefits.
- 2 Loan servicers must process and post loan payments in a timely manner.
- Loan servicers must allocate any overpayments in a manner that is in the best financial interest of a student loan borrower.
- Loan servicers must minimize late fees—to not exceed 6% of any past due amount.
- Loan servicers must process paperwork in a timely manner.
- 6 Loan servicers must respond to a borrower's Qualified Written Request (QWR) within 30 business days.
- If a student loan is transferred, the original loan servicer must notify the borrower of these changes at least 15 days before a payment is due.
- Special protections are established for military borrowers, borrowers working in public service, older borrowers, and borrowers with disabilities.
- If a loan servicer does not follow the terms above, a borrower can take legal action against them. This is called a "Private Right of Action."

For more information, visit www.dfpi.ca.gov/studentborrower-resources.

Follow us











Juneteenth in San José Moves to SoFA District for First Time



On Saturday, June 18th, hundreds of people filled South First Street in the SoFA District (South First Area) to celebrate the 41st Annual Juneteenth Festival. Hosted by the African American Community Service Agency (AACSA) and previously held each year at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in downtown San José, the festival's new location brought a fresh vibe and ambiance for this local popular tradition. Juneteenth, which is a federally recognized holiday on June 19th, marks the day in history when slavery finally came to an end in the United States after the Civil War. Commemorated since the late 1800s, Juneteenth not only recognizes "emancipation day", but also serves as a reminder of the rooted injustices and racism in our nation's history.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra spoke at the San José festival to thank AACSA for continuing this successful tradition, but also made it clear that more work needs to be done by elected officials, corporations, and society in general because the very same injustices and racism still exists in our nation. Kalra then shared that involuntary servitude is actually still in the California State Constitution. There is currently a bill making its way through the legislature, Assembly Concurrent Amendment (ACA) 3, co-authored by Assemblymember Kalra, that prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude in California, striking references to both from the State Constitution.

Legislators Tour Interim Housing Community in San José

On June 3rd, Mayor Sam Liccardo invited California legislators, Assemblymembers Ash Kalra and Evan Low, to tour a quick-build modular interim housing community in San José off Evans Lane to not only showcase the efficiency and affordability of the project, but also to emphasize the need for continued state funding to help lift unhoused families and individuals off the streets.

With the State's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program funding, the City of San José was able to construct the Evans Lane housing site in less than a year, costing less than \$66,000 per resident bed. Evans Lane is one of three quick-build modular communities built at the beginning of the pandemic that provide 317 resident beds for formerly unhoused individuals and families.

The HHAP Program was created by the State of California, which required local governments receiving funding to submit local homelessness action plans to California Interagency Council on Homelessness by June 30, 2022. As part of the 2021 Budget Act, \$1 billion is currently available for HHAP in 2022-23.



Assemblymember Kalra stated, "We are seeing the funding quickly go to good use, and I will continue to be a champion and partner to ensure that adequate funding will be available for the continued success for interim housing communities to lift our residents out of homelessness."



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STATE PARKS AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES PARTNER TO PROMOTE A HEALTHIER CALIFORNIA



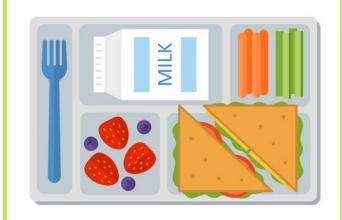
The California Department of Health Services and California State Parks partnered to promote a healthier California. With summer approaching, we encourage traveling to California's 279 state parks to

enjoy the warm weather and activities like camping, hiking, biking and swimming as they are a great way to help boost your mood and get some exercise. State Parks are the perfect places to visit to reconnect with nature, as well as family and friends. Step into the outdoors and away from your day-to-day responsibilities while supporting your long-term health and wellness. Enjoy your favorite recreational activity by getting vaccinated. Everyone ages five and up can get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Vaccines are the safer way to stay protected against serious illness, hospitalization or death from COVID-19. They also can prevent long COVID, which can last for months, even in people who had mild or no symptoms. Find a vaccine near you by visiting MyTurn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255.

SAN JOSÉ UNIFIED MEALS PROGRAM FOR SUMMER 2022

San José Unified School District is bringing back their meals program for the summer of 2022. The program will provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students enrolled in a summer learning program with San José Unified. In addition, under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast Programs, brunch will be offered at no cost to students and community members under 18.

For a complete list of participating schools and their schedules, please visit <u>go.sjusd.org/</u> meals2022-eng.



Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Care Center, and Make a Best Friend for Life!

June Feature: Lugnut ID#A1249815



Lugnut is a neutered male, tabby-brown Domestic Shorthair. The shelter staff think he's about 1 year and 9 months, and he has been at the shelter since May 3, 2022.

Lugnut is a friendly guy, in a dude kind of way. He likes to hang out with you, just not all over you. He's a curious guy and likes to know what's going on. And play — he really likes to play! Due to his high energy level and the possibility of overstimulation, Lugnut would do best in an adult home with cat experience. Teens are a possibility if they have cat experience.

Want to learn more about Lugnut, or make yourself a new best friend for life? Then please visit the San José Animal Care Center website at www.sanjoseanimals.com, or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297). Adoptions are conducted Tuesday through Sunday between 9am and 4pm, on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. If you are interested in adopting,

please write down the I.D. number of the pet you would like (example: A1234567).



Contact Us!

Want to sign up for the newsletter? Please email Stacie Shih at stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov.





State Agencies Contact Information

Administrative Law	(916) 323-6225
Aging	(916) 419-7500
Alcoholic Beverage Control	(916) 419-2500
Board of Equalization	(800) 400-7115
Bureau of Automotive Repair	(800) 952-5210
California Courts	(415) 865-4200
California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
Caltrans	(916) 654-2852
Child Supportive Services	(866) 901-3212
Consumer Affairs	(800) 952-5210
Controller's Office	(916) 445-3028
Developmental Services	(916) 654-1690
Employment Development	(800) 300-5616
Fair Employment & Housing	(800) 884-1684
Fair Political Practices Commission	(916) 322-5660
Fish & Wildlife	(916) 445-0411
Food & Agriculture	(916) 654-0466
Health Care Services	(916) 445-1248
High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0369
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626

GET YOUR REAL ID TODAY

Get your REAL ID ahead of the <u>new May 3</u>, <u>2023 deadline</u> to ensure you can continue to board domestic flights and enter federal facilities using your license or ID. No appointment needed!

The federal REAL ID Act places new rules on which forms of identification may be used to board flights within the United States and enter



secure federal facilities, such as military bases, federal courthouses, and other federal facilities. A California issued REAL ID driver's license or identification card meets these new requirements and is marked with a gold bear and star.

For more information, please visit the DMV website at: https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/