

July, 2017



Community Highlights

- **Resident Leadership Group in East Gilroy, Nueva Vida activates San Ysidro Park through dance, art, and fitness classes!**
- **Community Gardening: A Violence Prevention Strategy**
- **Soccer Field Project: Here's how you can help! See <https://www.project-access.org/donate/sjsoccerfield/> for more details.**

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Neighborhood Safety/ Services Unit (NSU)

**Get Your Daughter in the Game
By Charmayne Moran**

In collaboration with the Bay Area Women's Soccer Imitative (BAWSI), and the San Jose Earthquakes Community Foundation, members of the Valley Palms Neighborhood Association (VPNA) were invited to join legendary, Women's World Cup champion, Brandi Chastain, and several other professional and collegiate soccer players from Santa Clara University, for an evening of dialogue, food, and of course, soccer! *Get Your Daughters In the Game* was a once in a lifetime opportunity for VPNA families, not only to have the entire AVAYA stadium to themselves, but to meet and talk with soccer players who have allowed their profound love for the sport, carry into their professional careers. Over thirty fathers and daughters from Valley Palms participated in the event.

Jennifer Smith, CEO of BAWSI, has time and time again, assisted the NSU, Project Access and the VPNA in cultivating a relationship with the San Jose Earthquakes Community Foundation. Through this partnership, Jennifer has allowed the VPNA to elevate their dream to build a synthetic soccer field in their neighborhood. A soccer field in Valley Palms means more youth involved in productive, educational, and most importantly, fun activities. All of which revolve around East Side San Jose's love for Soccer! See more pictures of the event on page 5.



Brandi Chastain and Valley Palms Youth at the May 21st, *Get Your Daughters in the Game* event at the Avaya Stadium in San Jose, CA.

San Ysidro's Community Coalition "Nueva Vida" Continues to Grow

The resident group from East Side Gilroy, San Ysidro Nueva Vida is working to provide pro-social activities and community building opportunities for residents and youth of the San Ysidro Park neighborhood. The Nueva Vida leadership committee along



with the East Gilroy community created a vision statement that perfectly describes how they envision

their community: "Our vision is to have a safe and clean park for our community. Cont. Page 3



**In the news:
VPNA launched
their own website:**

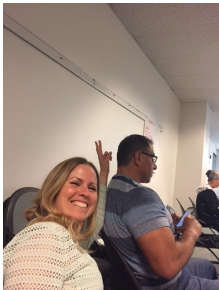
[https://
www.valleypalmsn
eighborhood.com/](https://www.valleypalmsneighborhood.com/)

Featured Selfies:



Tamalca Harris and her walking crew!

**Caught red-handed
Corner:**



Texting and RJing at the same time!



NOT AGAIN! Johnny Gogo checks his important email while having lunch in downtown Gilroy.

NSU Rides!

By Sash Singh

The NSU Team works hard, but they also play hard! Each team member is usually out and about on their own ensuring that they are doing their part to keep the NSU and Peer Court programs running effectively and efficiently. However, whether it is a birthday lunch at BJ's, a unit meeting at the Rose Garden, or a grueling hike at Alum Rock Park, the NSU team always sets aside time to hang out!

For their latest weekend excursion, Hector, Sash, Anthony, and Aundraya set out to burn some serious calories with an

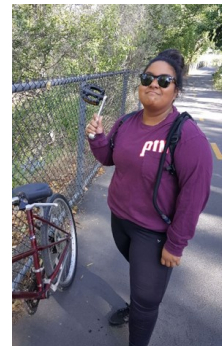


intense 10-mile bike ride on Los Gatos Creek Trail.

Although Aundraya encountered some technical difficul-

ties with a broken pedal...

...team handyman, Hector, saved the day with his vast knowledge of the intricacies of bike building.



South Valley Middle School —Pride in Mural!

By Anthony Bravo

Gilroy's South Valley Middle School, in collaboration with the NSU, is in the process of reparation of the SVMS mural, Coding/Robotics, Mariachi, and Folklorico clubs. Members of the South Valley Middle School Campus Collaborative Team including SLS coordinator Jeannette Saldana, High Schooler Robotics President Alex, and parent repre-

sentative for Mariachi and Folklorico, are set on building capacity for the exciting after-school programs SVMC has to offer.

For all the History buffs, the original Gilroy High School location is currently where South Valley Middle School resides. The original High School which was built in 1912 was relocated to its current residence in 1978. This culturally



Hispanic mural (pictured to the right) was created shortly after the relocation in 1982.

The restoration of the SVMC mural has teachers and students both excited and proud of the history that their school provides. Exciting times to be a South Valley Tiger and to show community pride!



Cont. Gilroy's Nueva Vida Community Coalition

A park where families participate in sports and promote the academic success of our children. Inspiring positive and creative thinking, in harmony with our community. “

Once the Vision was complete these courageous and caring leaders of the community set out to make their vision a reality. This “Nueva Vida” group has acquired local volunteers who have begun offering recreational and education-

al workshops at the San Ysidro Community Center. These daily classes include Zumba, Sewing, Volleyball, and Pre-Hispanic/Christian dance classes “Danca Azteca Conchera”. All classes are free and available to the public.

San Ysidro Nueva Vida has a “Cafesito” Community Gathering every other Friday that is open to the community where all ideas and support are welcome in an effort to reclaim their com-

munity.

Below you find a video link that San Ysidro Nueva Vida has created along with a local CBO CMAP to showcase what this group is all about!

For more information, contact Jorge Mendoza, President of Nueva Vida at jorgemendoza80@yahoo.com or Armando Franco at afranco@carassouthcounty.org.



Charmayne and Aundraya attend the Annual Gang Prevention Conference in Long Beach, CA



Offsite Unit Meeting at the Rosegarden! Yes, NSU practices community building too!

Building Partnerships: Somos Mayfair Visits Gilroy

Its all about partnerships, and this makes everybody excited! Sometimes, when something just feels right, it usually is! In collaboration with members of the South County Youth Task Force (SCYTF), the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) through the CA Well-Being Project, and Community Agency for Resources Advocacy and Services (CARAS), the NSU invited Somos Mayfair to walk with us around the neighborhood (Cont. on page 5)



Partners discuss ways to collaborate at the Somos Mayfair walking tour of East Gilroy.

Restorative Justice in Peer Court...A New Direction

Coalition building and neighborhood safety aren't the only areas of focus for NSU! As part of our ongoing effort to “walk the walk,” NSU’s very own Peer Court Coordinator, Hector Sanchez, included an RJ circle in one of his volunteer training events. This is a fun way to incorporate restorative practices into our daily programming. Re-

storative Practices build community, trust, and allow partners to become more open to one another. This all leads to better collaboration and program success! Way to go Hector!



Media Corner:

Video of the Caminata, Courtesy of DeBug: https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=x_0_IB8npNA

Restorative Justice in South County (Courtesy of CMAP): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



JUVENILE SERVICES
DIVISION, SANTA CLARA
COUNT PROBATION
840 Guadalupe Pkwy., San Jose, CA 95110

Charmayne Moran
(Program Manager):
408-857-0014

Aundraya Martinez (East
Side San Jose):
408-394-0554

Anthony Bravo (East Gilroy):
408-314-7289

Sahwat Singh
(Management Analyst):
(408) 278-5908

Hector Sanchez (Peer
Court): 408-771-9972

***Dong Miss the
Next Issue:***



Restorative Justice in South County is leading the way towards implementing a community wide system of responding to harm and healing broken relationships. For more information watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZEZFrX6eqg>

Building Bridges, Multi-Generational Leadership in the Valley Palms Neighborhood by Aundraya Martinez

As one of the most active families in the Valley Palms community in East San Jose both in the onsite Family Resource Center and as leaders in the Valley Palms Neighborhood Association, the Gonzalez-Alvarado Family embodies what it means to *echale ganas*.

The matriarch of the family, Maria Gonzalez, wife and mother of four (Rosa 18 years old, Daniel 12 years old, Angel 9 years old, and Alejandro 3 years old) works in a local restaurant, serves as the Vice President of the Valley Palms Neighborhood Association, and volunteers regularly at the Project Access Family Resource Center and Katherine Smith Elementary School.

In their founding year, Maria and the VPNA have already celebrated many accomplishments including: securing additional funding for the VPNA events, establishing a leadership committee and growing general membership, and developing neighborhood action goals with their peers. As the Vice President, Maria is an integral part of the successes the VPNA has achieved – since the very first *cafecito* in May of 2015, Maria has spent every Friday evening giving back to her community by

advocating for a healthier, safer, more connected environment for the children of Valley Palms to grow up in. Her natural leadership and willingness to build stronger relationships with her neighbors, her dedication to attending countless meetings and making regular phone call reminders, and her courage in being in the forefront of the meetings, visits with local civic leaders, and campaigns have inspired not only her neighbors but her family



as well. Rosa Alvarado, Maria's eldest child, is the first in her family to graduate from high school and will be attending San Jose State University in the Fall to pursue a degree in Sociology. Inspired by her own mom and the moms of the neighborhood who met weekly to talk about what would make them feel safer in their community, Rosa joined the group that later became the Valley Palms

Youth Council with six of her peers. As a junior in high school at the time, Rosa was a mentor to the younger youth leaders but was also mentored by her older peers, two of which were already in college. Recognizing their experi-



ence as both students and teachers, Rosa and the Valley Palms Youth Council decided to center their goals around access to resources on more effectively navigating the path to higher education, especially as first-

generation students of color. The Valley Palms Youth Council serves as the youth voice and vote in the Valley Palms Neighborhood Association, volunteers at various Family Resource Center events, and participates in leadership development workshops hosted by Somos May-

fair. Rosa's participation and leadership on the Youth Council has ensured stability and vision as the Youth Council continues to build its foundation and grow membership. Their goal of creating a two-tiered mentorship program where VP college students mentor high school students and high school students mentor middle school students is a testament to the type of leaders that grow up in this community – leaders that are committed to building bridges for the next generation of students. Together, Maria and Rosa have contributed countless hours to their neighborhood, strengthening relationships with those around them and thereby ensuring a stronger, more united, and safer Valley Palms.

Get Your Daughter in the Game Cont.



This is harder than it looks!



World class players speak during a panel discussion on the impact and importance of soccer.

The AVAYA stadium at its most peaceful state! We had the entire field to ourselves!

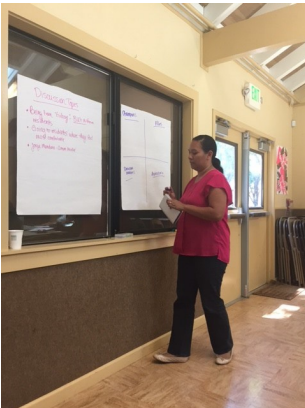


Many of our working fathers simply don't have the time or means to go to events with their daughters. This was a way to pull them both closer together!

Want to donate to the VPNA Soccer field project?

Here's how: Go to the website: <https://www.project-access.org/donate/sisoccerfield/>. You can purchase tickets to the upcoming 8/5 game at the Avaya Stadium. Ticket proceeds will directly benefit the soccer Field Project. For information about the project visit the VPNA website at: <https://www.valleypalmsneighborhood.com/synthetic-soccer-field-project>

Building Partnerships Cont.



Camille Fontanilla, CEO of Somos, leads a power map discussion

neighborhood, lunch at a local restaurant, and discuss potential areas of opportunity for Somos Mayfair to assist in the community organizing needs in East Gilroy. The meeting was productive, as several ideas emerged as possible ways forward.

Subsequent meetings have been scheduled between the NSU and Somos to begin looking



at potential action steps. If you are interested in learning more about this partnership, or have ideas of your own, please contact the NSU Program Manager, Charmayne Moran, at charmayne.moran@pro.sccgov.org.

The primary goal that emerged from this meeting was to explore specific ways to bring some of the knowledge and expertise of Somos Mayfair community members around the issues of community organizing, to the East Gilroy Neighborhood.



Somos Mayfair has a long history of grass roots community organizing and coalition building.



Chris Arriola and Johnny Gogo enjoy the Gilroy sun on our walking tour

NSU Tribute to Anthony Bravo



JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY PROBATION

840 Guadalupe Pkwy.
San Jose, CA

Phone: 408-857-0014
Email: charmayne.moran@pro.sccgov.org

Anthony Bravo, NSU's All Star Community Worker assigned to South County, has accepted a position with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, and will no longer be with NSU as of July 3, 2017. We have been so blessed to have Anthony on our team, and he will be dearly missed! He has brought us and the many community members and stakeholders he interacts with on a daily basis, an incredible sense of humor, joy, and pride in his work.



In such a short period of time, Anthony has helped establish and maintain a community group in East Gilroy (Nueva Vida), he has worked as a mentor on school campuses, and has helped facilitated countless meetings with ELAC groups throughout GUSD. Anthony has developed incredible relationships with our school and community partners, as his approach toward people is humble, effective, and sincere. He has laid a foundation for the work of NSU in South County, and nobody could have done it better!

In the Community

**THE CITY OF GILROY PRESENTS:
PARTY IN THE PARK!**

When: Thursday, August 10th, 2017
6pm-9:30pm

Where: San Ysidro Park
7700 Murray Ave Gilroy, CA 95020

Free Activities and Entertainment:
Live Music & DJ, Food Trucks, Public Library Bookmobile, Rock Climbing,
Community Mural, Resource Tables, Movie Screening, Raffle + Many More!

Logos: Gilroy Recreation, Youth Alliance, parksforlife, Santa Clara County Parks, Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services, Santa Clara County Public Health, CMAP TV, Gilroy Foundation, Neighborhood Safety/Services Unit, CARAS.

For more information or special services needed, contact Jason Franks jason@youthall.org or Armando Franco arfranco@carassouthcounty.org

Party in the Park (PIP), 2017! Don't miss this exciting community event! In partnership with the South County Youth Task Force (SCYTF), CARAS, SCC's Public Health Dept., Gilroy Foundation, CMAP TV, and many others, Party in the Park is an effective way for residents to engage in fun activities for the whole family. Its also a way to promote park activation and healthy physical activities. Volunteer Opportunities are available! Contact Jason Franks with the Youth Alliance at jason@youthall.org for more information.

National Night Out ! Don't Miss Out!

If you haven't already signed up to volunteer at a National Night Out event, don't worry, there are plenty of opportunities! Contact Aundraya Martinez at

Aundraya.Martinez@pro.sccgov.org or Charmayne Moran at Charmayne.moran@pro.sccgov.org for more information.

VPNA has a website:

[https://
www.valleypalmsneighborhood.com/synthetic
-soccer-field-project](https://www.valleypalmsneighborhood.com/synthetic-soccer-field-project)

