Dear Friends,

Recently, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two Measure A affordable housing projects that bring the total to 21 projects. We called attention to this at a news conference at the site of one of the new projects in the Delmas Park Neighborhood of San Jose.

This project brought to us by Eden Housing will provide 130 affordable housing apartments for low-income and currently homeless individuals and families, with two reserved for onsite managers and 64 with supportive services provided by the County.

At the news conference, we were joined by Sarah Springer, president of the Delmas Park Neighborhood Association who was there to welcome the project into her neighborhood. That’s not something we always see when a site is chosen for an affordable housing project.

Thank you, Sarah, and may there be many more like you and your neighbors as these projects make it through the pipeline. The support from a compassionate community is essential to every one of these projects and those the Board will be approving in the future.

 Simply put, we need to keep up the momentum that brought us this far thanks to the $950 million Measure A Housing Bond approved by votes in 2016. With the two new projects, we will have 1,562 new affordable apartments and 484 renovated units. Of those, 908 will have supportive services for their tenants. Some of the opening dates are nearing as well. We’re at about one-third of the way towards our goal of building 4,800 units.

I hope that as these projects continue to be completed, residents in other neighborhoods of San Jose and other cities in the County will take notice of how well-built and well-managed they are and be open to affordable housing in their areas.

If you live near an affordable housing project site, there will be community meetings scheduled to give you details and hear your concerns through a program called Housing Ready Communities provided by Destination: Home, one of the County’s partners. Click here for a summary on the Measure A projects, or visit the County’s Office of Supportive Housing webpage.

As always, you can also call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,
Policy Updates

Potential Reimbursements for PG&E Shutoffs

Hundreds of dedicated County staff mobilized and worked around the clock here and elsewhere to ensure the safety of our residents and the continuity of vital County operations during the recent power shutoffs. PG&E CEO Bill Johnson, himself, confirmed their lack of preparedness for the PSPS events. Only after the shutoffs left almost 2 million Californians without power did we learn that PG&E turned down recommendations and offers of assistance from other public agencies, including crisis management experts, to implement the planned power outages. At our November 5th meeting, I called on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to move forward with official action to request reimbursement to the County for costs incurred due to the PSPS events. The Board agreed and voted unanimously. An inquiry and review of the costs associated with the PSPS events and options to consider reimbursement from PG&E are justified by the continuing response and support activities in the County.

Expanding Gender-Inclusive Recruitment and Retention Efforts

At my request, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted on November 5, to move forward with studying the expansion of recruitment and retention efforts for transgender, gender-nonconforming, gender-nonbinary, and gender-diverse employees, applicants and contractors. According to the Trans Employment Program at the San Francisco LGBT Center, transgender people are twice as likely to have a college degree, but three times as likely to be unemployed. By connecting employees with employers, supporting job seekers and newly placed employees, and creating a trans-inclusive and gender-inclusive workplace, we can create a more productive workplace for everyone in the County.

Buy Clean Campaign

The County of Santa Clara continues to lead in the fight to combat climate change. The Board of Supervisors voted in favor of my referral to support implementation of AB 262, the Buy Clean California Act. The policy requires State agencies to purchase construction materials (such as structural steel, carbon steel rebar, mineral wood board insulation, and flat glass) from manufacturers that have invested in cutting their greenhouse gas pollution. Thank you
to the Buy Clean Campaign and Sierra Club CA for working with me to call on state agencies to spend taxpayer dollars on supplies for public infrastructure projects in a way that is consistent with the state’s globally recognized climate change goals.

In-Home Supportive Services Caregiver Month

In Santa Clara County, we have dedicated each November to celebrate the incredible work of the 25,500 IHSS caregivers who work tirelessly to care for 25,000 low-income disabled and elderly residents, so they may remain living independently in their homes. I was proud to present a Proclamation to our Social Services Agency and Department of Aging and Adult Services to recognize November 2019, as “In-Home Supportive Services Caregiver Month” in Santa Clara County.

Events, Programs and Activities

Health Fair to Serve Low-Income and Homeless Residents

Uninsured, low-income or homeless residents are invited to the 7th annual Downtown Health Fair for free health screenings, flu shots and connections to service providers. The Downtown Health Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, November 15, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, 80 South Market Street, San Jose. Also provided will be haircuts, winter clothing, foot baths, showers and lunch. Screenings will include tests for glucose, cholesterol, HIV and dental checks. For more information, call my office at 408-299-5030 or email dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org.

Special Hearing on Child Sexual Abuse

Please join me and Supervisor Cindy Chavez at a special hearing of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee of the Board of Supervisors on child sexual abuse from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, in the Board Chambers at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. Three panels of experts will address three topics: Current County Response and Services, Reporting Practices and Barriers and Prevention. A full agenda will be posted on the County’s meetings portal.

Groundbreaking Set for Vietnamese American Service Center

Please join me and Supervisor Cindy Chavez at a groundbreaking event for the future Vietnamese American Service Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 23, at 2410 Senter Road, San Jose. The service center will
deliver integrated, accessible and culturally responsive social and health services to the local community, specifically the Vietnamese American community in San Jose. Click here for a project overview. You can contact The-Vu Nguyen in my office at 408-299-5030 or Amy Nguyen in Supervisor Chavez’s Office at 408-299-6083.

Veterans Day Parade

The annual Veterans Day Parade will kick off at noon on Monday, November 11, on Santa Clara Street in San Jose and proceed to Market Street, ending at San Carlos Street. An opening ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on the stage near the Tech Museum across the street from Plaza de Cesar Chavez. Click here for the parade map. If you have a vintage car or convertible that parade guests could use for the event, please email gkeydeniers@yahoo.com. The annual event to honor military veterans is presented by the United Veterans of Santa Clara County and supported by the County of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose.

Free Golfing for Veterans at Spring Valley

Spring Valley Golf Course in Milpitas is waiving green fees for veterans or those on active duty after 10:30 a.m. on Monday, November 11, Veterans Day. For reservations, call 408-262-1722 or visit springvalleygolfcourse.com.

Mini-Grants Available for Honoring Women’s Suffrage

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, the County’s Office of Women’s Policy is offering small grants to Santa Clara County residents or groups who are planning activities, events or projects promoting democracy as it relates to women’s suffrage and the continuing need for women, girls, and female-identified individuals to actively participate, support and promote their inclusion in a democratic system. The grants range from $200 to $2,000, and a total of $75,000 is available. Click here for more information and a link to the application. The deadline to apply is December 1.

Activities at Milpitas Library

November is full of activities and programs at the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, Milpitas. At 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, children in grades one through three can learn coding basics at Dash Robot Coding. Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation will be 11 a.m. to noon on Thursdays, November 14 and 21. Next Gen Tutoring for grades K-6 will be on those same days from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. For the full list of Milpitas Library events in November, please click here.

Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will host a Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee Meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, November 15, at the Valley Water Office, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose. For information, please email gbrambill@valleywater.org or look for a posted agenda at valleywater.org.

Register Now for Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot

Sign up now for the 15th annual Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, in Downtown San Jose. The event features a 5K, 10K and Kids Fun Run, and benefits five area nonprofits - Healthier Kids Foundation, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, the Health Trust and Housing Trust Silicon Valley. Click here for more information and to register.

Christmas “Above” the Park

Christmas Above the Park, a special holiday kick off for Christmas in the Park will be from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, at the Silicon Valley Capital Club, 50 West San Fernando Street, San Jose. Click here to purchase tickets. The San Jose holiday tradition at Plaza de Cesar Chavez will officially kick off at a tree lighting event from 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday, November 29. Visit www.christmasinthepark.com for opening night details and all the other events. Another Downtown San Jose tradition, San Jose Ice, will open on November 15. Click here for information.

ACCI’s Holiday Toy Drive

ACCI has launched its annual holiday toy drive that will continue through December 6. Click here for all the details. For questions, call 408-975-2075.
Vietnamese Community Meeting

If you’re interested in helping start a Vietnamese Dual Language School in San Jose, please attend a meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 pm Tuesday, November 12, at Painter Elementary School, 500 Rough and Ready Road. The meeting will be led by Le Tran, principal, Painter Elementary School. For questions, call 408-928-8406.

Chenoa Foundation Scholarship

The Chenoa Foundation is providing a scholarship of up to $1,500 for students who have been accepted by a college or university or a current student in a college or university. Click here for all the details. The deadline is February 1, 2020.

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

The Santa Clara County Social Services Agency’s Department of Family and Children’s Services has launched a 24/7 toll-free universal number to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect in the County: 1-833-SCC-KIDS (1-833-722-5437).

County Mobile App Helps You Report Problems

The County has a Mobile Citizen App to help you report illegal dumping, graffiti, problems with streetlights or traffic signals and other service requests to the County Roads and Airports Department. Click here to find out how to download the app. For illegal dumping complaints, call the hotline at 408-299-5770.

CalFresh/EBT Is Welcome at Your Local Farmers Market

Farmers markets are a great place to buy produce and fresh foods, and many Santa Clara County farmers markets now accept CalFresh/EBT cards. Get up to $10 in free fruits and veggies through the Market Match program when you use a CalFresh/EBT card at a participating farmers’ markets. That’s a great deal for the family and for the farmer. Find a market at www.sccgov.org/ebtmarket and click here for eligibility guidelines.