

VALLEY LIFE

VW
Touring SUV

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Everybody passes Go at life-size Monopoly

Get grounded up for the biggest Monopoly game of your life, but don't bother with the pieces and wing tips. Tensions will do just fine.

It's the 30th birthday of San Jose Beautiful and the organization is celebrating with an outdoor game of Monopoly, dinner, dancing and dessert.

On Wednesday, June 25, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., participants will play on the 900-square-foot Monopoly in the Park game board to benefit the Discovery Children's Museum. The "board" holds the Guinness Book of World Records title as the largest permanent Monopoly board in the world.

Players will use wooden dice and wear hats supporting the game tokens.

The \$20 per head entrance fee won't even cover the event costs. "We just wanted this to be a celebration," says former San Jose Beautiful director Jill Coyle, who chairs the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Department at San Jose State University. Parsley Sage Rosemary and Thyme is providing dinner valued at \$21 a head and the popular Bay Area band The Gringos Kings put its live-in-half for the event. Ms. Coyle says.

"People have really stepped up to be part of this."

San Jose Beautiful was founded in 1987 by the mayor and the city council to encourage citizens to get involved in making the city a more beautiful place for residents, workers and visitors.

So far, the group has given out \$64,000 in matching grants leveraged with between \$5 and \$7 per \$1 of grant money. Volunteers have planted more than 6,000 trees, distributed more than 22,000 dollars in cash, raised money and bought the Earth Station Portable Classroom, a huge building that can hold an entire class of 30 students, built the Monopoly board and started the Adopt a Park program, which is now part of national and state networks and locally it has adopted every park in the city. Volunteers help pick up litter, remove graffiti and prune plants.

When you consider that San Jose Beautiful has no full-time employees,

AFTER HOURS

Silicon Valley Business Conference & EXPO

The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce held its annual business conference and expo May 14, at the San Jose McHenry Convention Center.

The event was attended by over 1,500 people and featured a key-chain with the presentation of the Lilly Awards, the Hank Thibodeau Award for Small Business Excellence, Building Our Community Award, Chamber Champion Award, and the Corporate Advocate Award.

PHOTO BY DAVID A. JOHNSON



From left, Steve Johnson, CEO, Says & With Club of Silicon Valley, Kathleen Barrett, founder, Sportsworld, and keynote speaker, Joe Bonamici, president and CEO, Monopony; and America's greatest political comic, Bill Engvall, who entertained the luncheon crowd.



Sharon the robot, is hosted by Rosalita Balboa, left, and Mary Ames, both working managers with Open Box American Express.



Supporting the hour breakfast break is Loren Miller, hotel sales general manager, and the San Jose Sports Baseball Club Sparks.



Tryng her luck at a publicist machine is Casey Dwyer, right, managing the going of her booth in Bay Systems, marketing coordinator, Golden Bay Federal Credit Union.



Lilli Galt, left, CEO and President, SAA&T, and Teresa Mack, with Steve & Virginia TLODNE, are served live tea served by Stephen Cooper, right, from Cold Stone Creamery.



Bevella Proff, Realtor, Johns Real Estate Services stands ready to inform you, about the Earth Station Portable Classroom, that was constructed using 20,000 recycled tires from B&W. The globe can be used for classroom use.