

2008 Best of Willow Glen

Updated monthly... from
Willow Glen readers' votes!
Vote now for your favorites!

- Best Restaurant: [John's XInt Foods](#)
- Best Breakfast: [Café San Jose](#)
- Best Auto Repair: [Big D Automotive](#)
- Best Quick lunch: [Aqui](#)
- Best Pizza: [Pizza My Heart](#)
- Best Community Event: [Willow Glen Foundation Fundraiser](#)
- Best Landscaper: [Lifescapes](#)
- Best Dental Office: [Doug Roth](#)
- Best Chiropractor: [Dr. Manfred Alkhas](#)
- Best Flower Shop: [D'anna's](#)
- Best House Cleaner: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Sandwich: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Pediatrician: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Carpet Cleaner: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Beauty Salon: [Salon DeVie](#)
- Best Skin Care: [La Choza](#)
- Best Salon/Spa: [La Choza](#)
- Best Jeweler: [Mann's Jewelers](#)
- Best Veterinarian: [Cambrian Animal Hospital](#)
- Best Place to Use Your Laptop: [Monsieur Bean](#)
- Best Candy Shop: [Powell's on Lincoln Avenue](#)
- Best Place for a First Date: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Waitress: [Emma at Café San Jose](#)
- Best Pet Sitting Company: [Lil' Chick Pet Sitters](#)
- Best Youth Coach: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Pet Store: [Sam's Downtown Feed](#)
- Best Manicure/Pedicure: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Massage: [La Choza](#)
- Best Soup: [Greek Lemon at John's XInt Foods](#)
- Best Teacher(s): [Willow Glen High School Teachers](#)
- Best Teacher (Private): [Carly Roben at St. Christopher's School](#)
- Best Place to Get Fit: [Adventure Boot Camp](#)
- Best Community Volunteer: [WG parent Barbara Lutze-Bremner](#)
- Best Park: [Vasona](#)
- Best Architectural Beauty: [Cambrian Community Center](#)
- Best Preschool: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Coffeehouse: [Monsieur Bean](#)
- Best Place to Walk The Dog: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Place to Impress Visitors: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Travel Agency: [E-mail your vote now!](#)
- Best Personal Trainer: [Brett at Prime Physique](#)

Cast your votes today!

Mail your votes to: Best of Willow Glen
1310 Tully Rd. Suite 112,
San Jose, CA 95122

Or email your favorites to:

jocelyn@timesmediainc.com

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Times Local News

The mystery of closed sessions

possibly losing and having to pay out more. A part, \$3.5 million, of the city budget is allocated each year to legal settlements and that amount is really a best guess since lawsuits do not follow statistical trends.

In order to prepare for closed sessions, each council member receives advance information in sealed envelopes with the word "confidential" on the front.

The city attorney will talk about a case and then the appropriate city staff will add more detail or explain technical issues. After that particular case is done then the next group of city staff will join us to start on another issue.

Some of the confidential matters are personnel-related. The one that attracted the most attention lately was the issue of our former city auditor. We

received reams of paper that we needed to read through, and as with all closed-session material, it cannot be shared with staff. It adds another level of stress knowing that you are reading information that impacts a person's career.

Labor negotiations are also covered in closed sessions. It is similar to talking about litigation; however, instead of talking about winning or losing, it is more of a discussion about balancing resources and priorities.

All comments that are made in closed session are confidential and not to be revealed to anyone, including staff and family. We are allowed to talk about closed session items in generalities, but not specific cases or quotes from other council members or staff.

Closed session meetings are serious business.

By Councilmember
Pierluigi Oliverio
Special to the Times

Many people ask what my biggest surprise has been since becoming a council member. My biggest surprise has been closed-session meetings. Closed-session meetings are private meetings, which include the mayor, city attorney and city council. The city manager and two other attorneys who record the minutes are also present. Sometimes, depending on the subject material, specific city staff will also join the meeting, but the public is not allowed to be present.

Closed-session meetings occur every Tuesday morning and are held in the "green room," which is located behind the council dais. The green room is large with a TV monitor on the wall and a very large table and chairs in the center. Mayor Chuck Reed sits at one end of the table and Rick Doyle, the city attorney, on the other.

The mayor leads the meeting agenda and will recognize council members to speak. Usually the city attorney starts the meeting with information on pending and ongoing litigation and threat of litigation. I have found people love to sue the city. It could be anything. Many times the council settles out of court. Settling a case out of court could be less costly than going to trial and



District 6 Report

By Pierluigi Oliverio
City Councilmember

Real Estate

Continued from previous page
homeowner in trouble to get out without losing everything. This will enable them to get back on their feet more quickly, as well.

While every homebuyer must understand the risks with any investment, one must understand that when purchasing a home, it is just that - a home. We all must live somewhere.

If a buyer purchases a home with an expectation of a quick return on their money, they may be disappointed. But the

savvy buyer will understand the true meaning of home and respect and treat it as such. Yes, it's an investment, but it is so much more. Most of us have had a number of memorable events that are tied to our home - marriage, birth of children, grandchildren, holidays, family dinners, rearing children...the list goes on and on. So while living in a home, why not have a home that doubles as a great investment?

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