

Around the Valley

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OUR COMMUNITIES IN BRIEF

CUPERTINO

Lengthy recovery begins

By Matt Wilson

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Things are looking a bit brighter for Jack Chin after months of grave uncertainty.

The Monta Vista High School graduate is on a slow road to recovery after learning this year that he needed an immediate bone marrow transplant to survive.

Chin, who graduated in 2007, was diagnosed in the summer of 2011 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and was told in January that he needed an immediate transplant to live.

Chin, who received that marrow transplant April 24, now faces a long and tentative period of recovery — at least a year — to make sure his body adapts.

His donor was a 90 percent match, reportedly the best that could be done because of Chin's rare genetic marker. Chin updated the community via Facebook on May 12.

"The one thing I realized is that (leukemia) really can happen to anybody," Chin said in January. "I was an everyday college student, and I didn't think much about it or any of these weird-sounding diseases. I never thought stuff like this would ever happen to me just so suddenly and without any family history."

Numerous donation drives were held for Chin earlier this year, and the Monta Vista High School community came together in February for a registry



Jack Chin, a graduate of Monta Vista High School, found a bone marrow match and donor and received his transplant in April after being diagnosed with leukemia last summer. He faces a recovery period of at least a year. No family members were a match, but a donor who is a 90 percent match was found.

COURTESY OF THE CHIN FAMILY

drive. The Feb. 10 event attracted more than 200 potential donors, according to organizers.

It is unclear how Chin's match was found. By law, the donor process is anonymous.

Chin faced considerable odds in finding a match. Bone marrow from family members, even that of twin brother Jim, was not a match. The odds of an

unrelated person being a match for Chin were 1 in 20,000.

In July, MRI scans and a blood test showed he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

He was rushed to the hospital that same day and stayed for a month.

Chin then spent several months living a life of treatment, pills and chemotherapy before getting word in

January that he was in serious need of a transplant.

Before his April surgery, Chin posted to Facebook.

"The risks for complication and death are significant, and the struggle could last for more than a year. But should I win the day, I look forward to partying hard, and thanking each and every one of you that have given your support and concern."

LOCAL VIEWS

Arrival of adult bookstore startles this protective dad

I stopped in my tracks recently at Santa Clara and Ninth streets when I spotted what could be politely called an adult bookstore — not that it specializes in books.



AROUND TOWN
SAL PIZARRO

from such things. But I didn't figure I would have to worry very long anyway, given the short life span of retail outlets in downtown San Jose.

Before I was a parent — of a 2½-year-old girl, no less — I probably would have greeted the arrival of this business with a shrug, at best.

After all, until a crack-down in the 1980s, downtown San Jose was home to plenty of adult bookstores and theaters. Many big-city downtowns still are. One of the last, Mr. A's, was a half-block from where San Jose City Hall now sits and next door to the former haunts, Recycle Bookstore.

The funny thing is that this stretch of Santa Clara Street between Ninth and 10th isn't exactly vice-free. It includes two stores specializing in cigarettes and other paraphernalia, as well as a tattoo parlor. Until recently, there was an "herbal medicinal center," if you know what I mean.

We've cruised past these places with our stroller many times without a care. But somehow, the "adult shop," with its blacked-out windows and signage promising novelties and DVDs inside, set off my parental alarm bells.

I assume some latent puritanical influence drives me to shield my children

Sure enough, I heard last week that the business has been told it's too close to Horace Mann Elementary School and must close its doors before summer's out. They'll probably have a heck of a going-out-of-business sale, but it's not for me. I'm a dad now.

JAZZ AND POETRY: The words of San Jose poet **Nils Peterson** have been set to music by British jazz composer **Will Todd**, and the result, "Songs of Love," will have its world premiere at the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale's Silver Anniversary concert Saturday.

Peterson, who has been singing with the chorale almost since its inception, based his work on translations of three Greek love poems. The 8 p.m. concert at San Jose's California Theatre will include an appearance by Todd, who'll play piano on his most famous piece, "Mass in Blue."

Go to www.symphonysiliconvalley.org for details.

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