

Khalida Zohal Sarwari

510-828-6503 | khalidazsarwari@gmail | zohalsarwari.com

SUMMARY

Published journalist with nine years of industry experience in San Francisco and Silicon Valley, offering meticulous fact-checking and research skills in the delivery of in-depth and high-quality news pieces on a wide range of topics, from technology and education to national and international politics.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Video editing and production
- HTML, CSS, Javascript (beginner)
- WordPress
- MS Office Suite
- News photography
- Effective interviewer
- Deadline-driven
- Strong interpersonal skills

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Promoted from staff writer to cover story writer in September 2016
- Has written and published more than 200 print and online pieces in 2016
- Recipient of formal commendation from Evan Low, Mayor of Campbell, CA in 2012
- Promoted from general assignment reporter to bureau reporter in 2009

EDUCATION

Saint Mary's College of California (Moraga, CA) 2003-2007
Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Minor in History

EXPERIENCE

Bay Area News Group's Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

San Jose, CA Feb. 2012 to Present

Cover story writer and arts & entertainment writer

- Develop and produce 2-3 in-depth pieces monthly featuring multiple and diverse perspectives for publication on the cover of up to eight newspapers circulated by Silicon Valley Community Newspapers, a newspaper chain that serves the Silicon Valley region
- Write 2-3 pieces monthly covering the arts and entertainment scene in San Jose and surrounding communities for publication in eight community newspapers
- Conduct in-person and phone interviews with sources including government officials, business owners, law enforcement officials, students, nonprofit leaders, activists, experts and opinion leaders in a wide variety of fields

- Collaborate with editors, photographers and fellow writers to find and research a diverse selection of stories

Staff writer

I served as a staff writer for SVCN from February 2012 through August 2016, first covering Campbell and then Saratoga for 3 ½ years. In those positions, I wrote an average of five news and feature pieces a week; reported on local government, education, local elections, crime, economic development, land use, human interest, business and in-depth features, tailoring stories to residents of those cities; and cultivated and maintained professional relationships with city staff, council members, planning commissioners, industry leaders and residents to gather multiple perspectives on issues.

KSAR15

Saratoga, CA

Nov. 2014 to Sept. 2016

Camera technician and video editor

I assisted in the production of public service announcements and event coverage for cablecast on Saratoga's Community Access TV, working with the station manager to develop program ideas; operated the camera to record live planning commission and city council meetings; and expanded my knowledge of audio, lighting and video editing with Final Cut and Adobe software.

Bay City News Service

San Francisco and San Jose, CA

Sept. 2007 to Feb. 2012

I started at BCN, a local wire service covering all nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area that's utilized by more than 100 subscribing news agencies, as an editor of the arts and entertainment calendar then worked my way up to editor of the company's news calendar and eventually breaking news reporter in San Francisco and bureau reporter in the company's San Jose office for three years. In that position, I produced four to six news pieces daily about local government, crime, criminal court cases, elections, breaking news and events in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; provided ongoing coverage of high-profile issues, such as the 49ers stadium project, Lehigh Cement Plant shooting, legalization of medical marijuana, and immigration pension reforms; interviewed high-profile officials, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police and fire investigators, community activists, PR representatives, residents, business owners and sources from diverse backgrounds, cultures and those with English as a second language; covered local reaction to international events; and networked with spokespeople and arranged meetings, interviews and sit-downs with key figures in city, county and state government.