

Home for the Holidays

Celebrate the season in your hometown

Keep this insert for information on holiday activities in Santa Clara

Winter Holidays 2017

Holiday tree lighting starts the season

All Santa Clara residents are invited to celebrate the City's traditional holiday tree lighting event on Friday, Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m. in Central Park, 969 Kiely Blvd.

This year's festivities will include public ice skating sessions, visit from Santa with photo opportunity, community group booths, dance performances, food, fireworks and a dance party band to end the evening.



The event is free and will take place adjacent to the Community Recreation Center. Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended. Please remember animals and smoking are not allowed per City Ordinance in the event venue. For more information, call the Santa Clara Community Recreation Center at 408-615-3140.

Ice skating in Central Park returns Nov. 20

Come experience ice skating at the City of Santa Clara's outdoor ice rink at Central Park, starting Monday Nov. 20 and running through Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

Enjoy this unique outdoor skating experience by trying a class, booking a birthday party, reserving the rink for a special holiday group outing, or dropping by for recreational skating. Open skate fees are \$15 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under (one child per paid adult).

A group discount for 20+ takes \$1.00 off admission per skater and includes skate rental (Monday through Thursday, excluding holiday periods). Reservations are first come first served during public skating hours.

Contact the Community Recreation Center at 408-615-3140 for information or visit SantaClaraOnIce.com for open skate times, holiday hours and to sign up for classes.



Learn to Skate Class

Learn how to ice skate for the first time or take the Beginner 2 class for students who were enrolled in classes last season. Class includes skate rental, 30 minutes of instruction time and 30 minutes of non-instructed practice time. Registration will be processed online. Visit SantaClaraOnIce.com for details.



Help someone stay warm this winter



Silicon Valley may be one of the richest areas in America, but it also is the home to thousands of very low income families who struggle with basic needs, such as having a warm coat to wear during the winter.

Recology South Bay is teaming up with Sacred Heart Community Service to hold a coat drive to collect new and clean, gently worn coats. All coats will be donated locally to local adults and children in need.

Starting Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, collection bins will be located at the Recology South Bay facility located at 650 Martin Ave., the City of Santa Clara Street Corporation Yard located at 1700 Walsh Ave. and the City of Santa Clara Community Recreation Center located at 969 Kiely Blvd.

Holiday Closures

Nov. 23-24 - Thanksgiving Holiday

- City Offices Closed.
- On Thursday, no collection of Garbage, Clean Green or Recycling.
- Garbage/Recycling pickup one date late for those normally serviced on Thursday or Friday.

Dec. 25 - Winter Holiday

- City Offices Closed
- No collection of Garbage, Clean Green or Recycling
- Garbage/Recycling pickup one date late for entire week.

Jan. 1, 2018 - New Year's Day Holiday

- City Offices Closed
- No collection of Garbage, Clean Green or Recycling
- Garbage/Recycling pickup one date late for entire week.

Plan ahead to reduce holiday food waste



With the holidays comes food -- and lots of it! Unfortunately, too much of it is left over. Americans throw away \$277 million of food on Thanksgiving alone!

Advance planning can help reduce this waste. Remember, the more dishes served, the smaller the portions that will be eaten of each. Adjust the quantity of each dish to minimize leftovers.

Be prepared to handle what leftovers you do have. Stock up on food storage containers so guests can take some home and make sure your

freezer has plenty of room. For more tips and information on preventing food waste go to SaveTheFood.com.

Holiday Home Tour visits private, public buildings with historic architecture

The always-delightful Holiday Historic Home Tour is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2. Three private homes and the Madison Street Inn will be on this year's tour along with two public buildings with historic architecture – the Headen Inman House and the Jamison Brown House. A bonus venue will be Santa Clara University's Ricard Observatory, constructed in 1928 and rarely open for public access.

The annual event is co-sponsored by the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara and the Old Quad Residents' Association. Other community partners include the Santa Clara Women's League that will serve complimentary refreshments, the Santa Clara Players and Triton Museum of Art.

Early Bird Tickets will go on sale in October with a discounted price of \$20 if purchased by Oct. 31. Beginning Nov. 1, ticket prices will be \$30 general admission, \$25 Seniors (60+) or Children and Youth (6-21). No youth under the age of 6 will be admitted. If still available the days of the tour, all tickets will be \$35 at the Jamison Brown House. Proceeds benefit the Harris Lass Museum, historic preservation projects in the City, and nonprofit groups in Santa Clara.



Order tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour at the website sc-hometour.com, or mail ticket requests prior to Nov. 27 to: Historic Home Tour 2017, c/o Harris Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311.

Tickets may also be purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, and at Antiques Colony, 1881 West San Carlos Street, San Jose.

For more information, view the Home Tour website at sc-hometour.com or call the Harris Lass Museum message line at 1-408-249-7905.



Nutcracker is classic holiday ballet

Santa Clara Ballet will present its 44th annual production of the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10. All performances will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center. For ticket information, visit SantaClaraBallet.com.

This production of Benjamin Reyes' full-length, traditional version of the Tchaikovsky ballet features acclaimed professionals alongside company soloists and pre-professional students from the Santa Clara Ballet School as well as other schools and dance companies throughout the Bay Area. The story follows the magical journey of young Clara, who receives a nutcracker as a gift at her family's Christmas Eve party. Later that night, her nutcracker magically transforms into a handsome prince, who leads her through an enchanted forest and on to the Nutcracker Prince's Kingdom.

Soaring chorale music at Santa Clara Mission

Two local chorale groups will present special holiday concerts in December at Santa Clara Mission.

The Santa Clara Chorale will perform Vivaldi's "Gloria" along with two modern and compelling works, Ola Geilo's "Luminous Night of the Soul" and Eric Whitacre's "Five Hebrew Love Songs," on Friday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. Each concert will end with the audience joining the Chorale for traditional carols. For ticket information, visit SCC.org.



The annual "Festival of Lights" concert by the Santa Clara University choirs is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2. For information SCU.edu.

Holiday Craft Faire is Nov. 11

Talented artists and crafters will be selling their wares at the annual Holiday Craft Faire on Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Senior Center. Gifts available for purchase include woodworking, knitting, photography, ceramics, jewelry and more. Shoppers can also enjoy a barbecue lunch. For more information, call the Senior Center Office at 408-615-3170.

Enjoy a warm fire – if air quality allows

A crackling wood fire is a classic part of many winter holiday celebrations, but air pollution concerns in the Bay Area can limit days when you are allowed to use a wood-burning device, including fireplaces, wood stoves or pellet stoves.



When air quality in the region reaches "unhealthy" status, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will issue a Spare the Air Alert and wood-burning devices cannot be used. Spare the Air days are heavily publicized in the news media or visit sparetheair.org to find if a Spare the Air Alert is in effect. You can also sign up on to receive an automatic alert by phone or email.

Small particles and toxic chemicals from wood smoke can cause serious health problems, especially in children, older adults and those with heart or respiratory problems.



Make a memory with Santa

Santa is a busy guy in December, but he is finding time to visit Santa Clara families in December at two fun, memory-making events presented by the Parks and Recreation Department.

An evening with Santa

Santa Claus will be at the Community Recreation Center on Thursday, Dec. 14 to spend the evening with families. Visits will be from 5-6 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. and will feature festive crafts, holiday music, yummy refreshments and a photo opportunity with Santa. Pre-registration is required.

This event is for children age 11 and under-- children must be accompanied by an adult, with a maximum of two adults per child enrolled in the class. Fees are \$15 for residents and \$19 for non-residents. To register, go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

Breakfast with Santa

Have breakfast with Santa and his elves on Saturday, Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. Following a tasty pancake breakfast provided by the Santa Clara High School Booster Club, children will have the opportunity to pose for a photograph with Santa and create unique holiday crafts. Pre-registration is required. For details and to register, go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.



“Christmas Mouse” is charming holiday play

The Santa Clara Players will present its original production of “The Christmas Mouse” on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Hall Pavilion behind the Triton Museum.

The play was written several years ago by local playwright Michael T. Antonucci, based on the music of famed children’s music artist Linda Arnold. It tells the tale of Mrs. Robinson whose Gingerbread House Contest entry is destroyed when a little mouse that lives in her house steals gingerbread morsels to feed his family. For ticket information, visit SCPlayers.org.

Shop local this holiday season

Support neighborhood businesses – and keep sales tax revenue in Santa Clara – by shopping local this holiday season. One dollar of sales tax on a \$100 purchase made in Santa Clara stays in Santa Clara to help pay for parks, street repair, library books and the hundreds of other services provided to the public by municipal government.

Who has the best outdoor holiday light display?

Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted from Nov. 20 through Dec. 8. Decorate the exterior of your home or business in cheerful, colorful holiday décor and talk to your neighbors about doing the same. Homes, businesses and trees will be judged on use of color, lighting, festivity and originality. Nominate yourself, your neighbor or one of the brightly lit homes or businesses you’ve seen around the City.

Nominations for best outdoor decorations will be evaluated by a team of judges on Thursday, Dec. 14. Awards for the four categories (residential, business, neighborhood and best tree) will be announced Dec. 19 and posted on the City’s website SantaClaraCA.gov, along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order. Winners will be acknowledged at a City Council meeting in January, 2018.

For more information, contact the Senior Center Office at 408-615-3170.



Holiday programs for children and families

Thanksgiving Movie and Craft Tuesday, Nov. 21

Celebrate Thanksgiving at Central Park Library with a holiday movie at 4 p.m. followed by Thanksgiving crafts for kids age three and up. For more information visit SCLibrary.org.

Deck the Halls Workshops Fridays, Dec. 8-22

Parents and children ages 2-5 create decorations and ornaments and experience other fun-filled activities. These lively classes will bring out the imagination in each participant. Sessions offered at the Community Recreation Center are 10-10:45 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m. Pre-registration required. For information visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

Jolly Holiday Craft Camp Monday-Friday, Dec. 11-15

This craft camp for 3-5-year-olds at Westwood Oaks Park includes crafts, baked treats, holiday songs and more. It meets daily 9 a.m.-12 noon. Pre-registration required. For information, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

Holiday Jingle Jam Tuesdays, Dec. 12 & 19 and Thursdays, Dec. 14 & 21

Can’t get enough of holiday music? Singer/guitarist Sean Mendelson will be the star of a holiday “Jingle Jam” for children ages 1-4 with festive dancing, holiday songs, moving, jamming and having fun! Each class meets twice. Classes are scheduled for Tuesdays 9:30-10:15 a.m. or 10:30-11:15 a.m. or Thursdays 4:30-5:15 p.m. or 5:30-6:15 p.m. One adult may attend with two registered children. Pre-registration required. For information, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

Family Holiday Party and Craft Sunday, Dec. 17

Get in the holiday spirit at Central Park Library with a festive party for ages four and up. Starting at 2 p.m. enjoy a sweet afternoon making gingerbread houses and holiday crafts while sipping hot cocoa. There may even be a surprise visitor from the North Pole! For more information visit SCLibrary.org.

Gingerbread House Workshop Wednesday, Dec. 20

Create the candy house of your dreams with your 2-5-year-old. Everything provided for a gingerbread house including graham crackers, royal icing, gumdrops and candy canes. The workshop will be held at the Community Recreation Center, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. For information, visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.



Recycle your holiday tree

The holiday season's final tradition is putting the tree out for curbside recycling. This year, Christmas trees will be picked up on your regular solid waste collection day during the week of Jan. 8-12, 2018. Here's what to do:



- Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand.
- Residents with Clean Green service can place the stripped tree next to the solid waste cart setouts at the curb on your regular collection day.
- Residents who don't have Clean Green service can set out their holiday trees on the nearest public street for pickup on the assigned single family home garbage/recycling collection days. Call 408-615-3080 to find out assigned garbage/recycling days in particular areas.
- Trees may also be recycled after Jan. 12 by cutting up the tree and placing the pieces in the Clean Green cart.
- Flocked trees will be collected, but cannot be recycled and should be bagged before placing curbside to protect against storm water pollution.

For more information on holiday tree recycling, call the Public Works Department at 408-615-3080.

Holiday Train will stop at Santa Clara Depot



The Caltrain Holiday Train will make its annual stop at the Santa Clara Depot Saturday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m. to show off its 70,000 glittering lights and provide residents with free family-focused entertainment. For information, visit Holiday-Train.org.

Extra collection of excess holiday waste

Holiday festivities can sometimes generate more trash than your garbage cart can handle. Santa Clara residents may set out as many as four additional 32-gallon plastic garbage bags (limit two bags per week) on their regular solid waste collection day from Dec. 26 through Jan. 6, 2018 at no extra charge.

At any other time during the year, for a nominal cost, additional 32-gallon plastic bags of garbage tied with "extra bag" tags may be placed at the curb for pickup on your regular solid waste collection day. Extra bag tags can be purchased for \$4.00 each at the cashier's counter in the Finance Department at City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tags may be also be ordered by mail: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check (payable to "City of Santa Clara") to the Utility Services Division, Finance Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Indicate the number of tags to be purchased and make the check payable for the exact amount of \$4.00 per tag.

Residential customers with front-load dumpsters are eligible to get one additional collection per year free of charge. Call Mission Trail Waste Systems at 408-727-5365 to make an appointment for the extra collection. Questions? Call the Public Works Department at 408-615-3080.

Thanksgiving is a peak day for home fires

Up to four times as many home fires happen on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year! In the hustle and bustle of the holiday, fire safety might not the first thing you think of, but these statistics show it should be.

The kitchen is the source of almost half of reported fires, so fire safety needs to start with taking precautions when your stove and oven are in use, and there is a lot of cooking activity underway.

- NEVER leave an open flame, stove or oven unattended. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop to prevent overflowing or burnt pots.
- Stay in your home while cooking the turkey and check on it frequently.



- Turn pot handles away from the edge of the stove so that children can't grab at them and you don't accidentally knock them off.
- Keep children away from the stove or any open flame – always maintain a three foot "kid-free zone" around your stove and oven.
- Keep children away from hot foods and liquids. Steam or the splash from vegetables, gravy, cooking oil or other hot liquids can cause serious burns.
- Keep the kitchen floor clear – you don't want to trip over kids, pets, toys, bags, etc.
- Keep knives out of reach of children.
- Make sure electric cords from appliances such as electric knives, coffee makers, plate warmers or mixers are not dangling off the counter or within easy reach of a child.
- Keep a home fire extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen or cooking area.

The Santa Clara Fire Department also reminds residents to make sure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide sensors are working. If they have a test button, use it. Educate your family on what to do in a fire emergency, and practice your home escape plan. And if you decorate with candles, never leave a lit candle unattended or leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle.

For other information on fire safety, contact the Fire Prevention & Hazardous Materials Division at 408-615-4970.

Shopping Safety Tips

Frantic shoppers with a lot on their minds are enticing prey for pickpockets and grab-and-run thieves. Protect yourself, your money and your valuables by staying alert and following these recommendations.

- Don't overload yourself with packages.
- Park in well-lit areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
- Carry your purse close to your body. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Shop with a partner.
- Teach children to go to a police officer or security guard if they become separated from you.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lit place.



Don't overload yourself with packages and stay aware of your surroundings.

For further information, contact the Santa Clara Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 408-615-4876.