

Home for the Holidays

Celebrate the season in your hometown

Keep this insert for information on holiday activities in Santa Clara

Winter Holidays 2018

Central Park becomes winter wonderland of holiday activities

Starting with the opening of the outdoor ice rink on Monday, Nov. 19, Central Park becomes the center point of holiday season festivities in the City of Santa Clara.

The outdoor ice skating rink will offer recreational skating, lessons and a venue for birthday parties or holiday group outings through Monday, Jan. 21. Visit SantaClaraOnIce.com for details on open hours, fees and online registration

in classes that include skate rental, 30 minutes of instruction time and 30 minutes of non-instructed practice time. Or call the Community Recreation Center at 408-615-3140 with questions.

Tree Lighting on Dec. 7

The City's traditional Holiday Tree Lighting event will take place on Friday, Dec. 7, 5-9 p.m. when the bright lights adorning one of Central Park's large trees adjacent to the Community Recreation Center are flipped on for the first time this season. Festivities run 5-9 p.m. and include photo opportunities with Santa, dance performances, food, fireworks, community group booths, and a dance party band to end the evening.

The event is free and open to the public, but parking is limited so carpooling is recommended. Animals and smoking are not allowed. For more information, call 408-615-3140. Revisit memories of the 2017 Holiday Tree Lighting on the Santa Clara YouTube channel [youtube.com/watch?v=Tek1SVkFoXk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tek1SVkFoXk).



Who's got the best holiday décor? Annual contest seeks entries

Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted Nov. 19 through Dec. 10. Homes, businesses, neighborhoods and trees will be judged on use of color, lighting, festivity, theme 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. 13. Awards for the four categories (residential, business, neighborhood, and best tree) will be announced Dec. 17 and posted on the City website SantaClaraCA.gov, along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order.

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

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. 7, 2019 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 \$4.25 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 \$4.25 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.



Get the Thanksgiving spirit

Begin your Thanksgiving celebration on Thursday, Nov. 15, at Central Park Library with the 4 p.m. showing of the holiday classic "Charlie Brown Thanksgiving," followed by Thanksgiving crafts for kids age three and up. For more information visit SCLibrary.org.

Holiday Train rolls into Santa Clara Dec. 1



The glittering railcars of Caltrain's annual Holiday Train will pull into the Santa Clara Depot on Saturday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. bringing holiday treats, entertainment and characters including Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph, Santa's elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Families are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Holiday Train Toy Drive. The event is presented by Silicon Valley Community Foundation. For information visit Holiday-Train.org.

Holiday Classes for children and families

A gingerbread holiday party and craft session on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m. at Central Park Library is one of several events and recreation programs scheduled for children and families in Santa Clara this holiday season.



At the library, children ages 4 and up will make gingerbread houses and crafts while sipping hot cocoa, and there may be a surprise visitor from the North Pole! For information, go to SCLibrary.org.

Offerings scheduled by the Parks & Recreation Department include the Jolly Holiday Craft Camp for

ages 3-5 during the week of Dec. 17-21 at Westwood Oaks Park and Holiday Horse Camps for animal lovers. Workshops include Deck the Halls for creating holiday ornaments and decorations and My First Art Class, Holiday Edition. Children ages 1-4 are invited to Teacher Sean's Holiday Jingle Jam for dancing, holiday songs, moving and having fun.

Learn more about all the holiday fun and register for your favorite programs at <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. 7-11, 2019. 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.

Help someone stay warm this winter

Silicon Valley may be one of the wealthiest areas in America, but it also is 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 1675 Rogers Ave., San Jose, 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 Historic Home Tour celebrates 40 years

The always-delightful Holiday Historic Home Tour, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8. Four private homes plus two of the oldest historic buildings in Santa Clara – the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe and the late 1850s-era Larder House – will be on this year's tour.

Queen Anne Victorian, Craftsman Bungalow and other historical architectural styles will be featured. One of the private homes, the circa 1903



“Dugdell-Pinkham House,” is a bungalow with pronounced craftsman features but also some colonial revival detailing.

The nonprofit Santa Clara Women's League will serve complimentary refreshments and hold an opportunity drawing at the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe, 3260 The Alameda, during the tour as a fundraiser for its organization that provides support to the Health and Wellness Program at the Santa Clara Senior Center.

Early Bird Tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour 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 Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe.



Order tickets for the annual Santa Clara Historic Home Tour at the website: sc-hometour.com, or mail ticket requests to: Historic Home Tour 2018, c/o Harris Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311. (Mail order flyers will also be distributed to the city libraries and other locations in October.)

Mail-In purchases must be postmarked by Friday, Nov. 30 to allow time for return mail.

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

The Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara and the Old Quad Residents' Association co-sponsor the tour. Proceeds benefit the Harris Lass Museum, historic preservation projects in the City, and nonprofit groups in Santa Clara.

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

Enjoy the arts this holiday season

“The Christmas Mouse” Play

The Santa Clara Players return to Triton Museum’s Hall Pavilion with performances of this favorite holiday tale for the whole family (ages 4 and up). Written by Michael Antonucci and based on the music of Linda Arnold, the play tells the story of Mrs. Robinson who is determined to win the gingerbread house contest this year. The Christmas mouse who lives in the Robinson home interferes with the plan and learns lessons about life and getting along with the big people. Performances are Saturdays, Dec. 8 and 15, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16, at 2 p.m. There is no admission fee. For information visit SCPlayers.org.



Festival of Lights Concert

The Santa Clara University Concert Choir and Chamber Singers perform a program of music from a variety of eras and styles, concluding with the audience favorite “Silent Night” sung by candlelight in Mission Santa Clara on Fri., Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, visit SCU.edu.

The Nutcracker Ballet

The 45th annual, full-length, traditional version of “The Nutcracker” will be presented by local dancers of all ages and guest artists in lead roles at the Santa Clara Convention Center Theater on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. For ticket information, visit SantaClaraBallet.com.



Handel’s “Messiah” Concert

Since its premiere in Dublin in 1741, Handel’s “Messiah” and its “Hallelujah Chorus” has become one of the best known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. Members of the San Jose Chamber Orchestra will join with Santa Clara Chorale, under the direction of Scott Hanna-Weir, to present this baroque classic in Mission Santa Clara on Friday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. For information visit SCC.org.



Shop ‘til you drop in Santa Clara

Holidays are a time for gift-giving and the best presents can often be found right here in Santa Clara.

The annual Holiday Craft Faire at the Santa Clara Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. offers the work of talented artisans and crafters, including woodworking, knitting, photography, ceramics, jewelry and more. Applications for those who would like to sell their work are available at the Santa Clara Senior Center and on the City website SantaClaraCA.gov. Spots fill quickly and are assigned by staff on a first-come basis. For more information, call 408-615-3170.

Santa Clara is home to a huge variety of businesses and supporting local stores keeps sales tax revenue in the City’s General Fund to support core services such as library, parks, street repair, public safety and the hundreds of other services provided to the public by municipal government. Shopping outside of Santa Clara sends those sales tax dollars to other communities.



Santa in the morning, Santa in the evening

Santa Claus will make two special visits to Santa Clara in December to spend some time with families with young children.

Share a tasty pancake breakfast with Santa at a Pajama Party in the Santa Clara Senior Center on Saturday, Dec. 8, 9-11 a.m. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite Christmas pajamas and will have a photo opportunity with Santa and his elves. In addition to breakfast cooked by Boy Scout Troop 349, the event includes making holiday crafts and ornaments.



Children must be accompanied by an adult, and a minimum one adult per family. Pre-registration is required and each family member must register. For details and to register, go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

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Santa will return on Thursday, Dec. 13, to the Community Recreation Center to spend time with families from 5-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m. Visits will include 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 registered to attend. Fees are \$15 for residents and \$17 for non-residents. Activities are designed for children ages

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.



Keep pets safe during holidays

The holiday season can be a hazardous time for your family pet, according to the animal experts at Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA). In all of the hustle and bustle, take extra care to keep your four-legged family members safe and healthy.

- Pets, cats in particular, can be curious about the Christmas tree. Be sure the tree is anchored securely so it can't fall over and cause injury.
- Holly, mistletoe and poinsettias can make pets sick. Keep them out of reach.
- Wires (especially strings of lights) can deliver a lethal electrical shock if chewed.
- Shards from broken glass ornaments can injure your pet.
- While tinsel is an attractive play "toy" because it moves and shines, it can easily obstruct the digestive tract if swallowed.
- Don't share your holiday goodies or leftovers with pets. Fatty or spicy foods such as onions and garlic, turkey, and other "people" food, especially chocolate, can make your pet sick.
- Beware of loose yarn or tiny things on decorations or specialty pet toys that can be swallowed and cause obstructions. Get kitty an interactive cat dancer or a catnip toy and delight the dog with indestructible chew toys.



Add a taste of Cuba to your holiday menu

Julie Flores, a Hospitality Management student at Mission College in Santa Clara, shares a recipe for a West Coast version of a Cuban Christmas Eve classic, Nochebuena Lechon Asado. Traditionally, the dish involves roasting an entire pig for the family. "It was love at first bite," said Julie who said it started her foodie love affair with Cuban cuisine and her interest in food truck entrepreneurship. Chicken, turkey or tofu can be substituted for pork for dietary or religious purposes.



Nochebuena Lechon Asado Serves 2 to 4

West Coast Mojo Marinade

- 4 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1 tsp oregano
 - 1 tsp ground cumin
 - 1/3 c. fresh lime juice
 - 1/3 c. fresh orange juice
 - 1/4 c. white wine
 - 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Add all of the ingredients together and whisk to combine well.

Lechon Asado

- 2 lb. center cut pork loin roast
- 1 large onion, cut into rings

Place the roast in a plastic bag with the mojo marinade and sliced onions. Place in refrigerator for at least 2 hours up to 24 hours.

Roast time: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove roast, marinade, and onions from bag and place in a roast pan. Place pan in oven.

Baste your pork loin every 10-15 minutes until the thickest part of the pork reaches an internal temperature of 145 degrees (medium rare). When it reaches 145, take the loin out of the oven, remove from marinade. Let it rest lightly covered with foil for 3 mins.

Slice pork loin thinly and serve with onion rings and marinade, if desired.

Upcoming City Holidays

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 22-23 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.

Tuesday, Dec. 25 Winter Holiday

City Offices Closed

No collection of Garbage, Clean Green or Recycling

Garbage/Recycling pickup one date late for those normally serviced Tuesday through Friday.*

Tuesday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

City Offices Closed

No collection of Garbage, Clean Green or Recycling

Garbage/Recycling pickup one date late for those normally serviced Tuesday through Friday.*

*Free extra garbage pickup. Single-family households may set out up to 2 additional, 32-gallon bags on each of the collection days (4 bags total) between Dec. 26 and Jan. 7. Questions? Contact the Public Works Department at 408-615-3080.

The City Water & Sewer Utility, Police, Fire, Public Works, and Silicon Valley Power personnel will provide 24/7 assistance during holiday closures to respond to any City emergencies.

- In an emergency, call or text 911
- Non-emergency situations can be reported by calling 408-615-5580
- Water, sewer and power emergencies should be reported by calling the 24-hour line at 408-615-5640.

Be careful with candles

Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them to decorate your home during the holidays, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave candles burning unattended and never put lit candles on or close to a tree or sprays of evergreen boughs.



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 be 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.