

City Hall News

From District 4 City Councilmember Kevin Park

MARCH 2022 E-NEWSLETTER

Free COVID-19 Testing & Get Vaccinated

In partnership with the County of Santa Clara, the City hosts free COVID-19 testing at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Ave. The next testing dates are **March 9 and 23**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Typically, 3-7 days before the testing date, <u>schedule an appointment</u> online. Visit <u>SCCFreeTest.org</u> for countywide testing locations. Make an appointment for COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters at <u>SCCFreeVax.org</u> or <u>MyTurnCA.gov</u> for all those eligible.

The County of Santa Clara is Providing Free At-Home COVID-19 Antigen Tests

Those who live, work, or attend school in Santa Clara County can sign up online, then pick up tests from one of four distribution sites. Schedule to pick up your at-home COVID-19 antigen tests within Santa Clara County by visiting SCCFreeTest.org.

Join the Homelessness Taskforce!

The City of Santa Clara, having endorsed the Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness, is convening a Homelessness Taskforce. The Taskforce will include stakeholders with a range of perspectives and experience who can help identify priorities and provide recommendations related to the development of a City Plan to End Homelessness. Task force members will be asked to review materials related to current plans and services, provide input on community engagement approaches, and give feedback on a draft City Plan. Individuals with lived experience of homelessness will be compensated per hour for their participation in the Taskforce.

Meetings will begin in early spring. The task force will meet virtually once per month for six months, and members will be expected to attend all meetings. The meetings will be open to the public.

If you are interested in participating as a task force member, you can access the application on the City's <u>webpage</u>. Homebase has been hired to facilitate this process and is available to answer questions by email at <u>cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org</u> or by phone at 415-788-7961.

Fix a Leak Week 2022

Do you know easy-to-fix water leaks waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water each year in U.S. homes, adding extra costs to your monthly water bill? Fortunately, many leaks are easy to detect and inexpensive to fix yourself. Collaborate with the City of Santa Clara Water & Sewer Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency for National Fix a Leak Week from **March 14 to March 20**,



2022. <u>Learn</u> how you and your household can become Leak Detectives. For high-tech help with leak detection, <u>register</u> for the City of Santa Clara's <u>WaterSmart</u> program. You can opt to receive leak alerts, billing and informational notifications by phone, email or text message. Also, find conservation strategies, step-by-step troubleshooting, detailed repair guides and more!

Shared Mobility Update (Bicycle and Scooter Share)

On Dec. 7, 2021, the City Council adopted an ordinance and draft regulations for a new Shared Mobility Program which will allow up to 1,000 bicycles and 2,000 scooters to be rented and used within the City. The period for prospective operators to submit applications to the City is from **Feb. 1 to March 31**. If selected, operators will be issued a permit to deploy bicycles and scooters throughout the City starting in July 2022. For more information, visit: SantaClaraCA.gov/SharedMobilityProgram.

Climate Action Plan Update – Planning Commission and City Council Adoption Hearings

Following over two years of community engagement, the City has developed a Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) to update the current CAP adopted in 2013. Adoption of the CAP Update would extend the City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals through 2030, address all new State requirements established since the 2013 CAP was adopted, and offer a Qualified CAP that would provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining benefits. The Planning Commission Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, and the City Council Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. For further information please wisit our website. You may also email us at Planning@SantaClaraCA.gov or call us at 408-615-2450.

Accessing City Services

 $To stay informed about current City services and programs, visit \underline{SantaClaraCA.gov/AccessSantaClara}.$



Message from Kevin Park, City Councilmember District 4

Warm greetings to all in District 4!

It has been over a year already, but it somehow seems much shorter than that, even as the coronavirus tries to make it feel like forever.

We have a number of challenges ahead, including managing developments and helping the unhoused while being mindful of our neighborhoods. As the city prepares for the coming fiscal year, I encourage all residents to become more involved. Whether that means going to meetings, sending e-mail, or even calling me directly, any way to make yourself heard only increases residential voice and helps guide the city to help you.

I look forward to another year of safe neighborhoods, open businesses, and improved city services. Please keep your families and loved ones safe, and share ways for neighbors and friends to strengthen our community. And if you are bored, or even very excited, feel free to give me a ring!

Kevin Park Santa Clara City Councilmember, District 4 408-650-2186

Around the Town

News, events, and happenings in Santa Clara.

Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Countywide Local Roads Safety Plan

VTA, in partnership with the City of Santa Clara and other local jurisdictions, is developing a Countywide Local Roads Safety Plan (LRSP) with the goal of improving traffic safety in Santa Clara County. The LRSP is funded by the VTA and provides a framework for identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing roadway safety improvements on local roads. This plan will provide local agencies in Santa Clara County concepts to enhance traffic safety for all modes of transportation. While the LSRP does not include funding for construction, it helps jurisdictions be in a better position for obtaining Caltrans grant funding to help implement improvements in the future. The VTA is currently gathering public input regarding traffic safety concerns on roadways in Santa Clara and throughout Santa Clara County. Provide your <u>feedback</u> by accessing an online map where you can place pins and notes at intersections or roadway segments related to your safety concerns. Feedback is being solicited through Friday, April 15, 2022. For more information regarding the project, please visit the <u>project website</u> or contact <u>Eugene Maeda</u>, VTA Project Manager.

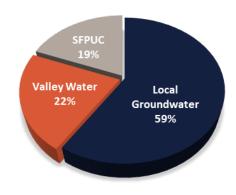
Pruneridge Avenue Complete Streets Plan

The public is invited to complete a new online survey for the Pruneridge Avenue Complete Streets Plan (Plan). The goal of the Plan is to study and identify potential bicycle and pedestrian improvements on a 2.2-mile segment of Pruneridge Avenue from Pomeroy Avenue to Winchester Boulevard. Please visit the project webpage, SantaClaraCA.gov/PruneridgeAvePlan to complete the survey and vote on concepts that include options for new bike lanes, parking removal, or lane reductions. The results of the online survey and Plan will be presented to City Council for consideration, estimated to be in Fall 2022. For updates on the project, or to view past community meetings, visit the project webpage. For any specific questions or comments on the Plan, please contact Carol Shariat, Project Manager, at pruneridgeaveplan@altago.com or at 408-320-7060.

World Water Day 2022

This March 22, commemorate World Water Day with appreciation for groundwater's role in your life and community! The Santa Clara subbasin provides about 60% of the City's potable water supply from City owned wells. The City's groundwater continues to provide excellent quality water without any treatment. It's critical that we

City of Santa Clara Water Sources



do our part to keep our water clean and safe: Minimize fertilizer use, properly dispose of animal waste, maintain septic systems. Let's use our water mindfully to ensure its availability as this extreme and exceptional drought continues. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater for conservation tips.

Spring Classes and Summer Camps

Are you ready to get out and have fun this spring and summer? The Parks & Recreation Department has you covered with a variety of recreation classes and summer camps. The Spring + Summer Camp 2022 Activity Guide will be available online Friday, March 4 for viewing. Registration begins Tuesday, March 8. Spring classes begin March 28. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for more information.



New Stop Sign at Benton Street and The Alameda

The Department of Public Works (DPW) installed new stop signs on Benton Street at The Alameda. Based on the Traffic Engineering Division's analysis of the intersection, staff determined that new stop signs should be installed to create an All-Way Stop control at this intersection. All-Way Stop controlled intersections require all traffic to come to a complete stop and assess surroundings before proceeding safely. The All-Way Stop is intended to create a safer environment for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The City has also modified the existing intersection flasher to show red in all directions and to increase awareness of the new stop control. For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3000 or engineering@santaclaraca.gov.

Stay Moving with the Activity Pass

Challenge yourself with a new drop-in activity this spring. Purchase your Activity Pass now for access to three different drop-in programs: Group Exercise at the Community Center, Lap Swim at the International Swim Center and Drop-in Play at the Reed & Grant Sports Park. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass for more information.

Youth Commission Application

The application for the Youth Commission's upcoming 2022/23 term is now available online. Interested youth ages 12-19, who reside in the City of Santa Clara, are encouraged to apply. For more information and to download the application, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/YouthCommission.

Maintenance at International Swim Center (ISC)

The ISC will be closed for maintenance from March 21-25. During this time, lap swim will be moved to the Warburton Swim Center, 2250 Royal Dr. Lap Swim hours will be: Monday: 11:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Tuesday: 7 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Wednesday: 11:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Thursday: 7 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday: 11:45 a.m. to 2:45 pm. Visit the Aquatics webpage at SantaClaraCA.gov/Swimming for the most recent schedule.

Cultural Commission Commemorative Months Coloring Book

Celebrate Santa Clara's diversity with the Cultural Commission's commemorative months' coloring book. Enjoy monthly coloring pages and activities as we celebrate the diversity of our City. Print out the March coloring page and share your creative artwork on the Cultural Commission Facebook or Instagram for a chance to be featured on their page. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission to learn more.

"Scam Stopper" Presentation

On Feb. 16, the Senior Center held a virtual "Scam Stopper" presentation, where industry experts from the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, California Department of Insurance, and Contractors State License Board shared the latest on scams and fraud. They provided information about broader topics such as identity theft, auto repair, Medicare, foreign lotteries, and mail fraud, as well as construction-related scams. Visit the Senior Center website to view the presentation.

The Path to Offering Crisis Intervention Specialists to our Police Department and Community – One Year Later

With the movement of persons with mental illness out of hospitals and into the community, the frequency of contact between police officers and individuals in crisis has increased significantly. How police respond in these situations has important consequences for the individual in psychiatric crisis, police officers and the community at large.

The Santa Clara Police Department (SCPD) provides deescalation and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to its

police officers. CIT brings awareness, familiarity, preparedness and confidence to handle calls for service involving persons with mental illness. In addition, non-physical skills and techniques are taught to promote safe and respectful interactions between police and individuals with mental illnesses with an emphasis on communication and the identification of mental health resources, and attempts to divert individuals from the criminal justice system to mental health services. This model seeks to reduce incidents of use of force and enhance the safety of individuals with mental illness and officers.

In December 2020, SCPD also implemented a program that aimed to provide an improved response and service to those in the community experiencing a crisis. Two officers were trained as

Crisis Intervention Specialists (CIS) to create connections between law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency services, individuals with mental illness and their families.

In 2021, the SCPD responded to 1,169 events related to mental health. Of these, 31% resulted in an involuntary psychiatric detention. Only four incidents involved police use of force.

460 of these cases were documented for CIS follow-up, and 222 of those cases resulted in follow-up action with the subject and their existing support system (e.g. case manager, therapist, psychiatrist, family, etc.). The CIS team also made referrals for additional support services in 85 of those cases.

Through intensive training and collaborative community partnerships, CIS has experienced the following benefits:

- Collaborative approach among stakeholders
- Allow individual experiencing mental illness to stay in treatment, and out of jail
- Improved community attitude and knowledge about mental illness
- Provides officers more tools to do their job safely and effectively
- Keeps patrol officers focused on crime

In 2022, SCPD is collaborating with the County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Department to increase public safety and reduce recidivism among high-risk individuals with mental illnesses to establish a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team Justice (PERT) and Mental Health Collaboration Program. Doing so will create an opportunity for SCPD to have a mental health clinician on staff with CIS to provide the best possible response to situations involving persons with mental illness.



If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health emergency or are in an immediate danger to yourself or others, dial 9-1-1.

For support services:

- Visit NAMI.org
- Call the NAMI HelpLine: 800-950-NAMI (6264)
- Email the NAMI Helpline: info@nami.org
- Find a NAMI near you: NAMI.org/Local

For information about NAMI's education classes, presentation and support groups, visit: NAMI.org/



If you or someone you know needs help, contact NAMI HelpLine Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. ET

> 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or info@nami.org

EVENTS, MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Free Medication Disposal Envelope Giveaway

Wednesday, March 2 and 9, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. Bay Area Older Adults is an authorized Med-Project distributor, a mail-back nonprofit that helps you get rid of unneeded over-the-counter and/or prescription medicines. They will be at the Senior Center to give out special medicine disposal envelopes, which are a good way to safely clear out unwanted or expired meds. Leftover pills, creams, liquids, and patches in your home make it too easy to mistakenly take expired medicine, the wrong dose, or the wrong drug. Medications down the toilet, sink, or putting them in the garbage contaminates our drinking water. Please do not bring sharps, inhalers, supplements, or personal care products. If you have questions, please contact the Health & Wellness Program staff at 408-615-3170.

Community Meeting for 275 Saratoga Avenue Senior/Assisted Living/Memory Care Project

The applicant, Swenson Builders, will be hosting a virtual community meeting on

Wednesday, March 2, at 6 p.m. to share their proposed rezoning at 275 Saratoga Avenue to construct a 166,892 square foot 4-story senior assisted living/memory care facility over a sub-



grade parking garage with 73 parking spaces and site improvements. The Project includes demolition of the existing 30,050 square foot 2-story office building. City Staff will be in attendance to receive feedback provided on the proposal. Visit the <u>project's webpage</u> closer to the community meeting for virtual participation information.

Recology South Bay Hosting an Environmental Day for Santa Clara Residents

Saturday, March 5 at 1675 Rogers Ave. in San Jose from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Environmental Day is designed to promote recycling, reuse, and diversion of usable materials from the landfill. Residents are invited to bring the following accepted materials:

- Documents for confidential shredding (two box limit)
- E-waste (computers, monitors, printers, etc.)

questions, contact Recology South Bay at 408-970-5100.

• Universal waste (batteries, cell phones, CFLs and fluorescent tubes)

• Clothing (in good condition for donation) Residents must provide a current utility bill and personal identification to verify eligibility. No appointment is required. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed by staff, and all residents must wear a face covering when entering the property. To maintain physical distancing, residents will be required to remove materials from their vehicles. Environmental Day is subject to all California Department of Public Health and Santa Clara County Public Health orders and guidelines. Should such guidelines or orders change, the event shall be modified to remain in compliance. For

Kids Rock

Friday, March 11, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Activity Center (YAC), 2450 Cabrillo Ave. K-5th grade kids get ready to join us for the next Kids Rock to have some Lego fun with a special night of activities that include recreation games, arts and crafts, music, inflatable slide, and more! Visit SantaClaraca.gov/Activenet to register. For more information, contact the YAC at 408-615-3760.

Downtown Community Task Force (DCTF) Meeting

The next DCTF meeting (#26) will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, March 17**, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. For information on joining the meeting, including the Zoom link, please visit the Downtown website at <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/Downtown</u>.

Roberta Jones Junior Theatre Presents Seussical

Performances weekends of **March 18** and **March 25** at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd. Roberta Jones Junior Theatre production of Seussical is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza, bringing all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters to life. The colorful characters transport us from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos. Seussical is fun for the entire family! Visit <u>RJJT.org</u> to purchase tickets.



Save the Date for National Night

Aug. 2, 2022. Registration will open in May 2022. For details, log onto SantaClaraCA.gov/NationalNightOut.

Sunset Cinema + Summer Camp Fair

Friday, April 22 at the Reed & Grant Sports Park, 750 Reed St. The Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting a free community-wide Summer Camp Fair starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by an outdoor movie starting at approximately 8:30 p.m. The Camp Fair is the perfect opportunity to meet our talented recreation staff and vendors, ask questions, and even register for camps. Don't miss it!

Bassett-Laurelwood Bike Lane Project Second Community Meeting

The City is working on a grant funded project to consider the installation of new bicycle facilities on Bassett Street between Agnew Road and Laurelwood Road. On December 15, 2021, the City held a virtual community meeting to provide information on the project. The City will host a second virtual community meeting to present options for new bicycle facilities, discuss possible parking removals on Bassett Street (Chestnut Street to George Street), and gather



community input. The public is invited to attend the upcoming online community meeting on **March 16**, 2022, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. To register, visit <u>SantaClaraCA</u>. gov/BassettBikeLane or contact Marshall Johnson at <u>mjohnson@santaclaraca.gov</u> or at 408-615-3023.



Stevens Creek Boulevard and Winchester Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation and Bike Lanes Project

The City of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose are working on a joint project to rehabilitate pavement on Stevens Creek Boulevard between Stern Avenue and Interstate 880 and Winchester Boulevard between Newhall Street and Stevens Creek Boulevard. It is anticipated that the project will take place during summer of 2022. In addition to pavement work, both cities are considering the installation of new bike lanes on Stevens Creek Boulevard and Winchester Boulevard. Adding bike lanes on Winchester Boulevard would require the removal of on-street parking. In March 2022, the City of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose will host two community meetings to present the options for bike lanes along Winchester Boulevard, discuss parking removal and gather community input. For meeting information, visit santaclaraca.gov/winchesterbikelane or contact Ralph Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer, at RGarcia1@santaclaraca.gov/winchesterbikelane or contact Ralph Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer, at RGarcia1@santaclaraca.gov/winchesterbikelane or at 408-615-3026.

Composting Basics Workshop

Compost improves soil structure, increases the absorption of moisture, supplies soil with nutrients for plants, and reduces erosion. It does all this while minimizing water use, reducing pollution, and diverting waste from landfills. In partnership with the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County and the University of California Cooperative Extension's Master Composters, the City



is hosting a hybrid (in-person and virtual) composting workshop on **Saturday, March 19**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Park located at 2380 Monroe St. A master composter will teach residents how to build, maintain and troubleshoot an at-home compost bin and apply the finished compost. Registration is required and in-person attendance is limited to 12 attendees. Register at ucanr.edu/compost or call the "Rot Line" at 408-918-4640. The Compost Basics Workshop is subject to all California Department of Public Health and Santa Clara County Public Health orders and guidelines. Should such guidelines or orders change, the event shall be modified to remain in compliance. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at environment@santaclaraca.gov or 408-615-3080.

Residential Free Compost Giveaway

Prepare your spring and summer garden with nutrient-rich compost to improve the soil's ability to handle water and nourish your crops. The City of Santa Clara is hosting a self-service compost giveaway event for Santa Clara residents on **Saturday, April 2**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the City's Corporation Yard, located at 1700 Walsh Ave. Residents must provide a current utility bill and/or personal identification to verify eligibility. Compost will be self-served - residents must bring their own shovel and sturdy container (i.e. 5-gallon bucket), fill their container, and load their container into their vehicle. Maximum of 30 gallons per household. Compost will be available while supplies last and quantity is limited. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed by staff. All residents must wear a face covering while on City property and maintain required physical distancing. The Free Compost Giveaway Event is subject to all California Department of Public Health and Santa Clara County Public Health orders and guidelines. Should such guidelines or orders change, the event shall be modified to remain in compliance. Questions? Call the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080 or email environment@santaclaraca.gov.

Registration for the Spring Citywide Garage Sale

The Santa Clara Citywide Garage Sale returns **April 9**! Hosting a garage sale is a great opportunity for residents to turn unwanted items into cash, while preventing usable items from ending up in the landfill. Register online for individual, multi-family, or block garage sales starting March 7 through April 6 at SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale. Citywide Garage Sale registrations will be displayed on an interactive map, and a finalized list of garage sale locations will be made available to download on Friday, April 8. The Citywide Garage Sale is subject to all California Department of Public Health and Santa Clara County Public Health orders and guidelines. Should such guidelines or orders change, the event shall be modified to remain in compliance. Learn how to participate and get some tips on hosting your own garage sale at SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale. Questions? Email environment@santaclaraca.gov or call 408-615-3080.

Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday, April 9, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. Hippity, Hoppity... the Bunny is on its way. Kick-off spring with the kids and grandkids, and enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast, arts & crafts, and participate in an egg hunt. Bring your cameras or phones to capture a photo with Bunny. Children must be accompanied by an adult; minimum one adult per family. Register to attend. #23765 Res. \$15/Non-Res. \$19.

For More Information

View past issues of City Hall News at <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/CityHallNews</u>.

Current Job Openings

Join the Center of What's Possible! View job opportunities and for information on how to apply, visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/Jobs</u>.

Employment Services

NOVA Works job centers are open for in-person services. Visit the website at NovaWorks.org for more information on free services available for job training and assistance Santa Clara residents and businesses.

Apply to Be a Crossing Guard

Crossing Guards play a vital role in community safety! Crossing Guards help children safely cross the street on their way to and from school. However, our well-trained colleagues are also present to:

- Discourage children from behaving in an unsafe manner near traffic, such as darting into the street without looking or crossing against a traffic signal;
- Encourage children to walk their bicycle or scooter in crosswalks;
- Use existing gaps in traffic to help students cross safely. When the natural traffic flow does not allow enough time for children to safely cross a street, a Crossing Guard may create gaps by stopping traffic temporarily;
- Alert motorists that pedestrians of unsafe traffic safety behaviors; and,
- Observe and report any incidents or conditions that present a potential safety hazard.

Crossing Guards generally work approximately 10-15 hours per week in an as-needed, nonbenefitted capacity. Applicants must have a valid California driver's license and be at least 21 years of age. Hours and locations vary. The rate of pay is \$16.40 - \$17.21 per hour. An application is available at SantaClaraCA.gov/HR. For more information, contact Community Service Officer Taylor Carpenter at 408-615-4875 or tcarpenter@santaclaraca.gov.

Parks & Recreation Currently Hiring for Part-Time Staff

Make a difference in your community with a job in the Parks & Recreation Department. We are looking to fill several positions within the Department at various facilities. Currently hiring for Lifeguards/Instructors, Recreation Instructors, Recreation Leaders, Recreation Office Assistants and Recreation Specialists. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/Jobs to view the full job descriptions and apply.

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Report Concerns via Mobile App

Did you know you can report concerns with **MySantaClara** app? Download the app or submit request online at <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/mysantaclara</u>.