



City Hall News

From Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor

December 2022

SantaClaraCA.gov

City Hall News Highlights

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Job Opportunities

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

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Message from Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor

Happy Holiday Season to all our Residents and Business Owners. As we come to the close of 2022, I would like to thank all who gave of their time, energy and resources during this past year to help our Community in ways both large and small. Coming out of a Pandemic takes time, and I am hopeful as we enter 2023 we'll continue to provide quality community services while also renewing the "vibrancy and spirit" Santa Clara has always been known for.

As we wrap up this year, here's a reflection on some of the community events that make Santa Clara extra special.

January – Re-opening of the Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations to the Business Community on re-opening of headquarters for Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce

February – Santa Clarans' Make a Difference by Giving Blood to Help Those In Need

Our spirited Sparky made a visit to the Stanford Blood mobile at Central Park Library to support local blood donations.

March – Women's History Month is Recognized in Santa Clara

Frances Klune was our first professional Librarian hired in 1953. She brought the joy of reading to youngsters through her summer reading program.

April - Relay For Life

Santa Clarans come together for Relay For Life - On Track to Find a Cure, united in the fight against cancer and committed to helping raise funds for research to find a cure.



January 2022



February 2022



March 2022



April 2022

Message continues on page 2.

Message From Mayor Lisa Gillmor

Continued from page 1

May – Health and Wellness Fair Was a Big Success

The Fair, held at Fremont Park had 50 organizations on hand to share information and resources for our seniors and those taking care of seniors.

June – Santa Clara Warmly Welcomes Special Olympians

We were proud to have athletes from more than 25 counties join our Santa Clara Police Department and neighboring law enforcement agencies at Santa Clara University, the host site.

July – All City Picnic at Central Park brings Community together for Independence Day

Santa Clara residents enjoyed food, music, dance and entertainment, all adding to the spirit of the day.

August – A Huge Success for National Night Out

Santa Clara residents gathered at 43 neighborhood locations throughout our city. National Night Out encourages neighbors to get to know each other, as we share our common goal to keep our community safe.

September – 2022 State of the City Address and Community Awards

Thank you to all who attended or viewed online the 2022 State of the City address. Special Congratulations to our District Community Award recipients and to the Citywide Honoree St. Justin Community Ministry.

October – A time to truly Celebrate Santa Clara with The Parade of Champions

The Parade is always a favorite as it reflects the true meaning of community, spirit, history and inclusiveness.

November – Recognizing our Veterans

Thank you to all who participated in our City's 2022 Veterans Day program and with special gratitude to all who have valiantly served our Country.

In closing, I would like to wish all our Residents, Business Owners, City Staff and First Responders, Educators, Community Organizations and Meal Program Volunteers, a healthy, happy, and abundant Holiday Season.



Mayor Lisa Gillmor

CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

2022 Holiday Tree Lighting

The Santa Clara Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Friday, Dec. 2 in Central Park. The 112 year-old Santa Clara tradition was celebrated by decorating the holiday tree and placing the heirloom Teddy (Bear) in its branches. This year's festivities included live music and entertainment, activities for the entire family, snow play, community booths, non-profit food vendors, and a visit from Santa Claus.

The tradition also included the annual proclamation of an honorary "Holiday Tree Lighter." This is a special recognition of a Santa Clara individual, family or business who embodies the meaning of the holiday season of giving through lifelong community service, generosity and positivity. This year, the recipient of the Mayoral Proclamation of honorary "Holiday Tree Lighter" was the late William "Bill" Kelly and family. A 4th generation Santa Clara native and retired Santa Clara Department Fire Chief, Bill had an accomplished academic career, and lived a life dedicated to public service, serving the community through his work in the Santa Clara Fire Department beginning as a volunteer in 1982 through his retirement as Fire Chief in 2019. Bill continued his community service and volunteer work through the Rotary Club, serving as President of the Rotary Santa Clara Chapter from 2021-22 until his recent passing from cancer. Bill Kelly's life is one to be emulated in Santa Clara as a clear example of community service, heartfelt generosity, and the positive spirit of the holiday season.



Homework Help Center at the Library

The Santa Clara City Library and Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends received a California State Library grant to offer opportunities for teens to gain job experience by participating in a Teen Library Internship at Central Park Library. During the internship, the teens participated in enrichment opportunities including resume building, interview practice, financial planning and teamwork bonding. In November, the Library started a small Homework Help Center where the teen interns assist struggling students within the Santa Clara Unified School District with their weekly assignments and reading practice. The Teen Interns are working one-on-one with 10 students on a weekly basis, with plans to expand help to more students in 2023.



Homework Help Center

Coming Out: 50 Years of Queer Resistance and Resilience in Silicon Valley

The Queer Silicon Valley traveling exhibit is now on display at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Ave., in Santa Clara! This showcase of LGBTQ+ history provides an education on the struggles and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community and 50 years of Queer resistance and resilience in Silicon Valley. Visit SCLibrary.org for library hours. For more information about the exhibit, visit QueerSiliconValley.org.



Queer Silicon Valley Exhibit

New Minimum Wage Effective January 1, 2023

Starting **Jan. 1, 2023**, the City of Santa Clara's minimum wage will increase to \$17.20 per hour. Employers who are subject to the Santa Clara business license tax or who maintain a facility in Santa Clara will be required to pay each employee who performs at least two hours of work a week in Santa Clara at least \$17.20 an hour. The City's minimum wage is adjusted annually based on the regional consumer price index. For more information, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/MinimumWage.

24/7 Availability for Water & Sewer Utilities Staff

Everyone looks forward to being away from work, taking a break to recharge with friends and family for the holidays. Water & Sewer Utilities staff are no different. However, water leaks and sewer backups do not take a holiday break. Fortunately, Water & Sewer Utility staff join several other departments, including Police, Fire, Public Works and Silicon Valley Power personnel, in maintaining 24/7 availability through the holidays to respond to emergencies.

Staff continually monitor our water quality over the holidays to ensure healthful, high-quality drinking water. Monitoring our systems and responding to emergencies is a core mission of the Water & Sewer Utilities and helps protect public health and the environment.

Silicon Valley Power Awarded by EPA for Responsible Appliance Disposal Program

During the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Program Annual Partner Meeting on Nov. 17, 2022, Silicon Valley Power (SVP) was awarded the RAD Champion Award as part of the third year of the RAD Leadership Awards Program. The award recognizes the top 10 partners with the highest percentage of units processed with foam recovery. Since joining the RAD Program in 2010, SVP collected and processed 2,182 refrigerated appliances, reducing carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to energy use of 2,471 homes for one year based on national averages. SVP was awarded the RAD Champion Award for having one of the highest rates of insulation foam recovery in the RAD Program in 2021. Learn more about the [RAD Leadership Awards Program](https://www.epa.gov/rad-program).

We're Still in Severe Drought!

Simple ways to help [Save Our Water](#):

- Replace your lawn with the [Landscape Conversion Rebate](#)
- Regularly [test irrigation zones](#) to catch leaks early
- [Check your toilets](#) for leaks
- [Stop overspray!](#) Sidewalks & driveways don't need water

Despite recent rains, low reservoir levels continue as California's drought persists. The November 22nd U.S. Drought Monitor Report shows that 100% of Santa Clara County and 85% of the State of California remain in severe drought

Current water use restrictions will stay in effect indefinitely. Be mindful of the City's [Water Use Restrictions and Prohibitions](#), particularly during rainy spells.

Do Not:

- Water lawns during or within 48 hours of measurable precipitation.
- Run irrigation between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Water more than 2 days per week.

The City relies on residents to help report water waste throughout Santa Clara. If you witness a violation of the water use prohibitions, report water waste using **ONE** of these methods:

- Complete the online [Water Waste Report](#) form
- Or submit a request via the [MySantaClara](#) mobile app
- Or call the City of Santa Clara Water Department at (408) 615-2000 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

\$5,000 Grants Available to High School Students for Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Projects

Silicon Valley Power is offering grants up to \$5,000 for high school students to create projects or awareness campaigns that will educate the Santa Clara community about energy efficiency and/or renewable energy. Examples include but are not limited to educational videos, public art displays, online resources, outreach materials, demonstration projects, webinars or workshops. Content must promote energy efficiency and/or renewable energy.

The program is open to high school students who live in the City of Santa Clara or attend school within Santa Clara city limits. Preference is given to projects that include components targeting diversity, equity and inclusion. Applications will be scored based on the content, key messages, target audience, community reach and value for the money spent.

Grant awards will be made twice per year with deadlines on **June 30 and Dec. 31**. For complete eligibility requirements and program details, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/Grants](#).

Remember Your Reusables!

The holiday season is upon us and that means celebrating with family, friends, and food! Holiday gatherings create fun memories but can also create extra waste. Follow these tips for planning an eco-friendly celebration this holiday season.

1. Create a meal plan based on the number of people attending your celebration. Visit [SaveTheFood.com](#) to use the dinner party calculator to estimate how much food is needed based on the number of guests and the type of meal provided.
2. Check the pantry, refrigerator, and freezer before grocery shopping for your planned feast. Doing so prevents overbuying and additional food waste.
3. Make a shopping list and only buy what is needed. Shopping with a list will keep you from overbuying and on budget!
4. Ditch the plastic utensils, cups, and paper napkins! Using reusable glass and cloth counterparts makes for a beautiful tablescape and keeps unnecessary items out of the landfill.
5. Encourage your guests to bring their own reusable containers for those yummy leftovers.

Reduce Landscape Irrigation Runtimes

As weather cools and morning dew appears at sunrise, nature reminds us irrigation controllers need adjusting. Weather-based controllers may need manual tweaking to manage water use most efficiently during the cool season. If you haven't changed controller settings since your landscape was installed, it's time to adjust! Consult the user manual or look up the controller model online to reduce irrigation frequency, runtimes or both. Established landscapes can generally be shut off completely between fall and springtime changes. A finger inserted into the soil at least knuckle deep will help gauge soil moisture, or use a moisture meter, available free to residents (while supplies last) from the Water & Sewer Utilities office at City Hall (1500 Warburton Ave.) during regular business hours. Call 408-615-2000 if the entrance doors are locked. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater](#) for more conservation tips during this ongoing severe drought emergency.

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Residential holiday trees will be collected curbside on regular garbage collection days during the week of Jan. 9 - Jan. 13. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand. After Jan. 13, cut up your tree and place the pieces in your green yard trimmings cart. Flocked trees are not compostable and should be cut up and placed in your garbage cart. For more information on holiday tree recycling and set-out instructions, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanSC](#) or call the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080.



Save Our Water During Droughts



Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Holiday Solid Waste Collection

There will be no disruption to solid waste collection services this holiday season. Garbage, recycling and yard trimming collection services will occur on your regular collection day, including **Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2.**

Residents with cart service may set out up to two additional 32-gallon garbage bags on each of their collection days between **Dec. 26 – Jan. 6** at no extra charge. Commercial and multi-family registered account holders with front load bin service may arrange one additional pickup per garbage account per year at no extra charge by contacting Mission Trail Waste Systems at 408-727-5365.

Please recycle all non-metallic gift wrap, tissue paper, cards, boxes and tags. For questions regarding residential recycling service, please contact Recology South Bay at 408-970-5100; for residential garbage and yard waste service, please contact Mission Trail Waste Systems at 408-727-5365.

Return of Residential Permit Parking Program

The Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program is an option for neighborhoods that are impacted by long-term on-street overflow parking from sources (called parking generators) outside the neighborhood. These parking generators include hospitals, transit stations, business complexes, commercial areas, malls, colleges and high schools. The program is intended to deter long-term on-street parking and discourage overflow parking on to residential streets.

Implementation of a RPP area is a way to give residents of a designated area a better chance to park near their homes. It is not intended to designate or guarantee a specific parking space along a property frontage. An RPP area involves the posting of parking time limits or parking restrictions from which local residents are exempt if a valid permit is authorized through the vendor, or a visitor's pass is properly displayed on the dashboard of their vehicle. The program has been dormant as a result of the pandemic, stay at home orders and associated staffing issues.

The Santa Clara Police Department has been utilizing a variety of tools (e.g. City publications, Police Department's website, Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, Nixle and Twitter platforms, A-frame signs with messaging on the affected streets) to inform the public about the return of the program. During this time, law enforcement will be issuing warnings to RPP violators. Effective January 2, 2023 citations will be issued for RPP program violators.

To determine if your street is in an RPP area, and to view the FAQ's about the program, log onto SantaClaraCA.gov/PermitParking.

How to Obtain a Parking Permit

Applicants must live in a parking permit area to be eligible for a residential parking permit and visitor permit.

To purchase your permit online, follow the instructions below:

Step 1 - Create a resident account at SantaClara.permitinfo.net

Step 2 - Provide vehicle information for resident permit(s)

Step 3 - Provide proof of residency in an RPP area

Step 4 - Make payment via credit card

For portal inquiries, contact Data Ticket at 1-800-989-2058.

The online process will be the quickest way to obtain an RPP, however if you are not comfortable using the online system or do not have reliable access to a computer, contact the Santa Clara Police Department at 408-615-4700.

Tis the Season for Car Break-Ins and Package Thefts

Tis the season for holiday shopping. Unfortunately, it's also the time of year when criminals target quick, easy and low-risk crimes such as car break-ins and package thefts.

Remove the attraction by taking valuables out of your car when you are not in it – at home, at work, when you are out to eat, at the gym and in a shopping center. This includes purses, laptops, cell phones, GPS systems, sunglasses and bags (e.g. laptop bags, shopping bags, gym bag, etc.). Anything visible to a passerby can be a theft magnet!

The growth of eCommerce is an opportunity for holiday burglars and porch pirates. Residents are encouraged to put practices in place to outsmart package thieves, such as:

- Order well ahead of the holiday
- Deliver to a work address, ship to a locker (available at some grocers and convenience stores) or obtain via retailer curbside pick-up
- If shipping to your home, use a post office box, request signature on delivery or install a secure mailbox for deliveries
- Create a concealed delivery spot at your residence and provide instructions about where packages should be left
- Request ordinary, nondescript packaging
- Insure valuable items
- Set up text or email notifications for up-to-date package tracking
- Retrieve the package as soon as it arrives – or with assistance from a neighbor, family member or friend
- Consider installing a security camera(s) or video doorbell, and advertise that you have a security system
- Encourage your neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages

Residents are asked to stay vigilant!

Report suspicious activity to the Police Department by calling the non-emergency phone line at (408) 615-5580. Public Safety Dispatchers will want to know details of the suspicious activity, suspect(s) description, vehicle details and direction of travel. Should you happen to witness a crime, do not approach the suspect. Instead, be a good witness and dial 9-1-1 immediately.



Holiday Season Package Thefts

SCPD Launches Directed Aerial Response Team

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), more commonly referred to as drones, have proven to be a valuable resource for law enforcement agencies across the country. UAS routinely serve as an aviation asset that provides a different perspective on a dangerous situation and supports investigations.

The Santa Clara Police Department (SCPD) studied the use of drone technology, secured funding and developed best practices, policies and procedures for our Department which were reviewed by the Chief's Advisory Committee and approved by the City Council in 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic and corresponding staffing and supply chain issues delayed the launch of the UAS program.

Recently, SCPD selected eight police officers to be trained and licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). SCPD also received certification from the FAA.

Meanwhile, SCPD has purchased 9 drones, 4 indoor and 5 outdoor, with different capabilities to support the various missions of the Santa Clara Police Department, depending on the conditions and situation. The drones are outfitted with cameras capable of taking still images and recording video. Footage captured will be retained according to the City's established records retention schedule. In each instance, the UAS is intended to aid in the resolution of the situation at hand while also providing a valuable tool to keep officers safely out of harm's way.

In the coming months, SCPD will be blending the use of UAS with its existing operations and technology. Meanwhile, historical information about the development of program is available online on [SCPD's webpage](#).



SCPD Unmanned Aircraft Systems

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

Enter the Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Show your holiday spirit by getting out the candy canes, lights and inflatables! The Cultural Commission invites you to participate in this year's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/Contest for more information.

Have you Purchased your Activity Pass?

The 3-in-1 Activity Pass provides access to Group Exercise at the Community Recreation Center, Drop-in Play at the Reed & Grant Sports Park, and Lap Swim at the International Swim Center. Purchase in increments of 5, 10, or 20. Meet new friends and participate on your own schedule. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass for schedules and more information.

Winter Recreation Classes and Camps

Get ready for the winter season with the Parks & Recreation Department. There are a variety of recreation classes and camps taught by talented instructors. The Winter 2023 Activity Guide is now available for viewing online. Resident registration begins **Tuesday, Dec. 6**. The fun begins Jan. 9. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for information.

December 10th is National Human Rights Day!

The Cultural Commission invites you to enjoy their monthly coloring book pages and to celebrate Santa Clara's diversity. Print the coloring pages and create art with a purpose. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission.

Senior Center Memberships

All Santa Clara residents ages 50 + are invited to visit the Senior Center and enjoy the quality programs and services! The Senior Center offers two (2) membership levels, (a) Basic and (b) Premium which include access to programs and services across the City. Memberships will be renewed at the new levels when a patron's membership expires. Scholarships will be made available for those who qualify. View the [Senior Center Membership Brochure](#) for more information.

Drop-In Swim Returns to the Senior Center

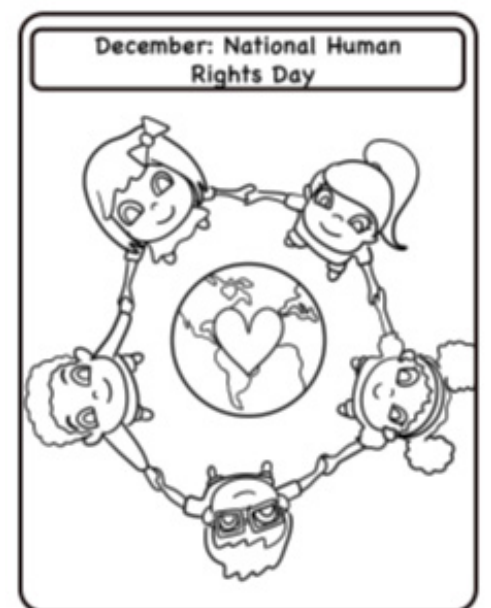
Beginning the week of **Oct. 31 through Dec.16**, Santa Clara residents age 50+ will have access to the Senior Center Natatorium Monday through Thursday. Register and take an aquatic fitness class on Mondays and/or Wednesday mornings, and/or attend the drop-in swim hours on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Natatorium is staffed by certified lifeguards and classes are taught by aquatic instructors with three indoor pools that provide opportunities for aquatic exercise, stretching, and low impact/slow muscle movement. Drop-in swim hours require a Premium Senior Center Membership Card, or a current Senior Center Card. If you would like to upgrade your membership to include pool access, visit the Senior Center front desk. Visit the [Fitness Center & Natatorium Use Guidelines](#) for more information.



Home Decorating Contest



Activity Pass



National Human Rights Day

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



Holiday Giving Tree at the Senior Center

Some of us are fortunate to have our essential needs met while others are not. Join the Senior Center in providing some basic necessities and holiday cheer for those who could use some TLC. Visit the Giving Tree in the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St., from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. to select an ornament or two that lists items to purchase. Deliver unwrapped gift(s) to the Senior Center Front Desk no later than **Wednesday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.** Many thanks in advance!



Enjoy the Magic of Ballet with the Nutcracker!

The holiday season isn't complete without the magic of the Nutcracker! Join Santa Clara Parks & Recreation for our 15th Anniversary of this delightful holiday tradition. Dancers ages 4-18 will light up the stage in this reduced version, perfect for the youngest of audience members. Performances are held the weekend of **Dec. 16 - 18** at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are \$16 each. Purchase at SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet.



The Firehouse Run

The Firehouse Run is a community 5K walk or run located on **Dec. 17, 8:30 a.m.** at Stevens Stadium at Santa Clara University. The Santa Clara Firefighters Foundation goal is to bring the community together—including families, first time racers, elite runners, and everything in between—for a fun event, with the larger goal of enhancing the education provided to the children in Santa Clara! Register at TheFirehouseRun.com.



Free Disposal Day

Start the New Year off with less clutter around your home! Santa Clara's Free Disposal Day provides residents with an opportunity to dispose of appliances and e-waste items, as well as mattresses, furniture and other bulky items. A free disposal day for Santa Clara residents will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 22** at the Mission Trail Waste Systems (MTWS) Transfer Station. Appointments are required and availability is limited. Prohibited items include hazardous waste (e.g. paints, fluorescent bulbs, chemical cleaners, pesticides, etc.), automotive parts, pressure treated wood and spoilable waste. Call MTWS at 408-727-5365 **Jan. 9 - Jan. 20** to make an appointment and for details on location, load size limits and accepted materials. Proof of residency (utility bill or driver's license) is required.



HHW Drop-off Event

Santa Clara residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) at the free HHW drop-off event that will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28. Residents must register to attend this event by calling the County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 408-299-7300 or by visiting hhw.sccgov.org.

Hazardous items that can be disposed of include fluorescent light tubes, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, paint, automotive fluids, cleaners, solvents, batteries, propane and helium tanks, fertilizers, pesticides, wood preservatives, sharps containers, prescription medications, electronic waste (e-waste), and other types of household hazardous wastes. Items NOT accepted include large household appliances, ammunition, explosives, or containers larger than five gallons. Please contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700 regarding the disposal of ammunition or explosives.

Report Concerns via Mobile App

Did you know you can report concerns with **MySantaClara** app? Download the free app to your smartphone to access options for service requests or information. Find it in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

To submit requests via the City website, submit issues online at SantaClaraCA.gov/mysantaclara.

