



# City Hall News

From District 6 City Councilmember Anthony Becker

December 2022

SantaClaraCA.gov

## City Hall News Highlights

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Sunday, Jan. 22. Appointments required

## Stay Up to Date With Councilmember Becker

Get the latest from Councilmember Becker and City of Santa Clara by attending District 6 Community Meetings and following on social media.

Contact Councilmember Becker or the City Council

Direct Number: 408-917-9434  
[abecker@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:abecker@santaclaraca.gov)  
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Follow Councilmember Becker & the City of Santa Clara on social media and stay engaged

[Anthony District 6](#)

[City of Santa Clara](#)

[@SantaClaraCity](#)

[@AnthonyJBecker](#)



## Message from Councilmember Anthony Becker

Greetings Santa Clarans and District 6 constituents,

Season's Greetings my fellow Santa Clarans and the entire community, 'Tis the season to be merry.

This is the time of the year to spend time with family, friends and loved ones. It is a season of giving that celebrates faith, diversity, inclusion and yes, Santa Claus.

From my family to yours Happy Hanukkah, Happy Festivus, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year or in general, Happy Holidays.

Hanukkah: December 18 – December 26, 2022

Festivus: December 23rd, 2022

Christmas: December 25th, 2022

Kwanzaa: December 26th, 2022 – January 1st, 2022

New Year's Day: January 1st, 2023

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative on the council and your feedback is utmost important to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any community related issues.

As always, my lines of communication are open not only to District 6 residents, but all Santa Clarans, so please do not hesitate to contact me. It's an honor & privilege to serve as your representative.

## Queer Silicon Valley Exhibit inside Central Park Library till end of 2022

On November 28th, the Queer Silicon Valley traveling exhibit came to the City of Santa Clara and is in the Central Park Library. This showcase of LGBTQ+ history is a perfect addition to our library which provides an education on the struggles and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community. 50 years of Queer resistance and resilience in Silicon Valley. Former Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager was there for the initial setup and is in fact the co-founder of the exhibit. I am proud to have this in our wonderful city and the exhibit will be there till the end of 2022. Check it out while you can.



Queer Silicon Valley Exhibit

Also if you missed it check out the documentary that premiered earlier this year and is [now on YouTube](#).

The film is directed and co-produced by award-winning documentarian and SJSU professor Bob Gliner, for the BAYMEC Community Foundation (BCF). No such documentary has previously been produced that focuses exclusively on the queer community in Silicon Valley

Please be sure to share the about the exhibit and the documentary via the YouTube link to friends. Any questions or comments about the film can be emailed to [info@BAYMECFoundation.org](mailto:info@BAYMECFoundation.org).

**Anthony Becker**  
District 6 Councilmember

# 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](http://SCLibrary.org) for library hours. For more information about the exhibit, visit [QueerSiliconValley.org](http://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](http://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](http://RAD Leadership Awards 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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

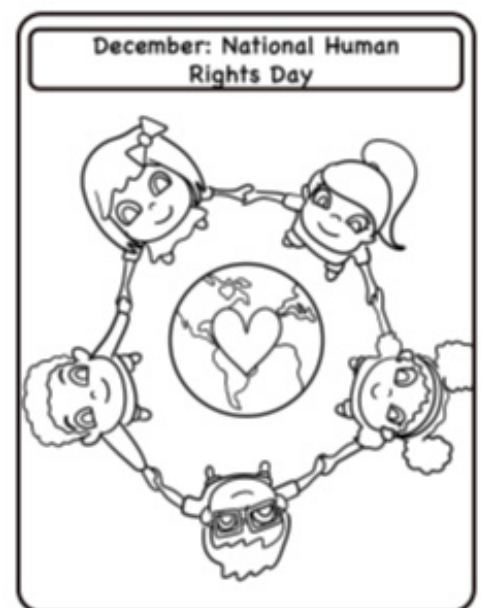
Beginning the week of **Oct. 31 through Dec.16**, Santa Clara residents age 50+ will have access to the Senior Center Natatorium Monday through Thursday. Register and take an aquatic fitness class on Mondays and/or Wednesday mornings, and/or attend the drop-in swim hours on Tuesday and Thursdays from 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/mysantaclara).

