



# City Hall News

From Vice Mayor Kevin Park, District 4

February 2023

SantaClaraCA.gov



Dear Santa Clarans,

As I finish my assignment as the City Manager, I want to thank the City Council, the community of Santa Clara and the City's dedicated staff for the opportunity to return to serve this great city. Since April 2022, we have successfully navigated challenges related to budget deficits including the approval of Measures G & H and managed the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While none of these issues are unique to Santa Clara, it is how we face these challenges with creative solutions that makes Santa Clara the Center of What's Possible. Additionally, we moved forward with efforts to increase affordable housing, made improvements to critical infrastructure and continued to power up Santa Clara during extreme heat waves and winter storms, just to name a few. I did my best to open communication with the Stadium Manager and am pleased to share that the Stadium is once again open for non-NFL events, including concerts. This will also result in additional revenue for the City.

We opened our doors at City Hall five days a week and came together again through events like the Art and Wine Festival, National Night Out, Street Dance, an array of public programs and the many public feedback meetings, it was clear that in Santa Clara, community spirit is everything. I have appreciated that the community is very engaged in civic matters.

It has been my honor to serve the community of Santa Clara as your City Manager and I hope I am leaving the organization in a better place.

Rajeev Batra  
City Manager



## Message from Vice Mayor Kevin Park

Dear Residents of District 4,

Happy New Year and wishes for peace for you and your loved ones!

### Stay Healthy!

Even as we struggle to put the pandemic behind us, new variations, influenza, and even the common cold remind us that health is often a conscious decision, beyond just what we eat and how much we exercise. The weather dips into freezing temperatures on some nights, so remember to close our windows and doors, bundle up, and account for our families, friends, and pets. Thankfully, some of the best preventives are simple sleep and rest, and getting enough has the added value of making the world a more reasonable place in which to coexist.

It has only been one month and we have more mass shootings in our country than days of the year. Companies that made record profits during the pandemic are announcing record layoffs. Prices continue to rise as our mental health decreases. And through all of this, we expect the problems of unhoused people to simply go away. We should not wait until we realize that some of our friends and neighbors are a single payment or bounced check away from homelessness themselves before we try to put support for unhoused people in our city.

### People Unhoused

You will often hear me refer to "People Unhoused" as that acknowledges the fact that they are people first, who also happen to be unhoused. LifeMoves and the County of Santa Clara have planned to create a navigation center for people in need at the corner of Benton & Lawrence Expressway. A meeting is scheduled on February 2, 2023 (hopefully after you read this message) and I encourage people to attend. It would be preferable to work out as many issues as we can in advance to get the right solution for our community. I am willing and wanting to listen to all concerns, and hope that anyone who has a stake gets involved sooner.

### City Changes

The City is looking forward to having a full staff again with a new city attorney and new city manager coming in this year. Council voted to extend an offer for the City Attorney position, and we are in the process of recruiting a new City Manager. When staffing is complete, it would also be nice to reach out to the new members of the City and greet them with hope and respect.

Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/District4](https://www.santacruzca.gov/District4) for contact information. Thank you, one and all.

Vice Mayor Kevin Park  
District 4



# CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

## Cultural Commission hosts the Utility Box Art Program

Utility boxes around Santa Clara just got a little more vibrant! Two artists recently completed transforming a standard utility box into a piece of art. This year's theme was "Renewal" and both boxes represent the theme in a unique way. Drive by and see the decorated boxes in person. Additional boxes will be painted throughout the year.



**"The Tree of Life" by Surabhi Ahuja. Box is located at the corner of Scott Blvd. and Anna Drive**



**"Renewal of Community and Learning" by Lonie Fullerton. Box is located at the corner of Saratoga Ave and Los Padres Blvd.**

## Silicon Valley Power 12-Year Agreement for Renewable Geothermal Energy

On Jan. 6, 2023, Silicon Valley Power (SVP) and the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) signed a set of long-term Purchase Agreements with the Geysers Power Company, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Calpine Corporation, to supply renewable geothermal energy and capacity to the City of Santa Clara during 2025-2036. These geothermal plants are located in Sonoma and Lake Counties and at peak capacity, they will deliver 100 megawatts (MW) of power, which is enough to power 75,000 homes. For more information, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/SVPNews](https://SiliconValleyPower.com/SVPNews).

## Financial Rate Assistance Program Discount Increased to Up to 40%

Silicon Valley Power understands the economic pressures on its customers due to inflation and rising energy costs. To help the most financially vulnerable customers, the utility has redesigned its Financial Rate Assistance Program (FRAP) to provide a larger discount to all eligible customers. The newly designed program is tiered to provide the most help to customers who earn the least amount of money. Discounts range from 25-40%, depending on income eligibility. To apply for the Financial Rate Assistance Program, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/Assist](https://SiliconValleyPower.com/Assist). For questions, call the Energy Conservation Hotline at 408-244-SAVE (7283).

## Tips to Protect Your Mail

Each year, the U.S. Postal Service is trusted with safely getting letters and packages to their intended destinations. The Santa Clara Police Department asks residents to be observant of suspicious activity and remain vigilant.

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### Protect Yourself and Your Mail

- Do not send cash or gift cards
- Retrieve mail as soon after delivery as possible, or have a friend do it
- Sign up for [Informed Delivery](#), a free feature allowing you to digitally preview your incoming mail and manage your arriving packages
- Sign up to receive your mail at a [PO Box](#)
- Install a locking mailbox, and be sure to lock your mailbox after each use
- Place outgoing mail in a USPS collection box
- Be certain to place your mail on hold with USPS if away on vacation or business
- If you move, file a change of address with USPS
- When mailing something important, request signature confirmation
- Inquire about overdue mail with the sender

### Steps to Take if your Mail or a Package has been Stolen

- Report mail theft or an incident of mailbox vandalism to USPS [online](#) or call 877-876-2455. Postal Inspectors investigate these crimes.
- Report mail or package theft to the Santa Clara Police Department online at [www.scpd.org](https://www.scpd.org)
- If you see someone actively tampering with a mailbox, immediately call 9-1-1. To report suspicious activity, call the non-emergency phone line at 408-615-5580.

USPS also offers valuable information online about [identity theft](#), [mail theft](#), [credit card fraud](#) and [mail fraud](#). Check it out!

## Extra Cardboard Curbside Collection Reminder

Cardboard should be broken down and folded before being placed inside the blue recycle bin with the lid closed. Extra cardboard that cannot fit inside the blue cart should be flattened and bundled with twine, string, or packaging tape into 4-foot by 4-foot sections. Place the bundled cardboard next to the recycling cart for collection on your service day. To learn more about materials accepted through weekly curbside recycling collection, check out the Recycling Guide at [SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanSC](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanSC).



**Fold Your Cardboard Boxes**

## Crisis Care for Everyone, Everywhere

To broaden access to care, a new universal three-digit number is being implemented across the United States. When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. The 988 Lifeline is operational 24/7 and accepts calls, texts and chats from anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis. The current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis. 988 is intended to be an alternative to 9-1-1, however if there is an individual in imminent risk to someone's life that cannot be reduced during a Lifeline call, a crisis counselor may contact a local public safety answer point for emergency first responder assistance. For additional information, log onto [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).

## Santa Clara Fire Department Academy

Seven new Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD) firefighter recruits have graduated the fire academy and are beginning their professional firefighting careers with the City of Santa Clara! The 19 week-long Santa Clara Joint Fire Academy was hosted by SCFD and was comprised of 14 recruits from 3 different fire agencies from the cities of Santa Clara, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara County. Families and friends attended graduation at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts at Wilcox High School on Jan 13. Please welcome our newest members to the SCFD and wish them the best in their 2-year probation period and in their professional careers!



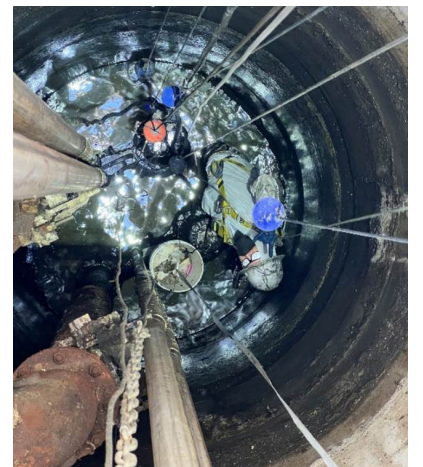
**SCFD Academy Graduates**

## Call If You Can. Text If You Can't!

Text to 9-1-1 provides another layer of service that has greatly enhanced public safety. It should be used in situations when you cannot safely and effectively call 9-1-1, such as:

- Caller with a hearing and/or speech impairment in need of emergency assistance
- In a situation where it is not safe to place a phone call (e.g. home intruder, domestic violence, etc.)
- Medical issue where you are unable to speak

In 2022, Public Safety Dispatcher's received 171 texts for police, fire and medical related emergencies. Despite text messaging being one of the primary ways that people communicate today, dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency is still the preferred way to request police, fire or medical assistance. Remember, "Call if you can, text if you can't."



**Response Plan Training**

## Water & Sewer Utilities Emergency Response Plan Training

With heavy rains this winter, the Santa Clara Water & Sewer teams are prepared! As part of a Risk & Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan program implemented in 2020, the Water & Sewer Utilities teams performed an exercise of simulated emergency scenarios to assess the efficiency of the Emergency Response Plan and to evaluate any needed improvements. The teams were provided learning scenarios for the Division Operations Center, City Emergency Operations Center, testing and assessment of systems during earthquakes, floods, widespread main breaks, sewage breaks, pressure loss in the system and other emergency situations. If disasters strike, the team works to ensure timely communication, coordination and response and are prepared to mitigate impacts to maintain the level of service that ensures public safety.

## Cultural Commission Commemorative Months Coloring Book

February is African American History Month! 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. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission) to learn more.

## Affordable Housing Opportunities

Learn how to apply for affordable housing with monthly webinars from HouseKeys. The City of Santa Clara has contracted with HouseKeys to facilitate the Below-Market Rental Program and Below-Market Purchase Program. HouseKeys conducts monthly webinars to help applicants navigate the website and create an account. Anyone interested in participating in either program should register to attend one of the upcoming webinars. Visit [HouseKeys7.com](https://HouseKeys7.com) to register and view available units.



**February: African American History Month**

**Commemorative Months' Coloring Book**

## Winter Coat Drive

Recology South Bay and the City of Santa Clara invite you to share the warmth by donating new or gently used coats and blankets for those in need this winter season. Look for the blue donation collection boxes located inside the Community Recreation Center at 969 Kiely Blvd, the Senior Center at 1303 Fremont St, and the Public Works Corporation Yard at 1700 Walsh Ave. through Friday, Feb. 17. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/AccessSantaClara](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/AccessSantaClara) for current hours of operation. Questions? Email [environment@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:environment@santaclaraca.gov).

## New Minimum Wage Effective January 1, 2023

Starting Jan. 1, 2023, the City of Santa Clara's minimum wage increased 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](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/MinimumWage).

# CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

## Group Exercise at the Community Recreation Center

Join in 10 Drop-in Group Exercise classes per week at the CRC. The dynamic and experienced instructors paired with high-energy music make these classes challenging for all fitness levels. Choose from Zumba®, Power Hour, Boot Camp and more! Morning, evening and Saturday classes available. For an activity pass, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass).

## New Session of Recreation Classes Starting Soon

The Parks & Recreation Department has your recreation needs covered with many classes and camps starting in February. From gymnastics, drawing and ceramics to soccer and martial arts, we have your interests covered. For adults 50+, there is a variety of fitness or aquatics classes to choose from. Spaces are limited. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses) for more information and to register.



Group Exercise Classes

# SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Events below are held at Santa Clara Senior Center located at 1303 Fremont Street, Santa Clara.

## “To Get Acquainted” Ballroom Dance Program returns to the Senior Center

On Jan. 17, the Senior Center hosted the return of the Ballroom Dance program with an attendance of 95 people. The music was lively, the smiles were ear-to-ear, and the conversations were bountiful. Patrons can enjoy the program every Tuesday, 12:45 – 2:45 p.m. Call the Senior Center front desk at 408-615-3170 for more info.

## Senior Center Drop-in Swim Extended

Santa Clara residents age 50+ have access to the Senior Center Natatorium from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays. The Natatorium is staffed by certified lifeguards and classes are taught by aquatic instructors.

## Senior Center Woodshop Open Studio

On Jan. 11, the Senior Center Woodshop reopened its doors for Open Studio. Woodshop Open Studio is available to adults ages 50+ who are interested in completing small projects with minimal supervision. No formal instruction is given, but an attendant is available to provide basic information and assistance. Studio Passes are available at the Senior Center Front Desk. Cost is \$13.00 per session for Santa Clara residents. A “Single Drop-in” is available for those that want to try out Open Studio Hours. Cost is \$17.00 for residents and slightly higher for non-residents. For more information, call the front desk at 408-615-3170.

## Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP) & Advocacy Program Returns to Bi-Monthly Appointments at the Senior Center

Beginning Jan. 10, individuals can make an appointment on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 9, 10 or 11 a.m. Trained HICAP Counselors help educate individuals so they can make an informed decision on something as important as Medicare. HICAP Counselors can answer questions about: Original Medicare (Part A & B), Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C), Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D), Supplemental Insurance (Medigap), Limited Income Programs for Medicare, Medicare and Medi-Cal Options, tips for Avoiding Medicare Fraud. Signup for a free one-on-one counseling appointment at the Senior Center front desk 408-615-3170.

## Fall Prevention: Balance, Safety, & Mobility Device

The Senior Center hosted Hong Nguyen, RN, from SCC Valley Medical's Trauma Center on Jan. 24. Instructor Hong Nguyen, RN, returned to the Senior Center to teach us about balance and strengthening exercises, some easy tips on home safety, how to choose mobility devices, and how to use them correctly. Keep yourself upright and off the floor in 2023!

# EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



## SPECIAL Downtown Community Task Force (DCTF) Meeting

The next DCTF meeting, meeting #35, will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m.** Join meeting via Zoom: <https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/84287889544> or by phone 1-669-444-9171 and Webinar ID: 842 8788 9544. To view past DCTF meetings, including meeting materials and video recordings, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/Downtown](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/Downtown).



## Storytime with Stay & Play

Visit any library branches to connect with us for a fun and interactive indoor storytime. Storytime is a magical time for children of all ages and abilities to learn and interact with one another. Our Library staff will share stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays and movement! Grown-ups can also learn some tips for engaging kids in early literacy. Stay and play with toys, puppets, and sensory activities for exploration and free play are available. View virtual storytime recordings on the Library [YouTube channel](#). For events, visit [SCLibrary.org/Events](https://SCLibrary.org/Events).

Storytimes take place once a week at each of our branches:

- Central Park Library: Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays at \*10:30 a.m. & \*11:15 a.m. and Preschool Storytime - Fridays at \*10:30 a.m. & \*11:15 a.m.
- Mission Library: Family Storytime - Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
- Northside Library: Family Storytime - Fridays at \*10:30 a.m.

\* Limited capacity available. Tickets will be given out at the desk 30 minutes before storytime.



## Environmental Day

Recology South Bay is hosting Environmental Day for Santa Clara residents on **Saturday, March 4**, 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.), 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, and residents will be required to remove materials from their vehicles. Contact Recology South Bay at 408-970-5100 with questions.



## 2023 National Night Out

National Night Out will be hosted with the Santa Clara Police Department in the community on **Tuesday, Aug. 1**. Registration will open in May 2023. For details about National Night Out, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/NationalNightOut](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/NationalNightOut).



## Legislative Meetings

To learn more about upcoming City Council, Commission and Committee meetings, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/Meetings](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/Meetings) for a calendar.



## Foundation and Friends Book Sale - Central Park Library

The Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends hosts monthly outdoor patio sales at Central Park Library on the third Saturday of the month, 10am-2pm. You can find children's books, fiction, cook books, text books, and more! The sales have books of all kinds, with prices starting at \$1 each. Proceeds support the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends.

Visit the [calendar](#) for more information.

## 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](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/mysantaclara).

