

City Hall News

From District 1 City Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

March 2023

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.











Message from Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

Weather and Water



Mother Nature is definitely keeping us on our toes this Winter! The snow certainly looks beautiful. Many have taken advantage of time off to see the snow firsthand. No doubt the many Bay Area cities' Water Departments as well as Silicon Valley Water will be anxiously

awaiting the final snowpack tally in the Sierras to see if we are out of the drought. The City of Santa Clara is grateful to its Public Works Department, Streets Department and, most importantly, Silicon Valley Power, our own public power utility, for providing necessary services to residents.

Capitol Day in Sacramento

Every year before the State Legislature goes into session in Sacramento to discuss proposed bills that will provide better opportunities for businesses, schools, residents, etc., there is an opportunity to visit one-on-one or in groups with State representatives at the Senate and Assembly levels. It was an honor to travel to the State Capitol on Monday, February 6, with NCPA (Northern California Power Agency) and staff from Silicon Valley Power to discuss important issues like providing safe, affordable, reliable and clean energy to local communities, additional transmission lines and infrastructure investment. NCPA and its members (of which Silicon Valley Power is one) support policy approaches that allow locally-governed utilities the flexibility they need to meet State goals in a way





that best aligns with the needs of their communities. As a group, we also advocated for cleaner energy including green hydrogen as well as the importance of clean public safety fleets during emergencies when it is economically feasible for many cities to participate.

It was a good opportunity to meet with newly elected representatives, Senator Aisha Wahib and Assemblyman Evan Low, who represent the City of Santa Clara.

Woman of the Year 2023

Congratulations to West Valley-Mission College Trustee, and Santa Clara resident, Anne Kepner, for being chosen the 26th Assembly District Woman of the Year. Anne will be honored for her many achievements at a luncheon given by Assemblyman Evan Low on March 17 as well as at the State Capitol. Thank you, Anne, for all you do.



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Message From Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

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Special Olympics Basketball Game at Santa Clara HS



On February 15, Northern California Special Olympics students from SCHS, Wilcox HS and MacDonald HS formed basketball teams based on their cultural heritages and together with coaches, teachers, SCUSD administrators, Santa Clara Police Department, Santa Clara PAL and fellow peers, family, friends and cheerleaders for making this a memorable day for these Unified Students! A special shoutout to SCHS girls' basketball coach, DeeDee Kiyota, for following through on your dream to honor Special Olympics in this way!

Commission Meetings In Person

Feeling more normal and attending committee meetings in person again. After 3 years, I chaired the Recycling and Waste Reduction Committee meeting at the Santa Clara County Building. Thank you to my fellow commissioners and staff from representative cities who helped get a budget and legislative action moved forward. Appreciated SCS Engineers presentation and update from Food Waste Prevention Pilot Project.



Ambassador of Portugal to the U.S. Visits Santa Clara

Thank you to the Portuguese-American Forum and coordinator, Maria Ricardo, for hosting a reception for Dr. Francisco Duarte Lopez, Ambassador of Portugal to the U.S. and Consul General Pedro Pinto last night. It was a great opportunity for the Portuguese community to showcase the various societies that promote the culture of their home country. There was appreciation for SCPD and the local government for their support of the Portuguese community.



Thank You!

In closing, thank you to all for the well wishes when I broke my humerus bone during a fall on February 7. It certainly wasn't good timing but as I say, this too shall pass. I am also thankful to my colleagues from other cities who stepped up to cover for me in my absence on committee appointments.

Stay dry and stay safe out there!

Kathy Watanabe

Councilmember, District 1 City of Santa Clara



CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

Register for the Spring Citywide Garage Sale

The Santa Clara Citywide Garage Sale returns **April 8**! 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 8 - April 5 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 for download on Friday, April 7. Learn how to participate and get tips on hosting your own garage sale at SantaClaraCA. gov/GarageSale. Questions? Email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov or call 408-615-3080.



We're Not Out of the Drought

New Year storms and the rains since helped local reservoir levels increase, but they haven't pulled us out of the historic three-year drought. Valley Water reports groundwater well levels are higher, but many remain lower than January 2022; Santa Clara relies on the City's groundwater wells for 60% of our drinking water. Other indicators also confirm: the drought is not over.

Our county remains in Moderate Drought, with a third of California in Severe Drought. We won't know our water supply outlook until April, the official water year end; this drought could end with it, but as predicted by State officials, it may not.

Reviewing recent patterns tells us that when this current drought ends, the next will likely occur within a decade, more likely within a few years.

Recent storms remind us that with changing climate, extreme weather is our new normal. We must adopt our drought adaptations into a permanent conservation mindset that sustains us throughout California's weather fluctuations.

Santa Clara water use restrictions remain in effect. For updates, visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater.</u>

Historic Droughts in California~50 years | 1987-1992 | 1987-1992 | | Historic Drought Years | Data Source: United States Geographical Survey

Electric Yard Care Rebates Available through our New Online Marketplace

Electric yard care equipment instant rebates up to 25% off the purchase price are available through Silicon Valley Power's online <u>Marketplace</u>. Incentives for income-qualified customers are even higher and are automatically applied in your shopping cart.

Residents can also shop for a variety of energy-saving devices. Here you can find smart thermostats, lighting, electric vehicle chargers, connected home devices and more!

Prices in the Marketplace are comparable to other retail outlets, and special promotions and rebates are available periodically throughout the year. Shipping is free for orders of \$50 or more and just \$5 for all other orders. Visit PoweredByEFI.org/SVP to sign up for an account using your Silicon Valley Power utility account number to take advantage of the instant rebates and special promotions.



Purchase an electric lawnmower and receive a \$60 rebate

Receive an instant rebate on a qualifying electric lawnmower when purchased through the Silicon Valley Power Marketplace.

PoweredByEFI.org/SVP



Firefighter Storytimes at Santa Clara City Library

A big thank you to everyone who attended Firefighter Storytimes throughout the month of February. At Northside Branch Library 239 guests listened to stories read by Santa Clara Fire Department personnel and took pictures outside with the firefighters and fire truck, making this a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

New Stop Sign and Striping Improvements at Los Padres Boulevard and Serra Avenue

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has installed new All-Way stop signs on Los Padres Boulevard at Serra Avenue, based on the Traffic Engineering Division's analysis. All-Way Stop controlled intersections require all traffic to come to a complete stop before proceeding, creating a safer environment for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. To alert our community to the new Stop signs, DPW has temporarily installed red notification flags to increase awareness. For more information, contact Public Works at 408-615-3000 or engineering@SantaClaraCA.gov.



Firefighter Storytimes

New Bikeway Planning Studies

The City is studying options for implementing new bikeway facilities along multiple corridors in Santa Clara. The studies are being funded with the support of Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Measure B Program and contributions from private development. The new bikeway facilities are based on recommendations from the City of Santa Clara Bicycle Plan and may include lane reductions and/or parking removal. The study corridors are grouped by geographic location and include:

- Study Corridor 1: De La Cruz Boulevard (Central Expressway to Lafayette Street) and Coleman Avenue (De La Cruz Boulevard to **Brokaw Road**)
- **Study Corridor 2:** Martin Avenue (Lafayette Street to De La Cruz Boulevard) and Walsh Avenue (Bowers Avenue to Lafayette Street)
- Study Corridor 3: Monroe Street (Lawrence Expressway to San Tomas Expressway)
- **Study Corridor 4:** Benton Street (Dunford Way to Lincoln Street)

More information about the projects and how to participate in the development of each of the four proposed bikeway projects, visit SantaClara.gov/Bike&PedProjects.

Got Sandbags?

Keep them through the rainy season into April, then store unused sandbags for future use. Repurpose the sand from sandbags by mixing it with compost, filling in low spots in the yard or use it to level off walkways. For questions, call the Dept. of Public Works at 408-615-3080.

Public Service and Capital Project Grants

The City will be hosting three public hearings to help determine how to allocate approximately \$3.4M in federal CDBG, HOME, and HOME ARP dollars for public services, capital projects and tenant-based rental assistance. A hearing on March 21, 2023 at 7pm will focus on the HOME ARP funding allocation for supportive services and tenant-based rental assistance. Hearings on April 4, 2023 and May 9, 2023 at 7pm will focus on CDBG and HOME funding allocations. For more information, visit the Reports and Notices webpage or contact the City's Housing and Community Services Division at (408) 615-2490 or by email at communityservice@ SantaClaraCA.gov.



Utility Box in the Utility Box Art Program

The Cultural Commission is proud to present another completed Utility Box in the Utility Box Art Program. Local artist Giada Conte created an original cartoon character engaging in various situations that suggest different approaches to life. Bloom like a Flower! embodies the essence of this year's theme, "Renewal." Unfold your inner beauty and bloom like a flower. Drive by the corner of Bowers Avenue and Warburton Avenue to see this whimsical character come to life. Visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission</u> to learn more.

Recognizing and Reporting Suspicious Activity

While our officers routinely patrol neighborhoods, parks and shopping centers, they can't be everywhere at once. That's where our valuable community members come in! Everyone in Santa Clara can serve as extra sets of eyes and ears for law enforcement.

If You See Something, Say Something!

Examples of suspicious behavior that should be reported to our Public Safety Dispatchers includes:

- You observe what appears to be a solicitor knocking on your neighbor's door. When they don't receive an answer at the door, they walk to your neighbor's unlocked side yard gate and go into the backyard. This is a possible residential burglary in progress.
- You are walking your dog and see someone trying to open the door handles of multiple parked cars. This is likely a theft suspect looking for a vehicle with attractive contents.
- You are at home and hear a voice screaming "Help" in your neighborhood. This is certainly out of the ordinary and something that merits investigation immediately.



Utility Box Art Program



Utility Box Art Program

- You notice a person face down in a parking lot and they are unresponsive. The individual may be experiencing a medical emergency or may be experiencing a mental health crisis.
- You observe a slow-moving vehicle without lights, driving aimlessly or repetitively. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in residential neighborhoods, shopping centers, schools or parks.

When there is suspicious activity occurring, a crime is in progress or there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Seed Share Event

Gardeners from across the valley attended the Seed Share event on January 28 to share and trade rare plant cuttings, seeds, and fresh fruits at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Community Garden located at 2380 Monroe St. Participants enjoyed our garden tours and the seed starting demonstration by the <u>UCCE Master Gardeners</u>, and learned about other local opportunities such as the <u>Seed Share program</u> at Central Library and Garden to Table Silicon Valley. This annual event gives participants free access to many seeds, promotes biodiversity, and creates a strong gardening community. For more events at the community garden, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CommunityGarden or email CommunityGarden@ SantaClaraCA.gov.



Seed Share Event

Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD) Receives New Life-Saving Devices

SCFD recently received new Lucas Chest Compression Devices through grant funding from the County EMS Trust Fund and the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program. The Lucas device is a mechanical chest compression device which provides consistent, high quality, safe chest compressions. Using this device during CPR allows emergency personnel to perform other life-saving interventions which increases opportunities for better patient outcomes. Fire department first responder personnel have completed Lucas device training; and the Lucas Devices are being deployed on eleven of the department's front-line emergency response units. They were already utilized on three emergency responses in the first week of their deployment.

The SCFD, in partnership with other City departments, is in the process of deploying new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to many City buildings throughout Santa Clara.

If someone is unresponsive, not breathing, and pulseless:

- Begin CPR
- Have someone call 911 and find an AED

These AEDs use voice prompts to give direction on their usage. Although recommended, no prior training is necessary before using.

Safety Habits to Adopt

As vehicle break-ins continue to be problematic throughout the Bay Area, it is important to report suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately.

You play a critical role in deterring crime! Cars are less likely to be broken into when they appear empty.

- Never leave your car running unattended
- · Always close your windows/sunroof completely, take the keys or key fob and lock your vehicle
- Do not leave anything in plain sight (e.g. purse/wallet, cell phone, laptop, backpack, gym bag, loose change, charging cords, etc.)
- · Park in well-lit areas with busy foot traffic and/or with a parking attendant
- Remove all papers with your personal information from your vehicle (e.g., mail, bills, checkbook, pink slip, etc.)
- When at home, if you have a garage, park your car in it
- When parking outside your home, never leave your garage door opener in your vehicle

If you witness a crime or in-progress suspicious activity, do not intervene, call 9-1-1.

How and Where to Report Emergency and Non-Emergency Situations

While the Santa Clara Police Department actively posts information on Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, Nixle and Twitter, staff are NOT monitoring these sites for emergencies. However, Public Safety Dispatchers work 24/7, 365 and can deploy police, fire or medical resources as necessary. Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency or 408-615-5580 for non-emergency situations.



Lucas Chest Compression Devices



Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

Parks & Recreation Has Your Spring Class & Summer Camp Needs Covered

The Parks & Recreation Department team has been busy planning fun recreation classes for all ages and exciting Summer Camps. The Spring and Summer Camp 2023 Activity Guide will be available online **Friday, March 3**. Santa Clara resident registration begins **Tuesday, March 7**. Spring classes begin the week of March 27. Visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses</u> for more information.

Summer Camp Fair

Get a jump on summer planning and attend the Summer Camp Fair at the Community Recreation Center (CRC), 969 Kiely Blvd., on **Saturday, March 11 from 1 - 4 p.m**. for an afternoon of summer camp fun. Explore camps for all age groups, meet our vendors, ask questions, register, and enjoy a variety of activities. For more information, call the CRC at 408-615-3140.

RJJT's Cinderella Tickets

Dreamers of all ages are invited to join Roberta Jones Junior Theatre (RJJT), as we bring you Rodgers & Hammerstein's Broadway adaptation of the classic musical, Cinderella. The clever retelling of this beloved fairytale features all the most memorable songs, alongside an up-to-date, hilarious and romantic libretto. RJJT is recreating this timeless classic with a contemporary twist, including a cast aged 8-18 years and a live orchestra. Performances will be held at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts, the weekends of **March 24 - 26 and March 31 - April 2**, and general admission tickets are \$15 each. To purchase tickets, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet.

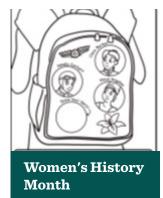


Celebrate Santa Clara's Diversity Each Month!

The Cultural Commission's commemorative months' coloring book is available with monthly coloring pages and activities. March is Women's History month. Visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission</u> to learn more.

Drop-in Programs Through Parks & Recreation

Do you know that we offer Group Exercise classes at the Community Recreation Center, Drop-in Play at the Reed & Grant Sports Park and Lap Swim at the International Swim Center? These programs are flexible, convenient, fun! One Activity Pass provides access to three quality programs. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass for schedules and more information.



Garden Tours and Second Sunday Shares Are Back!

Garden tours and Sunday Garden Shares are back at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Community Garden located at 2380 Monroe St. Tour the demonstration beds, mini orchard and compost displays on the **second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 4:30 – 6 p.m.** Want to visit the garden on the a weekend? Attend the Sunday Garden Share events **every Second Sunday from 10 - 11 a.m.** to share garden harvests, seeds, and best practices. For the calendar of events, visit <u>SantaClaraCA.gov/CommunityGarden</u>.



SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Senior Center Billiards Tournament

The Senior Advisory Commission hosted an 8-Ball Billiards Tournament at the Senior Center, located at 1303 Fremont St., on **Wednesday, Feb. 8**. With a combination of beginners and more experienced players, the double elimination tournament was enjoyed by all.

"Be Strong, Live Long" Health & Wellness Fair: Save the Date!

The 7th Annual "Be Strong, Live Long" Health & Wellness Fair will be held on **Friday, May 19 from 11 a.m.** – **2 p.m.** in Fremont Park at 1303 Fremont St., beside the Santa Clara Senior Center. Join us for a fun event featuring over 40 community organizations providing the resources you need to live well in Santa Clara. A healthy barbecue lunch is available for purchase. Street parking is available, and we recommend carpooling with friends, riding your bike, or taking public transportation (VTA bus stop is on our block). Bring your walking shoes and sun hat. Call the Health & Wellness Program staff for more information at 408-615-3170.



New Transportation Option for Older Adults 60+

Get door-to-door rides via Peninsula Volunteers (PVI), a local non-profit expanding their ride service to the City of Santa Clara. Preregistration is required to become a client, and rides are on-demand the moment you need one. Once enrolled, individuals simply call PVI to request a ride. PVI staff will contact Lyft, request your ride and let you know who to expect and when. They will then monitor your ride to make sure you arrive safely at your destination. Rides are at no cost, although a \$7 donation to support the program is appreciated. This program is available until funds are expended. An average of 13 one-way rides per participant. Call Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 650-272-5006 to pre-register or visit the webpage for more information.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



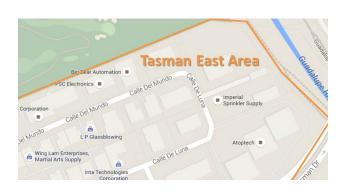
Lawrence/Benton Interim Housing

The County of Santa Clara, City of Santa Clara, and LifeMoves are working to meet the need for interim housing identified in the Community Plan to End Homelessness and in the City's Homelessness Taskforce outreach in 2022. The County owns the vacant site at the southeast corner of Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street. LifeMoves is proposing a potential development of 80 - 120 new interim housing units. A virtual outreach meeting was held on Feb. 13. Additional in-person meetings are scheduled for March 1 and 9, 2023 at Mission City Church, 1290 Pomeroy Ave. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the County's project webpage. The City's Housing and Community Services Division can be reached at 408-615-2490 or by email at communityservice@SantaClaraCA.gov.



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.



Tasman East Specific Plan Amendment Virtual Community Meeting

The City of Santa Clara is holding a virtual community meeting on **Monday, March 6**, **2023**, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. To participate, join via the Zoom Meeting Link or call 1-669-900-6833; Meeting ID: 870 6613 9537. The City of Santa Clara is proposing to modify the adopted Specific plan to accommodate an additional 1,500 dwelling units within the Plan area. The community meeting will include a presentation on the project and potential strategies for providing additional parkland in the Tasman East area.



Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project – Early Construction Works @ VTA Newhall Yard

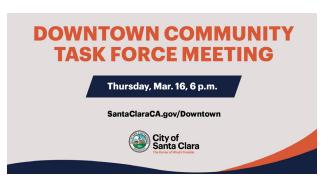
The VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project will extend BART service six miles from the Berryessa Transit Center in San Jose into downtown San José and terminating in the City of Santa Clara. As part of public outreach for the project, the VTA is hosting in-person and online public meetings in March 2023 to discuss planned early construction works at the VTA's Newhall Yard site near Coleman Road and the San Jose Earthquakes Stadium. For more information regarding the project, visit VTA's project website and events calendar.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6 p.m.
- Location: Paul L. Locatelli, S.J. Student Activities Center, Santa Clara, CA 95053

Online:

- Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 7 p.m.
- Location: Zoom link to follow. See VTA's <u>events calendar</u> for Zoom log-in information.



Downtown Community Task Force (DCTF) Meeting

The next DCTF meeting will be held in-person at 1500 Warburton Avenue in the City Council Chambers and via Zoom on **Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** To participate remotely, join via the Zoom Meeting Link or call 1-669-900-6833; Meeting ID: 919 7578 9377. While participation in the DCTF meetings will be limited to appointees, the meetings will be public and members of the community will have an opportunity to provide input at the meetings. To view past DCTF meetings, including meeting materials and video recordings, visit the DCTF webpage.



Upcoming Events at Levi's Stadium

- May 6: San Jose Earthquakes vs. Los Angeles Football Club
- July 28: Taylor Swift
- July 29 : Taylor Swift
- August 30: Beyoncé
- September 16: Ed Sheeran

The Santa Clara Police Department distributes a Traffic Advisory associated with each event, approximately 48-hours in advance of the event. The Traffic Advisory will include event details (e.g. parking restrictions, road closures, alternate routes, items to take into consideration, etc.) and can be received by subscribing to Nixle and will be posted on SCPD. org.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



Composting Basic Workshop

Reduce your carbon footprint and recycle your organic waste by composting at home. Register for a composting basics workshop on **Saturday**, **March 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Park located at 2380 Monroe St. Learn how to build, maintain and troubleshoot a home compost bin and apply the finished compost. This workshop will focus on backyard composting of yard trimmings and food scraps. 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. For more information, 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 and improve the soil's ability to conserve water and nourish your crops. The City of Santa Clara is hosting a selfservice compost giveaway event for Santa Clara residents on Saturday, April 1 from 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 40 gallons per household). Compost will be available while supplies last and quantity is limited. Questions? Call the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080 or email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Job Opportunities

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

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.

