



City Hall News

From District 1 City Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

April 2023

SantaClaraCA.gov

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Message from Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

Welcome Spring! The light has returned making it enjoyable to go for a walk in the evening with family and friends. With the worst of the pandemic and Covid-19 behind us, it truly feels like we are getting back to normal and pre-pandemic levels at events, traveling and so much more.

Support Our Schools!

Kathryn Hughes Elementary PTA (District 1) is having their annual Spring Eggstravaganza on Friday, April 7, from 5-7 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. Come join them for an egg hunt, food, music, silent auction, robotics demonstration and more!



The Santa Clara Schools Foundation is hosting their first annual Pencils Pints & Pinot at Mission College on May 7, 2023 from 1-4 PM. Tickets are \$25. Proceeds will help the Foundation provide needed school supplies, field trips and unmet needs and requests that the Foundation receives from teachers. This is a fun way to support a great non-profit that greatly gives back to our teachers and students. Hope to see you there. More information can be found at [Pencils, Pints, and Pinots!](#) - Santa Clara Schools Foundation



Bingo Night

Finally, Don Callejon School Community Organization hosted Bingo Night to raise money for their school needs and recruit and coordinate volunteers to support school events. I was asked to be the bingo caller for the first part of the evening and Principal Albert closed the event out. There were so many excited parents and children anxiously waiting for their numbers to be called and win great prizes. Our schools are very fortunate to have great parents and events to help provide for the needs of all students.

Message continues on page 2.

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 Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

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Holi Festival

Happy Holi!

On Saturday, March 18, Santa Clara's Curtis Field was the location of a wonderful Holi festival hosted by Sewa International - Bay Area Chapter. What a colorful and fun event which included a dance competition between SHS, AHS and Lynbrook dance teams. I was asked to help judge the competition along with Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein and Betty Duong, Chief of Staff for County Supervisor Cindy Chavez. Judging was not an easy task as these HS dance teams were very energetic, talented and creative. I hope this can become a new annual tradition in Santa Clara to help honor and celebrate the diversity of our City.

Honoring One of Santa Clara's Finest

On Thursday, March 16, the SCPD unveiled a plaque to honor former Jail Service Officer, Carla Munoz, who passed away November 17, 2019. Carla was the first JSO and had an exemplary career with SCPD starting in 1975 as a Police Cadet. Chief Pat Nikolai, friends and family spoke of Carla's commitment to the SCPD as well as always giving her time to Special Olympics and PAL events. Her Dad and twin brother, Scott, and many members of her family were in attendance to honor Carla's memory.

Reminder About Rainbarrels

The City of Santa Clara has a rainbarrel program that helps residents collect rain to use in their yards. With all the rain we (thankfully!) have had, this was definitely an opportunity to collect excess water to use around our yards. If you would like more information about the rainbarrel program, you can find it all [here](#).

The St. Justin Outgrown Shop

Did you know that St. Justin's Outgrown Shop had reopened its doors? It is located in the parking lot behind St. Justin Church next to the Central Park Library. They have a great inventory of kid's clothing, toys, coats, women's and men's apparel and shoes. The Outgrown Shop is opened on Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. They also need volunteer support if you have some free time.

Welcome to an Old-New Small Business

Congratulations to Minuteman Press starting a new chapter in Santa Clara. They are located at 2065 Martin Avenue, Unit 109, Santa Clara. It was a lovely kickoff supported by local government, the chamber of commerce, family and friends! We wish Elena Galkins and her son, Vlad, much success. They are hard-working and ready to make a difference! A reminder to support local small businesses!

In Closing

April is a month filled with wonderful religious holidays. I would like to wish all who celebrate Ramadan, Easter, Passover and Vaisakhi a beautiful month of renewal, recommitment and spiritual peace as you observe the significance of these holidays and their special meaning to you and your families.

Sincerely,

Kathy Watanabe

Councilmember, District 1

City of Santa Clara



Honoring Carla Munoz



CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

Street Tree Planting Program

Urban trees are heroes when it comes to improving the quality of life in Santa Clara. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, trees provide environmental and economic benefits, including carbon sequestration, reduced air pollution, reduced stormwater runoff, and cost savings associated with providing shade to cool buildings. Urban trees have even been shown to reduce stress and noise pollution. Street trees are an important element of healthy and livable neighborhoods. The Department of Public Works is looking to expand the urban forest and beautify neighborhoods. You can request to have a City tree planted in front of your home for free!

To request a tree or for questions:

- Call 408-615-3080 or email Street@SantaClaraCA.gov;
- Fill out an online service request form at SantaClaraCA.gov/MySantaClara
 - Select “City Tree Maintenance”
 - Provide your property address and select “Want a new tree”



Street Tree Planting Program

National Guard’s 95th Civil Support Team Bay EX Drill

Last month at the National Guard’s 95th Civil Support Team Bay EX Drill, Santa Clara Fire Department partnered with multi-disciplinary public safety agencies including the California National Guard, FBI, Cal OES, Environmental Protection Agency, Santa Clara Police Department, Santa Clara County Sheriffs, and other local agencies. The regional public safety response drill took place at Levi’s Stadium and was the culmination of 4 days of drills which began in San Mateo, moved to Alameda, then San Francisco, and finally Santa Clara. Drills involved a variety of simulated threats and included practice with innovative robotic equipment.

Proposed Mid-Year Electric Rate Increase to Be Effective July 1, 2023

In May, Silicon Valley Power (SVP) will be proposing a mid-year rate increase of 5% to the Santa Clara City Council. If approved, the rate increase will take effect July 1, 2023. High natural gas prices have had a significant impact on electric and gas utilities throughout California, increasing by 500%, which has caused power prices to rise 150% higher than usual. In response, SVP has tightened the budget, pared down spending and is using appropriate reserves. However, a mid-year rate adjustment will be necessary. For residential customers, SVP will be proposing a one-time climate credit that is intended to help cover the increased costs. SVP offers resources on its website for customers who are looking to find ways to reduce energy usage and lower their electric bills. In addition to appliance rebates, you can find energy saving tips and a tool lending library to measure the use of plug loads such as televisions, video game consoles, computers, etc. Visit SiliconValleyPower.com/Residents for more information. Income-qualified customers may be eligible for a rate discount of up to 40%. For more information and income eligibility requirements, please visit SiliconValleyPower.com/Assist.



Civil Support Team Bay EX Drill



Civil Support Team Bay EX Drill

Waterwise Landscape - New at City Hall

Nearly 5,100 sq. ft. of lawn at Lincoln Street and Warburton Avenue is now a waterwise garden of colorful habitat plants and California natives taking advantage of seasonal rains for plant establishment. Department of Public Works (DPW) staff removed lawn and installed the waterwise landscape working from the planting design created by the Water & Sewer Utilities Department (WSUD). To help fund the lawn conversion, DPW and WSUD utilized the Landscape Conversion Rebate, a partnership program with Valley Water and the City. Combined with the first lawn conversion completed by WSUD in 2022, City Hall expects significant water savings from the nearly 9,300 sq. ft. of grass now transformed to drought-tolerant plantings. Check out water conservation rebates available to Santa Clara residents and businesses at SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater.

Winter Coat Donation – Thank you!

Thanks for sharing the warmth, Santa Clara! In partnership with Recology South Bay, the City of Santa Clara collected just over 100 gently used coats and blankets for those in need this winter season in January and February. Many thanks to all that donated! Your generosity makes a difference.



Waterwise Landscape

\$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. The program is open to high school students who live in the City of Santa Clara or attend school at a site located within Santa Clara city limits. Grant awards will be made twice per year with deadlines on June 30 and December 31. For complete eligibility requirements and program details, visit SiliconValleyPower.com/Grants.



High School Grants Available

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month #JustDrive

It's a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road – particularly, as it relates to distracted driving.

While drivers texting behind the wheel tops what seems like an endless list of distractions, other risky actions include talking on the phone, setting your navigation, adjusting what you're listening to, drinking coffee, applying makeup, and more. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

Follow these safety tips for a safe ride every time:

- Set up navigation and your playlist before you start your engine
- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text, or allow your passenger access to your phone to respond to calls or messages
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving
- Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination

Affordable Housing Opportunity at Agrihood

Agrihood is a new senior community serving qualified households 55 or older. Veterans and seniors living and/or working in Santa Clara preferred. Maximum income ranges from \$47,200 - \$109,200 and rents are restricted based on the apartment type and household size. The initial lottery period has closed, but applications are still being accepted for the waitlist. [Apply online today!](#)



Affordable Housing Opportunity

If You See Something, Say Something

It's a simple idea, but a powerful one - homeland security begins with hometown security.

It's easy to take for granted the routine moments in our every day lives, like going to work or school, running into the grocery store or stopping at the gas station. Your every day life is different than your neighbors'. Only you know what's supposed to be in your every day life.

Reporting suspicious activity has the potential to prevent a crime, reduce violence, minimize victimization, save a life and improve the overall quality of life. Suspicious activities may include:

- A stranger loitering in your neighborhood
- A vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly
- Someone peering into cars or windows, or pulling on door handles
- A high volume of traffic going to and coming from a residence on a daily basis
- Someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas
- Strange odors coming from a house or building
- Open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or unoccupied residence
- Someone tampering with electrical, gas or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform
- Sounds of breaking glass, gunshots, screaming or fighting
- Strangers removing license plates or loading valuables into vehicles from a residence
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack, or package left behind
- Intruders in secure areas where they are not supposed to be.

To report suspicious activity, contact the Communications Center at 408-615-5580 and describe what you observed, including:

- Who or what you saw
- When you saw it
- Where it occurred
- Why it's suspicious

Emergencies should be reported by calling 9-1-1.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEETING

Thursday, Apr. 20, 6 p.m.

[SantaClaraCA.gov/Downtown](https://santacruz.ca.gov/Downtown)

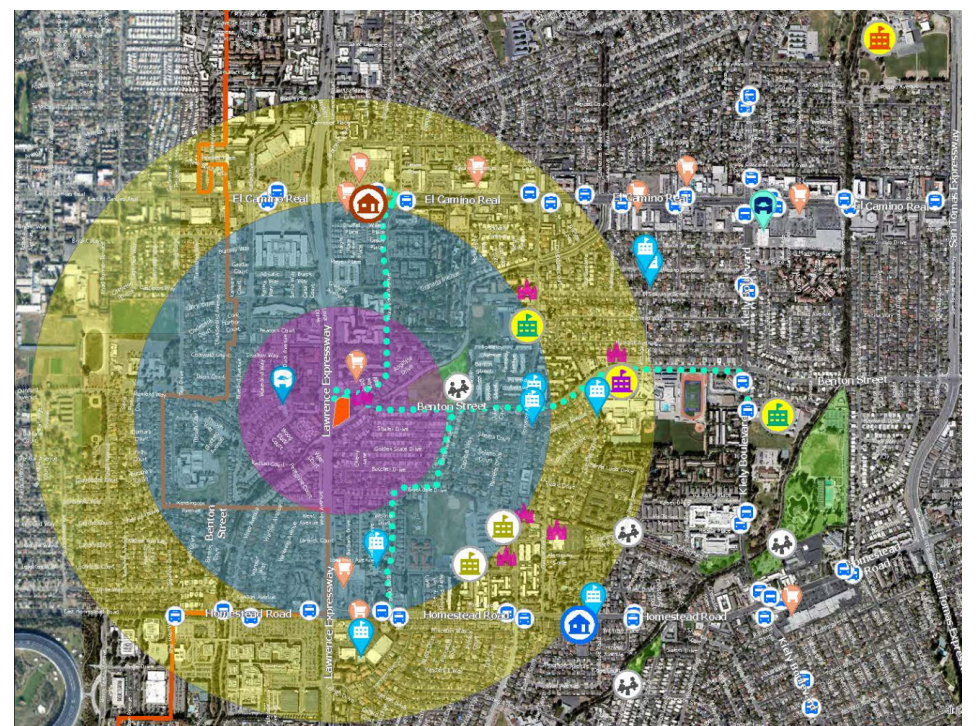
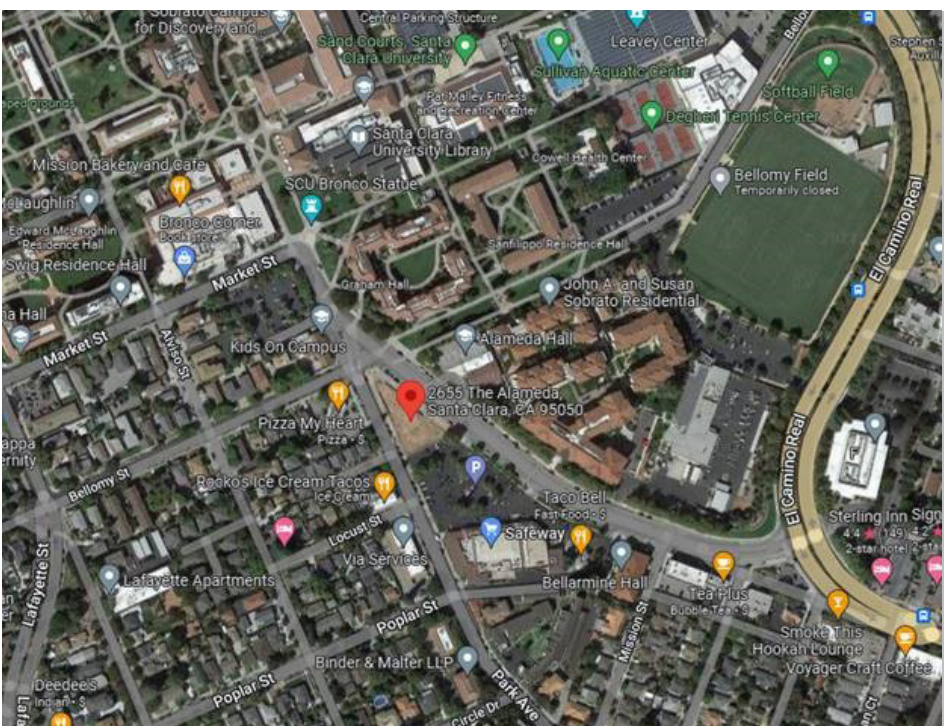


2023/2024 Annual Action Plan Public Hearings

Each year the city prepares a plan to allocate federal CDBG and HOME dollars for public services and capital projects that serve Santa Clara residents. The 30-day comment period for the 2023/2024 Annual Action Plan begins on April 7, 2023 and City Council public hearings are scheduled for **April 7, 2023** and **May 9, 2023**. [View a draft of the plan.](#)

Downtown Community Task Force (DCTF) Meeting

The next DCTF meeting will be held at 1500 Warburton Avenue in the City Council Chambers in person and via Zoom ([Meeting link](#)) on **Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.** To view past DCTF meetings, including meeting materials and video recordings, please see the [DCTF webpage](#).



Virtual Community Meeting for 2655 The Alameda

Kapital Partners will hold a 2nd virtual community outreach meeting on the proposed mixed use residential and retail project to present revised development plans on **Monday, April 24, 2023 from 6 - 7 p.m.** via Zoom ([Meeting link](#), Webinar ID: 816 2230 6047, Phone: 1-669-444-9171). For more information on the proposed project visit the [project website](#).

Public Hearing on Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Proposal

City staff are working with the County's Office of Supportive Housing, LifeMoves, and the Sobrato Foundation to evaluate a possible interim housing development on County-owned land at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street. The proposed project would serve families with children, seniors, singles and couples. Unhoused residents in Santa Clara would be given priority. To date the County, City and LifeMoves have co-sponsored two virtual meetings and two in-person meetings. A special City Council meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5 p.m.** at Council Chambers, 1500 Warburton Ave. Santa Clara. Visit the [project website](#) to view meeting recordings, slide presentations, to sign up for email notifications, and to read responses to over 350 questions. Contact Adam Marcus at amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov, Housing and Community Services Manager, with questions.

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

Annual Cleanup Campaign

Santa Clara's Annual Cleanup Campaign will take place **May 1 – May 26**. On designated weekends, eligible residences may set out bulky items that are not routinely collected by weekly solid waste services. Collection crews will be picking up furniture, appliances, e-waste, tires, residential construction debris and yard waste. All concrete, asphalt, dirt, brick, rocks, drywall and/or sawdust **MUST** be set out in a construction debris bulk bag to prevent it from entering the storm drains. Acceptable bags are made of heavy-duty tarp or plastic material made specifically for construction debris and can be no larger than one cubic yard in size. Debris bulk bags can be purchased at a retailer of your choice or at the Municipal Utility Services counter located at 1500 Warburton Ave for \$23.79 each starting April 4. Failure to use debris bags to contain residential construction/demolition debris is subject to a \$150 fine. A total of 1 cubic yard of bagged debris will be picked up at no charge. Any additional bagged material will be collected for a fee of \$25 per cubic yard. Household hazardous material is **NOT** accepted. For set-out instructions and a list of accepted and prohibited materials, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanUp. Questions? Call 408-615-3080 or email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Week 1 **Week 2** **Week 3** **Week 4**

Week 1 – Set out materials no earlier than Saturday, April 29 and no later than 7 a.m., Monday, May 1.
Note: Includes both sides of Monroe.

Week 2 – Set out materials no earlier than Saturday, May 6 and no later than 7 a.m., Monday, May 8.
Note: Includes both sides of Newhall between Saratoga and Winchester, both sides of Saratoga between Scott and Pruneridge, and north side of Pruneridge between Saratoga and Lawrence.

Week 3 – Set out materials no earlier than Saturday, May 13 and no later than 7 a.m., Monday, May 15.
Note: Includes both sides of Homestead between Santa Tomas and Lawrence.

Week 4 – Set out materials no earlier than Saturday, May 20 and no later than 7 a.m., Monday, May 22.
Note: Includes the south side of Pruneridge between Saratoga and Lawrence and both sides of Pruneridge west of Lawrence and east of Saratoga.

Questions?
Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanUp
Call 408-615-3080
Email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov

Stay Moving this Spring with the Activity Pass

Challenge yourself by trying a new drop-in activity. Purchase your Activity Pass now for access to three dynamic drop-in programs: Group Exercise at the Community Center, Lap Swim at the International Swim Center and Drop-in Play at the Reed & Grant Sports Park. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass for more information or call 408-615-3140.

Register for Spring Classes and Summer Camps

Are you ready to get out and have fun this spring and summer? The Parks & Recreation Department has you covered with a variety of recreation classes and summer camps. The Spring + Summer Camp 2023 Activity Guide is available online or at City facilities. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for registration information or call 408-615-3140.

Adventures in Learning Open House

Visit the Adventures in Learning Open House at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd. on **Tuesday, April 4 from 5 – 6 p.m.** Meet the teachers and find out more information about this year-round enriching program for 3 and 4 year-olds. Our teachers are ready to create a nurturing environment where participants build confidence while discovering new interests through hands-on activities. Registration for the 2023-24 school year is now open! Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet to register. For more information, contact the Recreation Office at PRCustomerServe@SantaClaraCA.gov or call 408-615-3140.

Spring Citywide Garage Sale

The Santa Clara Spring Citywide Garage Sale returns on **Saturday, April 8!** A list of garage sale locations will be available for download on April 7 at SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale. Registered locations are displayed on the interactive map to help you plan your route! Use the list or interactive map to view the locations and details including the time, address and items for sale. For more information, email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov or call 408-615-3080.

Summer Recreation Classes and Swim Lessons

Get ready for an exciting summer in Santa Clara! The Parks & Recreation Department has you covered with a variety of high-quality recreation classes and summer camps. The Summer 2023 Activity Guide will be available online on **Friday, April 21** for viewing. Registration for residents begins **Tuesday, April 25** at 12 a.m. Summer fun begins the week of June 5. Registration is currently open for summer camps, choose from over 200 camps. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for more information.

Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration

Santa Clara's Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration returns to the Central Park Pavilion on **Thursday, April 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Celebrate the environment and learn ways to preserve earth's natural resources through everyday actions. This family-friendly event will feature a musical performance, tree climbing demonstration, booths promoting environmental education, and more! Join us as the City of Santa Clara receives its Tree City USA recognition for the 36th time! For more information, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/EarthandArborDay.



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, April 29**. 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. Residents must register to attend this event by calling the County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 408-299-7300 or by visiting hww.sccgov.org.



HHW Drop-off Event

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Alzheimer's Awareness & Effective Communication with the Memory Impaired

The Senior Advisory Commission is hosting an Alzheimer's Awareness presentation on **Tuesday, April 4 from 11 – 11:45 a.m.** Join Vanessa Souza, LCSW, Senior Manager with the Alzheimer's Association, as she talks about the impact of Alzheimer's risk factors, and warning signs. Learn how to keep your own brain healthy as you age, how you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, and what support programs and resources are available through the Alzheimer's Association. Seating is limited so sign-up soon! Register [online](#) for this free event or call the Senior Center at 408-615-3170 if you have questions.

Handy Help: Assistive Devices

Discover the many types of gadgets, gizmos, software, and tools that can help us function more easily in daily life. Staff from Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, a non-residential nonprofit, will visit the Santa Clara Senior Center on **Monday, April 10 from 1 – 2 p.m.** to share some of the old favorites, like grabbers and mobility aids, and some newer devices you may have never known about. Register for this free event online or contact the Health & Wellness Program staff if you have questions at 408-615-3170.

Health Tech Workshop

Learn more about accessing your healthcare providers, keeping track of your health data, and being prepared for emergencies. Health and technology have merged and there are a variety of health-related apps for your devices. Your smartphone can help you meet your health goals and it can also be a useful tool in emergency situations. The medical ID app already installed on your smartphone can help you get help fast and better communicate with first responders. Super smart University of San Francisco Student Nurses will lead this workshop at the Santa Clara Senior Center on **Thursday, April 13 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.** to get you started. Seating is limited and walk-ins will not be permitted. Register [online](#) for this free event or call the Senior Center for assistance at 408-615-3170.

Table Talk - Disaster Preparedness

Are you prepared? There is no such thing as being overly prepared for a disaster! Refresh your memory about what makes a good disaster plan and what should go in your Grab 'n Go bag. Visit University of San Francisco Student Nurses at their table in the Senior Center lobby on **Thursday, April 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** to learn how you can make sure you have the essentials when disaster strikes! Contact Larisa Polozova, RN, Health & Wellness Program at 408-615-3797 with questions.

Caregiver Management “How-To” Workshop

Sometimes it's necessary to bring in a little help to stay safe and independent at home. There are many options for hiring in-home help and it can be tedious finding a good match for your needs and budget. Join staff from Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (a nonprofit, non-residential organization) at the Santa Clara Senior Center on **Thursday, April 27 from 10 – 11 a.m.** to learn how to find good, reliable help, what you should expect to pay, how to navigate the hiring (and firing process), and what resources are available. There is no fee for this workshop. Registration is required. Register [online](#) or contact the Health & Wellness Program staff at 408-615-3170.

Save the Date! 7th Annual “Be Strong, Live Long” Health & Wellness Fair at Fremont Park

Join the Senior Center and the Senior Advisory Commission in Fremont Park on **Friday, May 19 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** for a fun festival of music, food, and over 40 community organizations providing the resources you need to live well in Santa Clara. A healthy barbecue lunch is available for purchase. Bring your walking shoes and your sun hat. Street parking is available, although we recommend carpooling with friends, riding your bike, or taking public transportation (VTA bus stop is on our block). Call the Health & Wellness Program staff for more information at 408-615-3170.

Stay Up-To-Date on the Business License Tax Update

On Nov. 8, 2022, nearly 60% of Santa Clara voters passed Measure H to update the City's Business License Tax program, which goes into effect **July 1, 2023**. The update will generate approximately \$6M annually to support essential City services such as 911 response times, safe and clean public streets and facilities and the continued delivery of high-quality parks, recreation and library services. To help businesses navigate the upcoming changes to the Business License Tax program, the City of Santa Clara has created a [webpage](#) with the latest updates, answers to frequently asked questions and contact information.



Business License Tax Update

