



City Hall News

From District 1 City Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

January 2024

SantaClaraCA.gov

City Hall News Highlights

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20 new firefighters join the Santa Clara Fire Department

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Stay Active This New Year

Sign up for an Activity Pass at SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass



Message from Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

Happy New Year District 1!



Firehouse Run

I hope everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends. Our district and city are so culturally diverse that it is a memorable holiday sharing in family traditions and making new memories.

The month of December was a whirlwind of activity attending school Christmas concerts, holiday toy drives, religious services of many faiths and community activities. I truly appreciate the opportunity to share in these events as I believe they help bond us to work together.

I want to thank the Santa Clara Police Department and Santa Clara Fire Department for their commitment to providing a bright holiday season to those who needed it. Congratulations on a very successful holiday toy drive and the visit to children who would be spending Christmas in the hospital. It was great to walk in the Firehouse Run on December 17 to raise important funds for the Santa Clara Schools Foundation.

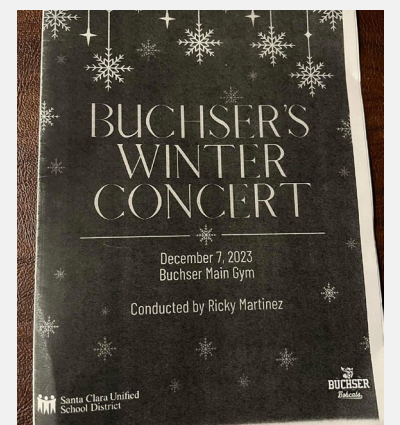
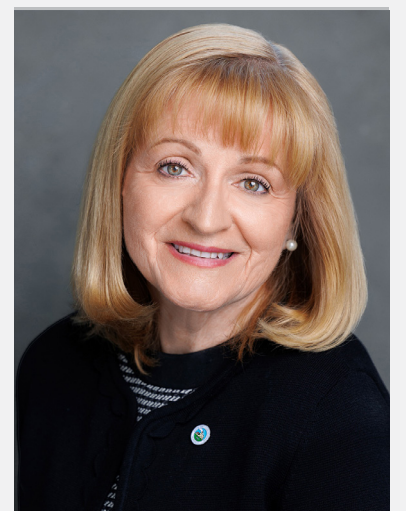
As we start the New Year, I realize this is my last year to serve as a Councilmember. When I was elected to Seat 6 in 2016, I served the City at large. When the City went to districts in 2018, I was relegated to serving all of North Santa Clara - District 1. However, I have continued to be engaged in many activities around the City and appreciate being able to stay involved with the City as a whole. I do consider North Santa Clara - District 1 - to be the most active districts with a lot of potential for growth that will help our City's General Fund. I hope before I term out that there will be some decisions before the City Council that will continue to make the future bright for North Santa Clara as well as they rest of the City.

A New Year is a time to reflect and set goals for the year ahead. As I look at serving my last year representing District 1, my goal is to accomplish as much as possible and leave the City and District 1 in a place that I will be proud of.

Let's see what lies ahead for 2024!

Sincerely,

Kathy Watanabe
Councilmember, District 1
City of Santa Clara



Winter Concert



Christmas Celebration



Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Job Opportunities

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

 [City of Santa Clara](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSantaClara)

 [@SantaClaraCity](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraCity)

 [@SantaClaraCity](https://www.instagram.com/SantaClaraCity)

 [@CityofSantaClara](https://www.youtube.com/CityofSantaClara)

CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

Introducing Engine 91

Meet Santa Clara Fire Department's newest addition to the emergency response fleet - the new Engine 91, a Spartan Metro Star Type I Engine! The new fire engine has a 1500GPM (gallons per minute) pump, 500 gallon water tank, and a variety of firefighting hose lines. In addition, the new engine boasts a new paint scheme with a slightly darker shade of red and accompanying gray color stripes and accents. The Fire Dept was able to supplement the allocated engine replacement funding with wildland deployment reimbursements from the FY2021-22 wildland season. Keep your eyes out for Engine 91 which responds out of Fire Station #1 on 777 Benton Street!



SCFD Welcomes Newest Firefighters

The Santa Clara Fire Department is proud to welcome its 20 newest firefighters who have joined the line this month after successfully completing a 20 week-long Fire Academy. The swearing in ceremony, in November, was attended by loved ones and family, the City Manager, Mayor and Council. Fire Chief Ruben Torres and Training Battalion Chief Zach McGhie spoke words of encouragement, and Recruit Anna Keller relayed the challenges, experiences and lessons learned during fire academy. Congratulations and best wishes to these probationary firefighters as they begin their new assignments on the line, serving our community!



SCFD's Newest Firefighters

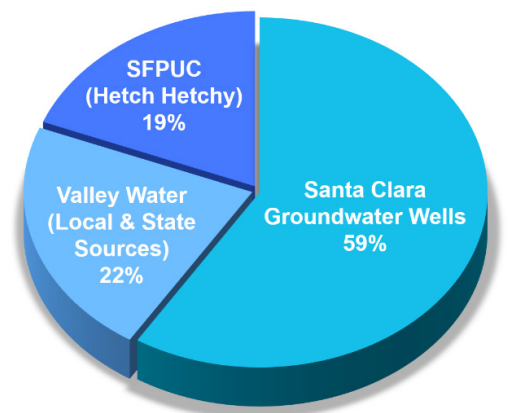
Register for Winter Recreation

Registration is underway for classes and programs offered from January through March. Register now before classes fill up! Gardening, gymnastics, theatre, fitness, and more await you this winter. If you want to participate in the annual Spring Dance Recital, now is the time to register for a variety of Dance classes. There is something for everyone! Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for more information. Questions? Contact the Community Recreation Center at PRCustomerServe@SantaClaraCA.gov or 408-615-3140.



Sufficient Rain? Not Yet...

It's the New Year! By contrast, our rainfall year now enters its seventh month. Late December and New Year rains slightly bolstered rainfall totals that barely passed half an inch as of Dec. 1, 2023 (22% of normal), but the State Water Project has allocated Valley Water just 10% of the water requested. Due to last winter's deluge, water storage levels remain healthy - for now. Groundwater wells within the City provide most of our drinking water supply. An additional fifth comes from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir. The remaining fifth is from Valley Water, heavily reliant on State Water Project allocations. We must again embrace the reality: *Rain or Shine, There is Never Enough to Waste*. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater for the latest updates.



Santa Clara Drinking Water Sources

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Residential holiday trees will be collected curbside on regular garbage collection days during the week of Jan. 8 - 12. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails and stands. After Jan. 12, cut up your tree and place the pieces in your green yard trimmings cart. Flocked trees 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 Dept. of Public Works at 408-615-3080.



Winter Coat Drive

The City of Santa Clara and Recology South Bay invite you to share the warmth by donating new or gently used coats for those in need this winter season. The donation deadline is Jan. 31, 2024. Collection boxes will be available at the following City locations:

- Mission Branch Library (1098 Lexington St.)
- Central Park Library (2635 Homestead Rd.)
- Northside Branch Library (695 Moreland Wy.)
- Community Recreation Center (969 Kiely Blvd.)

Drop off donations during regular operating hours. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/AccessSantaClara for current hours of operation. Questions? Email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov.



Bikeway Planning Studies

In January 2024, the City will host the final round of virtual community meetings for four bikeway planning projects. The meetings will include a discussion of the proposed bikeway design alternatives and the effects the project will have on the study area (including traffic and parking data). The study corridors include:

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

A final online survey will be available in January 2024 to obtain community preferences for the bikeway design alternatives. For more information about the projects, how to provide feedback or attend future public meetings, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/BikePedProjects.



Bikeway Planning Studies

Rate Increase of 10% Effective January 1, 2024

On Dec. 5, 2023, the Santa Clara City Council approved a rate increase of 10% for all electric customers. This increase will take effect Jan. 1, 2024 and customers will see it reflected on utility bills received in February. The increase in rates is necessary to complete maintenance and operation of the electric system. It helps to cover the rising costs of producing, purchasing and transmitting power as well as equipment and material costs, which have increased by double and triple digits. Silicon Valley Power's (SVP) electricity rates remain among the lowest for California utilities serving more than 10,000 customers. Electric system improvements include replacing old power poles, crossarms and transformers to prevent outages and maintain high-quality service. The rate increase and system improvements will help ensure a reliable power system for Santa Clara in the future. SVP understands the impacts rising utility costs have on all its customers. The utility offers a variety of programs to assist customers in reducing energy costs, including a [discount on utility rates for income-qualified customers](#) and a variety of rebate programs to help with the cost of new energy efficient appliances. For more information, visit SiliconValleyPower.com/Rebates or call 408-244-SAVE (7283).



SVP Electricity Rate Increase

Financial Rate Assistance Program Provides Discount Up to 40%

Silicon Valley Power understands the economic pressures on its customers due to inflation and rising energy costs. To help financially vulnerable customers, the utility offers a Financial Rate Assistance Program (FRAP) to provide a discount on the electric bill for all eligible customers. The 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. For questions, call our Energy Conservation Hotline at 408-244-SAVE (7283).



Financial Rate Assistance Program

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara

Free Disposal Day

Start the New Year off with less clutter around your home! Free Disposal Day will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 20 from 6 a.m. to noon** at Mission Trail Waste Systems (MTWS) Transfer Station. Dispose of appliances and e-waste items, as well as mattresses, furniture, and other bulky items at no cost. A limit of one (1) cubic yard of dirt, concrete, sod, brick, and/or rock will apply. Appointments required. Hazardous waste (e.g. paints, fluorescent bulbs, chemical cleaners, and pesticides, etc.), automotive parts, and pressure treated wood are prohibited. To participate in our "Free Disposal Day" call MTWS at 408-727-5365 between Jan. 8 - 19 to make an appointment and for details on location, load size limits and accepted/non-accepted materials. Proof of residency (utility bill or driver's license) is required. Residents are responsible for unloading their vehicles.

FREE Disposal Day!
For City of Santa Clara Residents Only

A person is seen from behind, disposing of items into a large container at a waste transfer station. The area is filled with various items being discarded.

Saturday, January 20, 2024
6:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The logo for the City of Santa Clara, featuring a stylized sun and the text "City of Santa Clara The Center of Smart People".

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

Santa Clara residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) at the free HHW drop-off event on **Saturday, Jan. 27** in Santa Clara or any of the HHW events located countywide throughout the year. Residents must register to attend this event by calling the County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 408-299-7300 or by visiting hhw.org. 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 Styrofoam, large household appliances, ammunition, explosives, or containers larger than five gallons. For more information on the types of household hazardous waste that are accepted, contact the County HHW Program. For the safe disposal of ammunition or explosives, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

Did you know that, rechargeable electronics, batteries, and holiday lights should not be placed in your garbage or recycling bin?



City of Santa Clara
The Center of Smart People

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

Interactive Art Exhibit by Adrian Landon

Have you seen *The Mechanical Horse*? This life-sized free exhibit is located on the Santa Clara University campus (500 El Camino Real) through **Sunday, Jan. 21**. The public is invited to drop in and see this unique sculpture in motion, press the button, and watch it move! Visit SCUpresents.org for more information.



Special Event – Kids Rock

Time: Friday, Jan. 26, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Residents: \$17

Ages: K - 5th Grade

Non-Residents: \$20

For more information, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet or email YTC@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Santa Clara Seed Share

Join us for our Annual Seed Exchange, celebrating National Seed Swap Day! This event will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 27, from 2 - 4 p.m.** at the Everett N. “Eddie” Souza Community Garden (2380 Monroe Street), a vibrant community hub for gardening enthusiasts. The Seed Exchange is an opportunity to diversify your garden, share knowledge, and connect with fellow gardeners. You'll contribute to preserving plant varieties and promoting biodiversity. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a budding green thumb, this event offers the perfect chance to exchange seeds, stories, and strategies for successful gardening. Visit the [event webpage](#) for tips on how to get the most out of this event or email us your questions at CommunityGarden@SantaClaraCA.gov. For more information, visit the [Community Garden webpage](#).

Santa Clara Pickleball at Central Park

Join the Pickleball craze! Six pickleball courts with blended lines have been introduced as part of a Pickleball Pilot Program for a better multi-sport racquet experience for the community.

Pickleball Reservation-Based Play Hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 12 - 3 p.m.

Pickleball Court Rental Fees:

- Santa Clara Residents: \$8/hr.
- Non-Residents: \$10/hr.

Schedule subject to change. For reservations and more information call 408-247-0178 or visit lifetimeactivities.com/santa-clara/pickleball.

Register for Youth Basketball Program

The Youth Basketball Program is designed to introduce your child to the basic fundamentals and rules of basketball. This three-week coed instructional program emphasizes skill acquisition, teamwork, sportsmanship, and drills through recreational games and activities.

Session 1: Saturday Jan. 13, 20, & 27

Ages: 5-10 years/Grades K-5th

Session 2: Saturday Feb. 3, 10, & 17

Residents: \$43

Location: Santa Clara Youth Activity Center

Non-Residents: \$53

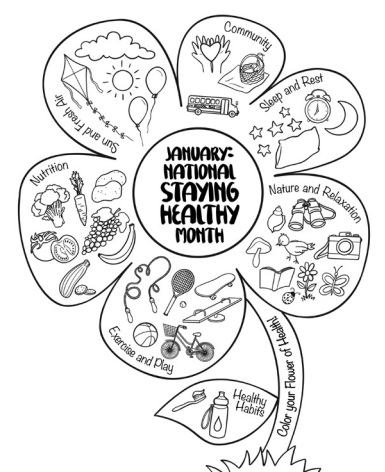
For more information visit Santaclearaca.gov/Activenet or email YTC@Santaclearaca.gov.

Make Staying Active a Priority This Year!

January is the perfect time to purchase an Activity Pass or reload your current pass. Passes may be used for Group Exercise at the Community Recreation Center, Lap Swim at the Swim Center, or Drop-in Play at the Reed and Grant Sports Park. Swim, dance, sculpt, kick, and stay active this Winter. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass for more information or call 408-615-3140.

January is National Staying Healthy Month!

The month of January is dedicated to helping create healthy habits that stick, focusing on your overall well-being and self-care. The Cultural Commission invites you to enjoy their monthly coloring pages. This month's healthy flower page will motivate the whole family! Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission for more information.



Kids Rock! - Special Event

For K-5th Grade Participants
from 6 - 8:30 p.m. on select
Friday nights

Kids, get ready for a special night of activities that include music, bounce house fun, arts and crafts, recreation games, pizza, and fun!!

For all upcoming Kids Rock dates please visit our website.



Annual Seed Exchange



Pickleball at Central Park



Stay Active with Activity Passes

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Color Me Calm

Mandala coloring is a calming, grounding, and creative activity for everyone. Coloring can help induce a state of flow, similar to meditation, and research shows participants experience decreases in stress and anxiety. Join us **Jan. 17 – Feb. 28, on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.** The group will start with a short, guided meditation and then work together in a group space. Supplies will be provided. Space is limited to 8 participants. Register online using Activity [#28612](#). Contact the Senior Center front desk for assistance at 408-615-3170.

Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a partner, parent, or adult child who is elderly, ill, or suffering from memory loss or a disability? If so, join us for a 7-week peer support group for family caregivers. The group will meet **Jan. 18 – Feb. 29, on Thursdays from 1 – 2 p.m.**, and is open to all non-professional caregivers who are taking care of a loved one. This will be a safe, confidential space to share, learn, heal, and be supported by other family caregivers. Space limited to 8 participants. Register online using the Activity [#28613](#). Contact the Senior Center front desk for assistance at 408-615-3170.

Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances

Join us on **Thursday, Jan. 18, 10 - 11:30 a.m.**, to learn how to improve your money management skills! Betty and Dave return to the Santa Clara Senior Center to lead this free program by the Alzheimer's Association®. Topics covered include:

- The costs of caregiving
- The benefits of early planning
- How to avoid financial abuse and fraud
- Starting a conversation about finances
- Assessing financial and legal needs
- Finding support

This in-person workshop is free and registration is required. Register online at the Alzheimer's Association link at bit.ly/MMO-SC or register by phone at 800-272-3900. Seating is limited, so register now!

Walk & Talk - New Session!

Join the Health & Wellness Program Staff on Tuesdays from 1 – 2 p.m., for weekly neighborhood walks starting from the Senior Center. We'll meet in the Fireplace Lobby, then head to local destinations like Mission Branch Library, the Triton Museum, and Santa Clara University. Walks are between 1 - 3 miles on paved surfaces. Get outdoors, stay in shape, explore your town, and meet new people! Bring water and dress for the weather. (No walking if rain is predicted.) This session will meet Jan. 16 - May 21. Registration is required. Use Activity [#28609](#). Call the Senior Center front desk for assistance at 408-615-3170.

Job Opportunities

The City of Santa Clara is looking for passionate team members in various fields to serve and enrich our diverse community. We have an opening for YOU on our team!

Openings in various fields such as:

- Administration
- Building Development
- Electric Utility
- Engineering
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Library Administration
- Maintenance
- Planning & Development
- Public Safety – Police & Fire
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Water & Sewer Utility

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

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.

