



# City Hall News

From District 1 City Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

March 2024

SantaClaraCA.gov

## City Hall News Highlights

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**Citywide Garage Sale**

Register online for individual, multi-family, or block garage sales starting March 13 – April 10

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**Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration**

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Central Park Pavilion

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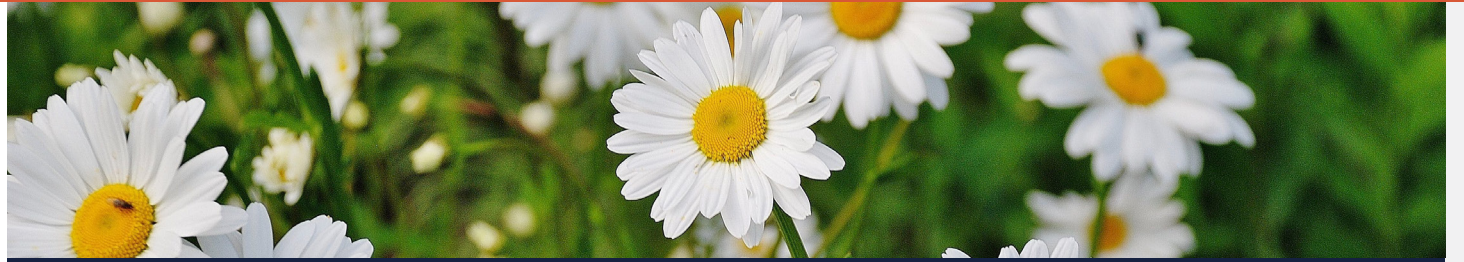
**"Please Slow Down" Yard Sign Public Awareness Initiative**

Pick up a free yard sign at the City Hall Permit Center and the Public Works Corporation Yard

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**Backyard Composting Workshop**

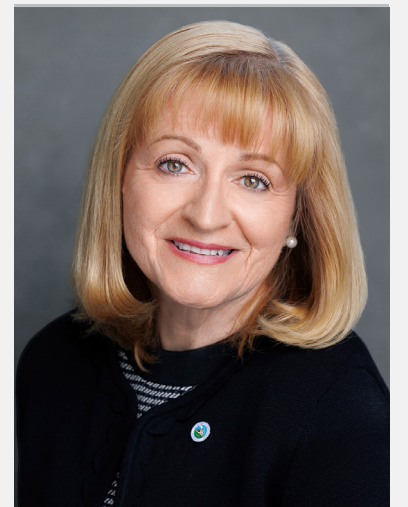
Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Park. Register to attend



## Message from Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

Welcome to March!

There is an expression that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. With the weather prediction for early March that certainly seems true. Hopefully, by the end of the month we will be well on our way to welcoming Spring!



**2nd Celebrate Lunar New Year Together**

### Happy Lunar New Year

There have been many celebrations centering around Lunar New Year! It was so enjoyable to partake in several Korean First Full Moon Festival presented by Korean American Community Services which serves at the Bascom Community Center in San Jose and then the Korean Senior Citizens League of Santa Clara County at the Super Kyo-Po Plaza in Santa Clara. Each event shared traditional music, dance and beautiful colorful clothing that made the event very welcoming to everyone. Congratulations to Diana

Ding and Ding Ding TV on a very successful 2nd Celebrate Lunar New Year Together event which includes many community dance groups performing traditional dancing to commemorate and welcome the Lunar New Year. Finally, it was an honor to attend the Tai Ji Men Qigong Academy Lunar New Year Celebration and once again be able to wish all who celebrate a Happy New Year filled with prosperity, health, happiness and love. Thank you to all these great organizations that have welcomed so many to enjoy the culture and diversity of our City.



**Korean First Full Moon Festival**



**Korean Senior Citizens League of Santa Clara County**

## Job Opportunities

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

### AACI Youth Program

AACI (Asian American Community Initiative) will be hosting a FREE Youth Conference on March 23, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with lunch included) and is open to residents of Santa Clara County ages 12–18. It will be held at the East Valley Family YMCA, 1975 S. White Road, San Jose. Topics of discussion include local speakers in the fields of sports, leadership, art and media plus raffle giveaways and conference kits! It's a great opportunity for our youth!

**SLAM!**  
2024 YOUTH CONFERENCE  
Sports, Leadership, Art, Media

**SATURDAY MARCH 23**  
10:30am – 4:30pm  
East Valley Family YMCA

**FREE**

Learn more and register: [bit.ly/SLAMYC2024](https://bit.ly/SLAMYC2024)

For Santa Clara County teens ages 12-18

<b>Vasyi</b> Jazz/Hip-Hop Dance	<b>Susan Thomas</b> Leadership
<b>Alyssa Wigant</b> Lettering workshop	<b>Big Reid</b> Podcasting

Logos: aod, yte, Friday Night, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA Behavioral Health Services

### Happy St. Patrick's Day

One of my favorite holidays is coming up on March 17! I was born to Irish parents who emigrated to the United States in the 1950s. My family always had Irish music playing in our house growing up and ate delicious Irish Soda Bread. If you are looking for some good Irish entertainment, there is a one-man show of song and story about the life of William Butler Yeats being performed by Patrick Ball at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco on Thursday, March 7. Patrick is originally from Sebastapol and now resides in Galway, Ireland but comes back to the United States at least once a year to share his love of playing the Celtic harp. Tickets are available at [irishcentersf.org](https://irishcentersf.org).



**Patrick Ball Celtic Harp & Story**  
**St. Patrick's Day**

May the luck of the Irish and the beauty of the Lunar New Year be with all of District 1!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Watanabe  
Councilmember, District 1

- [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

## Register for the Spring Citywide Garage Sale

The Santa Clara Citywide Garage Sale returns April 13, 2024! 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 13–April 10 at [SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale](https://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 April 12.

Learn how to participate and get some tips on hosting your own garage sale at [SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale). Questions? Email [Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov) or call 408-615-3080.



## Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration

Join us for the City of Santa Clara 2024 Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration, hosted by Environmental Programs! The program is geared towards all students between the ages of 6 – 10, and includes activities, exhibitor booths, interactive music performances, and a Tree City USA award ceremony. This celebration will take place on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at the Central Park Pavilion (909 Kiley Blvd, Santa Clara). Contact [Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov) with any question you might have. We hope to see you there!



## Apply to be a City of Santa Clara Youth Commissioner!

The Youth Commission application for the 2024/25 term is now available. Applicants must be City of Santa Clara residents and between the ages of 12–19. Applicants must complete the application and, if selected, an interview. Applications are available at [SantaClaraCA.gov/YouthCommission](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/YouthCommission) on the "Application and FAQs" page. Applications are also available at Parks & Recreation facilities and City libraries.

## 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](https://SiliconValleyPower.com/Assist). For questions, please call our Energy Conservation Hotline at 408-244-SAVE (7283).



Financial Rate Assistance

## \$5,000 Trade School Scholarships for Income-Qualified Customers

Silicon Valley Power offers a scholarship program designed to help qualified Santa Clara residents learn the skills to earn a livable wage while pursuing high demand careers in the energy industry. Scholarships are available up to \$5,000 for eligible customers currently enrolled in the Financial Rate Assistance Program who meet all program requirements. Examples of eligible trade school programs include:

- HVAC technician
- Solar PV system installer
- Generation technician
- Lineworker
- Building controls technician
- And more!

Applications are accepted quarterly with deadlines on March 31, June 30, Sept. 30 and Dec. 31 annually. For more information, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/Scholarship](https://SiliconValleyPower.com/Scholarship).

## Crosswalk Flags Pilot Project

The City of Santa Clara will launch a pilot program in early March 2024 to evaluate the effectiveness of pedestrians using brightly colored flags when moving through marked crosswalks. The flags intend to raise driver awareness of pedestrians using crosswalks and to increase pedestrian safety. These flags are not formal traffic control devices. Under the pilot program, pedestrian crossing flags will be placed at 25 high-priority uncontrolled crosswalks in the City where pedestrians encounter crossing challenges. The pilot program will last approximately 12 months. For more information about this program, visit the [program webpage](#).



Crosswalk Flags Pilot Project

## Affordable Housing Available at Sofia

Sofia is a multi-family development located in Santa Clara, CA with 288 residential units. There are 53 affordable rental housing units consisting of 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. All eligible households are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to those residing and/or working in the City of Santa Clara. Interested applicants can enter the drawing starting on March 1, 2024 and the deadline to enter is on March 15, 2024 at 5 p.m. For additional information on how to enter the drawing, visit [housekeys7.com/sofia](https://housekeys7.com/sofia).

## “Please Slow Down” Yard Sign Public Awareness Initiative

In early March, the City will begin a public awareness initiative to provide “Please Slow Down” yard signs to residents to place on their properties. This is to encourage lower driving speeds to improve traffic safety and the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Driving slower increases roadway safety for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and the motoring public. Yard signs with traffic safety messages will be free for residents to pick up at the City Hall Permit Center and the Public Works Corporation Yard. For more information about this initiative, visit the [project webpage](#).

## Congratulations Santa Clara Water & Sewer Utilities!

Water & Sewer Utilities has received the Collection System of the Year (Medium Size Category) by the California Water Environment Association for the Santa Clara Valley Section. This great achievement is a testament to the hard work of the Water & Sewer Utilities team and their commitment to protecting public health and the environment by maintaining an excellent collection system. Award criteria included the Utilities’ program responsibilities, preventative maintenance, corrective maintenance, safety and accident prevention, training/employee development and administration/data management.

The proactive work of Water and Sewer Utilities ensures a reliable supply of clean, potable water and environmentally sound wastewater collection, treatment and disposal. For current projects, visit [Work in Your Neighborhood](#) and see why the team earned the prestigious Collection System of the Year award!



Water & Sewer Utilities Awarded Collection System of the Year

# EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



## 2024 City Council Priority Setting Session

On an annual basis, the City Council meets for the Council Priority Setting Session. The goal is to formulate the City Council’s priorities and initiatives for the upcoming year. The public is encouraged to attend in-person. Upcoming sessions will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Mission City Ballroom, located at 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara.

- Session #1: Monday, March 25, 2024, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Session #2: Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Parking is free and light refreshments provided. Both sessions will be live-streamed to the City’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. A Zoom option will also be available to participate. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/CouncilPriorities](#) for more details.

## See “The SpongeBob Musical” with RJJT!

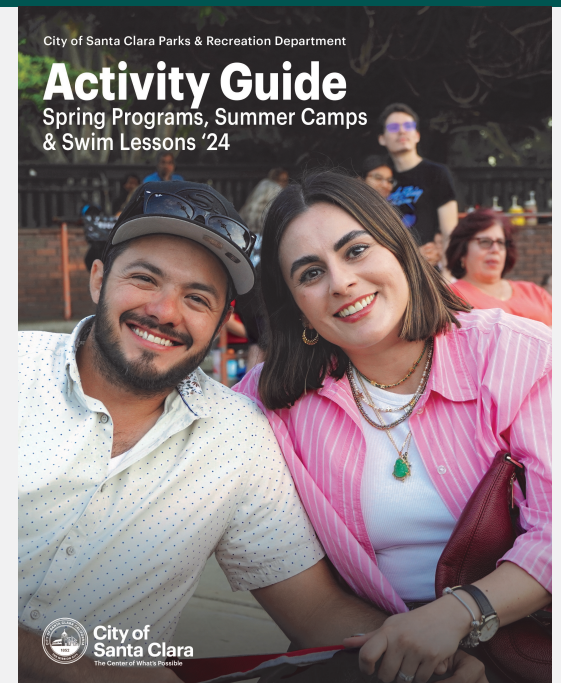
Plunge into this stunning all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show with Roberta Jones Junior Theatre! This deep-sea pearl of a show is set to make a splash with audiences young and old. See how an unexpected hero and the power of optimism rise up to save the world! The SpongeBob Musical is based on the beloved animated series and includes original songs by artists including Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T’s, and more! Performances held **March 22–24 and 29–30** at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts, 3250 Monroe St. Purchase tickets for \$16 each at [SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet](#).

# CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

## Spend your Spring with Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Department is offering a variety of enriching Spring recreation classes for everyone, spanning all ages, alongside some epic Summer Camps and refreshing Swim Lessons. Get ready for art, dance, sports, theater, and a whole lot more. Registration is underway and the session kicks off end of March, with summer activities starting in June. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses) for more information and to check out the Activity Guide.



### Celebrate Women's History Month!

Women's History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. One creative way to honor this month is by participating in the monthly coloring page offered by the Cultural Commission. Grab your coloring tools and let's honor the past, present, and future of women during Women's History Month! Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission) to learn more.

### Backyard Composting Workshop

Reduce your carbon footprint and recycle your organic waste by composting at home. Register for a composting basics workshop on **Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Park located at 2380 Monroe Street. Learn how to build and maintain 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



Backyard Composting Workshop

limited to 12 attendees. Register at [ucanr.edu/compost](https://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](mailto:Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov) or 408-615-3080.



Free Compost Giveaway

### Residential Free Compost Giveaway

Prepare your spring and summer garden with nutrient-rich compost and improve the soil's ability to conserve water. The City of Santa Clara is hosting a self-service compost giveaway event for Santa Clara residents on **Saturday, April 6, 8 – 11 a.m.** at the City's Corporation Yard, located at 1700 Walsh Avenue. Residents must provide a current utility bill and/or personal identification to participate. Residents must bring their own shovel and sturdy container(s) (i.e. 5-gallon bucket) to fill and load their container(s) into their vehicle. A (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](mailto:Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov).

### Watershed Watch Poster Challenge

Students K-8 in Santa Clara Valley: What do you love about your local waterways (creeks, rivers, lakes)? How can you prevent water pollution? Share your creativity and vision! Enter the Watershed Watch Earth Day Poster Challenge by March 18 for your chance to win up to \$250. Get all the details at [MyWatershedWatch.org/PosterChallenge](https://MyWatershedWatch.org/PosterChallenge).



# SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

## Housing Workshop by Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

Join staff from Silicon Valley Independent Living Center on **Tuesday, March 12 from 10 – 11 a.m.**, to learn how to conduct a housing search, along with a few strategies on how to find housing locally, in person, and online. This non-residential, non-profit will also share information about their services, including independent living skills, assistive technology, and emergency support. The workshop is free and pre-registration is required. Visit the [webpage to register](#).

## Stop the Bleed Workshop

Don't miss the opportunity on **Thursday, March 21, from 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.**, to learn basic emergency bleeding control techniques by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's Trauma Center RN team. In this first aid training, you will participate in simulated hands-on-training and earn a certificate of course completion. The top cause of preventable death in trauma is bleeding. This is especially serious for people on anti-coagulant therapy and/or blood thinners like warfarin. Gain the skills to stop the bleed and save a life! The workshop is free and pre-registration is required. Visit the [webpage to register](#).

## Save the Date! 8th Annual "Be Strong, Live Long" Health & Wellness Fair

Join us in Fremont Park on **Friday, May 17, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** for a fun festival of music, food, and over 50 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, but 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 at the Senior Center for more information at 408-615-3170. See you soon to party in the park! Bring your walking shoes and your sun hat.



## PICTURE YOURSELF MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Be a part of our dynamic team at the City of Santa Clara. Apply for various openings today to serve and enrich our diverse community!



## 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:

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

- 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

## 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).

