



City Hall News

From District 6 Vice Mayor Anthony Becker

April 2024

SantaClaraCA.gov

City Hall News Highlights

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Free Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event

Saturday, April 27. Register online or call to attend



Message from Vice Mayor Anthony Becker

Greetings Santa Clarans and District 6 constituents,

At the 2024 Santa Clara City Council Priority Session, the City Council was asked to provide a list of our priorities in which my list has 20 priorities for the city. Ten of them would be submitted to be deliberated by the council on the second day of Santa Clara Priority Setting session April 3, 2024. The list I proposed focused on the people's priorities from infrastructure upgrades, affordable housing to items that will enhance your quality of life here in Santa Clara. Those items with a * were submitted as part of the 10 items.



As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve as your representative on the council and your feedback is utmost important to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any community related issues. My lines of communication are open not only to District 6 residents, but all Santa Clarans,

Anthony Becker
District 6 Vice Mayor

1. Reopening/Remodel of the International Swim Center*

- It is unacceptable that our jewel the Santa Clara International Swim Center is in the condition it is in and being closed to the public now and many times over the years. This does not meet the standards of our city and the commitments to our community.
- Need to allocate funding to the reopening of the current International Swim Center on a fast tracked priority. Also need to find accommodating facilities for swimmers.
- The future is now, we need to form an International Swim Center Master Plan with the possibility of naming rights as a source of revenue. The swim center has gone beyond its life expectancy. 2.

2. Rebuilding Downtown*

- A priority that has been generations in the making. An economic booster and a heart for Santa Clara, a place to go.
- The Downtown Precise precise plan has been implemented.
- Project needs to get moving and needs to have milestones and attainable goals including check-ins with the community and Downtown Community Task Force.

3. Homelessness Services/Affordable Housing*

- Majority of folks out there see the need for affordable housing and homelessness solutions because most are living paycheck to paycheck and can be one check and a job loss away from homelessness.
- When I speak to parents in the community they tell me they are worried where their children are going to live and fear they will move far away just to be able to afford a home. They fear the housing crisis is dividing their families because the cost around here is breaking the bank.
- Santa Clara needs to lead by example and be inclusive and aggressive on its affordable housing stock. We also need to go above and beyond in providing homeless services and transitional housing locations preferably in old motels like what is being done on El Camino via Western Motel which is now the Covenant House.

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 Vice Mayor Anthony Becker

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4. Walkway & Stairway from Tasman Bridge to Lafayette including a carve out underneath the bridge for rideshare pick up spots*

- To accommodate stadium crowds and pedestrians as well as a spot of short term pick up area for Rideshares (Uber/Lyft)
- Current conditions are just a bridge abutment slope hill in which before or after every game, event goes in this area scale up or down the hill from Tasman bridge down to Lafayette where they go to either request or meet a Rideshare/pickup.
- Putting stairs will make this more attractive, accommodating and organized for stadium events, etc.

5. Fiber/Internet Utility-WiFi

- Santa Clara needs to invest into fiber and expanded WiFi services. In an age of Internet inequity there are children/ students who can't use the internet because their parents can't afford it. An average internet bill is over \$100. That is a lot of money for Internet and WiFi which is an essential need in this day and age with many things like bill pay, job hunting, homework, and more online.
- Santa Clara can possibly partner with a tech company professional in the internet and WiFi field to provide an internet utility. Another option is to push for a bond measure to pass to help fund upgrading fiber infrastructure working in collaboration with Comcast etc.

6. GO Bond Measure-Infrastructure*

- This bond proposal will be the first in Santa Clara's history
- Santa Clara has \$600 Million+ worth of unfunded needs in the city like infrastructure.
- Past practices and a pay as you go upgrade has put us behind.
- Big Needs like, 3 firehouses need to be replaced and are outdated; Need a new FireFighter Training Tower; Parks; International Swim Center; all City Pools; internet fiber/wifi; Community Centers; Recreational buildings in our parks; City Hall upgrades/replacement; SVP offices headquarters;

7. Lawn Bowl Clubhouse

- Since 2002 the Lawn Bowl club has been promised a clubhouse. 20 years have passed and it is time to accommodate the Lawn Bowl club. The current condition of using the narrow and crowded trailer is not accommodating or inviting. With a proper clubhouse membership could increase and it would become a space for inviting and non claustrophobic.

8. Full Library Hours

- There are totally understandable reasons for Library Hours not operating full hours like the pandemic, staffing and other technical issues, however it is time to find ways to accommodate full library hours including staffing, funding to better serve the community.

9. Data Center Policy Plan*

- There is much concern about what benefits Data Centers give Santa Clara and the community in general. What does Data Center development mean? is it good for the community and their quality of life?
- Planning Commission Staff and City Council need a solid direction on Data Centers. A Joint Study session should happen with the Planning Commission to discuss a plan for data centers like a Data Center Master Plan.

10. Blight Policy-Empty buildings/Empty homes

- On El Camino there have been multiple buildings in a row sitting empty since 2016, nearly a decade. There are homes in neighborhoods empty and falling apart. These are eyesores in our community. My solution would be to implement a policy that can fine landlords for neglect.

11. Solving Flooding issues on Hilmar*

- This issue was brought to the Council's attention by resident Mark Kelsey following a heavy storm our city faced and flooding that affected his basement and his neighbors. These are costly consequences from climate change and it can only get worse. Solutions are needed to negate this flooding's negative impact on the neighborhood of Hilmar.

12. Rainbow Pride Crosswalk(s)/Crosswalk upgrades in general*

- I presented this item to the City Council in 2021 as a way to show Santa Clara's inclusive spirit.

- The Mauricia/Kiely crosswalk needs a rectangular rapid flashing beacon crosswalk or flashing lit crosswalk.
- Crosswalk Improvements are needed at Winchester Ave and Dolores Ave.

13. Arts Masterplan*

- The cultural commission has pleaded to the city Council to implement a Arts Masterplan. I concur with them.
- Councilmember Jain has for years pushed for an arts fee on projects in the city, and if we had implemented one in the past, we would have a fund for it already started. Now's the time.

14. Admission Tax on Ticketed Entertainment Events*

- A percentage tax on all ticketed entertainment events at places like Levi's stadium concerts and games; Convention Center events; Great America, etc.
- This would have to go to the voters in the form of a ballot measure or find a way for the city to increase the non-nfl event ticket surcharge that goes to the general fund.

15. Increased Budget for Commissions

- All Commission should have an increased budget for training, special presentations or study sessions.

16. Filling our cities staffing vacancy rate

- Our city should hire already funded roles and fill them.
- Reduce the hiring process time period for better efficiency and expedited employment.

17. Station Area Plan including a Brokaw/Benton Connection Underpass*

- A Santa Clara Train Station needs a Master Plan that will accommodate all the needs from commuters, travelers, students and all. This plan connects to our Downtown Plan as the train station is our gateway to the city.
- Connect Benton and Brokaw by adding a real gateway to our city by working with State and Caltrain officials in putting an underpass and connecting Santa Clara to an area that is often forgotten is Santa Clara. This will help with a bikeway as well flow of car traffic in the Costco area that is already heavily impacted with traffic.

18. Film Commission*

- Have you ever wondered when watching a film or your favorite tv series how they got to film in certain locations like recognizable landmarks, restaurants or homes? The way it is done often is through film scouts looking for available locations. With a film commission composed of South Bay cities this would put us all on the map for filmmakers.
- Work to develop, recognize and promote film activities in Santa Clara and the cities among the South Bay. We have such incredible filming locations in our cities that can be attractive to film scouts.

19. SVP Real Time Alerts during outages/crisis, etc.

- After the recent storms residents described not having power and not knowing what was going to happen and when their power would be restored.
- Silicon Valley Power should look into real time alerts for power outages, etc. that text bill payer/residents of the situation and provide automated updates regularly, similar to how SVP did on Twitter.
- Comcast & PG&E does similar notices when there is outages with their services.

20. Auditing our Ordinances/Policies to align with neighboring cities to prevent conflict and contradiction in planning and each city's goals.

- For example, The City of San Jose has an ordinance/policy that states that Drive Thru's are prohibited on their side of the Steven's Creek Corridor, in an effort to fight climate change. Just recently here in Santa Clara there is a Starbucks project that is proposed on Stevens Creek Santa Clara side to include a drive thru. This contradicts San Jose's climate goals and planning goals in general. Why should we contradict that?

CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about the latest updates in Santa Clara

Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration

Santa Clara's Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration returns to the **Central Park Pavilion, 909 Kiely Blvd. on Thursday, April 11 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Celebrate the environment and learn ways to preserve the 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 will receive its Tree City USA recognition for the 37th time! Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/EarthandArborDay for more information.



First Sunset Cinema of the Season

Bring the whole family to **Henry Schmidt Park, 555 Los Padres Blvd. on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.** for a viewing of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*. Pack your favorite movie snacks, lawn chairs or cozy blankets, and enjoy a fun night under the twinkling night sky. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/SunsetCinema for all the details.



Save the Day to Plug-in & Play!

Join Silicon Valley Power on **Thursday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Henry Schmidt Park, 555 Los Padres Blvd.**, for an exciting ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the installation of the 100th EV Charger in the City of Santa Clara at Henry Schmidt Park! Grab lunch, explore the new chargers, and enjoy a fun-filled day at the park while learning about the benefits of electric vehicles and Silicon Valley Power's clean transportation vision for Santa Clara. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a greener future and celebrate this significant milestone with us!

Spring Citywide Garage Sale

The Santa Clara Spring Citywide Garage Sale returns on Saturday, April 13! A list of garage sale locations will be available for download on April 12 at SantaClaraCA.gov/GarageSale. Registered locations are displayed on an interactive map to help plan your route! Use the list or interactive map to view the locations and details including the time, address and items for sale. Email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov or call 408-615-3080 for more information.



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

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

Whether it is texting or other risky actions like talking on the phone, setting your navigation, adjusting what you're listening to, drinking coffee, or applying makeup, driving distracted robs yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

Tips for a safe ride every time:

- Set up navigation and your playlist before you start your engine
- Need to send/read a text or make a call? Pull over and park your car in a safe location to do so or ask a passenger to do so on your behalf
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving

Coming Soon Magical Bridge All Inclusive Playground at Central Park

This exciting new all-inclusive playground will be a welcomed addition to Central Park. The design includes a child zone for ages 2-5, spin zone, swing zone, slide mound, a mission themed two story accessible play house, improvements to the existing amphitheater terrace seating, a donor entry plaza, improved picnic area, and rehabilitation of the adjacent Arbor Center restroom. We look forward to opening the playground this fall.

Bikeway Planning Studies

Draft Bikeway Planning Study Reports for the following four bikeway planning projects will be available on the City's website for public review and comment in April 2024. 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)



Bikeway Planning Studies

The draft reports include proposed concept designs for each corridor, traffic and parking study information, collision analysis, and feedback collected from the community. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/BikePedProjects to view the draft reports and learn more about the studies.

Upgrade Your Home Appliances and Save

Save money with Silicon Valley Power's new electric residential rebates while boosting efficiency. Replace your old gas water heater, upgrade to an induction cooktop or swap your gas clothes dryer to an electric dryer and get money back with our rebates. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities to improve air quality in your home. There are many more rebates available including rebates for electrical upgrades. Visit SiliconValleyPower.com/Rebates today.

Happy Water-Wise Earth Day

Water & Sewer Utilities celebrated Earth Day early, planting California Natives at three well and tank sites.

- Dwarf Coyote Brush and Verbena De La Mina now live at Well 18-02 by Bowers Park.
- Pomeroy Elementary's community enjoys a beautiful Austin Griffiths Manzanita popping above large boulders, plus dwarf Coyote Brush at Well 22-02.
- Soon neighbors will relish expanding canopies of three Coast Live Oaks (and accompanying wildlife) to screen the Serra Tanks that each store over 4 million gallons of water near Lawrence Expressway and Stevens Creek Boulevard. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/WaterRebates for more information.

Most of the native plants originate in Santa Clara County. They began establishing late January to maximize seasonal rains and need no supplemental irrigation. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/GardenGuide to learn more about Native Plants.

Call If You Can, Text If You Can't

While dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency is still the preferred way to request help, Text to 9-1-1 is an alternative way to send a message from your mobile phone or handheld device. Appropriate scenarios for texting 9-1-1 could include:

- Deaf, hard of hearing callers or individuals with a speech disability
- The caller is unable to speak due to a medical issue or other condition
- When speaking out loud would put the caller in danger, such as a home invasion, an abduction, a domestic violence incident or an active-shooter scenario

How to Use Text to 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" or "Recipient" field
- The first text to 9-1-1 should be short, include the location of the emergency, and ask for police, fire or ambulance
- Push the "Send" button
- Answer questions and follow instructions from the Public Safety Dispatcher
- Text in simple words – do not use abbreviations, emoticons or emoji or send videos or photos
- Don't forget to silence your phone if you don't want to be heard
- You cannot include 9-1-1 in a group text or while roaming
- Stay on the line until the dispatcher closes the dialog, if it is safe to do so



**Dwarf Coyote Brush/
Verbena De La Min**



Austin Griffiths Manzanita



Coast Live Oaks

Job Opportunities

Join the Center of What's Possible!

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.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Find out what's happening in Santa Clara



Free Disposal Day

Santa Clara's next Free Disposal Day will be held on **Saturday, April 13 from 6 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Mission Trail Waste Systems (MTWS) Transfer Station.** Free Disposal Day provides residents with an opportunity to dispose of appliances and e-waste items, as well as mattresses, furniture, and other bulky items. Appointment required, and availability is limited. 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 April 1 - 12 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.



Stevens Creek Boulevard Vision Study Update

The cities of Santa Clara, San Jose, Cupertino, the County of Santa Clara and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) are conducting an approximately two-year, community-based transportation study for the Stevens Creek Boulevard/West San Carlos corridor. The goal is to create a vision that focuses on complete streets, multi-modal transportation improvements, and possible high-capacity transit options to connect Diridon Station in San Jose through Santa Clara to the De Anza College/Highway 85 area in Cupertino. This is only at a planning level and does not include design, environmental review, or construction of any improvements. Visit StevensCreekVision.com to register and to view recorded videos for past public meetings.

Upcoming Community Meetings:

Community Advisory Group Meeting #3 (In-person)

Cypress Community Center, 403 Cypress Ave., San José
Thursday, April 25, 2024, 5 - 6:30 p.m. (4:30 p.m. open house)

Steering Committee Meeting #4 (Hybrid)

San José City Hall - Council Chambers, 200 East Santa Clara St., San José
Friday, May 17, 2024, 9 - 11 a.m.

got household hazardous waste?



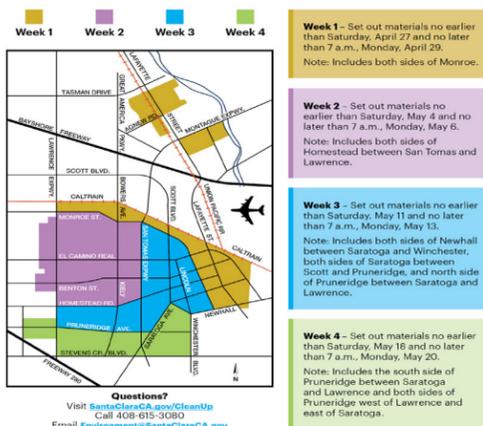
FREE drop off disposal event
Saturday, April 27, 2024



Household Hazardous Waste 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 27 in Santa Clara or any of the HHW events located countywide throughout the year. Residents must register online or call the County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 408-299-7300. Visit hhw.org for more information on the types of household hazardous waste that are accepted during this event. Contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700 regarding the disposal of ammunition or explosives.

NOTE: For medication disposal, remember to remove patient's information on the package and place the drugs in a separate container before arrival. We also accept unwanted medication for pets.



Annual Cleanup Campaign

Santa Clara's Annual Cleanup Campaign will take place April 29 – May 24. On designated weekends, **eligible** residences may set out bulky items that are not routinely collected by weekly solid waste services.

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 a heavy-duty plastic material 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. 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/ cubic yard. Household hazardous material is **not** accepted.

Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/Cleanup for set-out instructions and a list of accepted and prohibited materials.



Firehouse Community Fair

You are invited! The Santa Clara Fire Department is hosting its **Firehouse Community Fair** on **Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** featuring live demonstrations, informational booths, and activity stations. This family friendly community event is for everyone, where you are invited to learn about fire safety, fire prevention, and the many services the SCFD provides. We'll have a kid's water squirting station, a fire engine to check out, the fire museum to peruse, food vendors and more! Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/Fire for more information.



Summer Concert Series

The 2024 Summer Concert Series is upon us. Mark your calendar to meet your neighbors, dance and picnic with friends and groove in the park setting this summer.

Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/Concerts for the full line up.

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

Participate in year-round classes and activities for all ages

Mark Your Calendars for Summer Recreation

The Summer Activity Guide will be available online Friday, April 19. Resident registration begins Tuesday, April 23 at 7 a.m. and non-residents can register Thursday, April 25. All your favorite classes and workshops are back with some new ones mixed in for a summer filled with fun, friendships, and new skills. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses for more information.



Spring Recreation, Swim Lessons and Summer Camp Registration

Spring classes are in full swing, with more exciting classes and workshops for all ages just around the corner this April. From artsy vibes to fitness, sports and dance, there's a class waiting for you. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActiveNet to register.

Group Exercise Classes Expand

Parks & Recreation offers dynamic Group Exercise classes such as, Yoga, Sculpting or Power Hour for strength and flexibility, or Bolly X® and Zumba®. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned fitness enthusiast, these classes are designed to cater to all levels of experience. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/ActivityPass or call 408-615-3140 for more information.

Celebrate Jazz and Poetry Month with the Cultural Commission

April is bursting with jazz and poetry vibes. Why not jazz up the themed April coloring page designed for this special occasion. It's a great way to relax and express your creativity while immersing yourself in the spirit of Jazz and Poetry. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CulturalCommission to learn more.



Jazz and Poetry Month Coloring Page

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.

