



See inside for annual cleanup campaign information – pages 18-19

## March 2020 Special Election includes ballot measure to elect councilmembers by district

Santa Clara will have a Special Election on March 3, 2020 which will share the ballot with the California Presidential Primary. There will be a ballot measure for Santa Clara voters to decide whether to amend the City Charter to elect councilmembers by district. The City Council placed the measure on the ballot following the recommendation of a Charter Review Committee composed of seven Santa Clara residents from across the city.

### Ballot language

The ballot language for Measure C will read as follows: *DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS. Shall the City Charter be amended to elect city council members by district, excepting the mayor, as follows: for the 2020 election to establish six districts for the election of one council member to represent each district; and, beginning in 2022 to establish three districts for the election of two council members to represent each district; and to require an independent redistricting committee?*

If Measure C is approved by the voters, Santa Clarans would:

- Elect City councilmembers by district (except the mayor who will be elected citywide);
- For the **2020 election**, establish **six districts** in which each councilmember represents each district;
- Only Council Districts 1, 4, 5 and 6 will be on the November 2020 ballot.
- Beginning with the **2022 election**, establish **three districts** in which **two councilmembers** represent each district;
- Require Council candidates to be residents of the district they represent for a minimum of 30 days prior to the filing deadline to run for office;
- Require the mayor, chief of police and city clerk to be a Santa Clara resident for a minimum of 30 days prior to the filing deadline to run for office; and
- Require an independent redistricting committee that would set the boundary lines of the three Council districts.

### Background

The City held its first district-based election in November 2018 as required by a ruling of the Santa Clara Superior Court following a lawsuit under the California Voting Rights Act. The court ruling did not amend the City Charter which still states that councilmembers are elected “at-large, by seat.” The City Charter can only be amended by the voters.

In November 2018, Measure N asked voters if they wanted to engage in a public process to draft City Charter amendment language. Voters passed Measure N with 70.4% approval. The measure, which will be on the March 3, 2020 election, is the result of the public process conducted by the Charter Review Committee.

For more information about the March 2020 Special Election, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/elections](https://santacruz.ca.gov/elections).

## Bowers playground debuts

A colorful, creative new playground, designed to be enjoyed by children of all abilities, opened in November at Bowers Park, 2582 Cabrillo Ave. The project was partially funded by a grant from PlayCore and the California Parks & Recreation Society. For information on other park rehabilitation projects underway or coming soon, see the article on page 11.



## Redesigned City website combines modern design with improved functionality

The City of Santa Clara debuted its significantly refreshed website [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://SantaClaraCA.gov) in early December. The website overhaul is designed to better serve the needs of City website users, including those who live, work, learn and play in Santa Clara.

The redesigned website features enhanced navigation including streamlined dropdown menus, a central location for City news, current topics and events, and improved search functionality that only gets better the more it’s used. Most frequently searched topics, such as activities, jobs, library and police, are also highlighted.

The reorganized navigation guides online visitors to the following high-demand resources: Services, Our City, Recreation & Community, Business & Development, and I Want To.

The new website replaces a site that was approximately five years old. Now, Santa Clara City Library has its own subsite to provide a streamlined user experience and address specific library user needs. The Silicon Valley Power and Silicon Valley Fiber subsites also underwent a refresh tailored to the interests of their site visitors, from paying a bill to rebates for going green.

The website redesign project began with usability testing in June 2017 to better inform the comprehensive overhaul of the website. Over several weeks this fall, City staff conducted public beta testing through an online survey, several focus groups and multiple on-location testing sessions at City facilities. The data collected from the beta testing was used to further enhance the new site’s usability, design and function prior to launch.

The City website averages more than 96,000 unique visitors per month. Experience [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://SantaClaraCA.gov) today!



## Free collection of extra garbage is Jan. 2-7

From Jan. 2-7, residents may set out up to two additional 32-gallon bags of garbage on their regular collection day at no additional cost. There is no collection on New Year’s Day, Jan. 1, and collection is one day late the remainder of the week.



# Dear Community,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020 – the beginning of a new decade which holds great promise for the City of Santa Clara. We also start the year strong – with many distinctions and award recognitions as we make great strides in achieving results for the City Council’s seven priorities.

- Santa Clara received the #1 ranking on chamberofcommerce.org’s list of California’s best cities to live in 2019.
- Santa Clara was named the 6th Safest City in America, the first time that our city has achieved Top 10 status for safety.
- Silicon Valley Power was also recognized for workplace safety, the second year the utility has received this award from Northwest Public Power Association.
- Silicon Valley Power was awarded the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Gold designation by the American Public Power Association.
- The City received three Public Works Project of the Year Awards from the American Public Works Association (APWA). Projects that received awards included: the San Tomas Expressway & Monroe Street Park and Community Garden Project; the Mission Branch Library Remodel Project; and the Santa Clara High and Adrian Wilcox High Crosswalk Improvements Project.
- The City of Santa Clara received the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Technology Leadership Award for its 9-1-1 Communications Center.
- The Santa Clara City Library drove away with statewide honors in late October when the California Library Association bestowed its PR Excellence Award for the Library’s promotion of its revitalized bookmobile program.
- The City of Santa Clara was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

It is gratifying to have these acknowledgements and recognition for our high-performing organization and the steps we have taken to ensure optimum operations and service delivery. I hope you will review the highlights of our recent accomplishments on Page 3 and take a look at the more detailed summary available on [SantaClaraCA.gov](#).



City Manager  
Deanna J. Santana

## Impressive Fiscal Outlook

I want to call special attention to the City’s financial management, which is excellent! Between a healthy economy and prudent controls on expenses, we have been able to build up reserves to an unprecedented high level. We have contributed just over \$90 million of one-time revenues to our reserves since June 2019. While our projections show this pace slowing, we have been fiscally strategic and prudent, and our reserves are above the City Council policy level.

Santa Clara now uses a two-year budget cycle and a 10-year financial forecast so that we can better anticipate budget issues and make better-informed strategic decisions. See the budget article on Page 4 for additional information. In short, over the last two years, we have corrected an

approximate \$80 million budget deficit based on past projections. We did this without any cuts to service levels or employee layoffs and only modest fee increases.

## Taking Decisive Actions

Last year, the City Council determined that new management was needed for the Santa Clara Convention Center, and a nationwide search was conducted to find an experienced firm to take over the operation of this valuable City asset. Positive results were immediate with the new firm, Spectra Venue Management, bringing in \$831,000 net operating income in its first quarter of performance. This is much more than originally expected and is far better than the former operator who averaged \$600,000 net revenue annually.

Another major action was taken by the Stadium Authority in September to terminate an agreement with the Forty Niners Stadium Management Company LLC to manage non-NFL events at Levi’s® Stadium. Last fiscal year, the Forty Niners’ expenses skyrocketed \$2.5 million and they lost millions more money than they made for non-NFL events. In fact, 75% of their non-NFL ticketed events lost money for the Stadium Authority. As a result, projected revenue to the City is lost and “the pay more to lose more” business scenario that they have developed cost the General Fund \$5.4 million over two years. Another primary concern is several state contracting law violations, including worker wage law violations. The Forty Niners have filed a lawsuit in the Santa Clara Superior Court to block the termination so this is likely to be a topic of conversation for some time to come. The public will be kept fully informed through updates on [SantaClaraCA.gov](#) and other City communication channels.

## Springtime Is Your Time

There are many opportunities to come together this spring and enjoy our fine weather, beautiful parks and fun recreational programs. We are all anticipating the opening of the new Reed & Grant Streets Sports Park. It is also the time for residents to participate in two of the most important activities that will shape the future of Santa Clara – voting and being counted in the 2020 census. Both of these civic responsibilities will have impact on what happens in this community for years to come.

We begin the year on a high note and, indeed, it is an exciting time for the City. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming community events and hearing your opinions on the big and small items that define the amazing quality of life in Santa Clara.

In community spirit,

Deanna J. Santana, City Manager

# Many ways to stay informed

### City Website: [SantaClaraCA.gov](#)

Visit the City website frequently to learn about services, events, issues and policy changes. Click on “More News & Stories” on the homepage.

### Santa Clara City Television

Tune in to Comcast Channel 15 to watch live City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority or Planning Commission meetings or rebroadcasts. The station also carries agenda highlights and other municipal announcements.

### City Manager Blog: [SantaClaraCA.gov/emblog](#)

The City Manager Blog, published every two weeks, provides a quick overview of City activities. Subscribe to receive current information about City issues and activities.

### eNotify: [SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify](#)

Sign up to receive notices from the City about events, news, community meetings and employment opportunities. You decide what topics are of interest to you.

### Santa Clara Source: [SantaClaraCA.gov/scsource](#)

Brief video recaps of City Council and Santa Clara Stadium Authority meetings are posted to help the public track issues and decisions. More detailed information including minutes and staff reports on agenda items and videos of full City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Planning Commission meetings is on the City website [SantaClaraCA.gov](#).

### Tentative Meeting Agenda Calendar: [SantaClaraCA.gov/TMAC](#)

This calendar is published weekly to provide tentative dates and policy-level agenda items planned for City Council study sessions, joint Council/Commission meetings and regular Council meetings in the next three to four months.

### Facebook: [Facebook.com/CityofSantaClara](#)

Follow the City of Santa Clara or specific City departments including Police, Library and Silicon Valley Power. City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Planning Commission meetings are also streamed live on Facebook.

### YouTube: [SantaClaraCA.gov/youtube](#)

Visit the City’s YouTube channel to watch City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Planning Commission meetings streamed live, or to view past meetings, community events and public education videos.

### Community Meetings: [SantaClaraCA.gov/planning-community-meetings](#)

Public forums are scheduled frequently to allow residents to learn more about proposed developments, park rehabilitation, new or revised policies, or other issues in the City. Sign up to receive notifications on eNotify or through the Community Development Department.

### Nextdoor: [Nextdoor.com](#)

Sign up for this neighborhood networking tool and you will receive posts from the City of Santa Clara about public events, crime prevention, emergency notifications and more.

### Twitter : [Twitter.com/santaclaracity](#)

Follow the City of Santa Clara or specific City departments including Police, Library and Silicon Valley Power.

### LinkedIn

Look for posts from the City of Santa Clara or specific City departments including Human Resources and Silicon Valley Power.

### MySantaClara App: [SantaClaraCA.gov/mysantaclara](#)

Download this free app to your smartphone to access more than 15 options for service requests or information. Find it in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

### Nixle

Register on the webpage [SCPD.org](#) to receive updates from the Santa Clara Police Department, including traffic alerts.



# Highlights of City accomplishments in 2019

In addition to the highlights listed here and other achievements described in articles throughout this edition of *Inside Santa Clara*, a more detailed summary of City accomplishments in support of the City Council’s seven strategic priorities can be found on [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov).

## Deliver and enhance high quality efficient services and infrastructure

- A \$2.2 million expansion and renovation of Fire Station No. 8, 2400 Agnew Rd., was entirely funded by the Related Companies.
- Finalizing the sale of Great America added \$15 million to the General Fund Reserve.
- There are 34 technology projects underway that will modernize and stabilize delivery of City services.

## Manage strategically our workforce capacity and resources

- Human Resources launched the Working Scholars Program for City employees with an inaugural class of 22 participating in a self-guided, advanced educational attainment program.
- The City hired its first risk manager and contracts manager to provide knowledgeable and experienced personnel in these critical functions.
- Memos of understanding were negotiated with seven bargaining units.

## Promote and enhance economic and housing development

- Nearly 30,000 housing units are at different stages of review and/or construction.
- Pre-construction got underway for Related Santa Clara, a large-scale, mixed-use development that will add shopping, dining, entertainment, housing and job opportunities.
- Santa Clara was selected as the site of IASP 2021, a prestigious international science and technology conference.

## Enhance community sports and recreational assets

- Roberta Jones Junior Theatre celebrated its 50th anniversary. More than 32,000 children have participated since it began.



Hours of operation at the Northside Branch Library were expanded to add eight additional hours per week.

- The City negotiated an exclusive agreement with the City of Sunnyvale to provide golf programs and services to Santa Clara residents at Sunnyvale resident rates.

- The park at 2380 Monroe St. celebrated its one-year anniversary with a new name – the Everett N. “Eddie” Souza Park & Community Garden. The Central Park Annex, 2902 Miles Dr., was also renamed the Bill Wilson Jr. Park.



Outstanding work by the Santa Clara Fire Department prevented a major construction fire at a large condominium complex on El Camino Real from spreading to nearby homes. The Fire Department received full accreditation in 2019, a distinction granted to only 10% of the fire departments in the U.S.

## Enhance community engagement and transparency

- A major redesign of the website was completed and beta tested with the goal of making it easier to navigate and find information quickly.
- “City Hall News” and “Community Letters from the Office of the City Manager” were launched to provide more timely and comprehensive information to residents.
- The MySantaClara app now has a more effective and user-friendly experience.



More than 60 households and groups are raising organic vegetables, herbs and flowers in the Community Garden which also offers educational events about gardening and sustainable landscaping.

## Ensure compliance with Measure J and manage Levi’s® Stadium

- The City, through its Stadium Authority, improved transparency and management of Levi’s® Stadium by completing 70% of the recommendations made in a Measure J compliance audit.
- The Stadium Authority developed and approved its first-ever annual work plan along with the Stadium Authority budget.
- The City maintained its noise monitoring program in the vicinity of the stadium and distributed magnets to nearby neighborhoods with information on who to call for stadium-related issues.



The Parade of Champions returned to Santa Clara after a 24-year hiatus. Dorothy Rosa, 2019 Santa Claran of the Year, was joined by marching bands, floats, classic cars and youth sports teams on a parade route through the historic downtown. The City provided a \$70,000 grant to the nonprofit that organized the event.

## Sustainability

- The City Council approved a new policy requiring all new private energy generation in Santa Clara to be renewable.
- A new prohibition on smoking in multi-unit residences went into effect as part of the Smokefree Santa Clara initiative.
- Nearly 6,400 streetlights and intersection lights were modernized with new LED technologies that use up to 50 percent less energy.



More than 20,200 children, adults and seniors registered for City recreation classes in 2019, including camps, swimming, and year-round classes. In addition, drop-in program attendance, including fitness, swim, senior and youth programs was in excess of 172,100.



# Budget year ends strongly in the black

The City of Santa Clara closed out the books for Fiscal Year 2018-19 in great shape. As a result, the City Council was able to boost Santa Clara’s “rainy day” reserve fund and cover unanticipated costs in the current budget year.

The City’s primary operational fund supporting police, fire, parks, library, streets and other services, programs and activities for the community, known as the General Fund, closed on June 30, 2019 with a balance of almost \$58 million. Most of the balance came from one-time sources or savings.

Revenue came in more than \$44 million higher than expected when the City Council adopted the \$240 million FY 2018-19 budget. Revenue from sales tax, hotel room taxes, fees for licenses, permits and plan checks, and interest came in above expectations.

In November, the Council decided to divide the \$58 million balance between additions to General Fund reserves (\$44.3 million) and adjustments to address current year needs (\$13.4 million). Notable adjustments include an increase to the Special Liability Insurance Fund, resources to make good on a court settlement regarding the calculation of overtime, and special election funding for a ballot measure measure in March 2020.

This performance marked a big turnaround from the gloomy fiscal projections of just a few years ago. Over the last two years, the City of Santa Clara has eliminated a forecasted \$78 million budget deficit for fiscal years 2018 through 2021, resulting in the preservation of high-quality service levels and saving hundreds of City jobs. This was accomplished through strong fiscal management and strategic budget decisions.

## Capital Improvement Program budget

Work is underway on the development of the City’s capital improvement program (CIP) budget for fiscal years 2020-21 through 2024-25. Public study sessions will be scheduled this spring before the City Council public hearing to adopt the budget in June. The CIP budget discussions include project prioritization for the next five years. To stay informed on the CIP budget process, sign up for eNotify or visit the Finance Department page on [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov).

# Plan sets a revitalized vision for downtown center



A significant step in creating a Precise Plan for Santa Clara’s downtown was taken in the fall when the City Council selected a consultant team to help develop the document that will outline the policies, guidelines and illustrations that will frame new development in the historic 25 acres.

Community outreach has been underway since 2015, with multiple planning workshops, “placemaking”

discussions, the formation of a Downtown Community Task Force, and collaborations with downtown stakeholders including Santa Clara University, the Old Quad Residents Association and Reclaiming Our Downtown civic group.

The goal is to encourage a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented destination downtown area bounded by Benton Street, Lafayette Street, Homestead Road and Madison Street. The Downtown Precise Plan will address land use, circulation, urban design and key policy issues in addition to the overall vision for the area. For information on the Downtown Precise Plan, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/downtown](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/downtown).

## New online portal improves access to public records

A new Public Records Acts Request online portal was recently launched by the City of Santa Clara to make it easier for residents to request public records and to track the number of requests the City responds to each month.

Located at [SantaClaraCA.gov/publicrecords](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/publicrecords), the portal includes a searchable archive of responsive documents to public records requests. This allows anyone to see the number of public records requests made and the City’s efficiency in responding to those requests.

## Icheon City, South Korea is new Friendship City

The City of Santa Clara is establishing a Friendship City relationship with Icheon City, South Korea. Over the next three years, the two cities will explore ways the two communities can share cultural and educational exchanges and to potentially become Sister Cities.

Icheon City is known as a center of South Korean ceramic manufacturing with more than 300 ceramic art-making firms. The community is the site of several popular festivals that celebrate rice, peaches, Sansuyu trees and sculpture as well as ceramic arts.

Santa Clara has Sister Cities relationships with Izumo, Japan, Coimbra, Portugal and Limerick, Ireland.



## Priority Setting Sessions in January

The City Council’s two-day sessions to discuss goals and strategic priorities for the next two years are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30, and Friday, Jan. 31. Times and location for these all-day public meetings will be announced. Look for details on [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov).

The purpose of these sessions is to set a policy framework for budget decisions and how City resources are aligned in support of these objectives. It is also an opportunity for the City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor and department heads to present overviews of the current state of the City.

## Check out utility box artwork

Two utility boxes have been converted into works of art that brighten neighborhoods with a splash of color and vibrancy. Recently completed is a box at Lafayette and Lexington streets where artist Claudia Blanco painted a work called “8-bit Frieda.” It joins a colorful utility box at Lafayette and Franklin streets that was transformed by artist Kuhshi Kolte. The beautification program is sponsored by the Santa Clara Cultural Commission.



Utility box at Lafayette and Franklin streets.



# CENSUS 2020

## Be counted and help shape the future of Santa Clara



### Every 10 years, everyone is counted

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency.

#### Respond online, by phone or mail

Each home will receive in mid-March an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire, either online, by phone or by mail. The goal is to have households respond by April 1, which is U.S. Census Day. There will be additional opportunities to respond after

this date, and households will receive reminders and, potentially, in-person visits by U.S. Census Bureau field staff if response has not been received by the end of April.

Census questions are short and easy to answer: 1) the number of people living in your home on April 1, 2020; 2) whether the home is owned or

rented; 3) the sex of each person in the home; 4) the age of each person in the home; 5) the race of each person in the home; 6) the number of people in your home, if any, who are of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin; 7) the relationship of each person in your home. All answers are kept confidential.

You will NEVER be asked for your social security number, bank or credit card information, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. You will NOT be asked if you are a U.S. citizen or a legal immigrant.

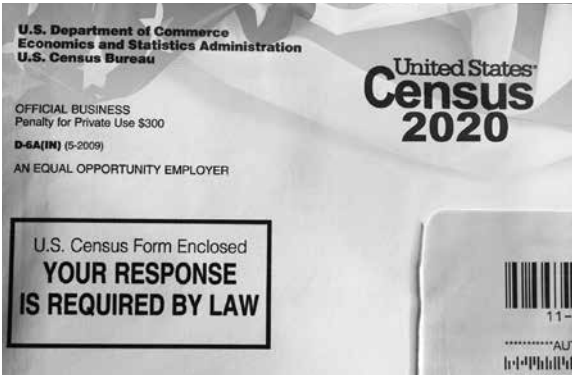
#### Information is important

Census questions can be answered online or over the phone in 13 different languages – English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Filipino and Vietnamese.

The census provides critical data that public officials, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support to people in all communities. Every year, an estimated \$600 billion in federal funding go to cities, states, hospitals, schools, and other resources based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Having an accurate count of the population in the City of Santa Clara is important to ensure that residents are fairly represented at all levels of government.

Tracking Santa Clara's population			
1890	2,891	1960	58,880
1900	3,650	1970	86,118
1910	4,348	1980	87,746
1920	5,220	1990	93,613
1930	6,302	2000	102,361
1940	6,650	2010	116,468
1950	11,702	2020	???



Watch for U.S. census information in the mail.

# Census 2020

## SANTA CLARA COUNTS!

[SantaClaraCA.gov/Census2020](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/Census2020)

### Key Census Dates

**March 12-20:** Invitations will be mailed to complete the 2020 census questionnaire.

**March 16-24:** Reminder letters will be mailed.

**March 26-April 3:** Reminder postcards will be mailed.

**April 8-16:** Another reminder and hard copy questionnaire will be mailed.

**April 20-27:** Final postcards will be mailed before an in-person follow-up.

**May:** Households that have not responded will be visited by U.S. Census Bureau field staff.

### Every person means every person

The census will ask how many people are living in a household on April 1, 2020. It does not matter if they are roommates or temporary residents including those living in an accessory dwelling on your property. If someone is sleeping there most of the time, and has no usual home elsewhere, they should be counted as part of your household.



Households that do not respond to the census by the end of April may be visited by a U.S. Census Bureau field worker who will have official identification.

### Every person is required by law to be counted in the U.S. census.

All children, including those born on April 1, 2020, should be counted, including foster children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews or children of friends who are living with you temporarily. Children who split their time between homes should be counted at the address where they live on April 1, 2020.

You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to be counted. Individuals who were born in a foreign country and now live in the U.S. should be counted, no matter their immigration status.

For more detailed information on special living situations and who should be counted in your household, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).



# Voting will be different in 2020

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters is making significant changes to the way people can vote in 2020 – changes designed to make voting more convenient and to increase voter participation.

Beginning with the March 3 election, all registered voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot, whether they have requested it or not. Voters are not required to use this ballot to vote, but can mail it postage-paid if desired. Voters can also complete the ballot at home and drop it off at ballot drop boxes, including Santa Clara City Hall and the Santa Clara libraries, or bring it to one of the new voting centers.

Instead of traditional precinct polling places, the Registrar of Voters will open more than 100 vote centers throughout Santa Clara County

Santa Clara voters will have two local items on their ballots: Measure C – a charter amendment to elect councilmembers by district (except the mayor) and the election of the police chief.

Election Day, and approximately 88 vote centers will be open for four days, including Election Day. The Registrar of Voters main office, 1555 Berger Dr., will be open for early voting for 29 days before Election Day.

About 40 days before the election, voters will receive a County Voter Information Guide that will contain a complete list of vote centers and ballot drop box locations. The SCCVOTE Mobile App, available free to download to mobile devices, will also help voters find the most convenient vote center or ballot drop box location, as well as verifying their voter registration status and providing quick access to register to vote online.

# October was a big month for community events

Two unique community events held by City departments in October were enjoyed by thousands of residents

The inaugural Firehouse Family Fair was attended by more than 1,300 residents who learned about fire safety and prevention and took part in hands-on activities for children and adults. The 2nd annual Firehouse Family Fair is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3.



The 4th annual Comic Con event at Central Park drew more than 8,000 patrons to a full day of panels, role playing games, demonstrations, trivia competitions and the opportunity to meet authors and artists from around the Bay Area. More than 6,000 craft projects were completed and sent home with their creators as a memento of a celebration of graphic novels and fantasy. The 5th annual Comic Con is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10.

## Job Opportunities

Are you interested in a rewarding career that serves your community? Join the City of Santa Clara’s highly motivated, talented and dedicated team of professionals by applying for one of the current employment opportunities.

For up-to-date recruitment information, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/jobs](https://www.santacruz.ca.gov/jobs), follow openings on Twitter @ SantaClaraJobs, follow the City of Santa Clara on LinkedIn, or call the City’s Job Employment Hotline at 408-615-JOBS. You may also sign up for a “Job Interest Card” to receive email notifications of current openings to match your areas of interest.

# Pedestrian Master Plan nears completion



Residents participated in walking tours in 2019 to experience the pedestrian environment and offer suggestions for improvement.

The City Council will consider the final draft of the City’s first Pedestrian Master Plan in early 2020. The document establishes a long-term vision for improving walking conditions in Santa Clara through a range of policy, program and project recommendations. The goal is to make the pedestrian

environment safe, comfortable, convenient, active and implementable.

The plan has been more than a year in development and reflects extensive input from the community gathered at public meetings and through outreach activities at civic events and walking tours. The draft was reviewed and discussed by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in October.

To view the draft plan, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/pedestrianmasterplan](https://www.santacruz.ca.gov/pedestrianmasterplan).

# Electricity rates adjusted effective Jan. 1

Electricity utility rates increased by 3%, effective Jan. 1, to generate funds to complete necessary maintenance to the electric system and to cover the rising costs of transmitting power and additional environmental and reliability requirements. Rates for Silicon Valley Power, the City-owned electric utility, remain among the lowest for California utilities serving more than 5,000 customers.

System improvements will include replacing old power poles, crossarms and transformers to prevent outages and maintain high quality service. California transmission costs have risen by almost 200% in recent years, which has placed pressure on electricity rates as Silicon Valley Power works to meet Santa Clara’s energy needs. The rate increase and system updates will help ensure a reliable power system for Santa Clara in the future.

## Santa Clara City Council

- Lisa M. Gillmor, Mayor
- Kathy Watanabe, Councilmember, District 1
- Raj Chahal, Councilmember, District 2
- Karen Hardy, Councilmember, District 3
- Teresa O’Neill, Councilmember, District 4
- Patricia M. Mahan, Vice Mayor, District 5
- Debi Davis, Councilmember, District 6

- Deanna J. Santana, City Manager
- Brian Doyle, City Attorney
- Hosam Haggag, City Clerk
- Linh Lam, City Auditor

## City Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Santa Clara is to promote a living and working environment that allows for the best quality of life by serving the community with resourceful, efficient, progressive and professional leadership. - Adopted by Council action, July 25, 1989

## Council Priorities 2019-20

- Promote and enhance economic and housing development
- Enhance community sports and recreational assets
- Deliver and enhance high quality efficient services and infrastructure
- Manage strategically our workforce capacity and resources
- Enhance community engagement and transparency
- Ensure compliance with Measure J and manage Levi’s® Stadium
- Sustainability



# Bicycle Plan Update completed

In September, the City Council adopted the Santa Clara Bicycle Plan Update that establishes a long-term vision for improving bicycling as an active transportation option and provides a strategy for doubling the existing bicycle network in Santa Clara from 70 to 140 miles.

The Bicycle Plan envisions Santa Clara as a healthy, thriving and safe city where people of all ages and ability may easily and comfortably ride a bicycle as part of their daily lives.

The update process took about 18 months to complete and involved extensive input from the community and stakeholders such as VTA, Santa Clara County and adjacent cities. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was also actively involved.

There are multiple components to the Bicycle Plan including ways to plan, design and construct a complete network that accommodates the needs of all mobility types, users and ability levels. Its recommendation that the City double its bicycle facilities is estimated to cost between \$16.4 million and \$39 million (in 2018 dollars). More specific cost estimates will be prepared as each individual project is evaluated and included in the Capital Improvement Budget. Other objectives include increasing bicycle mode share to 5% by 2026, and introducing 14.1 miles of bicycle boulevards and 22.2 miles of separated bikeways throughout Santa Clara.

To read the Bicycle Plan Update, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/bicycleplan](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/bicycleplan).



## Holiday tree collection is Jan. 6-10

Holiday trees will be collected curbside on regular garbage collection days, Jan. 6-10. (Note that the dates published in the City 2019 Annual Report and Calendar were incorrect.) Unflocked trees will be recycled into mulch, while flocked trees will be collected and disposed of as garbage. Flocked trees should be bagged before setting them out to prevent flocking debris from entering the storm drains. Set-out instructions:

- Remove all ornaments and decorations from holiday trees.
- The City does not collect trees on private streets. Residents of multifamily dwellings may set out their trees on the nearest public street. Call 408-615-3080 to find out what day your area will be serviced.
- If you miss your pickup day or you are a commercial business, you can bring your tree (no larger than nine feet) to the Public Works Corporation Yard at 1700 Walsh Ave. during the week of Jan. 6-10. Drop-off hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- After Jan. 10, cut up your tree and place the pieces in the Clean Green cart. Flocked trees should be cut up and placed in the garbage cart for safe disposal.

For more information, call 408-615-3080.

## Magical Bridge playground coming in 2021

A partnership between the City of Santa Clara and the Magical Bridge Foundation, with additional funding from Santa Clara County, will bring an innovative all-access and inclusive playground to Central Park. Target date for opening the new play area for children and adults, which will replace an aging play structure, is 2021.

Magical Bridge playgrounds are designed to be both physically and socially inclusive for individuals with varying physical and cognitive abilities, such as autism or hearing and visual impairments, and those who are medically fragile. Everyone is welcome to the playground, regardless of ability, disability, size or age.

The Magical Bridge Foundation is a nonprofit organization that has worked with several cities and schools in the Bay Area on inclusive playground projects. Features incorporated into its playground designs include ramp access, retreat spaces, flat and soft surfaces and auditory features.

## Minimum wage goes up

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, the City of Santa Clara’s minimum wage increased to \$15.40 per hour, affecting all employers who maintain a facility in Santa Clara and/or are subject to the Santa Clara business license tax. For more information, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/minimumwage](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/minimumwage).

## Upcoming City Holidays

**Wednesday, Jan. 1. New Year’s Day**  
City Hall closed.

No garbage, Clean Green, or recycling collection. Garbage, Clean Green, and recycling collection will take place one day late, through Saturday.

**Monday, Jan. 20. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**  
City Hall closed.

Regular collection schedule for garbage, Clean Green, and recycling.

**Monday, Feb. 17. Presidents Day**  
City Hall closed.

Regular collection schedule for garbage, Clean Green, and recycling.

**Friday, April 10. Spring Holiday**  
City Hall closed.

Regular collection schedule for garbage, Clean Green, and recycling.

**Monday, May 25. Memorial Day**  
City Hall closed.

Regular collection schedule for garbage, Clean Green, and recycling.

### Book picks just for you

Santa Clara City Library librarians will provide anyone with personalized recommendations of books to read, based on a questionnaire of your past likes, dislikes and genre favorites. Visit [tinyurl.com/scbookmatch](https://tinyurl.com/scbookmatch) to get the process started.

## Zoning Code update draft available soon

Early in 2020, a draft of the updated City of Santa Clara Zoning Code will be available for public review. To check on its status, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/zoning](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/zoning).

The comprehensive revision, the first in 50 years, focuses on reorganizing and simplifying its content and format. Improvements include illustrated development standards, a new Code section describing specific use regulations that apply across zoning districts, and clearer standards for landscaping, screening, parking and outdoor lighting. New zoning districts and allowed uses have been added along with a revised table of authorities that spells out the particular body responsible for issuing different types of permits.

Community meetings and joint study sessions with the City Council and Planning Commission were held in 2019. To find out about additional opportunities to give input, sign up for eNotify or check the event calendar on [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://SantaClaraCA.gov).

## Temporary dog park still open

While upgrades of the Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park are still underway, the temporary dog park at Larry Marsalli Park, 1425 Lafayette Blvd., remains open. The off-leash dog facility with areas for large and small dogs has paved parking and restrooms.

### Sign up for eNotify

Sign up to receive email notices from the City of Santa Clara about events, news, community meetings and employment opportunities. You decide what topics are of interest to you. Sign up at [SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify).



# Places to go, things to do in January-May

## Farmers Market

**Every Saturday**

Buy seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables from local growers at the Downtown Santa Clara Farmers Market, held 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Jackson Street between Homestead Road and Benton Street. The market also offers flowers, baked goods and prepared foods. Don’t forget to bring reusable bags for your purchases.

## Remembrance Lantern Making Workshop

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

Adults and children ages 10+ (with parental supervision) will learn how to create a lantern that celebrates and remembers loved ones. Ancestors, friends or even pets can be the focus of this hands-on activity that promotes healing, meditation and inspiration. Participants should bring photos no larger than 3.5x3 inches to use on the lantern. The workshop is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. at Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave. For fee information and to register, visit [TritonMuseum.org](http://TritonMuseum.org).

## Ketogenic Diets and Intermittent Fasting: Fads, Facts, Fiction

**Thursday, Jan. 16**

Dr. Lucia Aronica of the Stanford Prevention Research Center will present a workshop, 7-8 p.m. at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., discussing two popular diet trends. She will discuss whether the diets really work and if they should be used for long periods of time. For information, visit [SCLibrary.org](http://SCLibrary.org).

## Meet the New Technologies Shaping Our World

**Thursday, Feb. 6**

This workshop, scheduled for 7-8 p.m. at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., will discuss emerging technologies including the Internet of Things (IoT), deep learning, blockchain and more. The speaker is Saleem Mohamed of Cloud & Advanced Technology. For information, visit [SCLibrary.org](http://SCLibrary.org).

## Friday Night Live

**Friday, Feb. 7**

Tabia African American Theatre Ensemble will perform free at 7 p.m. at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Presented by the Santa Clara Cultural Commission.

## Librarypalooza

**Saturday, Feb. 8**

A Mardi Gras theme has been selected for this annual evening event at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., that raises funds to support Santa Clara City Library programs. It is sponsored by the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends that will welcome its new executive director, JoAnn Davis, during the event. For ticket information, visit [LoveTheLibrary.org](http://LoveTheLibrary.org).



## Northside Substation Open House

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

The community is invited to an open house at the Northside Substation, 3992 Rivermark Parkway, 10 a.m.-noon. Activities include tours and displays of police equipment including a patrol car, bicycle, motorcycle and armored rescue vehicle.

## Citywide Garage Sale

**Saturday, April 11**

As a seller, get rid of clutter and earn some cash! As a buyer, find unexpected treasures! Register for individual, multi-family or block garage sales starting March 9 on the website [SantaClaraCA.gov/garagesale](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/garagesale).



## “Drinking Habits” Play

**Feb. 14-March 7**

A comedy by Tom Smith will be performed by the Santa Clara Players at the Players Theatre, 1750 Don Ave. For performance times and ticket information, visit [SCPlayers.org](http://SCPlayers.org).

## Critical Skills for Managing Stress

**Thursday, Feb. 27**

Mia Primeau of the Health Improvement Program at Stanford University, will discuss skills for navigating stress. The talk is 7-8 p.m. at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. For information, visit [SCLibrary.org](http://SCLibrary.org).

## Friday Night Live

**Friday, March 6**

Broceliande Celtic & Early Music Ensemble will perform free at 7 p.m. at Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave. Presented by the Santa Clara Cultural Commission



## SHOWTIME 2020

**Friday-Sunday, March 6-8**

A baseball-themed melodrama for the whole family titled “Perils of the Rockford Peaches” or “Home Run in Doomstown” will be presented by the Santa Clara Women’s League as a fundraising event for the Health & Wellness Program at the Santa Clara Senior Center. The show will appeal to the whole family and includes singing, dancing and magic acts. The audience is encouraged to cheer the heroes and boo the villains. Performance times are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd. For ticket information, visit [SantaClaraWomensLeague.org](http://SantaClaraWomensLeague.org).

## Daylight Saving Time

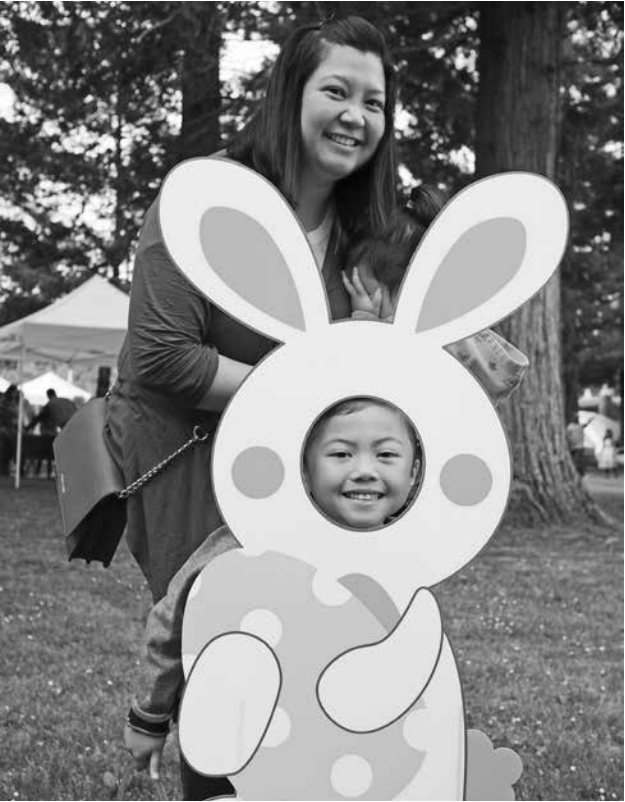
**Sunday, March 8**

Turn clocks forward one hour and change the batteries in all smoke detectors.

## “She/Her/Hers” Concert

**Saturday, March 14**

The Santa Clara Chorale celebrates the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the U.S. with a program that lifts up the female voice, including the world premiere of a new work by the 2019-2020 composer-in-residence Elizabeth Jonasson. The performance is at 8 p.m. at Mission Santa Clara, 500 El Camino Real. For information, visit [SCC.org](http://SCC.org).



## Egg-Stravaganza

**Saturday, April 11**

The traditional Easter egg hunt for children ages 3-8 will be accompanied by games, face painting, bounce houses and bunny photos. The free event begins at 9 a.m., rain or shine, at Central Park, 909 Kiely Blvd. Parking is limited. Children should bring their own baskets.

## “Red Plaid Shirt” Play

**April 24-May 16**

A comedy about retirement written by Michael Wilmot will be performed by the Santa Clara Players at the Players Theatre, 1750 Don Ave. For performance times and tickets, visit [SCPlayers.org](http://SCPlayers.org).

## “A New Song” Chorale Concert

**Friday, May 8**

The Santa Clara Chorale and the Santa Clara University Choirs will perform the world premiere of “Kohelet” by Henry Dehlinger at 8 p.m. at Mission Santa Clara, 500 El Camino Real. For information, visit [SCC.org](http://SCC.org).

## Senior Health & Wellness Fair

**Friday, May 29**

Older adults who want to improve their health and individuals caring for older adults will appreciate the variety of information booths and resources assembled for this event in Fremont Park adjacent to the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. Activities between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. include interactive booths, health screenings (vision, hearing, blood pressure), live music and a healthy barbecue lunch available for purchase.



# Activities that support a healthy, clean environment

## Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

**Saturdays, Jan. 25 and April 25**

Santa Clara residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste at two free drop-off events this winter/spring. Residents must register in advance by calling the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 408-299-7300 or by visiting [HHW.org](http://HHW.org).

Common household hazardous waste materials 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 and electronic waste.

Items not accepted include large household appliances, ammunition, explosives or containers larger than five gallons. Contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700 regarding the disposal of ammunition or explosives.

## Worm Composting Basics Workshop

**Saturday, Feb. 15**

Learn to turn food scraps into a beneficial soil amendment, known as the gardener’s “black gold,” at this free workshop. In partnership with the University of California Cooperative Extension Compost Education Program, the City is hosting a workshop on the basics of composting with worms, 10 a.m. – noon, at the Machado Park Building, 3360 Cabrillo Ave. Learn how to build, maintain and troubleshoot a worm bin that is used in vermicomposting. Registration is required. Register at [ucanr.edu/compost](http://ucanr.edu/compost) or by calling the “Rot Line” at 408-918-4640.



## Environmental Day

**Saturday, March 7**

Santa Clara residents are invited to drop off unwanted items for donation and recycling at Recology South Bay, 1675 Rogers Ave., San Jose, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Accepted materials include: clothing, e-waste (including computers, monitors and printers); universal waste (batteries, cell phones, compact fluorescent lightbulbs and fluorescent light tubes); and plastic play structures/toys. In addition, residents can bring confidential documents for shredding. No appointment is necessary, but proof of Santa Clara residency is required. For additional information, contact Recology South Bay at 408-970-5100.

## Thinking of an electric vehicle?

Charging an electric vehicle at home in Santa Clara is affordable because Silicon Valley Power, the City’s municipal electric utility, offers residents a maximum electric rate of 11.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, the lowest of any municipal utility in California with more than 5,000 customers. This means that energy for a typical electric vehicle traveling 100 miles on 34 kWh will cost less than 3 cents per mile for Santa Clara residents, anytime day or night. In comparison, the fuel cost for a medium-sized, gas-powered car is approximately 13-15 cents per mile.

## Earth Day/Arbor Day

**Thursday, April 23**

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day at Santa Clara’s Earth Day/Arbor Day event in the Central Park Pavilion, 969 Kiely Blvd. This family-friendly event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., is designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the environment and will feature dozens of interactive booths and musical entertainment. The City will also be recognized as a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation for its tree care program.

Earth Day was started in 1970 to call attention to the need for environmental protection. That year, an estimated 20 million Americans took part in rallies in parks, auditoriums and streets to demonstrate support for a healthy, sustainable environment. It is now a global event observed in 192 countries.

For more information, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/ArborDay](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/ArborDay).



## Bike To Work Day

**Thursday, May 14**

Try out biking during any portion of your daily commute while enjoying a fun and healthy way to get to work. Energizer stations will be located at strategic locations during morning commute hours with refreshments, giveaways and encouragement. To learn more, visit [BikeSiliconValley.org](http://BikeSiliconValley.org).



## National River Cleanup Day

**Saturday, May 16**

Trash in creeks can wind up in bays and oceans, littering coastlines and harming wildlife. Volunteers throughout Santa Clara County will join efforts to clean areas around local waterways including two locations in Santa Clara – El Camino Real at Bowe Avenue near Saratoga Creek and Lick Mill at Tasman Drive near San Tomas Aquino Creek. Cleanup takes place 9 a.m. – noon. Last year, more than 46,600 pounds of trash and recyclable material were removed from 47 sites throughout Santa Clara County. For more information and to sign up, visit [CleanACreek.org](http://CleanACreek.org).



## Wildflower Day at Ulistac Natural Area

Every spring, the Ulistac Natural Area Restoration & Education Project invites the community to Ulistac Natural Area, 4901 Lick Mill, for Wildflower Day, a celebration of nature and environment. Family-friendly activities include educational booths, tours, music and crafts. The date of Wildflower Day is determined in early spring when wildflowers are estimated to be at their most colorful. For information, visit [Ulistac.org](http://Ulistac.org).



## Do not dump into creek or storm drain

It is illegal to dump anything into a creek or storm drain. Dumping debris into creeks and storm drains obstructs the flow of water and causes flooding. Liquids such as oil and paint are extremely harmful to wildlife in the creeks and the bay. Help keep the storm drains and flood management systems operating correctly by reporting illegal dumping to the City at 408-615-3080 or 408-615-5580 (24 hours) or call the Valley Water (formerly known as Santa Clara Valley Water District) illegal dumping 24-hour hotline at 800-510-5151.



# Sharps added to list of items for free safe disposal

Sharps (such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, pre-loaded sharps, auto injectors, intravenous needles, lancets and other devices used to penetrate the skin for drawing blood, or for the delivery of medications) can now be safely disposed of in kiosks at the Santa Clara Police Building, 601 El Camino Real, or the Northside Substation, 3992 Rivermark Parkway. They must be contained in a U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared sharps container.

The drop-off program, offered in partnership with MED-Project, also accepts expired or unwanted medications in any dosage. Products must be in their original container (with personal identifying information crossed out or removed) or solid medicines can be placed in a sealed plastic bag.

Items not accepted include herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, cosmetics, other personal care products, compressed cylinders, aerosols, inhalers, medical devices, illicit drugs and iodine-containing medications.

Homebound and disabled individuals can request a pre-paid envelope to return unwanted or expired medicine by contacting MED-Project at Med-Project or 1-844-MED-PROJ.

# Volunteers make a difference in Santa Clara

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, an opportunity for organizations to thank individuals who donate their time and talents. Hundreds of Santa Clara residents volunteer each year to help the City host special events and provide services to the community.



An example of the impact of volunteer efforts is the efforts of Santa Clara residents Sean O'Brien and Morgan Will who participated in a volunteer work party at Mission City Memorial Park in October. They replanted a high-profile area of the cemetery with low maintenance plants selected to attract bees, birds and butterflies.

For information on future work parties at Mission City Memorial Park or other volunteer opportunities with the City, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov).

# Saturdays are play days for children with disabilities

A play day for children with disabilities and their siblings is offered Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd. Crafts, games and activities involve parallel play and provide exploration, self-expression, independence, social interaction, and physical development.

Play days are part of the Parks & Recreation Department Therapeutic Recreation Services which serves the recreational and social needs of individuals who have disabilities. Meaningful and purposeful activities are planned that develop and enhance social skills, communication and personal growth, and focus on one's abilities rather than disabilities. Classes such as dance, fitness and social clubs are offered weekly. For more information or to register, visit the Parks & Recreation page on [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov).

# Building on curbside recycling success

Thanks to the active participation of residents in curbside recycling, millions of tons of waste have been diverted from the landfill and converted into useful products. By 2018, Santa Clara had reached a 58.5% diversion rate – a significant achievement but still short of the 75% statewide goal set for 2020 in California.



More than ever before, it is important for residents to take part in recycling, and to do it the correct way. Recycling only works if the material collected has value. Just

placing something in the blue recycling bin does not mean that it will be recycled. The U.S. is facing challenges in marketing recyclables that are too contaminated with food and moisture to meet international standards.

## Recyclables should be empty, clean, dry

For this reason, residents are asked to be sure the materials placed in the recycling bin are empty, clean and dry. It only takes a few moments to wipe or rinse out items to ensure the material is free of food waste and dry, but this simple action can make a big difference in how many items are actually recycled.

Residents should also avoid bagging recyclables, as this makes them difficult to sort. The only recyclables that should be bagged (in clear bags only) are newspapers, dry cleaner bags, grocery bags and shredded paper.

Remove all Styrofoam™-type packaging from a recyclable box before placing it in the recycle cart. This material (expanded polystyrene) is not currently recycled due to market conditions. Place it in the garbage cart.

For a list of materials accepted through the weekly curbside recycling, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/CleanSC](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov/CleanSC).

A residential organics collection program will be implemented on July 1, 2021, to comply with new state regulations. Decisions on the specifics of this recycling program will have public input. Look for information on [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov).

# Utility Bills Q&A

**Q: How do I set up an automated payment of my utility bills?**

The City has several convenient automated payment options, including automated credit card, pre-authorized checking account, home banking, web and IVR payment channels. For more information about automated utility payment options and how to get started, visit “My Utilities Account” at [SantaClaraCA.gov/MyUtilitiesAccount](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov/MyUtilitiesAccount) or call 408-615-2300.

**Q: How do I update my personal account information?**

Visit “My Utilities Account” at [SantaClaraCA.gov/MyUtilitiesAccount](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov/MyUtilitiesAccount) or call 408-615-2300 to update personal information.

**Q: Why haven't I received my opening/closing bill yet?**

Silicon Valley Power, the City-owned electric utility, has been phasing in new advanced meters to its customers. The switchover requires additional time and resources to be diverted to billing adjustments in order to ensure that your bill is accurate. As a result, opening and closing bills have been delayed. It is possible that your first bill may include usage for multiple months. Payment arrangements are available to help spread out billing payments as needed. For all inquiries or to set up payment arrangements, call Utility Billing Customer Service at 408-615-2300.

## COMING SOON: NEW LOOK FOR INSIDE SANTA CLARA



Help create a modern and improved Inside Santa Clara!

Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/OpenCityHall](https://www.santaclara.ca.gov/OpenCityHall) to tell us what you love and what you'd like to see in your future City publication!



# Long-awaited sports park opens this spring

The Reed & Grant Streets Sports Park will open this spring – a long-awaited addition to the recreational assets in Santa Clara. It will include five lighted soccer fields (with multiple configurations), two off street parking lots, a multi-purpose community recreation building, a landscaped promenade and entry plaza, a children’s playground with seating and picnic area, team gathering and spectator viewing areas and a maintenance yard. It will share a new restroom with the adjacent Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park.



This major project is the latest in a series of new parks and renovations to existing parks that are on the drawing board for Santa Clara. Also nearing completion is a playground rehabilitation at Machado Park, 3360 Cabrillo Ave.

In 2013, the City Council adopted as a strategic goal “enhance community sports and recreational assets” and it remains a priority today. Over the past few years, the City has invested in park renovations and upgrades to make them more inclusionary, environmentally sustainable and age-friendly.

### Upcoming park improvements

Agnew Park playground will be rehabilitated to include all seven elements of play (balancing, brachiating/bilateral upper body activities, climbing, swinging, sliding, spinning, running free/ play and imagination). A schematic design was approved in 2018. In fall 2019, the City was notified it has been awarded funding of up to \$90,000 from a California Parks and Recreation Society Statewide Healthy Play Grant. Construction is set to begin summer 2020.

Also scheduled for rehabilitations in the next two years are Homeridge Park and Montague Park. Fuller Street Park will receive a new sport court for volleyball and basketball.

## Apply by March 20 for Youth Commission

Santa Clara youth, ages 12-19, who would like to serve on the 2020-21 Youth Commission should file an application by March 20. Application forms will be available online, at the libraries, Youth Activity Center, Teen Center, Community Recreation Center and other City facilities.

The Youth Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to the youth and teen population in Santa Clara. Through the years, the Youth Commission has been instrumental in the development of the Skate Park and the Teen Center, and has hosted a variety of events to involve young residents in municipal government and community.

For the date of an informational meeting held before the application deadline and other details of the selection process, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/youthcommission](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/youthcommission).

## Police evidence program among the best

An independent audit of Santa Clara Police Department’s evidence program found that its property room is among the top 1% in California. Handling of evidence is a critically important function of the Police Department, especially of materials that could be problematic if not taken care of properly such as weapons, cash and narcotics.



Evidence tracking software scans a barcode on the property tag attached to each item when it arrives and leaves the property room.

## Program helps low income homeowners with repairs

The City is partnering with Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, a nonprofit organization, to provide emergency, critical and minor repairs to low income homeowners in Santa Clara. The repairs are free of charge to the homeowner and can include accessibility modifications (wheelchair ramps/lifts, grab bars, handrails, and replacement of door handle and faucets for accessibility), energy efficiency improvements such as weather stripping, appliance replacements/repairs, vent clean out, window and door repairs, and more.

For information or to apply for repairs, call Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley at 408-578-9519 or email [info@rebuildingtogethersv.org](mailto:info@rebuildingtogethersv.org).

## Adopt-a-Spot to beautify Santa Clara

Community groups, businesses, faith organizations, schools or a network of family and friends are invited to help keep Santa Clara clean and beautiful through the Adopt-a-Spot program. Volunteers pick a location such as their block, a section of sidewalk or trail, a bus



stop or a City-owned lot or alley and sign up for a one-year commitment to pick up litter. You set your own schedule of when and how frequently the clean-ups occur (minimum of four times per year). The City facilitates clean-up events with training and loaned equipment, such as safety vests, gloves, trash buckets and trash grabbers. For information, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov/adoptaspot](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/adoptaspot).



## Lead Santa Clara into the future!

Enroll in Leadership Santa Clara 2020

Santa Clara residents, business owners and employees of local businesses are invited to learn more about their community and prepare for taking on leadership roles in government, neighborhood, civic and nonprofit organizations.

Sessions generally meet monthly from February through May, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at a variety of locations within Santa Clara. In addition to learning more about the past, present and future of Santa Clara, participants become more aware of regional issues such as transportation, energy and health care, and improve on leadership skills such as public presentations, meeting management, working with the media and ethical decision-making. Special activities include Public Safety Day that includes a trip to the Emergency Operations Center, Education Day, and mock Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

For information on tuition costs, schedules and registration deadline, contact Leadership Santa Clara Program Coordinator Scott Summerfield at [smmrfld@aol.com](mailto:smmrfld@aol.com) or 510-714-4470.

[SantaClaraCA.gov/LeadershipSC](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/LeadershipSC)



# Get rebate on attic insulation and reduce energy costs

Even in a mild climate, weatherizing a home can result in saving money on energy bills. In Santa Clara, for example, installing attic insulation can reduce heating and cooling costs by an estimated 14%.



Upgrading attic insulation is one of the most cost effective ways to make a home more comfortable. Proper attic insulation makes the most of a home’s heating and cooling system by helping to keep heated or cooled air from escaping. It stops cold air from seeping into the home on winter days and absorbs excess heat shining down on a roof in the summer. This means fewer chilly winter mornings and stifling summer afternoons.

Silicon Valley Power, the City’s municipal electric utility, is helping residents make this upgrade with an attic insulation rebate. Residents can receive 10 cents per square foot for installing new attic insulation. With the minimum R-38 attic insulation starting at 55 – 88 cents per square foot, this rebate helps make the upgrade more economical for homeowners.

Preapproval is required. For more information, or to apply for the rebate, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/insulation](http://SiliconValleyPower.com/insulation) or call 408-244-SAVE (7283).

### Other ways to stay warm

Homeowners can also take other steps to stay comfortable when the temperatures drop, starting with keeping drapes and shutters closed. Be sure heating air vents are not blocked and that doors and windows have proper weather stripping so drafts are not bringing in cold air.


Space heaters can be effective in small areas, but also use a lot of electricity and can pose safety hazards. Never leave a space heater turned on all night or if you are out of the house. More than 55,000 fires in the U.S. every year are attributable to a space heater.

Wood fires are inviting and can generate heat, but during winter Spare the Air alerts in the Bay Area, it is illegal to use any wood-burning device including fireplaces, woodstoves, pellet stoves or outdoor fire pits.

# Sensory storytimes begin Jan. 9

Mission Branch Library, 1098 Lexington St., will hold monthly sensory storytimes starting Thursday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. These small, interactive storytimes are great for all children, but specifically designed for children ages three and up with autism spectrum disorder and other sensory processing challenges. Space is limited to 10 families and registration is necessary to attend. For more information, visit the Mission Branch Library or contact Justin Wasterlain at [jwasterlain@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:jwasterlain@santaclaraca.gov).


General storytimes for different age groups are offered at all three City libraries every week. Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., also schedules storytimes in Turkish and Arabic. Visit [SCLibrary.org](http://SCLibrary.org) for the current calendar of events.



## OUTDOOR ICE RINK @ CENTRAL PARK

Last Day of Operation  
Monday, January 20

Open Skate, Classes, Special & Private Events



# Register now for winter recreation programs

Registration is now underway for winter/spring classes and activities for all age groups offered by the Parks & Recreation Department. The Winter Activities Guide was mailed to households in December and is also available online. To register, go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/santaclara>.

The Spring/Summer Activities Guide will be mailed at the end of February and registration for Santa Clara residents begins on Feb. 27.

# Tour a Santa Clara fire station

Guided tours of Santa Clara fire stations can be scheduled by individuals, families or groups between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They must be pre-arranged and approved in advance.

This is an opportunity to meet firefighters and learn more about what they do to keep Santa Clara safe. Visitors also get up-close looks at some of the equipment used for fighting fires, handling hazardous materials and saving lives and property.

For information, visit [Fire.SantaClaraCA.gov](http://Fire.SantaClaraCA.gov) and click on the link for Fire Station Tour/Engine Visit requests.



Meet some of the firefighters who keep Santa Clara safe during a tour of a local fire station.

# Apply for advisory body

Residents who would like to contribute to the quality of life in the City of Santa Clara are encouraged to apply to serve on any of the City’s Board, Commissions or Committees, including the Board of Library Trustees, Civil Service Commission, Cultural Commission, Historical & Landmark Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Senior Advisory Commission and Youth Commission.

Information about current and upcoming vacancies can be found at [SantaClaraCA.gov/commissions](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/commissions), or by contacting the City Clerk’s office, 1500 Warburton Ave., [clerk@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov), or 408-615-2220.

# Stay safe when driving in rain

The Santa Clara Police Department urges all drivers to be careful and cautious when driving in the rain, starting with slowing down your speed, turning on headlights, and leaving more distance between your car and the one ahead of you. It is also important to use your defroster in wet weather to ensure windows don’t fog up.



Concentrate fully on every aspect of driving. Anticipate the unexpected and give yourself more room and time to react than usual. Avoid hard braking and/or turning sharply to reduce the chances of hydroplaning.

Never drive through flooded roadways. It can be difficult to gauge how deep water is on a street or in an underpass so avoid standing water if at all possible. Turn around, don’t drown!



# Resolutions for the new year? Library has resources to help

The Santa Clara City Library offers many resources that can help you achieve your new year’s resolutions. For more information on these and other resources, visit [SCLibrary.org](http://SCLibrary.org).

**Resolve: Learn a new language**

Mango Languages, a free online service available through the library, teaches you to speak Brazilian Portuguese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Spanish and many other languages. Go at your own pace with easy-to-navigate lessons and modules.

**Resolve: Become a do-it-yourselfer**

Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., has a tool lending library that gives you access to handy tools like a caulking gun, a stud locator or a thermal leak detector, among others.

**Resolve: Get more comfortable with technology**

Drop-in tech help with your computers, tablets or phones is available every Tuesday, 4-5 p.m., at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Bring your device for tech savvy teens to answer your questions and show you how to use technology features. The program is first-come, first-served.

**Resolve: Preserve your memories**

Every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., equipment is available at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., to help you digitize photos and slides, convert VHS, Super 8 and 8mm video, or save your cassettes.

**Resolve: Improve your English language skills**

English as a Second Language learners can practice at a weekly conversation club on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, or improve English reading, speaking and listening skills at a book club on first and third Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. There is also an ESL Family Night every second Thursday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., where singles, parents or caregivers can socialize while their children play with toys and crafts. All take place at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd.

**Resolve: Do better in school**

[Tutor.com](http://Tutor.com), accessible with a Santa Clara City Library card, offers live one-to-one homework help daily from noon to midnight, Pacific Time, plus test preparation, essay writing assistance and job hunting and resume writing help.

# SVACA debunks myths about shelter dog adoption

Every year, hundreds of families visit the Animal Care Center, 3370 Thomas Rd., operated by Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA), to adopt a pet. Some are hesitant about shelter dogs because of myths they’ve heard. Here is the reality according to the SVACA experts.



**Myth:** Dogs are in shelters because they were not good pets.

**Reality:** Not all dogs admitted to shelters are there because they are “bad” dogs.

With the high cost of living in the Bay Area, some pets are in shelters simply because their owners couldn’t afford (or find) pet-friendly housing.

**Myth:** Shelter dogs have medical issues.

**Reality:** Although some dogs come to SVACA with medical issues, SVACA staff evaluates and addresses medical issues when possible before the dog is put on the adoption floor. SVACA fully informs adopting families of any chronic conditions so there are no surprises.

**Myth:** Shelter dogs have a tough time bonding and socializing.

**Reality:** Certainly, many dogs have suffered some type of neglect in their previous situations, however, that can be reversed with extra TLC and working with a trainer who can steer the pup back on track.

**Myth:** Shelter dogs are behaviorally unsound.

**Reality:** Every dog goes through a thorough behavioral evaluation and potential adoptive families are informed of any issues concerning a dog’s behavior. Unwanted behaviors can frequently be worked through by taking the dog for a series of training sessions.

**Myth:** Shelter dogs have no training.

**Reality:** Many shelter dogs already know several commands and will readily perform for a treat! Even those that haven’t had any formal training can learn quickly. SVACA volunteers work with the dogs every day to socialize them and get them more “adoption ready.”

For more information on the adoption process and pets available, visit [SVACA.com/adoptions](http://SVACA.com/adoptions).

# Electric rate assistance program is available

Silicon Valley Power, the City-owned electric utility, offers assistance to qualified residents who need help paying their electric bill due to financial or medical hardship. The rate assistance program provides a 25% discount off the electric portion of the Santa Clara municipal utilities bill for customers who meet low-income requirements or have certain medical conditions requiring an electric device for treatment.

For more information or to obtain an application, visit [SiliconValleyPower.com/assist](http://SiliconValleyPower.com/assist), email [cutcosts@SiliconValleyPower.com](mailto:cutcosts@SiliconValleyPower.com) or call 408-244-SAVE (7283).

# Santa Clara Senior Center Services

The City of Santa Clara Senior Center provides a safe, positive and welcoming environment for adults ages 50+. The goal is to make available facilities, programs and services that meet the widely varying needs of older adults in our community as they age – from active senior to the frail elderly.

For program and service information, refer to the monthly Senior Center newsletter available at the Senior Center or on the website [SantaClaraCA.gov/SeniorCenter](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/SeniorCenter). For specific questions, call 408-615-3170.



Programs and services at the Senior Center include:

- Adventures to Go Travel Program
- Ballroom Dances
- Care Management Services
- Classes – Fitness & Special Interest
- Computer Lab
- Dining Out - Senior Nutrition Program
- Drop-in Ceramics, Lapidary, Woodshop
- Drop-in Activities – Billiards, Darts, Shuffleboard, Bingo, Card Games
- Fitness Center and Natatorium
- Health Education and Coaching – Blood Pressure Checks, Evidence Based Programming, Health Screenings
- Health Insurance and Medicare Counseling (HICAP)
- Information Referral for Seniors (formerly SPA)
- Legal Assistance (SALA)
- Support Groups
- Welcome Newcomers (information meeting and tour of center)



Santa Clara Senior Center  
1303 Fremont St. (at Monroe)  
Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-noon  
Sunday: closed



# Happy birthday, bookmobile!

The Santa Clara City Library bookmobile celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2020 and continues to provide service to residents who find it difficult to come to the library in person. Its route includes neighborhoods, senior facilities, corporate campuses, schools and community events.

The first bookmobile was purchased in 1960 at a cost of \$16,000. The current bookmobile was purchased with a \$250,000 donation from the Irvine Company and “wrapped” in colorful artistic illustrations paid for by the Santa Clara Library Foundation and Friends.

For more information on bookmobile routes, visit [SCLibrary.org](https://www.sclibrary.org).

Santa Clara’s bookmobile has come a long way since it first served the community in the 1960s.



# Learn about family roots and local history in genealogy programs

One of Santa Clara City Library’s most popular services is the array of genealogy programs and resources available to residents who want to learn more about their ancestors and the history of Santa Clara Valley and California. There are workshops on how to get started with genealogy research and special interest groups that meet monthly.

Here are a few of the events coming up at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. These programs are offered in partnership with the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society and the Nuevo Mundo Genealogical Society. All are free. Early registration is recommended. For more information, visit [SCLibrary.org](https://www.sclibrary.org).



Genealogy programs at Central Park Library are extremely popular. Be sure to register for those classes that require pre-registration and arrive early for other programs to guarantee a seat.

## Anza Expedition: Who They Were and How They Lived

**Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Paul Bernal, official historian of the City of San Jose, will share unexpected facts about the 1776 Anza expedition when a small party of soldiers traveled from Tubac in present-day New Mexico to Monterey in search of an overland passage to what is now Northern California.

## Getting Started With Genealogy

**Thursday, Jan. 23, 1-4:30 p.m.**

Learn the basics of genealogy research, including what documents you need, what’s available from vital records and how to use family group sheets and pedigree charts. This class will be repeated on Thursday, May 13, 1-4:30 p.m.

## Kick-start, Ancestry DNA

**Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1-4 p.m.**

This class is an overview of DNA including an explanation of the amount of DNA shared between various relatives. It will also cover ethnicity estimates and building a family tree. Prerequisite: Participants must have taken the company DNA test and received results. This class will be repeated on Tuesday, April 14, 1-4 p.m. A similar class for people who have taken Family Tree DNA or 23andme tests will be offered on Tuesday, March 18, 1-4 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 15, 1-4 p.m.

## I’m Searching – Genealogy Answers

**Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1-4:30 p.m.**

Participants in this class will receive a basic tool box of resources online and locally.

## Find the Records, Tell the Story

**Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

This class will describe how to dig for answers about your ancestors and gather information on possibly surprising details of their lives and deaths.

## Mexican American Women Contributions to San Jose

**Thursday, March 5, 6:15-8 p.m.**

Nannette Requa, author of *Mexicans in San Jose*, will discuss the roles and contributions of women in the rich history of people of Mexican ancestry in San Jose.

## Census 101: An Introduction to Searching the U.S. Federal and State Censuses

**Wednesday, March 11, 1-4:30 p.m.**

Information and accessibility vary from census to census, so this class will provide guidance on how to find the census information you seek about your ancestors.

## Eco-History of the Santa Clara Valley: How People Have Shaped the Landscape

**Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Christina Siegel, environmental studies lecturer at San Jose State University, will describe how the region’s booming agricultural era, followed by a shift to urbanization, affect the landscape, flora and fauna. She will also identify ecological changes and the resulting issues.

## DNA Basics for Genealogists – How Four Testing Companies Can Change Your Family Tree

**Monday, March 23, 1-3:30 p.m.**

This class will cover the four types of DNA testing – Y-DNA, mtDNA, Autosomal and XDNA – and describe what is available from the top four companies. There will also be a case study on how to use the DNA information.

## Getting Started: Organization

**Wednesday, April 22, 1-4 p.m.**

Learn different ways to organize the hard copy and digital information produced by your genealogy research, including a comparison of genealogy computer programs.

The library’s genealogy collection includes how-to books, historical atlases and maps, immigration resources, early settler files, and U.S., state and Santa Clara County census microfilm. There are additional materials available to help residents research their family history in the Heritage Pavilion of Central Park Library.



# One Vote Can Make A Difference

**Feb. 18 is the deadline to register to vote in the March 3 election.**

**Don't forget to vote!**

Register to vote at [SCCvote.org](https://www.sccvote.org).



# Library hosts Silicon Valley Reads events

Santa Clara City Library will host several events in February and March as part of the annual Silicon Valley Reads program that encourages reading, discussion, and community engagement. In honor of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the U.S., the 2020 theme is “Women Making It Happen.”

Catherine Chung, author of *The Tenth Muse*, one of the featured selections for Silicon Valley Reads 2020, will appear at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., on Monday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. Her novel focuses on a fictional trailblazer – an exceptional female mathematician who embarks on a quest to conquer the Riemann hypothesis, the greatest unsolved mathematical problem of her time, and discovers her own mysterious family history and secrets.



Catherine Chung

Drop-in book groups will discuss *The Tenth Muse* at Mission Branch Library, 1098 Lexington St., on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m., and at Central Park Library on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 10:30 a.m.



On Sunday, March 8, the documentary “Code: Debugging the Gender Gap” will be shown at 2 p.m. at Central Park Library. The 90-minute film examines the reasons why more girls and people of color are not seeking opportunities in computer science. Expert voices from the worlds of tech, psychology, science and education are intercut with inspiring stories of women who are engaged in the fight to challenge complacency in the tech industry and have their voices heard.

The popular feature film “Hidden Figures” will be shown on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. at Central Park Library. Nominated for three Oscars, the film is based on the lives of a team of African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.



Children and families can participate in Silicon Valley Reads at a special family storytime at Central Park Library on Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. There will be a reading of the featured picture book *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires, a film, and a craft project with a STEM theme.

For more information, visit [SiliconValleyReads.org](https://SiliconValleyReads.org).

## Who takes care of City street trees?

City street trees are those planted in the property frontage within the City’s right-of-way easement, which varies in location depending on the width of the street. These trees provide beauty, sound absorption, air purification, and other benefits that add to neighborhood quality of life.



The City provides maintenance services for more than 11,000 City street trees. Residents are asked to water and fertilize the City trees in front of their homes. City staff handles all tree trimming, tree removals due to safety issues, and responds to hazards from downed trees or branches. Only City personnel or contractors hired by the City may trim or remove City street trees. If you are unsure if a tree on your property is within the City’s right-of-way, contact the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080.

To report a branch down during regular business hours, call 408-615-3080. To report an instance of a branch down after hours, call Police non-emergency dispatch at 408-615-5580. If the situation involves electrical wires or injuries dial 9-1-1.

## Apply for Leadership Santa Clara by Jan. 10

Applications for the Leadership Santa Clara 2020 class are due no later than Jan. 10. The program, now in its 23rd year, provides Santa Clara residents, business owners and employees of local businesses the opportunity to learn more about the community and how to become involved.

Sessions generally meet monthly, February through May, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at a variety of locations. Participants are briefed on municipal government and regional issues such as transportation, healthcare and education. They also receive instruction in leadership skills and public speaking.

For information and to apply online, visit [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://SantaClaraCA.gov).

# Living with urban coyotes

Recent sightings of coyotes in Santa Clara neighborhoods can raise legitimate concerns for residents. Coyotes are by nature fearful of humans, but if given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear.

Coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young. Here are some pointers on how to help prevent human-coyote conflicts.

- **Keep children safe:** Never leave small children unattended in areas known to be frequented by coyotes, even in your yard. Talk with children about coyotes and teach them what to do if they encounter one.
- **Keep pets secure:** Roaming pets, especially small ones, are easy prey for coyotes. Keep pets inside and don’t feed them outside.
- **Secure trash:** Use trash cans with lids in order to prevent spilling. Do not use garbage bags as trash containers as coyotes can easily rip them open and scatter the contents.
- **Don’t feed wildlife:** Wildlife in your yard may attract coyotes, which prey upon them. Never feed or attempt to “tame” a coyote.
- **Landscape for safety:** Clear brush and dense weeds from around dwellings to make the area less attractive for rodents as coyotes will feed on them. If you have fruit trees, pick the ripe fruit and keep fallen fruit off the ground as coyotes are fond of ripe fruit.

## Encountering a coyote

Aggressive behavior by coyotes toward people is not normal. If you encounter a coyote, remember to do the following:

- **Do not run from a coyote:** Stand and face the animal and do not turn your back. Attempt to calmly leave the area. If you have small children with you, pick them up if possible so they don’t panic and run. Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the coyote.
- **Do all you can to appear larger:** Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Again, pick up small children. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the coyote that you may be a danger to it.
- **Fight back if attacked (and only if attacked):** Fight back with sticks, rocks, or whatever that you have that can be used as a weapon. Do not throw things at coyotes unless you are in danger.



For more information, visit the Department of Fish and Game website at [Wildlife.CA.gov](https://Wildlife.CA.gov) or contact the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority at 408-764-0344.

# Be prepared for rainy season

Santa Clara’s heaviest rain typically arrives during the months of January through March. The City works closely with the Valley Water and the National Weather Service during the storm season to keep the community informed about potential flooding.

To receive emergency warnings about flooding or other urgent situations, sign up for the County’s Emergency Alert System at [AlertSCC.com](https://AlertSCC.com). It is a free and confidential way for everyone in Santa Clara County to get emergency warnings sent directly to their cell phone, mobile device, email or landline. When needed, the City of Santa Clara will issue flood warnings or evacuation orders via AlertSCC. Sign up for “extreme weather” news on [SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify](https://SantaClaraCA.gov/enotify).

Flood map information is available from the City’s Planning Division. Residents can find out if there are any local drainage problems near their property, get estimated flood depth, past flood information, and whether failure of local dams would potentially impact the property. Contact the Planning Division at 408-615-2450 or [Planning@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:Planning@santaclaraca.gov) to get flood information for a particular property, or visit the City Hall Permit Center, 1500 Warburton Ave.

Want to know what you can do to reduce or prevent possible flood damages to your property? The Department of Public Works can help by reviewing photos of your property and providing suggestions. Contact Public Works at 408-615-3000 or [Engineering@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:Engineering@santaclaraca.gov) for more information.

### Need sandbags?

Call the Public Works Corporation Yard at 408-615-3080



# Winter/spring activities at community garden

It may not be peak growing season, but the early months of 2020 will still be a busy time at the Everett N. “Eddie” Souza Community Garden, 2380 Monroe St. Here are a few of the activities planned and check for more, including garden tours, at [SantaClaraCA.gov/communitygarden](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/communitygarden). Unless otherwise noted, the events take place at the community garden.

## Second Sunday Garden Shares & Tours Sundays, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, April 12, May 10

Residents are invited to gather 2-3 p.m. at the community garden to share seeds, food, information and garden harvests.

## Hands-on Gardening Workshops

Five demonstration beds in the community garden require seasonal work. Residents are invited to join the community garden coordinator through each step of the gardening season – restoring the soil, planting, harvesting, and everything in-between. The first workshop on Sunday, Jan. 12, 1-2 p.m., will focus on cover crops (plants that fix nitrogen in the soil over winter). A spring garden makeover is scheduled for Sunday, March 21, 9-11 a.m., and a spring garden makeover for kids is set for Wednesday, April 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

## National Seed Swap Day Saturday, Jan. 25

Silicon Valley Seeds and One Seed, One Community will present seed saving tips and information on agrobiodiversity, 2-4 p.m., at the Santa Clara Teen Center, 2446 Cabrillo Ave. There will be screens, buckets and help to clean your unprocessed seeds.

Every fourth Thursday, local seed gurus will also be in the lobby of Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., 3-5 p.m., to answer questions about organic gardening and seed saving.



## Winter Fruit Tree Care Saturday, Feb. 1

Winter is the best time to prune fruit trees because they are dormant and tree structure is visible. Proper pruning, timing and technique allow trees to produce the best fruit. This workshop from master gardeners, 10 a.m.-noon, will cover the why, how and when of pruning.

## Germination Station: Start Seeds Indoors Wednesday, Feb. 12

Learn how to sprout seeds indoors, including how to make your own seeding soil mix, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Teen Center, 24446 Cabrillo Ave. The talk will also describe the tools and containers that can be used to start tomatoes, peppers, herbs and greens.

## Growing Fabulous Citrus Sunday, March 8

Master gardener Candace Simpson will discuss everything you need to know about adding citrus trees to your landscape including planting location and method, pruning, fertilizing and watering, frost protection, and identifying and managing pests and diseases. The presentation is 1-3 p.m.

# Moratorium extended on shared motorized scooters and bikes

A temporary moratorium on shared motorized scooter and bike programs and businesses has been extended until Dec. 19, 2020, to give the City more time to develop policies and regulations that would govern their operation.

The initial one-year moratorium was in response to concerns about potential safety hazards. Motorized scooters and shared bicycles carelessly discarded on streets, sidewalks and other public rights-of-way are a nuisance and can pose a threat to public safety. These devices can also travel as fast as 15 miles per hour and can cause safety hazards if used on sidewalks.

# Fire Department’s new recruitment effort gets results

With the goal of having department demographics more closely resemble the diverse population it serves, the Santa Clara Fire Department started a new recruitment effort in the fall that used social media to target under-represented potential applicants.

The four-month campaign ended in October with 1,200 applicants and an increase in five demographic categories. The hiring process will continue through multiple phases this spring and summer.

This is the first time the Santa Clara Fire Department is using targeted social media advertising in its recruitment and the campaign featured video profiles of current Santa Clara firefighters from diverse backgrounds. Fire agencies around the country are making extra efforts to recruit applicants that reflect the demographics of their communities since diversity brings a broader perspective and better tools to problem solve the public safety needs of a particular community.

For more information on the fire department recruitment, visit [JoinSCFD.org](http://JoinSCFD.org) or contact recruitment coordinator Jenn Panko at 408-615-4935.

# New exhibits open at Triton Museum

Three new exhibits will open at the Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave., in February – each representing a different perspective on important historical and contemporary themes. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

“Shifting Messages” by artist Fan Lee Warren explores various perceptions of black American culture and its historical construct. She stresses the surface of the paper using fire, earth and herbs. Images are then drawn, printed and painted with acrylics, watercolor, ink, pastels, charcoal and pigments. Her exhibit runs through May 10.



Artist Jeff Alan West was inspired by graphic forms of typography, calligraphy and handwriting for the works included in his exhibit titled “Spellings of Gravititas.” He uses abstractions of invented character forms and assembles them into combinations of expressive language that reflect current personal, social, civil, cultural and political contexts. The exhibit runs through May 3.

Three other current exhibits will be on display through Jan. 26 – works by Judy Shintani and Deborah Oropallo and a 2D Art Competition exhibition. For more information, visit [TritonMuseum.org](http://TritonMuseum.org).

“Ten Japanese-American Concentration Camps” is a photo documentation project by noted artist/documentarian Renee Billingslea. Her work juxtaposes photos of the current and mostly abandoned sites of the former Japanese camps with stitched in photographs of the camps in use 75 years ago. This exhibit runs through April 29.



# Two musicals this spring offer youth stage experience

Two musicals are scheduled this spring by Roberta Jones Junior Theatre, a program of the Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department, that offers youth the opportunity to appear onstage and assist behind the scenes.

Auditions for “Disney’s Mary Poppins” are scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 7 or Wednesday, Jan. 8, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd. Every child, ages 8-18, who auditions will be invited to join the cast. The audition for the June musical, “Disney’s The Jungle Book Kids,” is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Every aspiring performer, ages 7-15, who auditions will be cast in the show.

For more information on these musicals and other programs offered by Roberta Jones Junior Theatre, visit [RJJT.org](http://RJJT.org) or contact Robin Shaddle, recreation supervisor, at 408-615-3145 or [rshaddle@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:rshaddle@santaclaraca.gov).



# April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

## Are you and your family ready for the next big quake?

### At home

- ☐ Water for every member of your family for drinking, food preparation and sanitation. The amount of water stored should equal 3 gallons x the number of people in your family. A little extra for pets and other uses is a good idea. Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers and replace every six months.
- ☐ Nonperishable or canned food for every member of the family (and pets) for at least 3 days. Figure on 3 cans per person per day.
- ☐ Hand-operated can opener
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs
- ☐ Hand-cranked or battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A:10B:C
- ☐ Large plastic garbage bags and plastic ties, and smaller ziplock plastic bags
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Small hand tools including crow bar, hammer, pliers, screwdrivers and wrenches that may be used to shut off gas and water
- ☐ Cash in small bills and change
- ☐ First Aid kit and manual
- ☐ Sturdy work gloves and vinyl gloves
- ☐ Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
- ☐ All purpose liquid soap
- ☐ Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items for each family member
- ☐ Hooded rain ponchos for each family member
- ☐ Dust masks
- ☐ Blankets and sleeping bags
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers if there's a baby in the family
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and moist towelettes
- ☐ Disposable paper cups, plates and plastic utensils—enough to serve 10-12 meals per person
- ☐ Pet food
- ☐ Complete change of clothing for each family member

- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Tent and/or tarp (9x12 ft minimum) for shelter
- ☐ Camp stove and fuel and/or barbecue and charcoal (do not use indoors!)
- ☐ Plastic bucket with tight lid or portable toilet
- ☐ Lantern (battery, kerosene or propane powered) plus fuel or batteries
- ☐ Gallon of disinfectant
- ☐ Nylon rope, 100 feet
- ☐ Extra pair of sturdy shoes and socks for each family member

### In the car and at work

- ☐ Water
- ☐ Nonperishable food (add a hand-operated can opener if any food is in cans)
- ☐ Battery-operated or hand-cranked radio and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Lightsticks (each lasts 12 hours)
- ☐ Matches in waterproof container
- ☐ Signal flare
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Sturdy shoes and socks
- ☐ Jacket and blanket
- ☐ First Aid kit and manual
- ☐ Cash in small bills and change
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Safety pins
- ☐ Large garbage bags and ties
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Map of the area
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Car charger for your mobile devices
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and moist towelettes
- ☐ Small shovel
- ☐ Multi-tip screwdriver and pliers
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ Latex gloves
- ☐ Paper, pencil and pen
- ☐ List of important phone numbers

### Four tips to remember

- 1) Keep gas tanks at least 1/4 to 1/2 full at all times.
- 2) Refill prescriptions when you still have at least 3-5 days supply remaining.
- 3) Create and continually update a summary of important family information such as names and contact information of all doctors, insurance policy numbers, inventory of household goods, family records and bank account records. Store a copy of the summary outside the home such as in a safe deposit box or an Internet data storage service.
- 4) Make a list of what you would want to save if you only had 5 minutes to evacuate your home. Start with the essentials: wallets, keys, eyeglasses, mobile phones and chargers, medications, legal and insurance papers. Be sure each member of the family has shoes and a sweater or jacket. Other items to consider are photos, memorabilia, jewelry, antiques, artwork, and additional clothing for each member of the family. Post the evacuation list in an easy-to-find, central location and make sure every member of the family knows it's there.



### Create a family emergency plan

- In an emergency, the first thought almost always goes to family. Where are they? Have they been affected? How will the family be reunited?
- Part of preparation is talking with all family members about the potential for a disaster and making several important decisions.
- Pick a location outside of your home, but still in the neighborhood, to meet.
  - Pick a second location outside of your neighborhood to gather in case you can't return home. Make sure everyone knows the address and phone number.
  - Select an out-of-state relative or friend to be your family contact point. After a disaster it is sometimes easier to call long distance than across town. Family members should memorize this phone number and call there to say where they are.
  - Make plans to take care of infants, elderly or other family members with disabilities or special needs.
  - Talk about how you will take care of pets. How would you evacuate them? Do you have enough pet food and water for at least 72 hours?

Download a help publication on creating a Family Disaster Plan, including a cut-out form for everyone to carry with them at all times, from the American Red Cross website [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

## Learn to be self-reliant after major disaster



When a major disaster strikes, the resources of first responders are stretched thin. A well-trained civilian volunteer workforce can be invaluable in helping families, neighborhoods and businesses take care of themselves until help arrives.

Throughout the year, residents are invited to attend free one-day disaster preparedness courses or enroll in the 20-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The introductory class describes the potential for disasters in Santa Clara and what residents can do to make their home safer and their family better prepared. The longer program includes more information and hands-on training in basic medical care, fire suppression, utility control, damage assessment and light search and rescue.

For information on the spring CERT schedule, visit the Fire Department page of [SantaClaraCA.gov](https://www.santacruz.ca.gov).



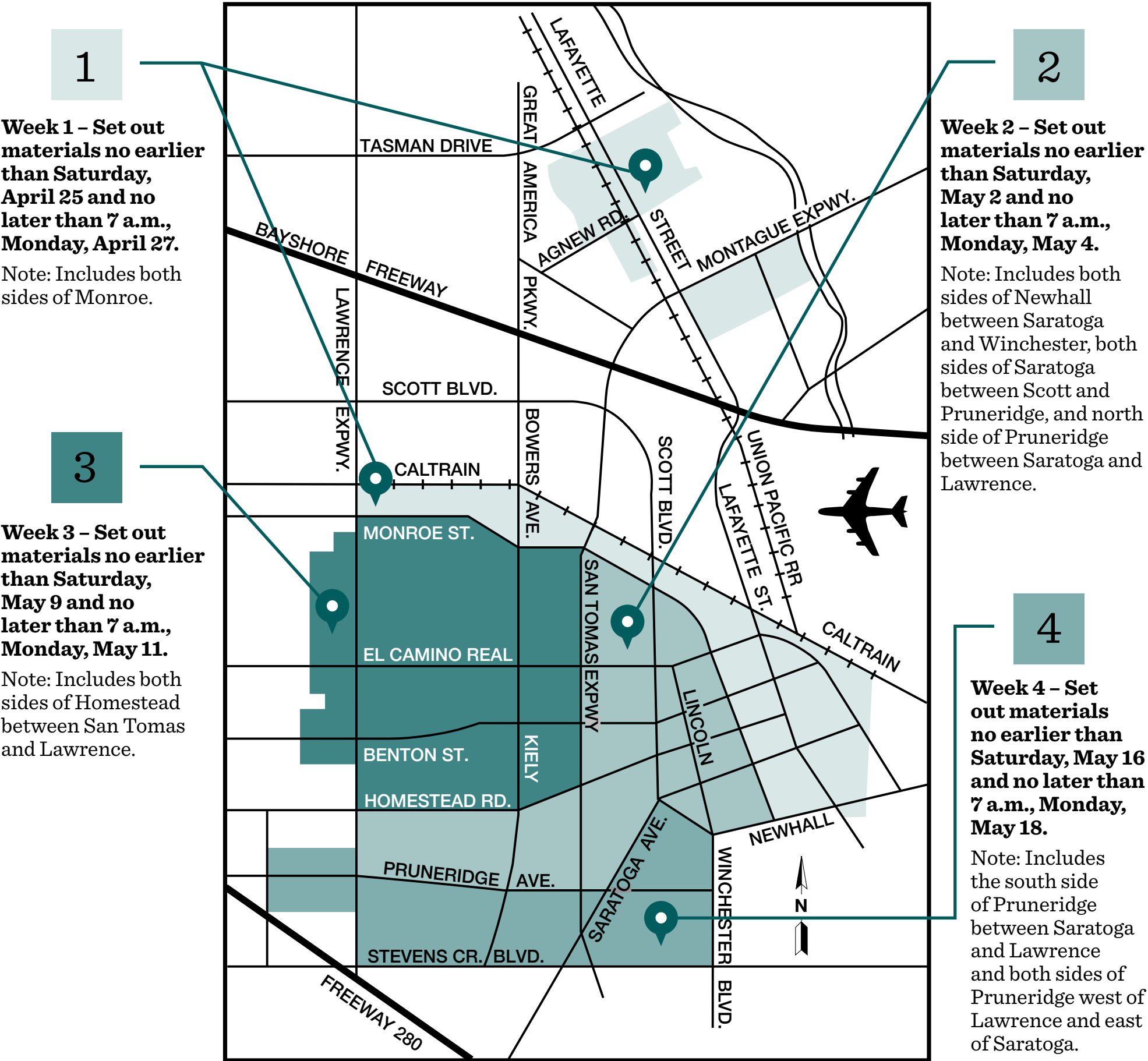
Annual Cleanup Campaign is April 27 - May 22, 2020

Save these pages to help remember set-out instructions.

Find your location on the map and mark your calendar for your collection week.

**NOTE: Neighborhoods will be serviced in a different order in 2020.**

Carefully check the map below for the correct collection dates for your street.



Not all developments participate in the Cleanup Campaign. Unsure about your area or where to place your items?? Contact 408-615-3080.

Set-out instructions

- Do not set out materials in the street before the Saturday prior to your assigned collection week. Early set-outs (prior to the Saturday preceding your collection week) are subject to a **\$150 fine**.
- Park vehicles in your garage or driveway during your assigned collection week so it is easier for cleanup crews to maneuver. If you must park on the street, park at least 5 feet away from piles.
- Do not place piles in front of curbs painted red for “No Parking,” as large piles can obstruct the view of motorists pulling out of driveways. Do not place piles in alleys or private streets, or against fences, retaining walls, fire hydrants or landscaping.
- Place your materials at least 3 feet from any obstructions such as fire hydrants, fences, poles, cars, trees, bushes or walls.
- Do not block sidewalks or bike lanes.
- Materials must be placed in the street, by the curb, in front of the house where the materials are generated (if a private street, materials must be placed on nearest public street). Placing materials in front of a neighbor’s house will be deemed illegal dumping.
- If you have questions about what can be set out or need assistance in determining which collection area you live in, contact the Public Works Department at 408-615-3080.



It is important to have your materials set out by 7 a.m.

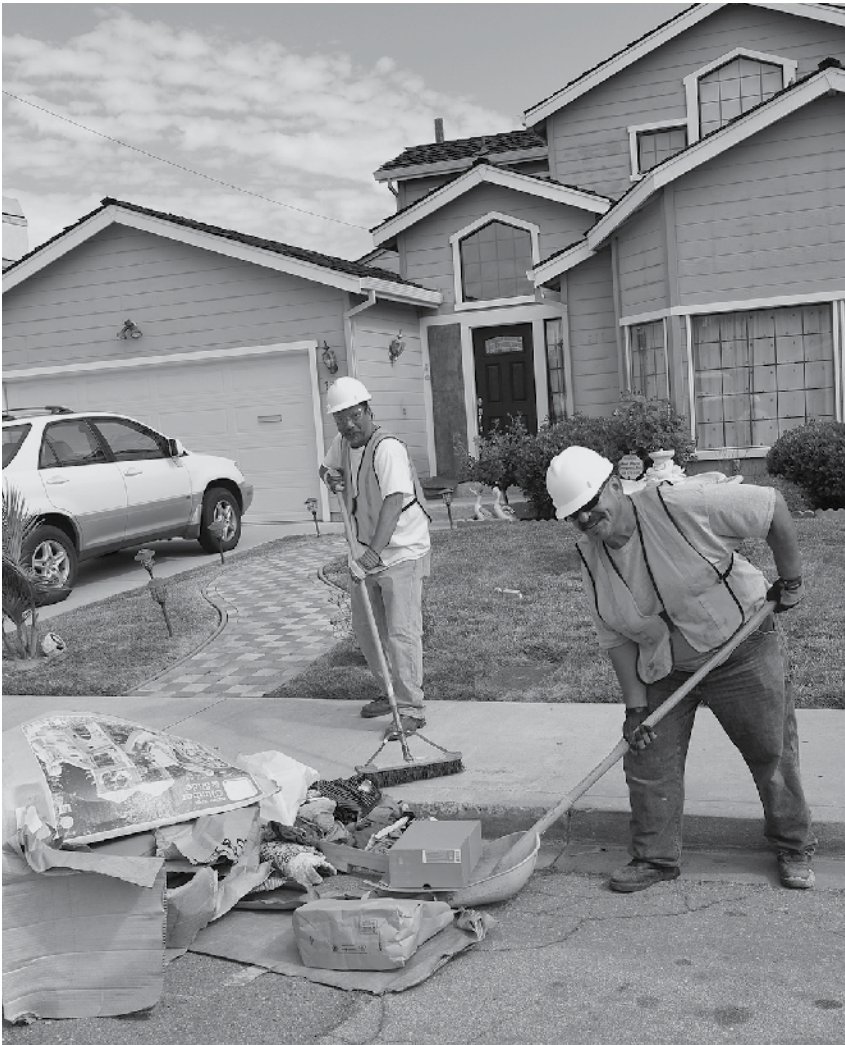
Cleanup crews move street by street through the designated area. Once a street has been serviced, there is no additional free cleanup collection that week. Don’t miss your chance! Have your materials set out by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your service week.



The annual cleanup campaign is a special opportunity for residents of the City of Santa Clara to set out bulky items not routinely collected by weekly garbage, Clean Green and recycling collection services.

Accepted materials

- Bulky items such as old furniture, carpets, mattresses, toilets, foam packaging, etc.
- Appliances, e-waste and tires: should be separated by type and isolated from the rest of your materials. Special crews will pick up these materials for proper disposal. Remove any appliance door with latch mechanisms prior to setting out to prevent accidents. E-waste is anything that requires a plug or battery to operate.
- **All** concrete, asphalt, dirt, brick, rocks, drywall and/or sawdust **must** be set out in a heavy duty bulk bag no larger than 1 cubic yard (3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet) to prevent debris from getting into the storm drains. Bulk bags may be purchased at a retailer of your choice or at the City Hall utility payment counter, 1500 Warburton Ave., starting April 6. One cubic yard of bagged debris will be collected at no charge. Additional bagged materials will be assessed at \$25 per cubic yard. Failure to use a bulk bag when setting out the items described above is subject to a \$150 fine.



- Fencing and wood no longer than 6 feet in length. Separate from other materials, and placed parallel to the curb.
- Large pieces of yard waste: brush and branches should be cut to 6-foot lengths, stacked separately from other materials, and placed parallel to the curb. If it fits in the Clean Green cart, green waste should be disposed of through the weekly Clean Green collection program. Remember – do not trim or remove City street trees. This is a violation of City Code and subject to a \$1,000 fine and all associated replacement costs. Call 408-615-3080 for information.

Safe disposal of household hazardous waste

Use the countywide household hazardous waste program to dispose of hazardous waste (paint, batteries, oil, antifreeze, household chemicals, sharps containers, pesticides, solvents, thinners, chlorine, fluorescent bulbs/tubes, etc.). These materials pose a health and safety risk to cleanup crews and the environment.

Free household hazardous waste drop-off events



will be held in Santa Clara on Saturday, Jan. 25, Saturday, April 25 and Saturday, Sept. 12. You can make an appointment to attend these Santa Clara drop-off events, or any of the other scheduled drop-off events held throughout the County, by calling 408-299-7300 or online at [HHW.org](http://HHW.org). Illegal set-out of hazardous materials is subject to a \$500 fine.

Do NOT set out

- **Recyclable items** normally collected each week as part of your curbside recycling service.
- **Regular household garbage** that is collected each week as part of your regular curbside service.
- **Yard waste that can fit in your Clean Green cart** that is collected each week as part of your regular curbside service.
- **Batteries** – Place them in Ziploc-style plastic bags and set on top of your black garbage cart for collection as part of your regular curbside service.
- **Used motor oil** – Place in one gallon (or less) plastic container(s) with screw-top lid. Tape the lid down securely with masking or duct tape. Label the container “waste oil” and set beside the blue recycling cart for collection as part of your regular curbside service.
- **Used motor oil filters** – Seal in Ziploc-style plastic bag and place on top of your blue recycling cart for collection as part of your regular curbside service.
- **Contractor-generated landscape or construction/demolition debris.**
- **Food or bathroom waste**
- **Automobile parts containing fluids**
- **Medications** – Residents may safely dispose of expired or unwanted medications (prescription and non-prescription) at the MED-project kiosk located at the Santa Clara Police Department, 301 El Camino Real. For additional information and a list of current locations visit [SCCMEDS.org](http://SCCMEDS.org).
- **Liquids**
- **Explosives or ammunition** – For safe disposal, call the Santa Clara Police Department at 408-615-5580.
- **Hazardous waste** (e.g. paint, fluorescent light fixtures, oil, antifreeze, household chemicals, pesticides, solvents, thinners, chlorine, etc.).
- **Materials not generated by your household** – The annual cleanup campaign is a special service exclusively for the residents of the City of Santa Clara. If you witness illegal dumping in progress, get the driver and vehicle description, and vehicle license number and call 408-615-3080 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or 408-615-5580 (after 4:30 p.m. and weekends).

Questions?

Call the  
Department of Public Works at  
408-615-3080  
or email  
[Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov)  
or visit  
[SantaClaraCA.gov/cleanup](http://SantaClaraCA.gov/cleanup)

One good use deserves another

Items that are salvageable and could be re-used by someone else should not be set out for the cleanup campaign. For information on how to donate to an organization that can recycle useable items, visit the website [RecycleStuff.org](http://RecycleStuff.org) or call 1-800-533-8414 for more information.



City of Santa Clara  
City Hall  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

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Winter/Spring 2020

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Inside Santa Clara Inquiries:

City Manager’s Office  
City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave.,  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
408-615-2210

communications@SantaClaraCA.gov

City of Santa Clara  
Code of  
Ethics & Values

- Ethical
- Professional
- Service-Oriented
- Fiscally Responsible
- Organized
- Communicative
- Collaborative
- Progressive

Ethics Every Day:  
Making Ethical Values a  
Good Habit



City Public Meeting Schedule

- Board of Library Trustees\* ..... 1st Mon., 6 p.m.
  - Council and Authorities concurrent mtg. .... Two Tue. per month, 7 p.m.
  - Civil Service Commission..... 2nd Mon., 7 p.m.
  - Cultural Commission \*\* ..... 1st Mon., 6 p.m.
  - Historical & Landmarks Commission..... 1st Thurs., 7 p.m.
  - Parks & Recreation Commission ..... 3rd Tue., 7 p.m.
  - Planning Commission ..... Generally 1x Wed. per month, 6 p.m.
  - Senior Advisory Commission \*\* ..... 4th Mon., 10 a.m.
  - Youth Commission (during the school year)\*\*\* ..... 2nd Tue., 6 p.m.
- Some commissions/committees meet monthly and others meet semi-monthly. Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers unless otherwise noted.
- \* Meeting is at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd.
  - \*\* Meeting is at the Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St.
  - \*\*\* Meeting is at Teen Center, 2446 Cabrillo Ave.

Agendas for City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Commission meetings are posted at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, the City Libraries (Central Park, Northside Branch, Mission Branch), and on the City website at least 72 hours before the listed meeting. Special Council meetings are posted at least 24 hours before the listed meetings. Complete agendas with reports for City Council meetings are available at City Libraries beginning Saturday before the Tuesday meetings, or at the City Clerk’s Office. The City website also allows for the viewing of Council Agenda Reports online. Visit [SantaClaraCA.gov](#) and search for “City Meetings.”

Online schedule: [SantaClaraCA.gov](#)  
Dates and times subject to change. Call 408-615-2220 for information.

City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 15 and on the City website [SantaClaraCA.gov](#). These meetings are also streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Archives of past City Council, Santa Clara Stadium Authority and Planning Commission meetings are on the City website [SantaClaraCA.gov](#).

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Winter/Spring 2020

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City of  
Santa Clara  
The Center of What’s Possible

The Newspaper for City of Santa Clara Residents & Businesses

Employee survey compiles baseline data about the City as a workplace

City government is a people business – its purpose is to serve people and those services are, for the most part, delivered by people. Having a talented, experienced and dedicated workforce is crucial to the success of the City of Santa Clara.

- 91% agreed with the statement that their co-workers are doing quality work.

Based on the survey results, areas for improvement include internal communications, responsiveness to employee concerns, and willingness to try new approaches to solve problems. While the survey found most employees agree that they are well-informed about issues affecting their jobs and departments, under 60% felt the same way about issues outside of their department. Just over half of those who responded agree that the City is supportive of new ideas. This feedback is an indication that employees are eager to innovate and bring new ideas to the table while the City must update antiquated processes and manual administration in order to match staff’s innovative drive.

With that in mind, the first-ever City employee survey was recently conducted to gather information on their opinions and perspectives. Nearly half of full-time employees participated and 77 % of the respondents said they are satisfied overall with the City as an employer. The survey also found:

- 91% of respondents feel their jobs support the City’s overall goals and priorities.
- 92% agree that the City plays an important role in the community.
- 74% felt valued at their job.



Every April, City employees are invited to bring their sons and daughters to work for a day so that the youngsters can learn more about municipal government and appreciate the valuable contributions their parents make to the quality of life in Santa Clara. Shown here are children who participated in 2018.