



CITY MANAGER BIWEEKLY REPORT

SEPT. 5 – SEPT. 18, 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Santa Clara Fire and Santa Clara Police Departments Conduct 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony: On Sept. 11, the Fire and Police Departments joined forces to host a joint 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Police headquarters. Honor guards for both departments conducted a flag ceremony to lower the flags to half-staff. Santa Clara Communications provided radio traffic on department radio channels for all personnel to participate. All nine occupied fire stations also participated and lowered their flags to half-staff at the same time. Volunteer bagpiper, Paul Crozier, and two other pipers, played “Amazing Grace” at the conclusion of the flag ceremony. After the ceremony, the bagpipers traveled to the City’s fire stations to play for each of the crews on duty on 9/11.



Santa Clara Fire Department Provides Mutual Aid to Help Fight Wildfires: Over the last month, the Fire Department has sent local engines and personnel to help fight several of the wildfires burning in Northern California as part of the state mutual aid system. In August, the department sent three engines and 13 personnel. One engine each was deployed to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire in Napa, Sonoma and Solano Counties, the SCU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Clara, Alameda and Stanislaus Counties, and the CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. A radio specialist was also deployed as a solo resource. In September, the department sent three engines and 12 personnel to help fight the Creek Fire

in Fresno and Madera Counties. Four additional personnel were also sent as solo resources to support the overhead organization of the firefighting efforts. This makes a total of 29 SCFD personnel that have been dispatched to try and contain these wildfires.



Measure E is on Your Local Ballot: As part of the City's fiscal planning the City Council placed Measure E on the November 2020 ballot. If enacted, Measure E would allow an increase in Santa Clara's hotel tax by up to 4% over time to support providing essential city services, paid only by guests staying in hotels. Measure E is not a tax on homeowners or property owners. Like cities around the state and country, Santa Clara is working to address the economic challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. Measure E was placed on the ballot and drafted to afford the City Council with flexibility to account for current economic challenges in the hospitality sector while also preserving the ability to benefit from potential increased revenue as the economy recovers. If enacted, Measure E would provide an additional source of locally controlled funding that is available to support general City services and may be used for emergency preparedness, street maintenance and pothole repair, local business and resident support through recovery, senior services, libraries, parks, and recreational programs. Measure E is on the November ballot. For more Measure E information, please visit SantaClaraCA.gov/MeasureE. For more election and voting information, please visit the County Registrar of Voters [webpage](#).

City Librarian Hilary Keith Retires & Acting City

Librarian Named: After six years with the City of Santa Clara, City Librarian Hilary Keith retired on Sept. 18. We thank Hilary for her years of service to the Santa Clara City Library, providing a wide array of events that highlight the diversity and innovative spirit of Santa Clara. Hilary worked to sustain and strengthen library collections, develop innovative programming that engages and enriches, support early and life-long literacy, and ensure the library is a welcoming place that serves everyone in community.



Shortly after joining Santa Clara, she was tasked with opening the Northside Branch Library and embarking on a renovation of the Mission Branch Library. The City of Santa Clara wishes Hilary a wonderful retirement! During the transition, Assistant City Manager Cynthia Bojorquez has been appointed as Acting City Librarian. Cynthia is well qualified to support this transition, having served as City Librarian for the cities of Salinas and Sunnyvale. An executive recruitment process will begin to appoint a new City Librarian.

Apply for the Salary Setting Commission: The City encourages residents to apply to serve on the Salary Setting Commission which is charged with setting the compensation for the Mayor, Councilmembers, City Clerk and Police Chief. The Civil Service Commission appoints the Salary Setting Commission members who serve two-year terms. While serving on the commission, members cannot work for a candidate for City of Santa Clara elective office nor run for a City elective office. Applications and eligibility requirements are available [online](#) or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interested applicants may apply by mail or in person to the City Clerk's Office. Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by **5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020.**

PG&E Gas Construction on Lafayette Street and Hogan Drive: Beginning Sept. 14, 2020 through January 2021, PG&E began upgrading pressure-regulating equipment associated with their natural gas line facilities on Lafayette Street and Hogan Drive in Santa Clara. PG&E has indicated that this work should not interrupt gas service. However, residents may occasionally hear some noise and smell natural gas as PG&E empties pipelines in a controlled and safe manner. To facilitate this project, temporary lane closures will be implemented throughout the day during the coming weeks and months. Residents may encounter delays along Lafayette Street and are encouraged to use alternate routes if possible. Hours of work are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Crystal Jewell with PG&E via email at CLHP@pge.com or by phone at 408-725-2240. For any other concerns, please call PG&E's general number at 1-800-743-5000.

Lawyers in the Library: Starting Sept. 14, this Santa Clara City Library program provides free legal advice service every Monday, connecting volunteer attorneys with community members. The volunteer attorney gives you a call between 12 to 2 p.m. on the appointment date. Phone meetings, between participants and qualified volunteer attorneys, are free and limited to 20 minutes per session. To make an appointment for a free, 20-minute legal consultation visit the [website](#). Attorneys from the Pro Bono Project have generously donated their time.

Save Energy and Money with Energy Conservation Tips: As we continue to spend more time in our homes, Silicon Valley Power offers a variety of tips to help customers conserve energy or upgrade to energy efficient equipment. Visit siliconvalleypower.com/tips to download guides to help make smart energy choices to reduce electric bills. Learn more about air sealing basics and weatherization tips that will help make your home more comfortable and more efficient. Find out the best way to stream video content with the lowest energy usage, learn the best settings for your programmable thermostat, get cooking tips that save energy, reduce heat gain in your home and much more!

Public Safety Power Shutoff Information: While we're fortunate that the city of Santa Clara isn't designated as a high fire threat area because of our urban conditions, flat terrain and low fuel load, it is important to be aware of risks and to minimize them. While the risk of wildfires is low in Santa Clara, a Public Safety Power Shutoff power outage could impact customers who receive electric service from Silicon Valley Power due to the interconnected nature of the electric grid. For more information about PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff program and how to be prepared in the event, visit Silicon Valley Power's [website](#).



3rd Annual Halloween Home Decorating Contest: The Cultural Commission is excited to announce the return of this annual event. Santa Clara residents are encouraged to participate in the contest by decorating their front yards, or exterior of apartment, condominium, house and townhouse for Halloween. Entries will be accepted online between Oct. 1 – 28, 2020. This year, one home from each Council District will be selected as a winner. For more information, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/contest or call 408-615-3140 or email PRCustomerServe@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Introducing Club YAC: The Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center (YAC), located at 2450 Cabrillo Ave., has opened with a modified after school program, "Club YAC," for ages 7-11, Monday through Friday 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. The staff and program adhere to State and County health and safety protocols. Participants get active by playing modified indoor/outdoor recreation activities, creating various arts & crafts, and receiving help with their homework. For more information, contact the Youth Activity Center at 408-615-3760.



Skate Park Sessions Continue: The Skate Park, located at 2440 Cabrillo Ave., is open in compliance with State and County health and safety protocols. Skate sessions are available for ages 5 and older, free 60-minute time slots, every Tuesday – Friday, 3 p.m. to sunset. Participants must use their own equipment as loaning or sharing equipment is not allowed. Skaters are required to wear a face covering except when skating and abide by social distancing and health and safety protocols. Advanced online registration is required for a time slot, visit apm.ActiveCommunities.com/SantaClara. For more information, contact the Youth Activity Center at 408-615-3760.

Fall Recreation Underway: As of Sept. 14, a wide variety of online and in-person recreation classes including dance, fitness, music, theatre and more are now available. New classes will start in mid-October. To view upcoming classes and to register, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/RecClasses or call 408-615-3140.

New Minimum Wage Effective Jan. 1, 2021: Starting Jan. 1, 2021, the city of Santa Clara's minimum wage will increase to \$15.65 per hour. Employers who are subject to the Santa Clara business license tax or who maintain a facility in Santa Clara, will be required to pay each employee who performs at least two hours of work a week in Santa Clara at least \$15.65 an hour. The 2021 minimum wage posters for the workplace will be posted on the City's website by Dec. 7. The City's minimum wage is adjusted annually based on the regional consumer price index. For more information regarding the ordinance, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/minimumwage or email minimumwage@santaclaraca.gov.

CITY COVID-19 UPDATES

The following section includes status updates for events, programs and City services. For additional resources and COVID-19 weekly updates, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CoronavirusUpdates.

Free COVID-19 Testing in Santa Clara: In partnership with the County of Santa Clara Department of Public Health, the City of Santa Clara will host additional appointment-only COVID-19 testing at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road, on Sept. 23 and Sept. 30. The testing site is for people without COVID-19 symptoms. View the [video message](#) from Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor and Councilmember Teresa O'Neill. Make an appointment online at scl.fulgentgenetics.com/appointment/. For more details, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CoronavirusUpdates.



2020 National Night Out Canceled & Save the Date for 2021: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Police Department made the difficult decision to cancel National Night Out that was planned for Oct. 6, 2020. The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department Risk Reduction Order prevents mass gatherings. Meanwhile, it is important for our community and Department to stay connected! The Police Department is brainstorming alternate ways for our staff to engage with residents, businesses, schools, places of worship and community organizations in this new environment. Share your recommendations by emailing police@santaclaraca.gov.



Santa Clara Responds with Second Round of COVID-19 Relief Programs: On Sept. 1, the City Council approved funding for several programs to assist the community during the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. After securing funds from the CARES Act fund of \$1.59 million and allocating an additional \$1.5 million, a total of \$3.1 million of additional investment in local relief

efforts will now go back to support our residents and businesses in Santa Clara. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/SantaClaraResponds for more details on the relief programs.

What to Expect on Your Bill: Due to continued impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council approved on Sept. 1, 2020 even more garbage rate assistance for residents with no garbage rate increase for six months. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/GarbageRates for more details.



CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

Join the Center of What's Possible! Although the City is currently under a hiring freeze, there are some limited exceptions. View job opportunities and for information on how to apply, visit SantaClaraCA.gov/jobs.

RESPONSES TO COUNCIL INQUIRIES

No updates during this period.

LEVI'S STADIUM RELATED UPDATES

Santa Clara Stadium Authority Receives 49ers' Overdue Stadium Rent Payment: On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Santa Clara Stadium Authority received a \$5,502,333 payment from the San Francisco 49ers for facility rent that was overdue for the month of September 2020, along with the rent that is due this month for October 2020.

At closed session on Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Stadium Authority Board had voted unanimously to authorize a claim for arbitration against the San Francisco 49ers to collect unpaid facility rent. This action came after 49ers Chief Financial Officer Scott Sabatino notified the Stadium Authority of his intent to reduce their rent payments by 20%. Only after receiving a Notice of Default and the Board's action did the 49ers pay their rent in full one week later. View the City's [news release](#) for more details.

Levi's Stadium Hosts First Fanless NFL Game: In accordance with State and County Public Health Order guidelines, the San Francisco 49ers hosted a fanless game on Sept. 13 due to continued concerns surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

This globally televised event was the first for our Police Department to provide security for during a pandemic. The safety measures implemented, including limiting points of access, were carefully considered to balance the security of the facility with the impacts to our community, and will be re-evaluated following this experience.

The team continues to work with State and County officials regarding the potential to welcome fans back to Levi's Stadium later this season. The following home games are scheduled through October:

- Sunday, Oct. 4, 5:20 p.m., San Francisco 49ers vs. Philadelphia Eagles
- Sunday, Oct. 11, 1:05 p.m., San Francisco 49ers vs. Miami Dolphins
- Sunday, Oct. 18, 5:20 p.m., San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams

A traffic advisory will be distributed by the Police Department approximately 72-hours prior to each game.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Downtown Precise Plan Community Task Force (DCTF): The next DCTF meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020 from 6 to 8 p.m.** At this meeting, the DCTF will review information on Financial Feasibility and Infrastructure and Public Realm Improvements. The DCTF meetings are open to the public and members of the community will have an opportunity to provide input at the meetings. Details for remote participation will be posted closer to the meeting date on the [website](#).

El Camino Real Specific Plan Open House: The City will host a virtual open house to present the draft El Camino Real Specific Plan to the community. The meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** The El Camino Real is the City's most visible and identifiable commercial corridor. The corridor is envisioned in the City's General Plan to be redeveloped from low-intensity, automobile-oriented uses to a mix of medium and higher density residential and mixed-use development. The El Camino Real Specific Plan provides a vision and detailed guidance on preferred land uses, transportation improvements (including removing on-street parking to accommodate a protected bike lane), and design standards for the corridor over the next 20 to 30 years. To join the Zoom webinar, please [register in advance online](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information.

Bay Area Bike to Wherever Days 2020: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bay Area's Annual Bike to Work Day that is typically held in May has been re-imagined as "Bike to Wherever Days 2020" to promote and celebrate cycling throughout the month of September. There are opportunities to register and win prizes, obtain a free Bike to Wherever Days 2020 messenger bag, and much more. For more information, visit the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's [website](#).



Santa Clara Parade of Champions Goes Virtual on Oct. 10: The Santa Clara Parade of Champions will celebrate virtually for 2020 with America's Heroes as the theme. Also, the Santa Parade of Champions is organizing a citywide porch and front yard decorating contest. Residents, neighborhoods, organizations and businesses may enter the contest. The winners in each of the five categories will win prizes and earn a spot in the virtual Parade of Champions video and website. Content must be received by Saturday, Sept. 26. For more information, visit sccparadeofchampions.org to sign up. The live parade will be streamed at sccparadeofchampions.org on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 at 11 a.m.



Mission City Community Fund Online Auction Fundraiser: Save the date on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. for the first online auction fundraiser hosted by the Mission City Community Fund. All donations and proceeds from the auction will go directly to assist those in need in the community. Visit the Mission City Community Fund website at missioncityfund.org to learn more.

UPCOMING COUNCIL CALENDAR/AGENDA ITEMS

Visit the [Tentative Meeting Agenda Calendar](#) for dates of upcoming Council Study Sessions, Joint Council/Commission meetings, as well as Council Public Hearing and General Business agenda items online at [Legislative Public Meetings](#) on the City's website. While tentative and subject to change, it provides key policy items that the Council/Board will need to dedicate time to deliberate and that may take considerable time during the upcoming meetings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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