# The Cupertino
# SCENE

MARCH 2017

## Power Up
### Clean Energy Is Coming To Cupertino
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## MANAGING THE MESSAGE

The Cupertino community decided long ago that ensuring a sustainable future and creating a healthy place to live, work, and play was important and should be a priority for the City.

That's why the Cupertino City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2015. The plan defines strategies to improve Cupertino's already high quality of life by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as providing energy, water, fuel, and cost savings for the City, its residents, and business owners.

The goal is to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions to 15% below its 2010 baseline by 2020, and see a 49% reduction by 2035.

As a community, we're convinced that global climate change is real, and the City is dedicated to being a better steward of our planet.

Cupertino has proven this by being the first City to take action to establish and join Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), bringing a community choice energy option to Cupertino residents and businesses in April 2017. This will provide cleaner and greener electricity.

However, the City is not alone in this endeavor. This is a regional effort among 10 other South Bay cities and the County of Santa Clara.

To further prove itself as a local leader in the environmental arena, Cupertino enrolled its municipal electricity accounts in SVCE's GreenPrime option. This means that the energy used by City buildings is 100% greenhouse-gas free and from 100% renewable energy sources.

This will go a long way in helping the City meet its target goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan.

Below is a list of other sustainability practices the City has taken on:

**Clean Fleet**: 15% of Cupertino's vehicle fleet is using clean fuels, including two all-electric vehicles and a number of plug-in hybrids.

**Safe Routes to School Program**: This program improves the health and well-being of our children by increasing the number of students who walk or bike to school. It also helps create a safer environment for Cupertino students and families traveling to and from school activities, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Green Business Program**: This award-winning program helps local businesses through green business certification so they can conserve water and energy, reduce pollution and waste, and cut costs.

For more information on the City's sustainability efforts, visit www.cupertino.org/green.

**David Brandt**
City Manager

## CONTENTS

# FEATURES

*Questions or comments about The Scene? Contact staff at scene@cupertino.org.*

# EVERY. MINUTE. COUNTS.

## SEE SOMETHING / SAY SOMETHING

One of the greatest assets of any law enforcement agency is its community members, and that's no different in Cupertino. Residents know their streets and neighbors better than anyone else, making them the best at spotting unusual activity that may be associated with crime. Individuals who immediately report suspicious behavior or observations can help the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office stop and catch criminals. And every minute counts. People have expressed their difficulty in deciding whether or not they should call 911. It's better to be overly suspicious and call in activities that turn out to be nothing than let potential crimes go unreported.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

Below is a short list of activities to report to 911:

**I**. An unusual vehicle or person passing through your neighborhood more than once

**II**. A solicitor without a permit from the City

**III**. Someone going home to home, looking in through windows, or inspecting the backyard

**IV**. People entering a neighbor's house while it is unoccupied

**V**. An unfamiliar car parked on your street with someone inside

**VI**. A slow moving vehicle
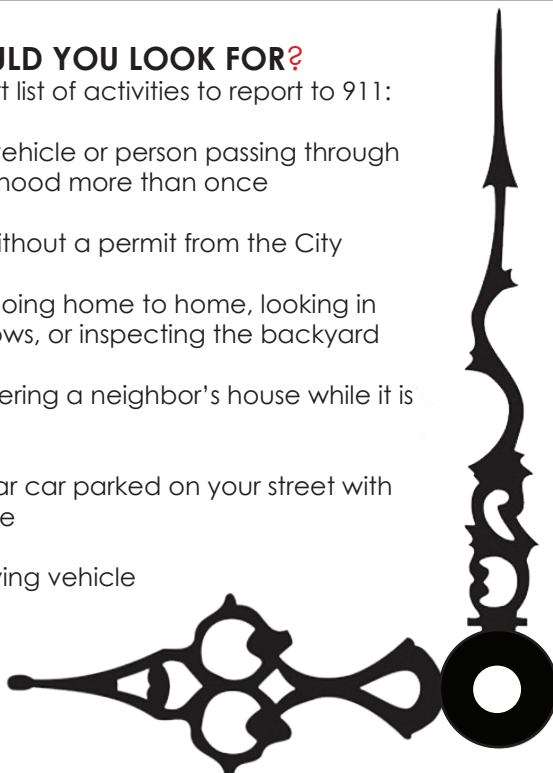
## REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

### BE A GOOD WITNESS

Know your location and the location of the suspicious activity. Addresses and cross streets are very important. Always allow the dispatcher to ask questions before hanging up. Explain what's happening and why the activity is suspicious. Give as much detail as possible.

### SEE A VEHICLE

If there's a vehicle involved, remember the acronym "CLAMMS." The C = color of car, L = license plate number, A = additional distinguishing features (stickers or body damage), M = make (Ford, BMW, Honda), M = model (2-door, 4-door, truck, SUV), S = state of license plate if not from California.

### CALL IT IN

Always report suspicious activity. Call 911 or the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at (408) 299-2311.

# A HISTORY OF THE BIG BUNNY 5K

From The Memoirs of Recreation Coordinator Jeff Ordway

**When did the Big Bunny 5K begin?**
Jeff: The Big Bunny 5K can be traced back to the 1970s when it was started by the Cupertino Jaycees. The Cupertino Jaycees was the local chapter of Junior Chamber International, a non-profit organization of young active citizens who engaged in the community.

The 5K began as a celebration of the start of spring, as well as being a fundraiser and training event for the group. When they were no longer able to produce the Big Bunny 5K, the City of Cupertino took over its management. It has been a staple City event ever since, celebrating our positive, healthy, and connected community.

**Who can participate in the event?**
Jeff: The Big Bunny 5K is for anyone and everyone. People may hear 5K and think it's out of reach for them, but no matter your current fitness level, completing a 5K is both doable and fun.

In past years, we've seen a 104-year-old great grandmother walking with four generations by her side, a newborn being pushed by his mom, and a husband and wife who were starting a weight loss journey together. We want everyone to feel included, accepted, and encouraged to achieve their goals, and there is no better place for that than the Big Bunny 5K.

**Does the 5K support any charities?**
Jeff: Yes! The event supports the work of Charity: Water, a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring clean and safe drinking water to people in developing countries.

663 million people in the world live without clean water. That's twice the population of the United States. The majority live in isolated areas and spend hours every day walking to collect water for their families.

Our work with Charity: Water began as part of the Cupertino Recreation and Community Services 50th anniversary in 2012. The Big Bunny 5K was tasked with marking the celebration in a unique way. Instead of creating a giveaway, we wanted to use our resources to help others.

Proper hydration is one of the most important factors to running a successful 5K. With so many people in the world lacking this basic resource, we wanted water to be our focus. Since 2012, we have been able to raise over $20,000. A full list of the projects we have supported can be found at www.bigbunny5k. com.

**What's the story behind the Fun Run?**
Jeff: The Kids Fun Run was started as an experiment after our team witnessed one 3-year-old's disappointment at the 2009 Big Bunny 5K. Right before the start of the race, we noticed a mom and dad near the starting line comforting their son, who was in tears. He was so disappointed that he could not run like the rest of his family, instead having to sit in a stroller for the race. His parents told him that the 5K was too long, but that he could run around on the grass when they got back.

That scene sparked an idea that led to the Kids Fun Run. We created a kid-sized course around the Library field. Like the adults, kids receive a T-shirt, race bib, and finisher medal, but run a course sized for them. We anticipated 20 kids for the first Kids Fun Run, but had 80 sign-ups. The Kids Fun Run has grown every year and now caps off at 200 young, enthusiastic participants.

**What is your favorite part of the Big Bunny 5K?**
Jeff: For me, the best part of the Big Bunny 5k is when I have a small moment to just watch all of the participants. I love to see the diversity of our community, the community spirit where everyone is cheering for their competitors, and seeing young and old laughing and smiling with each other.

But, most of all, I love the look on someone's face when they realize they just accomplished something they once thought was impossible.

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*The Big Bunny 5K and Kids Fun Run is back on Saturday, April 15 at the Cupertino Civic Center, 10300 Torre Avenue. To register, or for more info, visit* www.bigbunny5k.com.

# Given a Choice

For the first time, residents and businesses in Cupertino will have more than one choice of electricity provider. Silicon Valley Clean Energy, a new non-profit, public agency, will begin serving customers in April 2017. SVCE is chartered to source renewable and 100% carbon-free electricity at competitive prices.
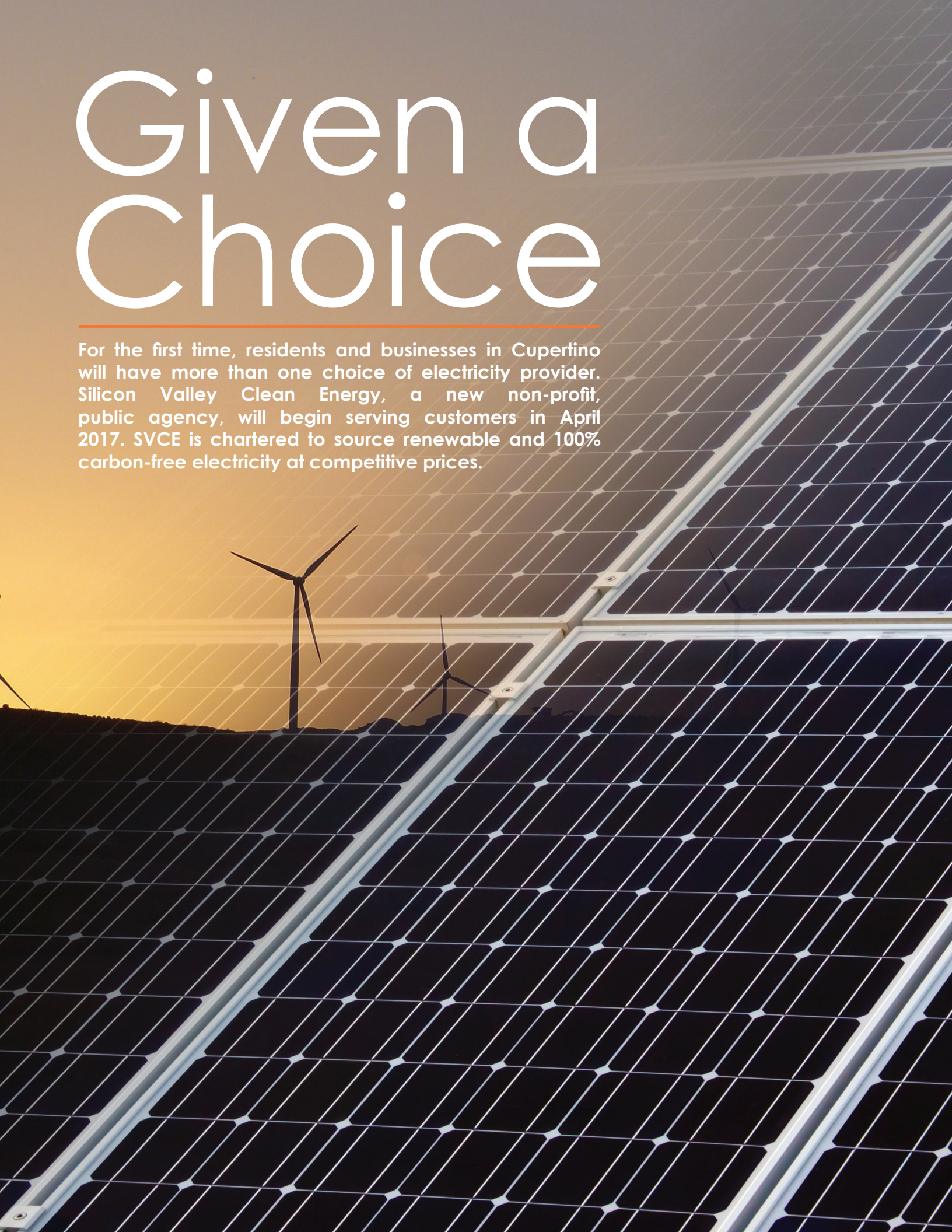
Cupertino residents will now, for the first time, have a choice in their electricity provider. And the environmental and economic impacts will be significant.

When fully operational at the end of this year, Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), a nonprofit public agency, will enable Cupertino to make an immediate and dramatic reduction in community-wide carbon emissions and save money for electricity customers at the same time.



| SOURCE | DELIVERY | CUSTOMER |
|--------|----------|----------|
| ∨ | ∨ | ∨ |
| **SVCE** | **PG&E** | **YOU** |
| buying and building energy supplies | delivering energy, repairing lines, serving customers | benefitting from cleaner energy, local control |

**How does it work?**
SVCE will pool electricity demand across homes and businesses in twelve participating communities. In addition to Cupertino, these include Campbell, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and the County of Santa Clara.

SVCE then buys electricity from renewable and carbon-free energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower.
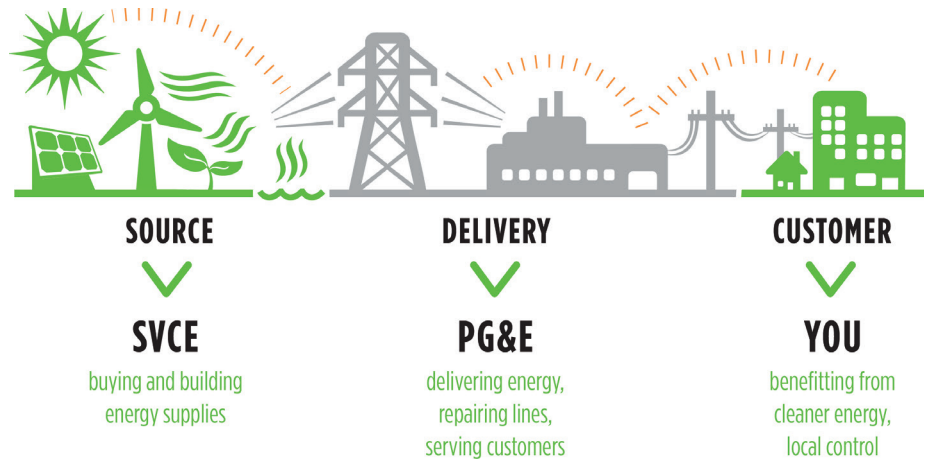
PG&E will continue to be an essential partner. As before, PG&E will deliver the electricity over existing infrastructure, maintain the power lines, sends bills, and provide customer service. (See image above.)

**When does it start?**
Customers in Cupertino, and other participating communities, will be automatically enrolled in SVCE's standard product called GreenStart.

Enrollment will occur over a six-month period in three phases. Postcard notifications were mailed in January to the first set of customers who will receive electricity from SVCE beginning in April.

All customers will receive two notifications before they are enrolled and two notifications after enrollment. If you haven't received a notification in the mail yet, it probably means your address will be enrolled in the second or third phase.

**How much does it cost?**
The approved rates for GreenStart, SVCE's standard program, are 1% less than PG&E's rates for residential and commercial customers.

GreenStart offers 100% carbon-free electricity from 50% renewable sources, such as solar and wind, and 50% from hydroelectric power. In comparison, PG&E's current electric service is approximately 60% carbon-free, including 30% renewable sources. As noted, all customers are automatically enrolled in this service–so you don't have to do anything to get cleaner electricity at a lower cost!

Customers can also upgrade to GreenPrime, SVCE's premium service, offering 100% renewable (and 100% carbon-free) electricity at a rate just $0.008 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) more than GreenStart. For a typical residential customer, this adds up to about $4 to $6 per month to their electric bill.

Customers do have the choice to opt-out and remain with PG&E.

**How about rooftop solar customers?**
Customers with solar at their home or business can take advantage of SVCE's Net Energy Metering (NEM) program. SVCE's NEM program offers full retail value for surplus generation, with credit roll over and monthly billing. When a credit balance exceeds $100 at the end of April each year, the credit is automatically paid to the customer up to $5,000.

**What about customers enrolled in the CARE, FERA or Medical Baseline?**
Customers enrolled in discount rate programs such as CARE, FERA and Medical Baseline will remain in these programs as Silicon Valley Clean Energy customers, and will be provided with the same discount.

**What makes SVCE different?**
Silicon Valley Clean Energy brings choice and competition into the power marketplace where it didn't previously exist.

SVCE is a Community Choice Aggregator, also known locally as Community Choice Energy (CCE). Enabled through state legislation (AB 117) in 2002, communities choosing to participate form a Joint Powers Authority to pool electricity demand, and buy power with the community's interests in mind.

SVCE is locally run, managed by a 12-member Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from each of the participating communities.

2017 marks the beginning of a new clean power future for Cupertino!

**How can I get more information?**
Visit www.SVCleanEnergy.org or call (844) 474-SVCE.

*Sustainability Manager Misty Mersich contributed to this article.*

# Instances of *Rush*
## A Lesson In Slowing Down

Living in Cupertino can be hectic.

No matter how someone spends their day here in the heart of Silicon Valley, there are inevitably instances filled with stress and time constraints on our way to that next "thing." Whether it's making it on time for a board meeting after dropping your child off at school, getting home in time to cook dinner, or simply oversleeping one morning before class … we've all experienced *instances of rush*.

What we may not realize is that our stress, our rush, our refusal to slow down directly affects the environment around us and most often times in a negative way.

One Cupertino resident became the victim of one of these "instances of rush" when she was hit by a car on her way to work. Lopa Bhagat, an Instructional Assistant at Sedgwick Elementary School, was on her regular morning walk toward campus when she was struck in a crosswalk by a vehicle. Lopa, a pedestrian in this situation, was careful to stop the car coming from her left side but did not consider a driver striking her from behind. She was hit, fell to the ground, and was left dazed.

Lopa's story is not unlike many others who choose to traverse part of their day on foot. Our fast-paced community can quickly evolve from exciting to dangerous when we neglect to consider how our hasty commute affects those around us. Experiences like Lopa's are important reminders of life's big picture and that no rush is worth jeopardizing the health and safety of our community.

The City of Cupertino's Safe Routes to School Program hopes that Lopa's story will lead to increased driver awareness for pedestrians' wellbeing.

*Safe Routes to School Community Coordinator Chelsea Biklen contributed to this article.*



## A pedestrian, an accident, and a piece of advice
### Interview with Lopa Bhagat

*SCENE: Can you describe the incident?*

**LOPA: It was a Wednesday around 9 a.m., if I'm not wrong. I had just finished walking across one portion of the crosswalk when I began walking the rest of the "L" shape. I notified the driver to my left but did not think about the driver behind me. I just kept on walking and the next thing I know I got hit. I was just in shock and thought to myself, "What happened here?"**

*SCENE: Were You hurt?*

**LOPA: Luckily I fell with all my body weight on my left side and I didn't hit my head. I was able to get up and sit on the pavement. One of my colleagues took me to the office. The fire department came to take my vitals and I was mostly fine. My elbow was bleeding and my knee was really bad. I cannot kneel down.**

*SCENE: How did the entire experience make you feel?*

**Lopa: I was in so much shock that day. I'm just happy and lucky that I came out with minor injuries; that I didn't hit my head. But I am not crossing at that crosswalk anymore. I cannot cross that crosswalk anymore.**

*SCENE: Do you have anything you'd like to say to school commute drivers?*

**LOPA: Just slow down. And even if you do slow down, pay more attention to people who are walking. Sometimes if there are children, they don't think about it and just go. So be more aware of your surroundings when you are driving around schools and stop for children and pedestrians. You should always stop for them.**

'I WAS IN SO MUCH SHOCK THAT DAY. I'M JUST HAPPY AND LUCKY THAT I CAME OUT WITH MINOR INJURIES.'

# GET IN THE CUPERTI-*know*

## BACK IN STOCK!
**Reusable Produce Bags**
Leave the plastic bags
at the supermarket
***Pick one up at City Hall,
10300 Torre Avenue***
One per family, per visit

## Cupertino Preschool
***Enroll your 3 to 5 year old in the
Tiny Tot or Super Tot programs***
*Encourage your child's social
development through group
activities and play*
**www.cupertino.org/preschool**

## Cherry Blossom Festival
**April 29 & 30, 10 am - 5 pm**
*Memorial Park
10185 N. Stelling Road*
***Free Parking at
DeAnza College***
www.cupertinotoyokawa.org

## "SAVE THE FOOD"
**Join the City of Cupertino**
Help reduce food waste
***40% of food goes to waste
each year in America***
www.savethefood.com

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**English/Mandarin Bilingual Storytime**
*Mondays, March 6, April 3 and May 1, 11:15 a.m.*
*Cupertino Library Story Room*
Join the Cupertino Library for stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft for children ages 2 - 5. Storytime will be conducted in English and Mandarin.

©

**Game Day at the Library**
*Thursday, March 23, 4:00 p.m.*
*Cupertino Library Story Room*
3rd-8th graders! Do you like playing board games and card games? Want to try out some new ones? Join the Cupertino Library for Game Day in the Story Room for an hour of play. We provide the games, you bring the fun.

## PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

**Silicon Valley Reads Teen Writing Workshop with Author Paul Volponi**
*Wednesday, March 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m.*
*Teen Group Study Room (2nd floor – Cupertino Library)*
This interactive workshop will be a unique opportunity for teen writers to ask questions, get feedback and learn from a world-renowned, bestselling author. This program is open to everyone ages 13 to 19. Online registration is required and opens on Wednesday, March 1st at 1:00 p.m.

©

**<Hack> Cupertino**
*Saturday, April 8 - Sunday, April 9*
*Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road*
On April 8 and 9 the Teen Commission together with Cupertino Recreation is hosting <hack> Cupertino, an overnight hackathon designed to solve a problem presented on the day of the event. For registration and updates, please visit cupertino.org/teens.

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY

**Silicon Valley Reads: Trust & Justice A Panel Discussion**
*Sunday, March 12, 2:00 PM*
*Cupertino Community Hall,*
*10300 Torre Avenue*
*Co-sponsored by Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley and League of Women Voters Southwest-Santa Clara Valley*
In this panel discussion, three local police chiefs will discuss how local police departments are using procedural justice to build trust with the community to ensure individuals are being treated fairly and without bias.

©

**IRC Free Citizenship Workshop**
*Wednesday, March 8, 5-8 pm*
*Cupertino Library Story Room*
This workshop is designed to determine if you are eligible to become a U.S. citizen, help you complete and file your citizenship application (N-400) and submit USCIS fee and language waivers, if applicable. Service is first come, first serve. Register by calling (408) 277-0255 ext. 17, 18 or 21 or email sanjoseimmigration@rescue.org.

©

**Big Bunny Fun Run**
*Saturday, April 15, 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*
*Civic Center Plaza, 10300 Torre Ave.*
Show your support for creating a positive, healthy, connected community at the annual Big Bunny 5K. Whether you're a competitive runner, active walker, or just looking for a fun activity to do with your friends and family, anyone can participate in the 5K.

©

**Earth Day and Arbor Festival**
*Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.*
*Civic Center Plaza (Next to the Library)*
Cupertino's Annual Earth Day & Arbor Day Festival is an interactive community event that invites community members of all ages to learn about environmental issues and solutions in a family-friendly, interactive atmosphere.

©

**Cherry Blossom Festival**
*Saturday & Sunday April 29 to 30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
*Memorial Park, 10185 N Stelling Road*
The event offers a wide selection of Japanese food and beverages, entertainment, demonstrations, cultural exhibits, art, crafts and clothing for sale. All-day entertainment takes place in the Amphitheatre.

## SENIOR CENTER

**Events / Socials**
**Lunch with Friends**
*Thursday, March 8 & 22, 11:45 a.m.*
Join the Senior Center for lunch! Pre-registration is required, and a vegetarian option is available when registering. Member fee is $6, senior guests add $5 day pass.
*March 8* – Bacon, Spinach, and Swiss Cheese Bread Pudding, green salad, and dessert.
*March 15* – Beef Stroganoff over egg noodles, green salad, and dessert.

©

**St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and March Birthday Bash**
*Wednesday, March 15, 12 p.m.*
Join us for the Irish tradition of St. Patrick's Day featuring Irish entertainment plus a full meal of corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes, tossed salad, and hot Bushmill sundaes for dessert. Members $12, senior guests add $5 day pass.

©

**Bingo Spring Lunch**
*Friday, March 31, 12 p.m.*
Gear up for an afternoon of bingo and join us for a delicious lunch featuring ribs, coleslaw, potato salad, garlic bread and a scrumptious dessert. Cards are sold separately $4-$7. Lunch for members is $10, senior guests add $5 day pass. Sign up at the front desk, space is limited.

**Classes / Presentations**
**Bridge Coaching**
*Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.*
Join a few of the senior center's experienced bridge players for a coaching session. Coaches will be available on Thursdays from 2-4pm. Prior bridge experience is required.

©

**Age Well Drive Smart**
*Wednesday, March 29, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*
*By the California Highway Patrol*
Topics covered: myths about older drivers, compensating for age-related changes, rules of the road, safe driving tips. Members free, senior guest pay $5 day pass. Please sign up in the lobby.

## Social Services

**Volunteer Nurse –
Blood Pressure Checks**
*Monday, March 13, 27, 1:30-2:30pm*
*Tuesday, March 7, 21, 12:15-1:15pm*

**Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP)**
*Monday, March 13, 27, 1 - 3 p.m.*
Consultation on Medicare and health insurance. Please call (408) 777-3150.

@

**Housing**
*Monday, March 6, 20, -1:30 - 3:30 p.m.*
A list of housing resources and contact information are provided to help you independently search for housing. Make an appointment (408) 777-3150 .

**Senior Adult Legal Aid (SALA)**
*Friday, March 3, 10, 17, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*
Provides free assistance to seniors for basic legal matters in public benefits, long-term care, elder abuse, housing, consumer issues, incapacity planning, probate alternative, and simple wills. Must be 60 or older and live in Santa Clara County. Call (408) 777-3150.

**Drop-in Consultation with Case Manager**
*Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.*
A case manager is available to discuss community resources, benefits, and care options during the drop-in hours and by appointment.

**Caregiver Support Group**
*Thursday, March 9, 3 - 4:30 p.m.*
Provides a safe place for family caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. Join our circle of support.

### Senior Center Travel
**Sunday Brunch with Attitude, $129**
Sunday, March 12

**Monet and Bouquets, $109**
Thursday, March 16

**Take Flight, $108**
Wednesday, March 22

**San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, $59**
Friday, April 7

**From Farm to Table at Pie Ranch, $126**
Thursday, April 13

# COUNCIL ACTIONS │ @

**Cupertino City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

**Present**: All, **Absent**: None

Directed staff t have conference with legal counsel- existing litigation (paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of gov't code section 54956.9). Name of case: Alice Palmer V. City of Cupertino, et al., Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 16 CV301228 (Sinks recused)

@

Gave direction to staff for conference with legal counsel- existing litigation (paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of gov't code section 54956.9); name of case: committee supporting Cupertino citizen's sensible growth initiative, et al. V. City of Cupertino, et al., Santa Clara county superior court case no. 16 cv296322; court of appeal, sixth appellate district, case no. H043940 (Scharf recused)

@

Gave direction to staff for conference with real property negotiators pursuant to government code section 54956.8. Properties: APN 375-21-001, Lawrence expressway at Mitty Avenue and APN 381-19-015, Lawrence expressway at Doyle Road. Agency negotiators: Jaqui Guzman. Negotiating parties: San Jose water company; county roads and airports; city of San Jose. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

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Received Fine Arts Commission presentation of the young artist award to three Cupertino elementary school students

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Received presentation from the fine arts commission of completed 2016 work plan items

@

Approved the December 20 council minutes

@

Adopted Resolution No. 17-001 accepting accounts payable for the period ending November 11, 2016

@

Adopted Resolution No. 17-002 accepting accounts payable for the period ending November 18, 2016

@

Adopted Resolution No. 17-003 accepting accounts payable for the period ending November 23, 2016

@

Accepted Annual Report from July 1, 2015 to

June 30, 2016

@

Approved council committee appointments
Adopted resolution no. 17-004 supporting the prohibition of industrial clear-cut logging in the forests of California

@

Directed staff to send letters of support for SB 1 and AB 1 from the city manager

@

Authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a consultant services agreement for preparation of the citywide parks, open space and recreation master plan for a fee not to exceed $210,000 and authorized a contingency allowance anticipated to be $40,000 and subject to approval of the City Manager

@

1. Authorized the City Manager to execute an amendment to the current janitorial services contract to provide for increased contractor compensation due to the adoption of City's minimum wage ordinance (ordinance no. 2151); and 2. Adopted Resolution No. 17-005 amending approved FY 16/17 operating budget by an additional amount of $35,000 for janitorial services

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Recommended approval to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control of the application for alcohol beverage license for Gogigo, INC (DBA Gogigo Korean BBQ), 10815 n. Wolfe Road, Bldg A Suite A3

@

Authorized the city manager to award and execute a contract with JJR Construction, Inc., in the amount of $233,100 and approved a construction contingency of $11,900, for a total of $235,000

@

Received the Lehigh Cement Plant noise monitoring report and authorized the mayor to send a letter to the County Supervisor and the department of planning requesting a review of the complaints and the hearing, and to characterize the noise from particular points in the facility during normal operations (maintenance period is over); and bring the item back for further discussion

@

Received report from Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) regarding next program

@

Council highlighted the activities of their committees and various community events

# Q&A THE SCENE ANSWERS

*Have questions for staff? Send them to scene@cupertino.org or call (408) 777-3212.*

**Question: What should I do if I notice a clogged storm drain on a street or see pollutants around it?**

*Answer*: Great question! And thank you for paying attention to such an important issue.

The storm drain you see in streets and parking lots were designed to protect the city from flooding during heavy rains by channeling water directly into nearby creeks. That means that any litter, oil, or other material in the street could easily be washed into a nearby drain and ultimately into the creek. The City began installing screens inside storm drains to prevent disposable cups, cigarette butts, and other litter from reaching our creeks

Storm water that flows directly to our local creeks is considered polluted if it contains anything other than rain water. Pollutants include mud, leaves, silt, litter, chlorinated pool and spa water, grease, oil, landscaping material, pesticides, fertilizers, sand, wash water, biodegradable soap, automotive fluids, paint, food waste and more.

To protect fish and wildlife, and maintain a healthy and beautiful community to live in, the City of Cupertino works diligently to prevent litter and pollutants from entering our storm drainage system. Here's how you can help.

Call the City at (408) 777-3354 or (408) 777-3269 or email environmental@cupertino.org if you notice:
• Anyone dumping, sweeping, hosing, or blowing anything into a street or a storm drain inlet.
• Someone overwatering their yard and the excess is reaching the storm drain (water can contain pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, chlorine, and pet waste)
• An unusual smell near a storm drain, or trash or other material blocking or clogging a storm drain
• Damaged drainage grates or litter screens

After hours, call (408) 299-2507 (Santa Clara County Communications will notify the City's on-call staff).

*Cheri Donnelly is the Environmental Programs Manager in Public Works. She is responsible for planning, organizing, and supervising the waste reduction, recycling, and creek and Bay protection programs.*