

NOVEMBER 2020

SCENE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

Flu Season Is Here
Keep Yourself Safe
from Flu During the
COVID-19 Pandemic

PLUS: RAINBOW CROSSWALK FOR **LGBTQ+ INCLUSION** | HOW TO SUPPORT
LOCAL BUSINESSES | **#CUPERTINOCARES HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR**

CITY OF



CUPERTINO

→ TALE OF TWO YEARS

2020 has truly been a tale of two years. It's gone so fast in many ways, and so slow in many others.

And now here we are in November. After Halloween kicks off the holiday season, I always look forward to the feeling of fall and winter.

But we're also in the beginning of the flu season. With the overlay of the pandemic, as well as having to move indoors because of the weather, it's important that we continue to focus on our health.

And if we can learn something from other countries, such as Australia

which had a record low flu season, mitigation measures can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and influenza.

So maintain your regular healthcare appointments, get your flu shot, and continue to be vigilant about handwashing, wearing face coverings, and physical distancing.

This is all so we can safely enjoy Thanksgiving events with our immediate families, create new traditions so we can still see and talk with each other if we are distant, and finally, give thanks for



how fortunate we are to have such a great community of friends, family, and neighbors.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of The Scene.

Deborah Feng
City Manager

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

A New Park on the Way!

City of Cupertino Acquires Lawrence-Mitty Property

The City of Cupertino recently completed the purchase of the Lawrence-Mitty property. The City purchased the property to develop a neighborhood park on the eastern side of Cupertino, as identified in the City's 2020 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. The property consists of approximately 7.8 acres located between Lawrence Expressway, Interstate 280, and Bollinger Road, with the Saratoga Creek Channel running through the site along the western side.

Over a decade of efforts, people in and around Cupertino worked hard to deliver meaningful park space to the east side of the City. The City is deeply grateful to all stakeholders whose dedication achieved this, and we look forward to continue to work positively with entire community to ensure more equitable access to parks.

The County of Santa Clara has owned the Lawrence-Mitty property since 1972 and historically has used the site as a construction staging area. In 2007, the City of Cupertino, in anticipation of one day purchasing the land for a park area, pre-zoned the property as Parks and Open Space via Ordinance No. 07-1998.

The City is purchasing the property from the County of Santa Clara for \$2.69 million. The funds being used for the purchase, as well as for future development of the property, were provided as part of the Development Agreement between the City and Apple for the Apple Park Campus project. Work will begin on a Specific Plan that will be used to guide the development of a park.

Walking on Sunshine

City Council Approves Rainbow Crosswalk to Promote LGBTQ+ Inclusion

On September 15, Council approved the installation of a rainbow-colored crosswalk in Cupertino. The rainbow flag has been a symbol for LGBTQ+ inclusion since 1978, and the first rainbow crosswalk in the United States, located in West Hollywood, was created to celebrate Pride Month in 2012. The City is installing the rainbow crosswalk to say that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is welcome in Cupertino.

After a discussion of various alternatives, Council approved a design similar to one in Traverse City, Michigan (pictured), to be installed on the east side of Finch Avenue across Stevens Creek Boulevard. The design is a rainbow colored strip approximately 12 inches wide installed across the street in advance of the crosswalk.

Additionally, Council unanimously agreed to form a task force to explore further LGBTQ diversity options in the City and provide recommendations and outreach support.

A new crosswalk will start construction soon and be completed by the end of the year, as part of the Stevens Creek Boulevard Protected Bike Lane Project. The rainbow-colored strip will be added upon completion of the crosswalk.



It's More Important Than Ever to Shop and Dine Local!



SHOP. EAT. ENJOY.
LOCAL

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on individuals, families, organizations, and communities around the world. It has had an especially devastating effect on local businesses, which are incredibly vital and unique to our Cupertino community. Some businesses have been forced to temporarily close, and many others have had to pivot and change their operations with a reduced workforce. While it's easy to feel powerless at a time like this, there are actions we can take to support our local businesses and strengthen our community.

- **Shop and Dine at Local Businesses (Safely)** – Many of the items you typically buy are available at local stores and may be more readily available. Buy local and support small business owners, the people who live in your neighborhood and know your name. Online purchases are a great way to support local without leaving the comforts and safety of your home! Many businesses have an option to purchase goods or services through their website, Facebook, via a phone call, or by email. While out in-person, make sure to follow the current State and County Health Orders at sccgov.org/cv19order and check which Cupertino businesses are open at cupertino.org/openforbusiness.
- **Order Ahead for Takeout or Delivery** – Most restaurants offer curbside pickup or delivery options that weren't offered before. Now is the perfect time to order from your favorite restaurant, or to try someplace new! You can also make your

transactions easier and less stressful by placing your order prior to arriving at the business. This will lessen the risk for everyone involved. Credit, debit, contactless cards, and options like Apple Pay or Google Pay are great ways to eliminate touching keypads or handling cash. Plus, these transactions are usually faster, getting you in and out more quickly. You can also purchase gift cards now to use later. This will help bridge the cash-flow gap for local businesses. Buy for a future date night or family night, shopping spree, or lunch with friends!

- **Use Social Media and Share Your Positive Experiences** – Follow, like, share, comment to spread the news of your local businesses to your friends and followers! Write positive reviews of your favorite local businesses each week. Facebook, Google, Yelp, and Nextdoor are all great ways to share your experiences on social media.
- **Be Understanding** – We are all experiencing these challenging and unpredictable times, including local businesses that have had to change their operations and hours of business. Be understanding of these changes. Reach out to the business owners or employees to ask how they are doing, or to simply let them know you support their decisions. It means a lot!

These simple changes can go a long way in helping businesses improve cash flow, keep employees on payroll, or just to feel connected with the Cupertino community.

Info-Teeno: Financial Preparedness

Does your teen know how to manage money? Do they understand credit, and what a credit score is? Do they know how to plan and maintain a budget?

In this webinar series, "Money Management Skills for Teens" presented by KeyPoint Credit Union, teens can learn how to build a good foundation for financial health.

The next session is Sunday, November 15 at 1 p.m. and will focus on understanding credit. Teens will learn about the components used to determine a credit score, why credit matters, how to build good

credit, what your responsibility is, and how to protect your credit.

The final session is Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 1 p.m. and will teach teens how to make good money decisions, and create a well thought out plan. They will learn how to manage money, set goals, and make good decisions to build a strong foundation for their future health.

For more information, and to register, visit cupertino.org/teens.



Give Feedback on **Smoking Policies** to Reduce Secondhand Smoke

Tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death and disease in California, causing nearly 40,000 deaths in California every year. In Santa Clara County, one in eight deaths annually is attributed to smoking-related illness or diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory diseases. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and the California Air Resources Board has classified secondhand smoke as a toxic air contaminant.

Based on City Council direction at the September 15, study session, the City is considering the following policies in order to reduce secondhand smoke in Cupertino:

1. **Smoke-free multi-unit housing** (defined as two or more attached residences that share a wall, floor, or ceiling, which could include apartments, condominiums, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, attached single-family homes, etc.)
2. **Smoke-free entryways** around the entrances of all locations where smoking is prohibited, including businesses, offices, grocery stores, restaurants, bars, places of worship, etc.
3. **Smoke-free public events**, such as farmers' markets and street fairs
4. **Smoke-free service areas**, such as ATMs, store lines, bus stops or shelters
5. **Smoke-free outdoor worksites**, such as construction sites

These policies would demonstrate the City's commitment to protecting the health of its residents and would improve the City's performance on the County's Healthy Cities Initiative and the American Lung Association's State of Tobacco Control grade. The City is interested in gathering feedback by conducting a virtual community meeting on **Tuesday, November 10 at 11 a.m.** and administering an online survey available at opentownhall.com/9800 until Monday, November 23. To register for the community teleconference meeting and for more information, please visit the Cupertino Smoking policies webpage at cupertino.org/smoking.

A Calming Approach to Traffic Concerns

Speeding and cut-through traffic on Cupertino's residential roads can adversely impact neighborhoods and decrease the quality of life for residents. These conditions can create an unsafe environment for bicyclists and pedestrians who frequent local destinations such as schools and parks.

The City of Cupertino has recently begun addressing neighborhood traffic issues and traffic safety through a community-based Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) commonly referred to as Traffic Calming. Traffic Calming is a form of managing traffic through a combination of physical roadway features that may alter driver behavior, improve conditions for non-motorized street users, and reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program aims to establish a consistent set of guidelines to provide residents and property owners with a means to obtain relief from traffic-related concerns, namely speeding vehicles and cut-through traffic on their residential street. This is accomplished through a multi-step process involving an initial petition, a traffic survey, neighborhood meetings, a postcard survey, and the possible installation of Traffic Calming measures.

For more information, and to review the guidelines and fill out the petition form, visit cupertino.org/ntcp.

Get Ready for Rain and Prepare for Floods

As we have seen from the recent California wildfires, an extreme dry season can create hazardous conditions. The same can be said for an exceptionally wet season, which can cause flooding to creeks, ditches and even to neighborhood streets and properties. As we begin this year's rainy season and with much of the community sheltering-in-place, residents should remain cognizant of any potential flood risks surrounding their property and be prepared for flooding possibilities, especially those who reside in a FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

The following tips will help you plan, prepare, and protect your family and home:

The following property protection advice and assistance services are provided by the City of Cupertino to further help residents prepare for potential flooding:

- Know your flood risk: Visit floodsmart.gov or valleywater.org/floodready.
- Do you need flood insurance? There is a mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement if you live in a FEMA designated SFHA and have a federally insured mortgage. For property owners who currently possess flood insurance, be sure to inventory and photograph your home's contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place. Even if you don't live in an SFHA, you can get extra protection by purchasing flood insurance. To find a local agent call 1 (800) 427-4661.
- Protect your home from flood threats: Valley Water offers free filled sandbags. Check valleywater.org/floodready for locations.
- Build responsibly in floodplains: Construction within SFHA zones has special requirements. Physical alterations to buildings can be made to reduce risks and flood insurance premiums, such as elevating a structure.
- Keep creeks clean and flowing: Healthy, flowing creeks reduce flood risks by carrying storm water away from homes. Report blockages and dumping in creeks to Valley Water at (408) 630-2378 or 1(888) 510-5151 anytime.
- Turn around, don't drown: Avoid floodwaters.
- Make a family emergency plan and a 3-day emergency kit: Agree on a meeting spot and plan a safe route to higher ground. Put an emergency kit with tools and supplies, non-perishable food and water.
- Download disaster and emergency apps: Download Santa Clara County's emergency preparedness app "ReadySCC" and the Red Cross Flood app on your smartphone.
- Contact the Cupertino Public Works Department at (408) 777-3354 to check whether your house is in or out of a FEMA designated SFHA, to get assistance with onsite flooding and drainage issues or to schedule a site visit.
- City staff can provide FIRM information, a handout on the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement, and maps showing floodways, problems not shown on the FIRM, and historical flood information.
- City staff possess elevation certificates for many buildings located in the floodplain and may have one on file for your property.
- Visit the City Maintenance Yard located at 10555 Mary Avenue to self-fill free empty bags and loose sand. Make sure to bring a shovel, just in case.
- Contact the Cupertino Public Works Floodplain Manager at (408) 777-3354 to ensure compliance with special requirements.
- Contact the Cupertino Building Department at (408) 777-3228 to get a permit before you build. Checkout "What You Should Know Before You Hire a Contractor", which is available to download at cslb.ca.gov/About_Us/Library/Guides_And_Publications.
- It is illegal to dump anything into a creek or a storm drain in the City of Cupertino. Residents can report dumping incidents to the City by calling (408) 777-3269 during business hours and 911 after hours and on weekends.
- Additional information on flood preparedness is available on the Cupertino website at cupertino.org/emergency.



How we can work together to protect Cupertino from flooding:

- The City's storm drainage system is composed of street gutters, the storm drain inlets, and the pipes that connect the inlets to local creeks. This system drains street runoff into the creeks and channels on the valley floor.
- Residents can assist the City and help protect immediate neighborhood from localized flooding by sweeping gutters regularly, placing swept material in the garbage, and checking that nearby storm drain grates are not covered with leaves or litter. Residents should abide by street sweeping and no parking signs to allow the City to keep the gutters clean and the storm drain system flowing.
- In the fall, before the rains start, City maintenance crews vacuum out City storm drain inlets, and check for any evidence of hazardous materials in the drains. This cleaning prevents any illegally dumped materials that may be sitting in the inlets from washing into our creeks with the first rains.



What Should You Do if You See a Mountain Lion?

The open space areas around Cupertino support mountain lions, also known as cougars or pumas. These cats are generally secretive and avoid people, but it is possible you may see one while visiting these areas. These large cats can travel 10 to 12 miles a day and may occasionally pass through neighborhoods near open space areas as they move from one part of their range to another.

To stay safe in mountain lion areas:

- Do not hike or jog alone
- Avoid using trails between dusk and dawn (the time when mountain lions are most active)
- Keep children and pets close to you while hiking

If you do encounter a mountain lion:

- Do not run
- Make eye contact and slowly back away
- Try to appear as large as possible by raising your arms or stretching out your jacket
- Pick up children without bending over or crouching
- Make loud noises and throw objects
- Fight back if attacked
- If a mountain lion poses an immediate threat, call 9-1-1



FLU
SEASON
AHEAD

Protect Yourself and Your Family This Flu Season

While seasonal influenza (flu) viruses are detected year-round, they are most common during the fall and winter.

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness that infects the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu is different from a cold, as it usually comes on suddenly. People who have flu often feel symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, head and body aches, and fatigue. Anyone can get flu, and serious problems can happen at any age, but people at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications include those 65 years and older, those with chronic medical conditions, pregnant people, and children younger than five years. Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes, similarly to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses like flu is essential. This fall it's more important than ever, not only to reduce your risk from flu, but also to help conserve healthcare resources that may be scarce. This will reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses in the community,

which lessens the burden on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flu and COVID-19 are both respiratory illnesses, though they are caused by different viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. It's also possible to have both at the same time.

To prevent the spread of flu, keep physically distant from others, cover your mouth and nose, and continue to wash your hands. The single best thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from flu is by getting a flu vaccine, which reduces the risk of getting sick with the flu, hospitalization, or death. Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone six months of age and older.

Free flu shots are available every Saturday through mid-December at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The car entrance for general parking is Gate D, 2542 Monterey Road, and pedestrian entrance and disabled parking is Gate B, 344 Tully Road. No appointment is needed, all are welcome regardless of immigration status. For more information, visit sccphd.org/flu.

To read more about flu, visit flu.gov.

Shine **BRIGHT** Cupertino

The holidays will soon be upon us, and the City of Cupertino wants Cupertino to shine bright throughout the month of December! The City is calling on you to decorate your house or yard with extravagant holiday spirit.

To include your home on the Cupertino holiday light map, email your address to cupertinocares@cupertino.org before November 30. This map will guide residents through the neighborhoods of Cupertino as families have a wonderful time driving around looking at the festive decorations.

With your help, we can make December the brightest month of the year!



Holiday Events



Zoom with Santa

December 4 to 5 and 18 to 19, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
\$10 Residents / \$12 Non-Residents

This year Santa visits will look a little different but feel just as special. Instead of face to face visits, Santa will be coming to you live from the North Pole. Register for a Zoom call and get the chance to chat with Santa...virtually.

After registering, we will have a staff member contact you to collect information about the children that will be on the call. We want to ensure that this will be a call they won't forget!

To book a Zoom call with Santa, visit bit.ly/zoomwithsanta.



Deck the Doors

"Deck the doors" with boughs of holly.... Fa la la la la, la la la la...

#CupertinoCares is hosting a door decorating contest, and we want you to participate. How festive can you make the front door to your home or an inside door in your office? Any door will do. We aren't picky!

Send a photo of your decked out holiday door to cupertinocares@cupertino.org by December 16. Doors will be judged on creativity and holiday spirit. Gift cards will be sent to the winners and will be announced on Friday, December 18.

...'Tis the season to be jolly. Fa la la la la, la la la la.



The Santa Stop

December 11 to 12, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 13, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5 Residents / \$6 Non-Residents

Santa is coming to Cupertino! For one weekend he's leaving his post at the North Pole to greet Cupertino families from a safe distance. Participants will get to say hello to Santa as they drive-through the Quinlan Community Center's parking lot. Santa letters are encouraged!

Drive-through sessions, set in specific 30-minute time slots between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. December 11 to 12 and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on December 13. To do a drive-through, a ticket must be purchased in advance. All registrants will receive candy canes and an ornament to help spread holiday cheer!

To purchase a ticket, visit bit.ly/thesantastop.



CUPERTINO



Parks and Recreation *Fall* Recreation Activities

Toddler, Youth, Teen, Adult, Adult 50+, Virtual, In-Person, Sports, STEM, Education, Art, E-Sports, Nature, and Much More.

Find an activity today!
cupertino.org/recschedule



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

City Directory

City of Cupertino

| Department | Phone / Email |
|---------------------------|--|
| Building Department..... | (408) 777-3228 Building@Cupertino.org |
| Business License..... | (408) 777-3221 BL@Cupertino.org |
| City Clerk..... | (408) 777-3223 CityClerk@Cupertino.org |
| City Manager | (408) 777-3212 Manager@Cupertino.org |
| Code Enforcement..... | (408) 777-3182 Code@Cupertino.org |
| Planning Department | (408) 777-3308 Planning@Cupertino.org |
| Recreation | (408) 777-3120 Recreation@Cupertino.org |
| Senior Center..... | (408) 777-3150 SeniorCntr@Cupertino.org |
| Sports Center..... | (408) 777-3160 Recreation@Cupertino.org |
| Street Light Maint. | (408) 777-3342 StreetDivision@Cupertino.org |
| Street Sweeping | (408) 777-3269 Public_Works@Cupertino.org |
| Tree Maint. | (408) 777-3410 Public_Works@Cupertino.org |

Other Organizations

| Organization | Phone Number |
|--|----------------|
| Animal Control | (408) 794-7297 |
| California Water Service..... | (650) 917-0152 |
| Chamber of Commerce | (408) 252-7054 |
| Comcast | (800) 945-2288 |
| Cupertino Library..... | (408) 446-1667 |
| Cupertino Union School District | (408) 252-3000 |
| Fremont Union High School District | (408) 522-2200 |
| Hazardous Waste Drop-off..... | (408) 299-7300 |
| PG&E..... | (800) 743-5000 |
| Project Sentinel (Landlord/Tenant Issues)..... | (408) 720-9888 |
| Recology (Garbage & Recycling) | (408) 725-4020 |
| San Jose Water Company | (408) 279-7900 |
| Santa Clara Registrar of Voters..... | (408) 299-6863 |
| VTA (Transportation Authority) | (408) 321-2300 |
| Vector Control, Santa Clara County | (408) 918-4770 |

First Responders

Emergency Calls..... 911 or (408) 299-3233
 (Police, Fire, Medical)

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office..... (408) 299-2311
 (Non-Emergency)

Santa Clara County Fire Department

Need to report an issue or have a City-related question?
 Visit: cupertino.org/cupertino311 or call (408) 777-3200.



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