

NOVEMBER 2021

SCENE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

Ready to Ride?
Via-Cupertino is
on the Road Again



PLUS: VACCINE BOOSTER ELIGIBILITY | ENVIRONMENTAL RECYCLING DAY IS BACK
| PREPARE FOR FLOOD SEASON



CUPERTINO

The Winter Recreation Schedule Is Here!

See what winter activities the City has planned at cupertino.org/recreation.



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

Riding Through Cupertino in Style with Via

The highly-anticipated Via-Cupertino Shuttle is officially back in service!



Use this on-demand community shuttle to go anywhere in Cupertino, and even select locations in the broader Silicon Valley such as the Sunnyvale Caltrain station, Kaiser Santa Clara, and Rancho San Antonio. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

How to Use:

Via-Cupertino is easy to use, and there are multiple ways to set up your account and call your ride.

Download the app by searching "Via" in the App Store or Google Play. Look for the blue app icon, create an account, and start riding!

If you don't have a smart phone, you can also call Via customer service to set up an account and request rides by calling (669) 201-1892.

Fares and Discounts:

Via-Cupertino offers competitive prices to get you to your destination.

Standard Fares	Discounted Fares
One-way Fare: \$4	Discounted One-way: \$2
Weekly Pass: \$25	Discounted Weekly: \$14
Monthly Pass: \$75	Discounted Monthly: \$42

Weekly and Monthly Passes get four rides per day. Additional riders will add \$1 to the fare and must be

booked ahead of time. A driver will not pickup a guest without a reservation.

To obtain a discounted fare, email the required documents, along with your full name and phone number, to viashuttle@cupertino.org. Required documents for each discount are listed below:

- Senior Discount: Photo ID showing an age 65+
- Student Discount: Valid photo student ID
- Low Income Discount: Cal Fresh, Medicare or Medicaid card
- Disabled Discount: Valid disabled placard and registration card

More Features:

- Two vans are wheelchair accessible, and vans will come directly to disabled riders
- Bike racks on all vans for cyclists
- COVID-19 safety protocols in place for drivers and riders to ensure safety of the whole community

Join an upcoming informational presentation to learn more about the service, ask any questions, and get help setting up your account. The event will be Wednesday, November 17 at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center, 21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard.

For more information, visit cupertino.org/shuttle.

Pizza and Politics Receives Prestigious Helen Putnam Award

The cities of Cupertino, Saratoga, and Campbell are honored to announce that they have received a prestigious Helen Putnam Award from the League of California Cities for the “Pizza and Politics” political forum for teens.

The program, implemented in 2012, is facilitated during election years (2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020), and is typically a live televised event. The event was created by teens and for teens, encouraging their engagement and understanding of the civic process.

The forums have included debates from candidates competing for positions in the local school districts, city councils, California State Assembly Districts 28, as well as regional Democratic and Republican representatives speaking on behalf of presidential candidates. All events have had very strong attendance with more than 125 audience members during live events and 500-plus views from live event and on-demand recordings.

The goals of the event are to expose youth and teens to an official political forum in which they would be able to take a participatory role, as well as create awareness to the current election topics at-hand, which would allow teens to take an active role in civic engagement and prepare themselves to become informed citizens when they reached legal voting age.

The cities of Cupertino, Saratoga, and Campbell thank the League of California Cities for recognizing the collaboration between our cities to help inform our youth.



COVID-19 Vaccines: What to Know about Boosters

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe COVID-19 illness and death. Hundreds of millions of people have now received these safe and effective vaccines. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department strongly recommends that anyone aged 12 and above get vaccinated now.

COVID-19 Pfizer booster shots offer additional security for those who are at high risk for complications from COVID-19 due to age or pre-existing conditions.

Did you receive two doses of the Pfizer vaccine and want a booster?

Pfizer boosters are now available in Santa Clara County for those eligible. Boosters offer additional security for those who are at high risk for complications from COVID-19 due to age or pre-existing conditions.

Make an appointment for your booster at sccfreevax.org.

People eligible for a Pfizer booster:

- People 65 years and older
- Residents of long-term care facilities
- People ages 18-64 with an underlying medical condition (people over 50 with an underlying medical condition are strongly encouraged to get a booster shot)
- People ages 18-64 at risk of COVID-19 exposure because of occupational or institutional setting

At this time, boosters are available only to those who received their second Pfizer dose at least six months ago.

If you are 18-64 years old, ask yourself:

- Do you have an underlying condition that puts you at serious risk of COVID-19 complications?
- Do you work in a setting such as health care that puts you at a greater risk for exposure to COVID-19?
- Do you live in a congregate setting that puts you at greater risk for exposure to COVID-19?
- Do you live with someone who is at high risk for serious COVID-19 disease?

When arriving at the appointment, expect the following:

- Provide proof of the received two previous Pfizer doses (vaccination card)
- May be asked to show proof of identification
- May be asked to sign an attestation form indicating the criteria to receive the booster shot is met



Pre-Approved ADU Program Expected to Bring Affordable Housing to Cupertino

The City of Cupertino is pleased to announce the implementation of a Pre-Approved Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program, which is expected to bring much-needed affordable housing to Cupertino. The program, created at the direction of the Cupertino City Council, provides for a streamlined process that saves applicants time, and potentially money.

The City is currently on track to double its permitted ADUs compared to last year, even before the pre-approved ADUs program was implemented. The City has also exceeded its projected number of ADUs by more than 250%. This follows the City's actions in 2018 to slash its permit fees by upwards of 75% down to less than \$2,000. In addition, the City has flexible ADU standards that allow ADUs in all single-family and residential hillside districts, with less required setback than required by state law and minimal parking requirements.

Accessory Dwelling Units Permitted by Year and Type

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Attached/Conversion	0	1	11	9	10	8	12	18
Detached	8	4	7	3	5	7	8	7
Total	8	5	18	12	15	15	20	25

**Numbers reflect only half of 2021*

In addition, the City's Housing Element encourages the increased supply of ADUs to provide affordable housing opportunities that meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). To implement this General Plan policy, the City has worked to incentivize the production of ADUs. As part of these efforts, the City has reduced building permit and impact fees and adopted modifications to development standards.

For more information on the pre-approved ADU plans, visit cupertino.org/aduplans.

The City Wants to Hear from You about Cupertino's Housing Element Update Process

On October 5, the Cupertino City Council directed staff to provide a robust public outreach effort as part of its Housing Element update. Outreach will include more than a dozen community and public meetings, as well as online engagement to help obtain input from the public. The City is currently preparing for the Sixth Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and Housing Element update, which covers the 2023 - 2031 planning period. The Housing Element is part of Cupertino's General Plan and identifies policies and programs to meet the housing needs of the City's current and future residents at all income levels. State

law requires that every city and county in California adopt a Housing Element approximately every eight years to reflect the RHNA for each jurisdiction.

The City anticipates that it will be required to plan for the development of more than 4,500 housing units during the upcoming eight-year cycle, which is a 331% increase from the last cycle. The City must complete its Housing Element update by January 2023.

More information can be found currently at cupertino.org/housingelement with online engagement to be held in the future at engagecupertino.org.

Food Waste in the Organics Cart



The holidays are a great time to start separating your plate scrapings, peels, pizza crusts, and all other food scraps to get them into your organics cart. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans waste 25 percent more food than the rest of the year. Millions of pounds of uneaten turkey, gravy, beans, and potatoes end up in the landfill.

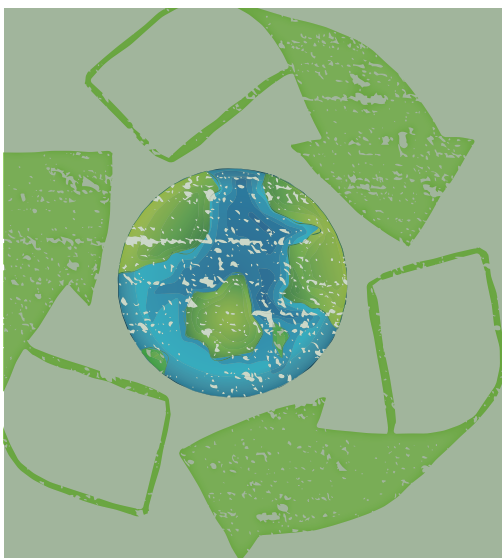
Since 2010, residents of Cupertino have been encouraged to add food waste and food soiled paper to their curbside organics cart to be turned into compost. If you haven't been doing that already, now is the perfect time to start!

Starting January 1, 2022, residents and businesses must put all food waste and food soiled paper in their green organics waste cart or bin instead of the trash. This is part of California's new Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, which was designed to reduce methane pollution from food waste and other organic materials ending up in the landfill.

It can be easy to collect your food waste with these tips:

1. Request a free kitchen collection container at cupertino.org/foodscraps
2. Line your kitchen collection container with a BPI certified compostable plastic bag or a paper bag.
3. Empty your container often.
4. Some people freeze their scraps until pick-up day, which helps prevent rotting, keeping your bin cleaner.
5. Remove food from containers and other packaging unless it is paper packaging. Pizza boxes, paper to-go boxes, Chinese food paper boxes are all okay to put in your cart. No glass or plastic!
6. Adding collected food waste to your cart after there are yard trimmings already in the cart will help keep it cleaner.
7. If you have tips that are working for you, let us know! Email environmental@cupertino.org.

Questions about sorting your waste? Visit cupertino.org/foodscraps.



Environmental Recycling Day is Back!

Saturday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to Noon

Drive through and unload your yard waste, construction debris, electronic waste, or paper for shredding at De Anza College Parking Lot A, 21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard. Rain or shine, the event will take place on Saturday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to noon.

No appointment necessary, free to any Cupertino resident!

For more information on accepted items, visit cupertino.org/environmentalday.

Ready, Set, Go: Be Prepared for Wildfires

Cupertino is in a very high fire hazard severity zone, and it is vital for residents to be prepared for wildfires.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department's Ready, Set, Go program walks you through the steps you should take to ensure your home and family's safety.

READY

- Create a three-zone defensible space by removing dead plants, grass, and weeds from your property
- Harden your home by using ember-resistant materials on your roof, windows, and deck

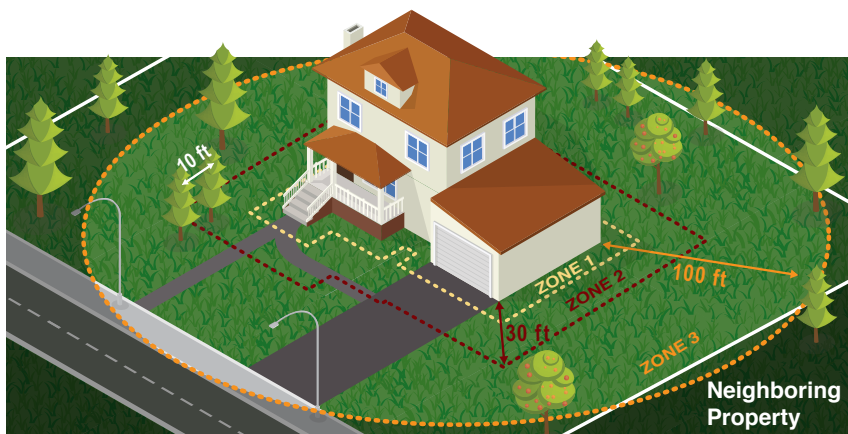
SET

- Have a wildfire action plan for your family, including exit routes, meeting locations, and a communications plan
- Prepare an emergency kit with essential items to grab and go when needed

GO

- Be ready, take action, and leave early for the best chance of surviving a wildfire
- If you get trapped inside your home, keep your family together and call 911 as soon as possible while keeping doors and windows closed and unlocked

View more details and instructions from the Santa Clara County Fire Department at sccfd.org/rsg.



Cupertino to Receive Approximately \$1 Million For Wildfire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness

The City of Cupertino is pleased to announce that it will receive approximately \$1 million for wildfire protection and mitigation as well as small business resiliency.

On Saturday, September 18, California State Representatives announced a multimillion-dollar budget investment in wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness for communities in the West Valley. In total, the West Valley will receive \$7 million for wildfire prevention and emergency services.

The City of Cupertino, in partnership with other West Valley cities, is prioritizing wildfire prevention and mitigation. Should a wildfire or any type of disaster occur, Cupertino will have the capability to coordinate a regional response.

The City also values its small businesses. The City will launch a business continuity and resilience program to provide resiliency improvements and technical assistance. This funding will help small business withstand any emergency and stay in operation in Cupertino.

BE PREPARED 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 still working remotely, 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 to plan, prepare, and protect your family and home:

- Know your flood risk: Visit floodsmart.gov and/or valleywater.org/floodready.
- Get flood insurance ahead of time: 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 www.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 properties and roads. 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 together 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.

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

- 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 and/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 some buildings located in the floodplain and may have one on file for your property.
- Visit the self-serve sandbag station just outside the City Maintenance Yard parking lot located at 10555 Mary Avenue to obtain free pre-filled sandbags.
- 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.



Cupertino 2022 Minimum Wage Increase

Cupertino's minimum wage will increase to **\$16.40 per hour beginning January 1, 2022.**

Employees:

- Covered employees include anyone who performs two hours or more of work per week in Cupertino.
- Covered employees are entitled to these rights regardless of immigration status.

Employers:

- Post official notice in the workplace informing employees of the rate increase and their rights.
- Must document all hours worked and keep records for four years.
- Retaliation against employees exercising their rights is unlawful.

For more information and resources, please visit cupertino.org/wagewatch.

How we can work together to protect Cupertino from flooding:

- The city's storm drainage system is composed of street gutters, storm drain inlets, and 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 your 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/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.

Holiday Events



Holiday Light Tour

The holidays are quickly approaching, and the City of Cupertino is calling on you and your holiday spirit! Decorate your house or yard for the Cupertino Holiday Light Map that will guide families as they drive around our neighborhoods taking in the festive decorations.

To include your home on the Cupertino Holiday Light Map, submit your information at bit.ly/lightmap2021 by 5 p.m. on Friday, November 12.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Quinlan Community Center

You and your family are invited to Breakfast with Santa! The elves will be cooking up some of delicious North Pole Pancakes and providing fun holiday crafts for kids. Pictures with Santa stage and event layout will be adjusted to allow physical distancing.

Register at bit.ly/3BiGmG6.



Signing with Santa

Saturday, December 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Quinlan Community Center

Deaf and hard of hearing children, along with their families, are invited to spend time and share their wish list with a Santa who's fluent in sign language.

Register at bit.ly/3BgEmxX.



Santa Visits

December 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19

Santa and his elf have decided to take a break from the North Pole and visit the beautiful City of Cupertino – this special opportunity is sure to be a treasured family memory.

Registration must be done in-person at the Quinlan Community Center. For more information on Santa Visits, please call (408) 777-3120.



Tree Lighting

Friday, December 3 at 6 p.m.
Quinlan Community Center

Ring in the holiday season with the City of Cupertino as we light up the community tree! Tree Lighting is an outdoor event and may be canceled due to weather. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required.

Register at bit.ly/treelighting21.

These events are subject to change based on local, state, and federal direction related to COVID-19.



Cupertino Senior Center

21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard
Phone: (408) 777-3150
Email: senior_center@cupertino.org
Website: cupertino.org/senior

Current Hours

The Cupertino Senior Center is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for classes and front desk assistance. The front desk is available to assist with in-person registration, membership, and general questions.

It's Easy To Become An Adult 50+ Member

- Be at least 50 years or better
- Register for membership (available at the Senior Center or online)
- Cupertino resident price \$25. Non-Cupertino resident price \$30.

Each membership includes access to Adult 50+ programs, services, classes, socials, and mailing of the newsletter.

Adult 50+ Gift Cards

Looking for a gift for a friend or family member ages 50 and better? Give a gift card to be used for membership, classes, and more. Gift cards are available for purchase at the Cupertino Senior Center front desk.



Adult 50+ Activities

See Cupertino Senior Center activities and classes in the most recent newsletter at cupertino.org/senior.

The City would like to know how much you know about the resources available to seniors in Cupertino.

There are a variety of organizations and programs in and around Cupertino that help address the needs of seniors relating to technology, housing, food supply, transportation, and mental and physical health and well-being, and the City wants to know what resources you know and don't know about.

Take our senior resources assessment survey at engagecupertino.org/seniorresources.

Thank you for helping the City assess what resources the senior population in Cupertino is aware of and uses most frequently.



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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 Agencies

Organization	Phone Number
Animal Control	(408) 794-7297
AT&T	(800) 331-0500
California Water Service.....	(650) 917-0152
Chamber of Commerce	(408) 252-7054
Comcast	(800) 945-2288
Cupertino Library.....	(408) 540-3947
Cupertino Sanitary District:	(408) 253-7071
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.....	(408) 378-4010 (Non-Emergency)

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



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