



The Cupertino

# SCENE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

OCTOBER 2017

## CUPERTINO 311

.....  
Cupertino is proud to provide residents with improved access to reporting issues throughout our community

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**PLUS**  
+

**IMPROVEMENTS  
COMING TO  
CUPERTINO**

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**RECEIVE REBATE  
FOR REUSING  
YOUR WATER**

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**GET IN THE  
CUPERTI-KNOW  
THIS OCTOBER**

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# HIDDEN TREASURES

Collecting August 1 - October 13

Please donate your gently used jewelry, craft items, and knick-knacks to our Hidden Treasures fund raising event scheduled for Thursday, October 26. We will start collecting these items in August. The proceeds will benefit our Case Management Program for at-risk seniors and the Stay Active Fund to provide assistance and offset the cost for senior center membership and classes. Thank you for your continued support.

## Accepting

Antiques • Artwork • Baskets • Craft Supplies • Dolls  
Fine Clothing • Fine China • Fine & Costume Jewelry  
Frames • Glassware/Crystal • Hand Knits  
Kitchenwares/Housewares • Knick Knack • Purses/Shawls  
Seasonal/Holiday Décor • Toys



## NOT Accepting



Art Paint Supplies • Chemicals or hazardous waste  
Computers • Electronics - Clocks, Radios, Games  
Exercise Equipment • Fictional Hard Back Books  
Furniture • Large Items/Appliances  
Musical Instruments • Patio Furniture • Shoes

If donating an item not on this list, please ask a staff member

MAKE DONATIONS AT SENIOR CENTER FRONT DESK

Cupertino Senior Center  
21251 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino, CA 95014  
Phone: (408) 777-3150 | [www.cupertino.org/senior](http://www.cupertino.org/senior)





## ➔ MANAGING THE MESSAGE

I've heard it said that you can never truly be ready for an emergency. There's just too much unpredictability when it comes to natural disasters like earthquakes, disease outbreaks, fires, and flooding.

But that doesn't mean you don't try.

Local governments are primarily focused on meeting the community's immediate needs. It may be a pothole that needs to be paved over, a city tree that needs to be trimmed, or trash that has to be picked up. These requests can be submitted through the City's "Cupertino 311" service-request system. (Learn more on Pages 6-7.)

Although these are important qual-

ity-of-life issues, the City of Cupertino believes that it owes its residents the assurance that the City is prepared for any future disasters. In truth, it's not "if" any of these potential disasters will happen, but "when."

The City of Cupertino is lucky enough to have its own Office of Emergency Services. This division is tasked with overseeing the City's Citizens Corps Program, keeping in contact with other emergency providers, and ensuring the City is prepared to respond to an emergency both big and small.

When the severe heatwave hit the Bay Area a few weeks back, our emergency services team, and particularly Citizen Corps Coordinator Ken Ericksen, assessed our residents' needs due to the extremely hot weather conditions. They coordinated the opening of City facilities as cooling centers that would have otherwise been unavailable to those needing a respite from the heat.

It is dedicated, knowledgeable,

and compassionate employees like Ken who ensure that our residents are cared for during times of need.

The City is in the process of hiring a full-time Emergency Services Coordinator. This person will add another layer of coordination and communication internally among the City, public, and outside emergency service providers.

I also want to take this time to thank all of our volunteers who take part in our Citizen Corps, which includes Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES), Cupertino Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Medical Reserve Corps.

They do a wonderful service for our community and ask for nothing in return. If you would like to join them, visit [www.cupertino.org/volunteer](http://www.cupertino.org/volunteer).

**David Brandt**  
City Manager

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*Questions or comments about The Scene? Contact staff at [scene@cupertino.org](mailto:scene@cupertino.org).*

# ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY

## CITY HALL TURF REDUCTION

**Where:** Cupertino City Hall, 10300 Torre Avenue  
**Status:** Plantings complete

The purpose of this project was to replace the grass turf at Cupertino City Hall with drought-tolerant plants. Conventional turf requires regular watering throughout the year and especially during the warm, dry summer months. Having less grass will save water and money. This project also serves as a demonstration garden which residents can refer to and emulate when converting their own lawn areas to more water-conserving landscaping.



## STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS

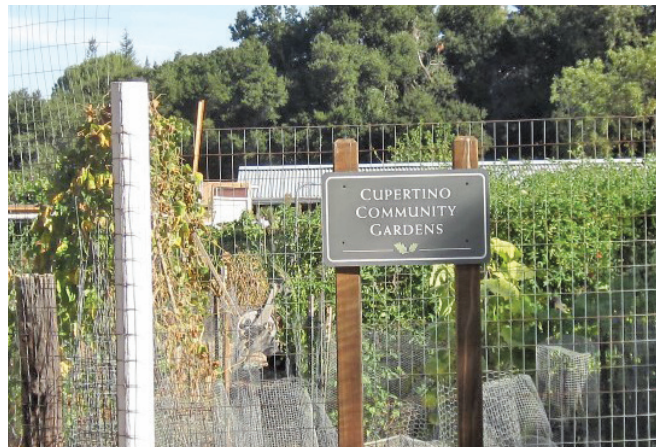
**Where:** Foothill Boulevard and Cupertino Road  
**Status:** Construction to begin in October 2017

The storm drain improvements include the construction of a parallel drainage system to provide additional capacity to carry storm water into the nearby creek. The existing drainage system that serves the area has flooded during heavy rains in the past. The new system will help alleviate flooding on private property.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

**Where:** McClellan Ranch Preserve  
**Status:** Currently underway


The purpose of this project is to develop a plan for improving the community garden. The process will include input from the gardening community. Considerations will include plot layout, garden paths and accessibility to and within the garden, perimeter fencing, and irrigation system. Expected changes include new fencing, upgraded irrigation system, and consistent plot sizes.



More Information:  
[www.cupertino.org/publicworks](http://www.cupertino.org/publicworks)

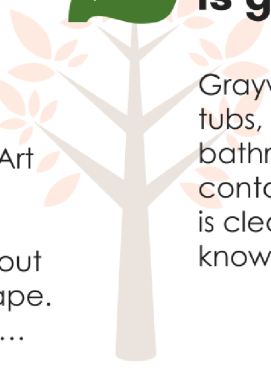
# 5 LAUNDRY TO LANDSCAPE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## 1 For starters, what is Laundry to Landscape?




It is a system that directs graywater from the washing machine to your landscape. According to inventor, Art Ludwig, it is the simplest, least expensive, lowest effort way to effectively get the most graywater out of your home and into your landscape. Which leads us to our next question...

## 2 What is graywater?




Graywater is water from showers, bath tubs, washing machines, and bathroom sinks. It is water that may contain some soap and detergents but is clean enough to water plants. Now I know what you may be thinking...

## 3 Is it safe to use graywater?




Yes, if you follow practical guidelines for constructing, using and maintaining your graywater system. This includes designing the system to minimize contact with humans or pets, avoiding contaminated water from toilets, kitchen sinks, and diaper washing, and ensuring adequate separation from groundwater resources. So then...

## 4 How can I use graywater?




Graywater is dispersed below the landscape surface in mulch basins to irrigate plants and trees in your yard. It is also possible for graywater to be applied at the surface if at least two inches of mulch, rock, soil, or a solid shield covers the water and there is no ponding or runoff.

## 5 You mentioned a rebate?



Why yes we did! The City of Cupertino in partnership with Santa Clara Valley Water District are piloting this partnership to further incentivize and encourage Laundry to Landscape systems in Cupertino. Single-family residential sites in Cupertino are eligible to qualify for a \$400 rebate. Laundry to Landscape systems conserve water, reduce water sent to treatment plants, provide more nutrient rich water for plants, and they reduce reliance on potable water supplies. To see if you are eligible visit <http://valleywater.org/GraywaterRebate.aspx>.



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# CUPERTINO 311

## SIMPLIFYING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



**Real-time Updates - Simple Reporting - Access Anywhere**

*Learn more on the next page →*



# There's an app for that

Residents can report quality-of-life issues through the online service-request tool 'Cupertino 311'

In an effort to continually improve its service to the community, the City of Cupertino is proud to announce the unveiling of an upgraded online service-request tool "Cupertino 311."

Cupertino 311 replaces Access Cupertino as its online communication portal allowing residents to report quality-of-life and non-emergency issues to the City at any time of the day with pictures, video, and descriptions.

The City has partnered with CitySourced, an award-winning Los Angeles-based technology company, to manage the upgrade. Cupertino 311 still gives residents the opportunity to report potholes that need to be filled, trees that need to be trimmed, trash that needs to be picked up, and graffiti that needs to be removed, among many other issues.

However, the upgraded tool also allows for greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency:

1. The public can now view issues reported to the City and read staff's responses. (Sensitive matters will continue to remain private.)
2. The new system allows a user to see existing re-

quests on a map and either add a new request by location or comment on an existing issue.

3. The system now has a more powerful management system that allows the City to route citizen requests directly to the staff tasked with fixing the problem.
4. CitySourced technology integrates directly into Cupertino's asset management system, giving staff the ability to seamlessly move submitted requests to assigned workers in the field.

Cupertino residents expect an efficient and responsive city government that works for them every single day. Many believe local government should listen carefully, respond quickly, and get the job done when issues arise throughout the community. The new Cupertino 311 app will help ensure that Cupertino continues to have a high quality-of-life that residents have come to know and expect.

Requests for service can be made at [www.cupertino.org/cupertino311](http://www.cupertino.org/cupertino311). The free mobile application can be downloaded in the Apple iTunes and Android stores.

*Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager Teri Gerhardt contributed to this article.*



## DON'T BE A DRAIN ON YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

How we can work together to protect Cupertino from flooding

# Flood of Information

For the past several years California has experienced extreme weather patterns. A five-year drought was followed by an intense rainy season.

The upcoming rainy season has not yet been forecast as an exceptionally wet season, but any rain event has the potential to cause flooding to creeks, ditches, and neighborhood streets and properties.

As the rainy season begins, residents should be sure that they're prepared for these possibilities. Standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses caused by floods or mudslides, but property owners can purchase flood insurance. Visit [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov), or call the Cupertino Public Works Department at (408) 777-3354 to better understand your flooding risks.

Flooding, as with all natural disasters, is a hazard to people and property. Prepare for emergencies by creating a family disaster plan that includes a designated place where you can meet after an evacuation order is issued.

The following services can help residents prepare for potential flooding:

1. Residents can pick up sandbags at various Santa Clara Valley Water District sites located throughout Santa Clara County, including the City Maintenance Yard at 10555 Mary Avenue. Check [www.valleywater.org/services/sandbagsites.aspx](http://www.valleywater.org/services/sandbagsites.aspx) for information on sandbag locations.
2. The Public Works Department possesses elevation certificates for many buildings located in the floodplain.
3. Contact the Cupertino Building Department to get a permit before you build. Check out the pamphlet "What You Should Know Before You Hire a Contractor," available at the Building Department Counter, or download it at [www.cslb.ca.gov/About\\_Us/Library/Guides\\_And\\_Publications/](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/About_Us/Library/Guides_And_Publications/)
4. City staff can assist with onsite flooding and drainage issues, and can provide practical drainage information by calling (408) 777-3354.
5. More information about flood preparedness is available at [www.cupertino.org/emergency](http://www.cupertino.org/emergency).
6. Additional flood protection information and assistance can be obtained on the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

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 their 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 begin, 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.

It is illegal to dump anything into a creek or a storm drain. Residents can report dumping incidents to the City by calling (408) 777-3269 during business hours and 911 after hours and on weekends.

Please notify the City if you observe excess debris and trash in streams and ditches at (408) 777-3354 or [www.cupertino.org/environmental](http://www.cupertino.org/environmental).

Requests for service can be submitted at [www.cupertino.org/cupertino311](http://www.cupertino.org/cupertino311).

*City Engineer Chad Mosley and the Federal Emergency Management Agency contributed to this article.*



# GET IN THE CUPERTI-*know*

*What's going on around town?*

## ENVIRONMENTAL DAY & SHRED-IT EVENT

Recycle e-waste,  
shred confidential docs

Oct. 14, 9 am - 1 pm

[www.cupertino.org/  
environmentalday](http://www.cupertino.org/environmentalday)



## Fall Bike Festival

Join a bike rodeo and tour  
Cupertino on a guided bike ride

October 21 / 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Cupertino City Hall  
10300 Torre Avenue

## DISCOVER SCOTLAND

10 Days / April 29 - May 8

Free Presentation at the  
Cupertino Senior Center

October 18 / 12 p.m.



## Enrichment Classes @ FIVE SCHOOLS

Drawing, Sculpting, Basketball,  
Communication, Debate, Chess

Grades K - 5

Sign Up @

[www.reg4rec.org](http://www.reg4rec.org)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR | ©

## TEENS

### October Food Feature

Wednesday, October 18, 4:30 p.m.  
Cupertino Teen Center, 21111 Stevens  
Creek Boulevard

The Cupertino Teen Center will feature treats from CREAM in October! Don't miss out on getting your free treat. First come first serve, while supplies last.

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY

### Environmental Day & Shred It Event

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Recycle your electronic and universal waste and shred confidential documents at the De Anza College Parking Lot A. Learn more at [www.cupertino.org/environmentalday](http://www.cupertino.org/environmentalday).

©

### Understanding California's Whales: A SCVAS Speaker Series Presentation

Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Cubberly Community Center, Room H1, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto  
Join Ted Cheeseman, Co-founder and CEO of HappyWhales.com, to learn more about whales and their recovery over the past few generations. This lecture will explore the dynamics of whales in our marine ecosystem as learned through photographic ID and citizen science. This talk is part of a monthly Speaker Series sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Visit [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

©

### Wildlife & Harvest Day

Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Blackberry Farm, 21979 San Fernando Avenue

The City of Cupertino along with two dozen environmental organizations will provide live-animal demonstrations, educational presentations, free hands-on activities, nestbox and bird feeder construction, face painting, and more!

©

### Fall Bike Festival

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m..  
Cupertino Safe Routes 2 School and the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission will host the 4th annual Fall Family Bike Fest featuring the Pedal 4 the Planet Family Bike Ride (Fall Edition).



### Hidden Treasures Sale

Thursday, Oct. 26, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Cupertino Senior Center, 21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard

Attend the annual fundraiser for the Cupertino Senior Center! It's the perfect opportunity to shop for those one-of-a-kind holiday gifts with the added benefit of supporting a worthy cause.

## ADULTS

### Last Chance for Free Bulk Compost

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8:00 a.m.–12 p.m.  
12100 Stevens Canyon Road  
The compost site will be closing from October – March for the rainy months in order to comply with state stormwater requirements.

©

### Backyard Composting Class

Saturday, Oct. 28 10:00 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Environmental Education Center, 22221 McClellan Road  
Learn to transform your leaves, grass, and food scraps into rich compost for your garden. Register at [www.ucanr.edu/compost](http://www.ucanr.edu/compost).

©

### Better Cupertino Forum

Sunday, Oct. 29, 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue  
Better Cupertino will host a forum on growth and planning in the Bay Area, new transportation ideas, and the future role of mixed-use.

## CUPERTINO LIBRARY

For more information on library programs, visit the Events section of the Cupertino Library's website at [www.sccl.org/cupertino](http://www.sccl.org/cupertino).

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

#### Children's Garden at Cupertino Library

Tuesday, October 10, 3:30 p.m.  
Cupertino Library Courtyard  
Children are welcome to help get the libraries Children's Garden ready to sleep during the winter. We will be planting cover crops, so be ready to get your hands dirty!

©

#### Halloween Magic Show and Costume Parade at Cupertino Library

Saturday, October 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall  
Children are invited to join the library for a fun Halloween magic show. A costume parade following the show, so please wear your costume!

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Ramayana: A Talk with the Directors

Saturday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall  
Hear the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival Director and Production Directors talk about this month's City of Cupertino youth performance of the Ramayana.

**Cupertino Library Diwali Music and Dance Showcase**

*Saturday, October 7, 1:30 p.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall*

Enjoy the rich heritage of India brought to you through music and dance. Performers include students from local music and dance schools and local professionals.

©

**Friends of the Cupertino Library Used Book Sale**

*Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 15, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall*

Do something nice for yourself and something great for the library! Come to the Friends of the Cupertino Library's Used Book Sale to browse gently read titles, including fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

©

**Bo Ai Choir at Cupertino Library**

*Saturday, October 21, 4:00 p.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall*

Enjoy a performance by Bo Ai Choir featuring show tunes and a combination of traditional American and Chinese songs.

©

**Pampa Dance Academy**

*Saturday, October 28, 4:00 p.m.  
Cupertino Community Hall*

Enjoy traditional Indian dancing and music by beautifully costumed dancers from the Pampa Dance Academy.

**SENIOR CENTER**

*For more info on the Senior Center, or to sign up for classes or events, visit [www.cupertino.org/seniors](http://www.cupertino.org/seniors) or stop by 21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard.*

**EVENTS & SOCIALS**

**Monthly Movie**

*Wed., Oct. 4, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.*

This month's movie is *Going in Style* (2017). Members are free, senior guests pay \$5 day pass.

©

**Oktoberfest Birthday Bash**

*Wednesday, October 11, 12:00 p.m.*

Engage in the timeless European tradition of Oktoberfest. Members with October birthdays will be honored. Pre-registration is required for the event. Members \$12, senior guests add \$5 day pass.



**Be Ready: Disaster Preparedness**

*Wednesday, October 18, 10:00 a.m.*

The Santa Clara County Fire Department will train you to prepare for hazards by teaching you how to make an individualized plan, put together a disaster supplies kit, and be informed before and during a disaster. Sign up in advance.

**CLASSES & PRESENTATIONS**

**New Flex Drop-in Passes**

Now introducing Flex passes for select fitness classes if space is available. Members can purchase Flex passes at the front desk for \$6 each. Look for the Flex pass logo on select classes. Flex passes are non-refundable. Note: classes may be cancelled if minimum registration is not met. Members only.

©

**Tai Chi - Qigong**

*Saturday, September 16 - November 18, 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.*

A system of gentle exercises to rejuvenate joints, increase flexibility, strengthen ligaments and tendons. Instructor Anya Kroth. Member fee \$40. No class 9/30, 11/11.

©

**VivAsia Lotus and Chair Lotus**

*Saturday, Sept. 23 - Nov. 18, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

VivAsia Lotus is a fun low impact aerobic dance program that focuses on the active older adult population and combines a variety of dance movements, music, and props from different Asian cultures. Members fee \$25.

**Express Yourself with iPad Art**

*Wednesday, October 11 - November 1, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

Explore some of the most popular apps for digital sketching, watercolor, oil painting, and collages. Bring a fully-charged iPad and know your iTunes/Apple ID and password. (Some apps may have a small fee). Fee \$38.

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Housing**

*Monday, Oct. 2, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

A list of housing resources and contact information are provided to help you search for housing. Call (408) 777-3150 to make an appointment.

©

**Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP)**

*October 9 & 23, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

Consultation on Medicare and health insurance. Appointments: 408.777.3150.

©

**Senior Adult Legal Aid (SALA)**

*Fri., Oct. 6, 13, 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*

Provides free assistance to elders 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. Please call (408) 777.3150 to make an appointment.

©

**Caregiver Support Group**

*Thursday, Oct. 12, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

Provides a safe place for family caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. Join our circle of support.



**CUPERTINO SCENE**  
 Cupertino City Hall  
 10300 Torre Avenue  
 Cupertino, CA 95014

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**POSTAL CUSTOMER**



## THE SCENE ANSWERS

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

**Question: I just recently paid my property tax bill. It made me start wondering how those tax dollars are divvied up and what City services receive those dollars?**



*Answer:* Property tax allocations are different for every city in the county. In Cupertino, the City has estimated \$20.8 million in Property Tax revenue for Fiscal Year 2018 (July 2017 - June 2018).

The City of Cupertino receives 6.44 cents on the dollar when it comes to property tax distribution. The City estimates that \$323 million in property taxes will be collected in Cupertino. The City will receive approximately \$20.8 million out of the \$323 million mentioned above. Santa Clara County will receive the largest allocation at \$111.4 million, followed by the Cupertino Union Elementary School District at \$80.1 million and Fremont Union High School District at \$53.9 million.

The rest of the property tax distribution goes to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (\$25.1 million), Foothill-De Anza Community College District (\$20.7 million), Santa Clara Valley Water District (\$5.5 million), Midpeninsula Open Space District (\$4.8 million), and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (\$600,000).

The City of Cupertino's portion of Property Tax dollars help pay for City services. For instance, assume your home value is \$1.8 million (median home value in Cupertino) and you pay 1% or \$18,000 annually in property taxes. The City receives 6.44 cents on the dollar or \$1,160 and spends those dollars on the services. The largest portion (\$436) is spent on Public Works. This is followed by Law Enforcement services at \$234, which are provided by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department through a contract with the City. The rest is spent on services provided by Administrative Services (\$162), Non-Departmental (\$94), Community Development (\$93), Administration (\$73), Innovation and Technology (\$32), Recreation Services (\$28), and Council and Commissions (\$8).

*Kristina Alfaro is the City of Cupertino's Administrative Services Director and oversees the City's Administrative Services Department, which includes the Finance and Human Resources divisions.*



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**CUPERTINO GREEN**