



MILPITAS MATTERS

AUGUST 31
2023

THE OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS



Women's Equality Day
August 26

MESSAGE FROM ACTING CITY MANAGER NED THOMAS

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. In celebrating this day, we recognize the importance of women's perspectives in leadership. The City of Milpitas is committed to advocating for women's equality and inspiring the next generation of women leaders.

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day, it's essential to acknowledge the courage and determination of the women who fought for their right to vote. It's also important to recognize that the voting rights of some women were not recognized until years later, and even today, we still have work to do to achieve true gender equality.

In Milpitas, we have a City Council led by the City's *first woman Mayor*, Mayor Carmen Montano along with Milpitas' *first Filipina elected leader*, Vice

Mayor Evelyn Chua and the City's *first female Vietnamese Councilmember*, Councilmember Hon Lien—*influential female leaders* who are shaping the present and future of our community. We recognize the immense value they bring, not just as public servants, but to our collective aspirations as a City.

Women's equality is not just a goal; it is a fundamental right that strengthens our social fabric, fuels our economy, and nurtures our spirit. It is about recognizing that no dream should be limited by gender, and that no ambition should be bound by stereotypes. As we reflect on Women's Equality Day, let's renew our commitment to building a world where every woman and girl can live, learn, work, and thrive without limitations. Gender equality is not just a women's issue; it's a human rights issue that benefits society as a whole. By working together, we can create a future where equality is truly a reality.

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INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

On August 16, the City celebrated Indian Independence Day through a flag raising ceremony at the Cesar Chavez Plaza. The event was organized by members of the Festival of Globe Silicon Valley and Federation of Indo Americans in Northern California with the support of the members of the City's Recreation and Community Services Department. The celebration was attended by community members, the Milpitas City Council, Councilmembers from the Cities of Fremont and Saratoga, representatives from State Assemblymember Alex Lee's Office and Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD), distinguished guests, residents, friends, and City staff. It was a wonderful opportunity for the City to come together, celebrate, and honor the rich culture, heritage, remarkable achievements and positive impact that individuals of Indian descent have made in various fields, including education, business, arts, technology, and many more. *May this Indian Independence Day inspire us to reach new heights, celebrate our diversity, and contribute to a brighter future for all!*



TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT

On August 19, the Milpitas community came out to participate in the Touch a Truck event held at the Great Mall. The City partnered with Game Action and Legoland Discovery Center Bay Area. The event served as an incredible opportunity for families and children of all ages to experience the world of trucks and equipment. Attendees learned about the important work of the City's Police, Fire and Public Works (Sanitation and Recycling) departments. Children especially enjoyed the hands-on experience interacting with police cruisers and fire trucks!

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS COMMENDATION TO AERO TECH CLUB

On August 15, the City Council presented commendations to members of Milpitas High School's Aero Tech club for reaching the final round of the 2023 American Rocketry Challenge. The student recipients include Albert Fung, Arjun Pai, Isaac Jones, Khang Nguyen, Letizia Lee, Osborn Wang, Roman Silivra, and Yusuf Kothambawala. With almost 5,000 participants every year, the American Rocketry Challenge is the world's biggest rocket competition. This competition offers middle and high school students an opportunity to build and launch model rockets while gaining valuable experience solving engineering problems.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS COMMENDATIONS TO JUNIOR ATHLETES

On August 15, the Milpitas City Council presented commendations to two junior athletes, Jayceon Carswell and Jayden Petty, for their performances at the USA Junior Olympics held in Eugene, Oregon. Jayceon won the Silver Medal in the Long Jump event (8-year-old level) and Jayden won the Bronze medal in the 100-meter Final and finished Fourth place in the 200-meter Final (10-year-old level). Their significant accomplishments put Jayceon and Jayden at an elite level nationwide. *Congratulations to these extraordinary athletes who represent Milpitas!*

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PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

The Background and Recommendations Report for the zoning update is now available for public review on the project website <https://www.milpitaszoningupdate.org/>. This report is an important project milestone, as it will inform the content of and approach to the comprehensive zoning update. We want to involve the Milpitas community in this crucial decision-making process. On August 30, the City held its third public meeting via a study session, with in-person attendees and remote meeting participants. *Thank you for your continued dedication to our City's progress.*

Public comments on the report are welcome and may be submitted through the project website or via email to hpearson@milpitas.gov.

PARC METRO TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Parc Metro East and Parc Metro Central will be closed for upgrades through mid-September. The upgrades will include the installation of new rubber surfaces and play structure. Park Metro West playground will be closed indefinitely. *Thank you for your patience while the work is underway!*

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UPS ARE BACK!

Need to get rid of items you can't recycle, reuse, or fit in the weekly trash collection cart? Then join the interest list for the 2023 Neighborhood Clean-Ups! This year, the City of Milpitas, Milpitas Sanitation, and San Jose Conservation Corps will be hosting FREE events on September 23 and October 24. For the September 23 event, register at <https://milpitas.info/RegisterNC>. Join the interest list by calling 408-586-3341 or e-mailing the City of Milpitas at MilpitasRecycles@Milpitas.gov.

HELP FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOODS IN MILPITAS

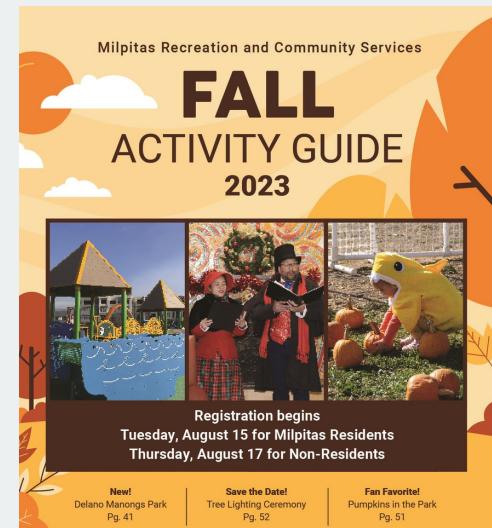
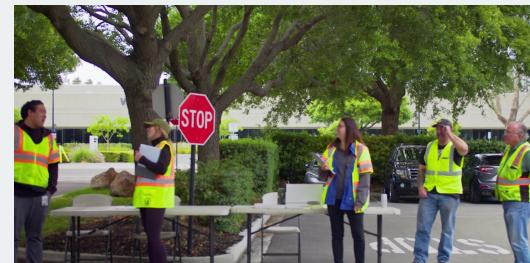
We want to hear from you! Learn how mixed-use neighborhoods can lead to more sustainable, vibrant, and socially enriched urban environments in Milpitas. Three videos have been produced to help you understand how the City is recommending to update zoning for the Town Center (TC) and Neighborhood Commercial Mixed-use (NCMU) zones. After watching the three videos, we encourage you to provide your comments here: <https://form.jotform.com/231917185091155>. The link will be available until September 10.

[Video 1: Housing Opportunity Districts \(HOD\) Overview](#)
[Video 2: Neighborhood Commercial Mixed-Use \(NCMU\) HOD](#)
[Video 3: Town Center \(TC\) HOD](#)

An [HOD Factsheet \(PDF\)](#) was also developed to provide an overview of the project. Your participation is important in shaping the future of our City. *Thank you for your time and contribution!*

THE CITY'S FALL ACTIVITY GUIDE IS HERE!

Fall is the new summer! School may be back in session, but that doesn't mean all the fun has to stop. Milpitas Recreation and Community Services has plenty of outdoor (and indoor) activities continuing into the New Year. You'll also find plenty of great opportunities to try a new hobby, meet new friends, and explore your community. Days may be getting shorter, but fall offers plentiful options to keep you engaged! Get the guide here: milpitas.info/fall2023guide



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LANTERN FESTIVAL

Celebrate the 2nd annual Lantern Festival this fall at the Civic Center Plaza in Milpitas on September 29 from 6 to 9PM. Activities will include cultural dancing, live bands, and kids crafts. Lantern kits, suitable for hanging in the Plaza, will be available for purchase. A food truck will also be on site. This event is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.



MILPITAS ARTWALK

We need artists and performers of all ages to be a part of Artwalk 2023 on October 7, 4-7 p.m.! This is our second Artwalk, but our very first on Main Street. Artists, apply now to sell or display your arts and crafts. Singers, dancers, comics, jugglers can apply to be street performers for tips or perform short acts on our community stage. If you're creative, join us to transform Main Street! Artwalk is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Apply online at: <https://forms.milpitas.gov/forms/view.php?id=173469>



JOIN A CITY OF MILPITAS COMMISSION AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Help shape the future of our community by volunteering to serve on a City of Milpitas commission. There are current vacancies on the Community Advisory Commission, Energy and Environmental Sustainability Commission, and more! Come join one of the 12 City Commissions, advise the City Council on an array of topics, and provide a public forum for community input. To see current vacancies, visit <https://www.milpitas.gov/318/Commissions>. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and appointments made by the Mayor as needed throughout the year and confirmed by the City Council. Contact the City Clerk's Office at (408) 586-3001 or cityclerk@milpitas.gov for more information.



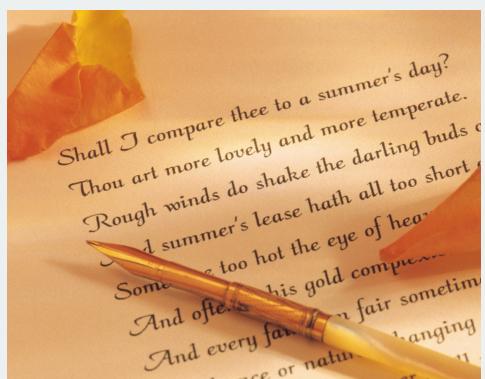
PG&E ENERGY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS REWARD CUSTOMERS FOR REDUCING ENERGY USE AND STRAIN ON ELECTRIC GRID

As summer heat ramps up in many areas and energy demand increases across California, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) encourages customers to enroll in an energy incentive program to help lower energy costs, reduce strain on the electric grid during high-demand periods, and support the state's clean energy goals. The SmartACT™ Smart Thermostat and Power Saver Rewards programs help residential customers lower overall energy costs by shifting portions of energy use to hours when overall grid demand is lower and renewable energy resources are more plentiful. These energy incentive initiatives reward participants who can be flexible when they use energy and help reduce the state's emissions footprint.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SEEKS POET LAUREATE APPLICANTS

The Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) and the County of Santa Clara, in partnership with SVCREATES and Poetry Center San José, announced a call for 2024-2025 Santa Clara County Poet Laureate applications. The Poet Laureate is an honorary post that acts as an advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts. They also contribute to Santa Clara County's poetry and literacy legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. The next Poet Laureate will serve from January 2024 – December 2025 and will receive a stipend of \$6,000 per year, a budget of \$1,000 per year for reimbursable expenses related to their activities, and the opportunity to publish a chapbook through Poetry Center San José. Applications will be accepted from August 11 through September 22 at 5:00 p.m. Apply here: <https://milpitas.info/45MTDW7>



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

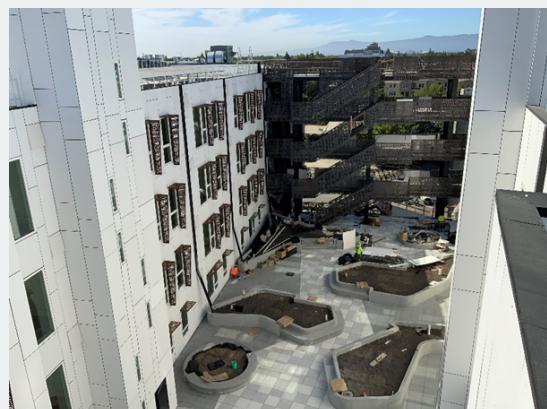
Sango Court Apartments, 308 Sango Ct., a 5-story over 1-level parking 85-unit affordable housing development by The Pacific Companies

The underground utilities are well underway. Water supply & sanitary sewer have been installed and approved for backfill. Columns & footing work is in-progress with the mat-slab rebar being installed. Installation of backflow prevention device is in progress. See the below pictures.



Sango Court Apartments, 355 Sango Ct., (2) 4-story residential buildings of wood modular construction above first floor concrete podiums with a steel bridge connecting the two buildings providing 102 affordable housing units by Resources for Community Development

Site improvement has been at a running pace with plants being installed/planted at fifth floor terrace, second floor Podium level, and at the South Elevation at the front of the property. There are workers from every trade onsite all week and likely to be there until final inspection passes. It is touch up time, with trim, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, small drywall patches and paint touch ups as work proceeds. Seismic bracing at parking area and water heater room work is in progress. See the below pictures.



Sunnyhills Apartments, 1730 Sunnyhills Dr., an in-fill project that consists of 6 apartment buildings with a total of 44 units, a leasing office and carport structures.

See below photos of continued progress at Sunnyhills. Building F exterior and interior structural inspections are on-going. All other buildings are covered both inside and out except the leasing center.



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BUILDING PERMITS AND OCCUPANCY

Building permits were issued to the following:

Fabri-Tech, an electronics company, for tenant improvement at their new facility located at 576 Sycamore Dr. at an estimated construction cost of \$400,000.

Sprig Electric Company, for electrical upgrade at the facility to make it ready for future tenant move-in located at 1801 McCarthy Blvd. at an estimated construction cost of \$226,000.

The following businesses have received final inspection and are now open for operation:

Bradley Concrete, a construction company office located at 853 Buckeye Ct.

Om Beauty Salon, a salon business located at 1561 Landess Ave.

Surya Darshini, an Indian take out restaurant located at 691 S Milpitas Blvd.

EPX Microwave Inc., an office for new electronic manufacturing business relocating from Santa Clara to 753 Ames Ave.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US



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