



# CONNECTED

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS

September 2023 Issue

## New Retro Milpitas Event Celebrated "Old-School" Milpitas



An estimated 3,000 people attended the "Retro Milpitas" event, August 4 and 5 at the Milpitas Sports Center Complex, to relive some hits from the past – roller skating, waterslides, arcade games, and, of course, great music.

Milpitas was home to Cal Skate, a roller rink located at Interstate 680 and Highway 237 that drew visitors from all over the South Bay and was especially popular with Milpitas teens from 1977 to 2011. For this event, the City set up a portable outdoor roller rink on the Sport Center football field. Complementary safety equipment and skates for rent were available. San Jose Roll Call, a collective of roller skating enthusiasts, volunteered as rink monitors, teaching new skaters, leading traditional roller skate games and races. A handful of Cal Skate alumni skated again for the first time in years, and many young families and young adults enjoyed the opportunity to skate locally.

The Milpitas Historical Society and the St. Germain family, which owned and operated Cal Skate, loaned memorabilia for display with many photos.

Milpitas was also home to Splashdown, a waterslide attraction near Milpitas' San Jose border, that was huge in the 1980s. For "Retro Milpitas," the City acquired three inflatable waterslides, the tallest being 30 feet. City lifeguards staffed this fun, new kids activity that will no doubt become a staple summertime City event. The kids area also include modern video games, and a chance to sample arcade games from the past like Frogger and Ms. Pacman. Retro Milpitas' largest crowds showed up for the free evening concerts of Top 40 music from the past, performed by The Billy Martini Show and Other People's Money. Retro Milpitas was made possible with the support of the following sponsors: JP Graphics, McCarthy Ranch, Metro Silicon Valley, St. Germain Family, Armed Force Security, and San Jose Roll Call. Thank you for your generosity! And much appreciation to everyone who participated!



## In This Issue



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# LETTER FROM THE ACTING CITY MANAGER



As we enter the new season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this past Labor Day. The occasion serves as a reminder of the incredible contributions of our workforce and the collaborative spirit that strengthens the foundation of our City.

Over the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving this community as Planning Director. I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable dedication and resilience of our residents. It is this very spirit that has inspired me to embark on a new journey that allows me to contribute to our City's growth and development in a different capacity as your Acting City Manager. The appointment comes with new responsibilities and challenges, and I am truly honored to have been entrusted with this interim role by the City Council.

Over the past few months, we have made significant strides in various areas. After months of dedicated effort from community members, City staff, and department heads, the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget was adopted unanimously by the City Council on June 6. The Budget includes enhanced service levels in public safety, public works, economic development, and housing. The Adopted Budget also utilizes funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support impacted low-income residents and small businesses in the Milpitas community. Of the \$16.7 million ARPA Funding, we invested: over \$5 million in infrastructure such as Park and Public Safety Facilities Rehabilitation; close to \$4 million in small business assistance grants, workforce development, hotel assistance, accessory dwelling units and other economic vitality initiatives; \$2.5 million towards Public Safety staffing, equipment and programs; \$2.4 million in community services such as rent and mortgage relief, weed abatement, homeless outreach and assessment, social services and much more; and \$2.1 million towards technology improvements.

We also took a significant step in our commitment to improve accessibility for our residents, business owners, and other stakeholders with the launch of our new website [www.milpitas.gov](http://www.milpitas.gov) on June 22. We are excited about this new chapter in our City's digital presence and remain committed to embracing technology for the advancement of our community.

On June 28, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the regional planning agency for the Bay Area, awarded the City of Milpitas a total of \$800,000 in grant funding through its Priority Development Area (PDA) Planning Grant Program. This program provides funding for local projects that implement Plan Bay Area 2050 (*See Page 3 for more details*). The City received \$600,000 to prepare the Milpitas Main Street Sense of Place Plan and the remaining

\$200,000 will be used to prepare the Milpitas Innovation District Parks and Trails Master Plan.

On July 10, Governor Newsom signed AB 102: Budget Act of 2023, which includes \$1.6 million in direct funding for the City of Milpitas. This will allow the continuation and enhancement of the operations of Milpitas SMART (Simple Mobile Access to Reliable Transit), the City's convenient on-demand rideshare service.

In July, the City contracted with WeHOPE to continue providing weekly mobile shower and laundry services for the unhoused in Milpitas. The three-year contract for \$150,000 was funded through a State grant championed by Assemblymember Alex Lee's office. This service will continue through June 30, 2026.

On August 1, 28 neighborhoods throughout the City participated in the National Night Out (NNO) event. NNO embodies our shared commitment to promoting safety, preventing crime, and nurturing the strong relationships that are the bedrock of a resilient community.

On August 4 and 5, the community gathered to celebrate the first-ever "Retro Milpitas" event. This event provided residents with opportunities to interact, socialize, and build relationships, which can lead to a stronger sense of belonging and pride in our City.

On August 8, the City Council unanimously approved an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Workforce Development grant totaling \$44,720 for SEMI Foundation to support hands-on learning using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) kits benefitting local youth in workforce development and education services.

Our City is also revitalizing Main Street through the Storefront Improvement Grant program, which provides grants for exterior commercial storefront improvements to help increase economic vitality for local businesses.

Our journey is far from over. The challenges and opportunities that lie ahead are yet another testament to our capabilities and potential. Rest assured, my commitment to the City remains unwavering. Together with our City Council, team of public servants, community leaders, and dedicated residents, we can shape the direction in which our City evolves, ensuring that our shared values and aspirations remain at its core.

Sincerely,

The City Council meets the first, and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd.

Meetings are webcast online at <https://bit.ly/3e0q1P8>

Sign up for the latest news at <https://www.milpitas.gov/e-notification/>

**City Council**  
Mayor Carmen Montano  
Vice Mayor Evelyn Chua  
Councilmember Anthony Phan  
Councilmember Hon Lien  
Councilmember Garry Barbadillo, Esq.

**Acting City Manager**  
Ned Thomas

**Milpitas Connected**  
Charmaine D. Angelo  
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**City Website**  
[www.milpitas.gov](http://www.milpitas.gov)

**City Social Media**  
Follow the City and many of its departments on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and NextDoor. We will keep you posted on everything from community events, new business openings, traffic updates, friendly tips, and other City-related information that may help you and your family.

# Neighborhood News

## Metropolitan Transportation Commission Awards \$800,000 Grant to Milpitas

On June 28, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the regional planning agency for the Bay Area, awarded the City of Milpitas a total of \$800,000 in grant funding through its Priority Development Area (PDA) Planning Grant Program. This program provides funding for local projects that implement Plan Bay Area 2050, which is a 30-year regional plan that charts a course for a Bay Area that is affordable, connected, diverse, and healthy for all residents through 2050 and beyond. The City received \$600,000 to prepare the Milpitas Main Street Sense of Place Plan and the remaining \$200,000 will be used to prepare the Milpitas Innovation District Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Milpitas Main Street Sense of Place Plan will provide a master streetscape plan that identifies specific public improvements to implement the Gateway-Main St. Specific Plan's vision for Main Street as a vibrant and complete corridor. The scope of work also includes a fee study to establish a development impact fee to fund the identified public improvements. The remaining \$200,000 will be used to prepare the Milpitas Innovation District Parks and Trails Master Plan, which will provide a conceptual plan for new parks and trails identified in the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan.



## Work on Main Street Revitalization

The City of Milpitas is committed to revitalizing Main Street and is investing resources to improve the vitality and vibrancy of the area. The City has secured funding to help with this effort. The City Council approved the use of American Rescue Act (ARPA) dollars to support two new initiatives. The first initiative is the *Storefront Improvement Grant* program. Eligible property and businesses on Main Street can apply for a grant to improve their commercial exterior storefronts. Improvements may include landscaping, lighting, paint, outdoor seating, signage, and windows. The program is a partnership where eligible property and businesses are required to contribute funding, too. There is a competitive selection process to ensure the funding is used appropriately.

The second initiative is the potential formation of a *Property-Business Improvement District*. The Office of Economic Development and downtown property owners are exploring the possibility of creating an improvement district. The primary goal of an improvement district is to create a more attractive, welcoming, and economically vibrant district by investing in clean-up efforts, beautification, physical improvements, and destination marketing. These efforts will increase business activity and enhance the overall experience for visitors, residents, and workers in the area. Working together, property owners would agree to assess their properties to create an ongoing funding source to pay for the improvements. To learn more about these initiatives, visit the Economic Development website: <https://www.milpitas.gov/164/Economic-Development>

## State Awards \$1.6 Million Grant to Continue and Enhance Milpitas SMART Operations

On July 10, Governor Newsom signed AB 102: Budget Act of 2023, which includes \$1.6 million in direct funding for the City of Milpitas. This will allow the continuation and enhancement of operating Milpitas SMART (Simple Mobile Access to Reliable Transit), the City's convenient on-demand rideshare service. City staff worked closely with the offices of Senator Aisha Wahab and Assemblymember Alex Lee, who championed the City's budget requests to secure this funding for the Milpitas community. We are thankful for their continued partnership.



### Book a Ride with SMART for Back to School

Let us help you stay cool now it's back to school time. Milpitas SMART - your affordable local rideshare option for commuting within Milpitas.

### DOWNLOAD the Milpitas SMART app and book your ride

You can also book at (408) 330-3302. Milpitas SMART is available Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm via ADA accessible mini-vans with maximum wait times between 10 and 15 minutes. Visit [www.milpitas.gov/smart](http://www.milpitas.gov/smart) for more info.



Business Improvement District (BID) Workshop for property and business owners located on North and South Main Street (July 18, 2023, Offices of Olinger Real Estate).



# New Website Launch

## Discover What's New



**Streamlined Navigation Menu.** With intuitive menus and search functionality, residents can quickly locate the information they need.



**Virtual Assistant.** Answers to frequently asked questions are provided 24/7 from any device through a chatbot/"How may I help you?" button.



**Mobile-Responsive Design.** Information on our website is adapted to any device and screen size, for both desktop and mobile devices.



**New Email Notification.** Residents can subscribe to press releases, info memos, newsletters, event announcements, and more.



**Translation Tool.** Through a click of a button the translated version of the webpage will be displayed in a matter of seconds. From widely used languages in our community such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, and Hindi to less commonly used languages, our tool has the Milpitas community covered.

The website redesign was inspired by community input, as well as, internal and public feedback. The new site will now serve as an enhanced information hub for residents, business owners, and other stakeholders enabling City staff to manage content and provide more timely updates. With a range of new features, the new site is expected to augment communication, encourage civic participation, and improve the overall quality of life for the Milpitas community.

Staying connected is more important than ever. We're committed to keeping you informed and engaged. Simply enter your email address in the **Stay Informed** section of the website to start receiving information about the latest City projects, news, and events.

**Accessory Dwelling Units**  
Adu@milpitas.gov

**Animal Services**  
City of San Jose Animal Care Services  
<https://bit.ly/3xRys55>  
408-794-7297

**Building Safety and Housing**  
BuildingPermitCenter@milpitas.gov  
Code\_Enforcement@milpitas.gov  
Housing@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3240

**City Attorney**  
Cityatty@milpitas.gov

**City Clerk**  
Cityclerk@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3001

**City Manager**  
Citymanageroffice@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3051

**Economic Development**  
Econdev@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3058

**Engineering**  
(flood zone, transportation)  
Engineeringpublicmail@milpitas.gov

408-586-3300

**Finance**  
FinancecustomerService@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3100

**Public Works Department**  
(parks, streets, trash, trees)  
Milpitasworks@milpitas.gov

**MyMilpitasApp**  
408-586-2600

**Fire Department**  
Fireadmin@milpitas.gov  
Station 1: 408-586-2800  
Station 2: 408-586-2840  
Station 3: 408-586-2850  
Station 4: 408-586-2860

**Fire Prevention Services**  
(fire permit submittals)  
Firepreventionoffice@milpitas.gov  
408-586-3365

**Recreation and Community Services**  
Community\_center@milpitas.gov

Rentals:  
Recreationrentals@milpitas.gov

Community Center  
408-586-3210

Barbara Lee Senior Center  
408-586-3400  
Sports Center  
408-586-3225

# Milpitas is a Green City



## Water Conservation is a Way of Life!



Even though Milpitas isn't currently in a drought, it's important to remember that California is a drought-prone state, so we should try our best to adapt and continue practicing water conservation as a way of life. Whether you are looking for a small step or a big change to save water, there are many ways you can conserve water. Learn more about our permanent water waste restrictions at <https://savewatermilpitas.org> and report water waste when you see it happening!

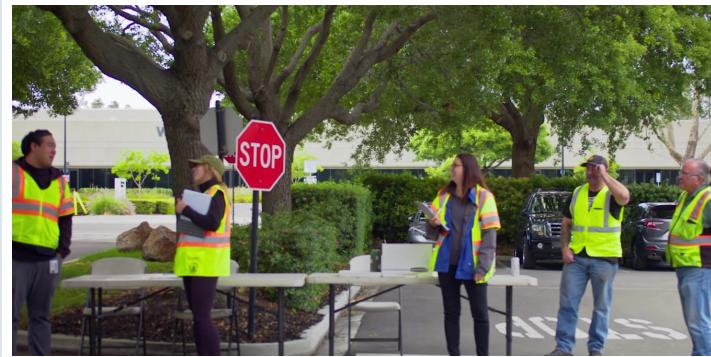
Use the MyMilpitas App to submit a report, or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (408) 586-2666. Get to know your water use with WaterSmart! WaterSmart is the City's free customer portal to help you understand your water bill and how you use water, see how you compare to other local households, and explore more ways to save water. Sign up at <https://milpitas.watersmart.com>. Spruce up your home with a low-water use landscape! Milpitas offers landscape rebates for converting to drought-tolerant gardens, installing water-efficient irrigation equipment, installing rain barrels, and more. Rebate information is available at <https://savewatermilpitas.org>. Questions? Please call (408) 586-2666.

## Know What to Throw - Recycling Right

## Neighborhood Clean-Ups are Returning Soon!



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 14**.



Register at <https://milpitas.info/RegisterNC> for the September 23 event. Join the interest list by calling 408-586-3341 or e-mailing the City of Milpitas at [MilpitasRecycles@Milpitas.gov](mailto:MilpitasRecycles@Milpitas.gov).



Whether it's thrown into a single cart or sorted to perfection, garbage is often the last thing we want to deal with or think about. *But did you know that what goes into the garbage cart will have a huge effect on how it's handled?* In Milpitas, we have up to five waste streams: garbage, food scraps, mixed recycling, paper/fiber, and yard trimmings. Each waste stream goes to different facilities to ensure that it's processed correctly. Recycling contamination occurs when the wrong items, or the right items that are dirty or full, are placed in the wrong cart. If items are placed into the wrong waste stream, then the entire load could end up in the landfill because of excessive contamination.

In 2022, the City of Milpitas conducted studies to learn how residents recycle and found that these are the four most common items that are misplaced:

**Cardboard** – Cardboard is in every stream, even though it is one of the easiest items to recycle and belongs in the cardboard/paper waste stream. Have extra cardboard?

For single-family homes, break down the cardboard, cut into smaller pieces (3'x3'), and leave next to your

recycling cart. The only exception is if there is food on the cardboard (e.g., pizza boxes), which can be thrown into the Food Scraps bin.

**Recyclable Containers** – Whether cans and bottles are aluminum, glass, or plastic, these items always go into the Mixed Recycling bin. Remember to empty, clean, and dry before recycling these items!

**Plastic Bags/Plastic Film/Plastic Wrap** – Despite being made from plastic, these items are not currently recyclable in Milpitas. Plastic bags are troublesome because they become entangled in the machinery and force sorting facilities to shut down for maintenance. Put it all together and throw it into your Garbage cart.

**Non-Recyclable Plastics** – Sometimes, you can't tell what plastic the item is made from because there's no label. If that's the case, be sure to put the item into the Garbage carts.

By sorting properly, you are helping Milpitas stay cleaner and greener. For more recycling information, e-mail [MilpitasRecycles@milpitas.gov](mailto:MilpitasRecycles@milpitas.gov).



**Scan Here**





## City of Milpitas

455 E. Calaveras Blvd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
(408) 586-3000  
[www.milpitas.gov](http://www.milpitas.gov)

Postage

Address Label Goes Here

# GOOD NEWS IN MILPITAS

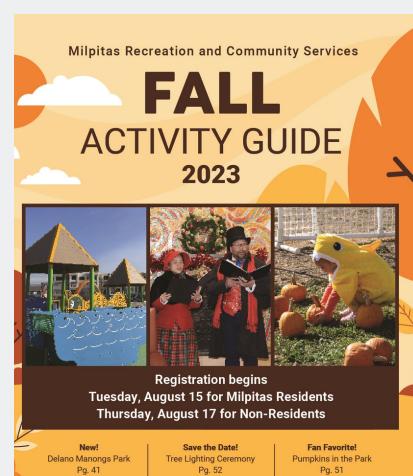
## Milpitas Celebrates National Night Out



This year, 28 neighborhoods throughout the City hosted the National Night Out (NNO) event. This year's NNO Theme: *Prevent Crime - Anywhere, Anytime, Anyone.* NNO is a crime and drug prevention even designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. It was a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with the Milpitas community!



## Our Fall Activity Guide is Here!



Get the guide here:  
[milpitas.info/fall2023guide](http://milpitas.info/fall2023guide)

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.

Check out the wonderful events we have planned in our Fall Guide 2023: Lantern Festival (page 31), ArtWalk (page 32), Milpitas Fiesta (page 41), Pumpkins in the Park (page 51), *Día de los Muertos* (page 20), and our annual Tree Lighting (page 52).

Book a picnic at any of Milpitas' 37 City parks, including brand new *Delano Manongs Park* (page 41). Continue the summer camp vibe with Thanksgiving Week camps for kids (page 26) and seniors. 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!

## Milpitas Welcomes Delegates from the City of Qinhuangdao



On July 5, Mayor Carmen Montano and City staff welcomed officials from the City of Qinhuangdao (Ch'in-huang-tao), China to Milpitas. The event, which occurred at Bayview Golf Club, served as an introduction to trade and commerce in each city and included presentations from Qinhuangdao officials and City of Milpitas Economic Development Director Alex Andrade. Mr. Andrade shared information about the City Council's priorities, City profile, Economic Development Strategy, Foreign Direct Investment, and Innovation District. Attendees also included representatives from the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce and Milpitas Unified School District. Qinhuangdao officials included the deputy secretary-general, vice director of foreign affairs and commerce, director of culture, tourism, and media, and finance director.



Qinhuangdao is a seaport city of 3.1 million people across 3,012 square miles along the Liaodong Gulf in northeastern China in Hebei Province. Located 188 miles east of Beijing, Qinhuangdao is an economic and technological development zone and the junction for three regional rail lines to handle a large proportion of China's coal and petroleum delivery. Qinhuangdao also features glass manufacturing, machine-making, ceramic, power, textile, and food-processing industries. Qinhuangdao includes a summer resort, which draws large crowds of visitors each year. Another major tourist attraction is Shanhaguan Pass, which was a strategic point on the Great Wall in ancient times.

