



# MILPITAS MATTERS

FEBRUARY 4  
2021

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THE OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS

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## MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER STEVEN G. MCHARRIS

February marks Black History Month, a federally recognized, national celebration that reminds all Americans to contemplate on the many ways that African-Americans have played in shaping US history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who fought for equal rights for Blacks during the 1950s and '60s; Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967; Mae Jemison, the first female African-American astronaut to travel to space in 1992; Barack Obama, who was elected the first-ever African-American president of the United States in 2008 and Kamala Harris, the first woman, the first African-American, and the first South Asian American to hold the office of Attorney General

in the State of California's history in 2011 and now also holding another groundbreaking role as Vice-President of the United States in 2021. These are just a few examples of African-American heroes and heroines who continue to teach and inspire many generations (*both young and old*) to have courage and be the very best version of themselves. Black History Month is also a time to reflect on how we can help create more justice in our daily lives. It is an opportunity to think about our very own biases, stereotypes and knowledge gaps, so that we can be better public servants equipped to lead and engage in healthy conversations about equity, inclusion, and social justice.

# MILPITAS MATTERS • GENERAL INFORMATION

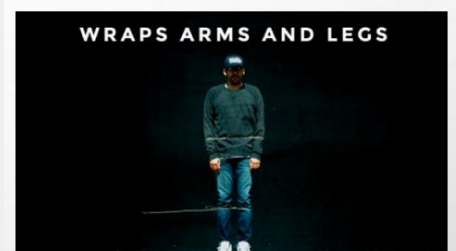
## COVID-19 PUBLIC SAFETY VACCINATIONS

In collaboration with all of the Public Safety Agencies in Santa Clara County, COVID-19 vaccinations have been offered to all front line personnel for the past 30 days. Milpitas Fire has supported the efforts through active engagement of personnel to administer and support the clinic. The clinic has been based at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and has had the surge capacity to provide up to 1,000 vaccinations per day. Milpitas personnel have rotated through the facility to support dispensing and receiving vaccinations. Jan. 29th, marks the end of first vaccinations at the clinic. Second dose administration will continue for the next 35 days. All agencies are in conversation with Public Health to support mass vaccinations and are having active dialogue regarding support of this operation for the community.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT TO START USING REMOTE RESTRAINT TECHNOLOGY

The Milpitas Police Department is one of the first cities in the Bay Area to start using the BolaWrap remote restraint device from Wrap Technologies to restrain combative persons as an alternative to using force. The device expels a Kevlar string that can wrap around a person's arms or legs to immobilize their movement. The purpose of the tool is to restrain a combative or agitated person from a safe distance and take them into custody without having to use force. Milpitas Acting Police Chief, Jared Hernandez says "The BolaWrap will complement our continuing efforts to de-escalate situations whenever possible. Although it may not be the appropriate tool in all situations, it's definitely a great alternative to using force and will reduce injuries to officers and suspects." The Police Department is currently training officers and expects to make the device available to officers in March. BolaWrap has been successfully deployed by police officers on non-compliant subjects to assist in de-escalating encounters and taking subjects into custody safely and without injury.



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

The Milpitas Office of Emergency Services has secured a grant award in the amount of \$22,400 from the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). These funds will be used to augment computers and technology for the City's Emergency Operations Center. The funds will be spent to provide additional laptops for emergency management administrators in order to respond more efficiently and effectively to the needs of the city in a disaster situation.



FEMA  
Preparedness Grants

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP

The Milpitas Office of Emergency Services (OES) has a variety of programs for all skill levels to prepare themselves and their families to thrive in a disaster. One such program, [Do1Thing.com](https://do1thing.com), encourages families to prepare emergency kits and plans, month by month, over the course of a year, so it does not become overwhelming or expensive. By planning ahead, it will make it easier to make the right decisions when the under duress. Do1Thing.com gives the tools to help make plans. Preparing for disasters and emergencies can seem like a big job. Many people don't know where to start, so they never start at all. With Do1Thing.com small steps can be taken and these will make a big difference in an emergency. If everyone does one thing each month, by the time a year has passed 12 big steps toward being ready for a catastrophic disaster would have already been taken.



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## MILPITAS APPOINTS WENDY WOOD AS NEW CITY CLERK

City Manager Steven G. McHarris has appointed Wendy Wood as City Clerk. Wood comes to Milpitas from the City of Campbell, where she served as City Clerk for five years and Deputy City Clerk for five and a half years.

"Wendy joins our team with a solid reputation in performing a variety of highly complex clerical and administrative duties related to local government functions," says City Manager Steve McHarris. "Her diligence, organization and leadership will be a strong addition to our team. I am confident that her skills and genuine desire to help others will be immediately evident. I am very pleased to welcome her."

The City Clerk's Office is responsible for the recording, writing and maintenance of City Council proceedings. The City Clerk's Office also conducts municipal elections and acts as compliance officer for local, state, and federal statutes including the Political Reform Act, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and all legislative actions ensuring transparency to the public. As a Records Manager, the City Clerk's Office also oversees another legislative process – the preservation and protection of public records.

Wendy earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Jose State University and is currently working on her Master Municipal Clerk certification.



## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH NORCAL SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON 2021 WEBINAR SERIES

During the pandemic, providing business assistance has become a major priority for the Office of Economic Development. Webinars have proven to be a safe and effective way to connect with the business community to share helpful information and resources. As the business community looks toward recovery this new year, the Office of Economic Development is excited to announce a partnership with NorCal Small Business Development Center to present a series of monthly webinars. The first three webinars will cover Small Business Financing, Small Business Administration Resources, and Business Resilience and Retooling. The first webinar will be held in late February (more details to come).



## SOCIAL SERVICES WORKSHOPS

As part of ongoing efforts to provide community resources, Milpitas Recreation and Community Services partnered with local nonprofit organizations to host two free social services workshops in January. Presenters from Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services offered a workshop on Immigration Rights and Resources for legal residents hoping to become citizens. Eleven attended. First 5 offered a workshop on resources available to families of preschoolers trying to prepare their children for kindergarten at home during the pandemic. It drew 26 participants.





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## SENIOR DIGITAL LITERACY (LAPTOP LOANER PROGRAM)

The City's Senior Center is offering up to 55 qualified low-income seniors in the Milpitas community free use of a Chromebook device for 6 months. Participants will get an individualized "Chromebook Basics" initial orientation at the time of picking up the device, as well as continued tech support from our Technology for Seniors (high school students) virtually. City staff will establish Zoom trainings once the participants are comfortable navigating the Chromebook and trainings will include topics such as: getting on gmail, cybersecurity, accessing YouTube, and downloading apps. to name a few. The first orientation started on Wednesday, January 27th and currently 24 senior community members have signed-up for the program.



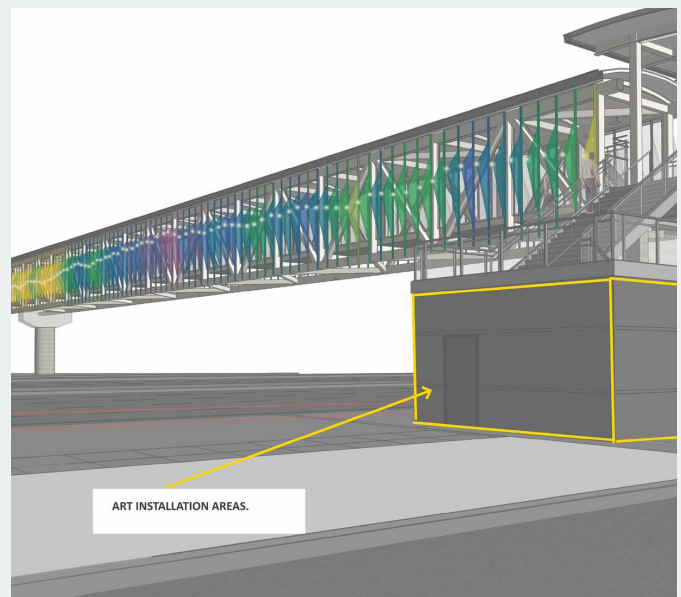
## HOT MEALS DELIVERED TO TERRACE GARDENS RESIDENTS

The Senior Center's SNP program is currently partnering with Terrace Gardens Senior Housing on free meals to be delivered to up to 80 residents a day starting February 1st. The funding for these meals is through the Community Development Block Grant to support providing hot, nutritious meals to seniors during the pandemic.



## MONTAGUE PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING MURAL

The Arts Commission considered mural designs from eight Bay Area artists for the Montague Pedestrian Overcrossing during its special meeting. Commissioners narrowed the field to four, and staff will be seeking public input on the designs over the next two weeks, with special effort to hear from residents of The Edge apartments, as the mural will be directly in front of their building. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XB6CHCM>



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



**Element Hotel**, 521 Alder Dr., a 5-story, 194-room hotel by LD Milpitas Lodging

### Element Hotel

The site's exterior work has been completed. Furniture is on site pending rooms to be completed as interior rooms are in various stages between drywall and fixture installation. Drywall work is in progress in common areas. Landscaping is being installed and the parking lot is ready for the final layer of asphalt. Elevators are waiting for state approval so that temporary lifts can be removed. Estimated completion of the hotel is around the end of April 2021.

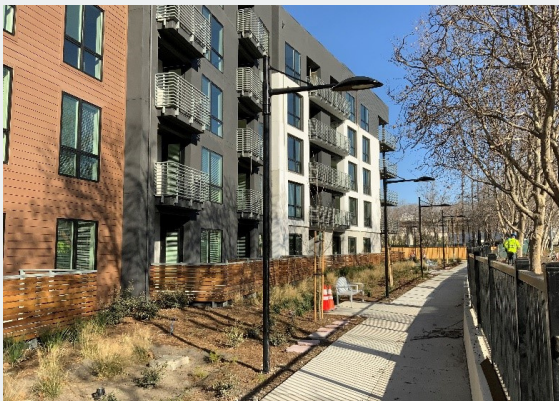


**Amazon**, 225 N. McCarthy Blvd.

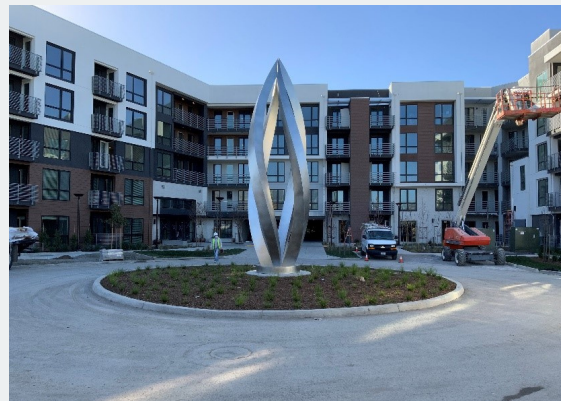
### Amazon

This is a single-story concrete tilt-up shell building by Bridge Development Partner LLC, leased by Amazon for warehouse and office use. Structural work has been completed. Work is in progress for roofing, fire sprinklers, lighting, exterior finishes, and site improvement work. Estimated completion for the shell construction is around the end of April 2021.

**SummerHill Apartments**, 1500 Centre Point Dr. Phase one 333-unit apartment complex with 13,000 sq. ft. of commercial development wrapped around a 6-story parking garage by SummerHill Apartment Communities: The parking garage (phase 1) currently has its Temporary Certificate of Occupancy and is being used for construction parking, staging, and materials storage. The first 144 units (phase 2) are in the final stage. The developer estimates completion of these units for Temporary Certificate of Occupancy by the first week of February.



Development exterior facing Montague Expressway



Art Sculpture approved by Milpitas Art Commission

## BUILDING PERMITS AND OCCUPANCY

*Building permits were issued to the following:*

The City of Milpitas, for the construction of **Fire Station No. 2** replacement, a new single-story 10,259 sq. ft. fire station at 1263 Yosemite Dr., the location of the old station. The new building will meet current building codes for an essential facility.

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*Building permits were issued to the following:*

**Planet Fitness**, for tenant improvement of a fitness center located at 158 Ranch Dr. at an estimated construction cost of \$600,000.

**Red Ribbon** bakeshop, for tenant improvement at the store located at 1535 Landess Ave. at an estimated construction cost of \$400,000.

**Preston Pipelines**, for construction of new carport shade to install photovoltaic solar modules located at 133 Bothelo Ave. at an estimated construction cost of \$289,800.

*Building permit applications were submitted by the following:*

**Project Encore**, for the third phase of the tenant improvement at its facility located at 1860 Barber Ln. at an estimated construction cost of \$450,000.

**Headway Technologies**, designer and manufacturer of recording heads for high performance hard disk drives, for tenant improvement at its facility located at 678 S. Hillview Dr. at an estimated construction cost of \$285,000.

**Cummins Electrified Power NH, Inc.**, an automobile parts manufacturer, for tenant improvement at its facility located at 1181 Cadillac Ct. at an estimated construction cost of \$650,000.

**CVS Pharmacy**, for tenant improvement at the store located at 45 N. Milpitas Blvd. at an estimated construction cost of \$250,000.

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

**Vbiryantz**, an Indian fast food restaurant located at 18 S. Abbott Ave.

**88 Baobao**, a Chinese restaurant located at 133 Ranch Dr.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VIRTUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR

Celebrate the Year of the OX with the Recreation and Community Services Department and the City of Milpitas virtually! Enjoy music, dance and performances from local cultural performing groups from February 5 through February 16. City Hall will be lit in Red and Gold with a "Gobo" message inviting all to celebrate the Year of the Ox. This culture-filled virtual Lunar New Year celebration will be available for Milpitas residents to begin viewing through the City's [Facebook](#) channels on February 5, 2021.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND FLAG RAISING

Celebrate Black History Month Virtually! Join the City of Milpitas for a virtual flag raising on February 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and also participate in the City's annual 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Black History Month Essay and Art Contest. This contest is open to Milpitas residents in Grades 1st -12th and non-resident students enrolled in schools within the City of Milpitas. Click [here](#) for more information.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history!



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## WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US



[www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov)



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