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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS

April 2023 Issue

Milpitas City Council Adopts Plan Outlining Vision for Milpitas Metro Specific Plan

On February 7, 2023, the City Council unanimously adopted the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan, which will provide a vision and strategy to continue the ongoing transformation of the area surrounding the Milpitas Transit Center into an active, complete, and connected neighborhood. The fully developed neighborhood will include a variety of retail, office, and research and development uses, with a balance of jobs and housing near transit, affordable and market rate housing, safe and attractive multimodal connections, a variety of shared public spaces, and a strong sense of place with distinctive architecture and landmarks. The renaming of the plan highlights the area's focal point at the Milpitas Transit Center, a regional destination that is also an emerging metropolitan center for the City of Milpitas and the South Bay Area Region. The Metro Plan increases the Plan Area from approximately 437 acres to approximately 510 gross acres and includes annexations on the east and west sides of the original Transit Area Specific Plan (TASP) area.



The development of the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan has been guided by robust community engagement with regional public stakeholders, private developers, residents in the Plan Area and City as a whole, as well as the Milpitas City Council and Planning Commission. Stakeholders have been engaged throughout the process through a series of online workshop and forums, community surveys, and public hearings to ensure that the Plan's development reflects the community's priorities.

As currently calculated, total capacity for additional residential units in Milpitas Metro is approximately 5,000 - 7,000 total, with 2,000 - 4,000 units on the Great Mall site, and 3,000 units scattered on other sites throughout the Metro Area. This residential development potential is a key component of the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element, with significant reserve areas for future development in subsequent housing element cycles.

The Metro Plan also provides land use policies and direction for the development of a 75-acre Innovation District near the Milpitas Transit Center as a thriving employment hub for research and development, biotech, and other emerging industries. This area will feature cutting edge communication infrastructure, flexible workspaces, and other amenities to support a dynamic new work environment near transit and retail. At full build out, the Innovation District may be home to over 14,000 new jobs and over 3.5 million square feet of space. The opening of the Milpitas Transit Center in 2020 and the extension of regional BART service into the South Bay changes the outlook for the Milpitas Innovation District by giving it valuable direct transit access to other parts of the Bay Area. Convenient connections to VTA light rail and bus service at the Transit Center make it a unique center of jobs, housing, connectivity, and investment in Silicon Valley.



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LETTER FROM THE ACTING CITY MANAGER



2023 welcomed us with unprecedented weeks of intense rain and storms associated with powerful atmospheric rivers. Three weeks of extraordinary weather reminded all of us of the importance of emergency preparedness and planning. I want to take a moment to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the amazing City staff who were busy all around Milpitas, often 24/7 removing downed trees, distributing sandbags, disseminating weather updates, managing road closures, clearing clogged storm drains, responding to emergency requests, etc. *Thanks for all that you do to keep us safe!*

As we eagerly look ahead towards sunnier days, I can't help but be excited about all the available opportunities for us to come together. One of the aspects I value about my role in the City is the opportunity to hear from you on the issues you are seeing or experiencing. Your feedback allows us to understand what's working well and what we can do better. I am thrilled to share that the results of our Citywide community survey reveal a year-over-year upward trend in residents' trust in the City to plan for Milpitas' future (from 68% to 76%) and managing tax dollars (from 67% to 74%). As part of this year's budget process, we also rolled out a supplementary Open Townhall online survey to gather more input from you. On the question of why one chooses to live in Milpitas, several key themes surfaced – small town community feeling yet located in Silicon Valley, awesome Recreation and Community Services programs, delicious food, and great schools. We also asked for your opinion on top information you look for when visiting our website. Your suggestions will help inform us as we advance the exciting work associated with our City's website revamp this year.

As we forge a path forward, I want to highlight the many noteworthy accomplishments of our City. These demonstrate our commitment to pursuing programs that will help improve the quality of life of our residents, create a more sustainable City, and connect the community together.

First, the City Council unanimously adopted the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan (MMSP) on February 7. This will provide a vision and strategy to continue the ongoing transformation of the area surrounding the Milpitas Transit Center into an active, complete, and connected neighborhood.

Second, the Milpitas' 6th Cycle Housing Element was unanimously approved by the City Council on January 24. Milpitas is one of the few Santa Clara County cities to have a Housing Element approved before

the California Housing and Community Development Department's deadline of January 31st. The collective effort with the City Council, community, housing advocates, school district, and City departments will ensure implementation of development to address the housing needs of Milpitas across diverse groups, special needs populations, and all income levels.

Third, Milpitas SMART (Simple Mobile Access to Reliable Transit) got even better! We now offer rides throughout Milpitas. This means everyone in Milpitas can go to more places conveniently because travel is no longer restricted to a few hub locations. During the month of April, we are celebrating Earth Month with FREE SMART rides. So, book your ride using the Milpitas SMART app, online at book.smart.rideco.com, or by calling (408) 330-3302.

Fourth, our City remains responsible stewards of the community's financial resources entrusted to us as we prepare for the planned Council adoption of the FY 2023-24 Budget scheduled in June. Understanding that the demand for public services doesn't change during economic recoveries or downturns, City staff is also focused on pursuing grant opportunities and local revenue generation. For example, I am extremely proud of City staff's incredible work in securing \$3.5 M in grants for housing programs.

Fifth, we are so excited that our in-person community events are back in full swing, and attendees couldn't be happier. From Chinese Lunar New Year and Holi Festival to Shrek the Musical and so much more. These gatherings have provided an opportunity to bring community members together and instill a sense of pride. As an added bonus, visitors boost local tourism and the Milpitas economy.

Sixth, the City approved water and sewer rate studies that helped inform new rates that ensured long-term sustainability of our utilities.

It's an exciting time to be in Milpitas and I couldn't be more proud of City staff for their hard work. Without the leadership and guidance of our City Council, we wouldn't be able to transform our strategic vision to reality. City staff remain committed to prioritizing a future that ensures Milpitas remains a safe, vibrant, welcoming City for decades to come. Thank you, again, for placing your trust and confidence in us to lead our great City.

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.

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Ashwini Kantak

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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.

WHAT'S NEW?



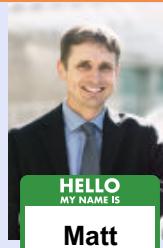
The Future of Milpitas' Innovation and Great Mall District

The City Council has adopted the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan, an updated blueprint to guide the ongoing redevelopment of over 500 acres surrounding the Milpitas Transit Center. For planning purposes, the Metro Specific Plan area is divided into five districts, which include The Great Mall, McCandless, Piper, Tango and the Innovation District. Two prominent components of the Metro Specific Plan are the **Innovation** and **Great Mall District**. The Innovation District encompasses approximately 75 acres of the overall 500+ acres of the Metro Plan area and may result in approximately 3.8 million square feet of office, development, industrial, distribution, hotel, and commercial/retail space, if full buildout is accomplished. This could result in approximately \$10 million of annual revenues towards the City's General Fund to pay for needed community services and infrastructure improvements in the future. This new development would be strategically located within proximity to public transit as well as significant new housing opportunities, all of which will allow future employees the option to bike or walk to work rather than driving.



The Great Mall District could also see a significant transformation as the property owner, Simon Properties, considers options for possible redevelopment in the future. A vital part of the Innovation District, the Great Mall District, and the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan is connectivity. Having access to the Milpitas Transit Center — which offers connections to regional BART service, Valley Transportation Authority light rail and buses from VTA and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District is part of the plan's vision. This is a very exciting and transformative time within the City! If you would like to learn more about the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan, please visit the link here: <https://www.milpitas.gov/metro/>.

Say hello to the newly appointed members of the City's Executive Leadership Team!



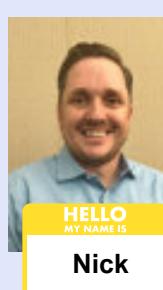
HELLO
MY NAME IS
Matt



HELLO
MY NAME IS
Jason



HELLO
MY NAME IS
Christian



HELLO
MY NAME IS
Nick

Deputy City Manager Matt Cano has more than 23 years of public sector experience with the City of San Jose, having worked in various roles in the departments of Transportation, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works as well as in the City Manager's Office. Matt has extensive background in local government and a deep commitment to public service. He joined the City in his new role on January 30, 2023.

Fire Chief Jason Schoonover joined the Milpitas Fire Department in 2013 as a Fire Battalion Chief and was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in 2022. During his career with the Milpitas Fire Department, he managed the Training Division and Special Operations Divisions, and also served as the Fire Department's Dispatch/ Communications Liaison. He assumed his position of Fire Chief on March 26, 2023.

Public Works Director Christian Di Renzo has more than 12 years of combined public works-related experience having served in managerial positions with the cities of Watsonville, Benicia, and Beverly Hills. Christian has a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master's degree in Political Science from St. John's University in New York. He completed his Bachelor's degree in English and Political Science from the University of Utah. He joined the City on December 12, 2022.

Human Resources Director Nicholas "Nick" Raisch is an experienced human resources executive, who was appointed to the position of Human Resources Director. Nick brings to the City 15-years of leadership experience in Human Resources and Labor Relations. He is a champion of inclusive and collaborative labor partnership practices and has acted as chief negotiator for unions and public employers. He joined the City in his new role on March 6, 2023.

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 Earth Day Celebration

The City of Milpitas celebrated Earth Day at Selwyn Park on April 22nd from 10am-12pm. There were multiple booths and vendors with various fun activities, which included an Induction Cook Top Demonstration, Composting Education Program, Recycling and Food Scraps Collection, and so much more.



Save Water by Checking for Household Leaks

Did you know that household leaks can waste about 1 trillion gallons of water each year? Track down leaks with these four steps:

- Look for unusual water use patterns or a high bill. Be sure to regularly check your water bill, meter, and WaterSmart Portal to look for any signs of strange or unusual use.
- Perform visual leak detection tests. Examine fixtures and appliances you use often and look for drips and puddles. You may need to adjust your fixtures or tighten any loose connections to your water supply.
- Check your toilets. Toilets are the most common source of leaks at home. Listen for running water and put food coloring or dye tablets into your toilet tank to see if color runs into the toilet bowl. If your toilet flapper needs to be replaced, call us to pick up a free replacement or have one delivered to you.

- Replace high water-using fixtures. Cut down water use by changing out fixtures that are old and dispense excessive amounts of water. Free fixtures are available to Santa Clara County residents from Valley Water's Online Shopping Cart. If you prefer to shop around, be sure to choose products marked with the WaterSense label.



Neighborhood Cleans-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 6 FREE events on the following dates:

- May 20th
- June 10th
- July 15th
- August 12th
- September 23rd
- October 24th



Locations are still being confirmed. To join the interest list, please contact the City of Milpitas by calling 408-586-3341 or e-mailing MilpitasRecycles@Milpitas.gov.

Upgrade Your Home to be More Efficient with Energy & Water Savings Rebates and Incentives

Get paid for making your home more energy efficient and for saving water. Did you know that Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) and The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) offer energy rebates? Or that Valley Water offers water conservation rebates? Rebates range from \$150-\$8,000. Who knew being green could save so much? Scan the QR code to find out more.



Scan Here



Neighborhood News



Mortgage Relief Program

On March 6, the City of Milpitas launched the mortgage relief portion of its Rent and Mortgage Relief Program to help low- and moderate-income residents who need funding assistance for staying in their homes. The federal government has allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the City of Milpitas for communities, organizations, and businesses that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Council provided direction to use \$950,000 to assist Milpitas residents and designated 75% of the funding to rent relief and 25% to mortgage relief.

To be eligible for the mortgage relief allotment, households must meet the following requirements:

- Experienced an economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hardship must have occurred after January 21, 2020.
- Currently own one residential property and it must be primary residence of homeowner(s).
- Has not received other forms of governmental or private assistance for the same period requested.
- At or below the 150% Area Median Income (AMI) limit for Santa Clara County.

Rent Relief Eligibility:

- Have been a resident of Milpitas for at least six months.
- Experienced an economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- At or below the 120% Area Median Income (AMI) limit for Santa Clara County.

If you have questions about the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, please call the Housing Team at (408) 586-3222 or send an email to Housing@milpitas.gov.

To apply please visit: <https://milpitas.info/3YWJVMR>



TEMPORARY LIMIT ON THIRD PARTY FOOD DELIVERY FEES LIFTED

The City of Milpitas' temporary limit on third-party food delivery service fees charged to food service facilities has expired. This restriction ended when the City Council adopted a resolution to end the City's Local Emergency Order related to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 7. The City Council adopted the resolution following Governor Newsom's proclamation terminating the State's COVID-19 State of Emergency on February 28. The County of Santa Clara also transitioned out of the emergency phase of the pandemic to align with the State's action. The urgency ordinance limited the fees third-party food delivery services charged local food service facilities to 15% of the purchase price of customers' food and beverage delivery orders and 10% of customers' non-delivery orders.

Milpitas SMART just got even better!

Milpitas SMART now offers rides throughout Milpitas! This means you can travel to more places conveniently; travel is no longer restricted to a few hub locations!

Rides are just \$2.50/trip. Reduced fare of \$1.00/trip for youth, disabled, and low-income.

In celebration of Earth Month, we are offering **FREE RIDES** for the month of April!

How Milpitas SMART works:

- Book your ride using the Milpitas SMART app, online at book.smart.rideco.com, or by calling (408) 330-3302.
- Pick-up locations are existing bus stops or other locations that are safe and convenient. They are a short walk from your current location.
- Arrive at your pick-up location 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up window begins and enjoy your ride!
- Book your rides on demand or schedule a ride up to a week in advance. The Milpitas SMART service is ADA accessible.

Milpitas SMART operates Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Free On-Demand Rides

Anywhere in Milpitas

LIMITED TIME OFFER



Safe Routes to School Program Survey

We would love to hear from you! Do you have a recommendation on how the City can improve the safety of your children's bike or walk to school? Any ideas on how we can encourage more walking and biking in Milpitas? Participate in the survey by visiting: <https://milpitas.info/3M9ToOk>





City of Milpitas

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www.milpitas.gov

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GOOD NEWS IN NEWS MILPITAS



Milpitas Parks Receive Makeover using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

The Milpitas Public Works Department has been allocated \$1,116,000 in ARPA funds to oversee various repairs and improvements to 9 City parks. Project priorities are to complete potential health and safety repairs and improve the condition of park amenities in "critical" or "poor" condition as identified in the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update report.

Improvement work will take place between the months of March – August 2023 and will be conducted over three phases. Phase I of the work has already begun and will focus on John McDermott, Pinewood and Sunnyhills Augustine Memorial parks. New engineered wood fiber chips or rubberized playground surfaces will be installed at Phase I parks. Additionally, Pinewood and Sunnyhills Augustine Memorial parks will have some playground structures replaced.



John McDermott Park

Phase II of the park improvements will address improvements to Cerano, O'Toole Elms and Park Metro East parks. Playground surfaces will be replaced or repaired in Phase II parks and new playground equipment will be installed at Cerano and Park Metro East parks.

The last phase of park improvements, Phase III, will enhance Selwyn, Tom Evatt and Park Metro Central parks. At Selwyn Park, sand will be removed from the playground and replaced with engineered woodchips, as well as repairing damaged sections of existing rubberized playground surfaces. Tom Evatt and Park Metro Central parks will have new rubberized playground surfaces installed. All three parks in Phase III will have new playground equipment installed. Throughout the years, City playgrounds have been enjoyed by children as they have fun going down the slide or swinging on monkey bars. These park improvement projects will help new generations of children continue this time-honored tradition and demonstrate how the City amplifies the value of ARPA funds to invest in the safety of our playgrounds.

Now Hiring Summer Recreation Staff

Milpitas' Recreation and Community Services Department hires approximately 40 new seasonal, part-time workers each spring to staff the City's pools and camps through the busy summer months. These are great "first jobs" for teens and college students. In addition to a fun work environment, these positions offer flexible hours, sick leave, retirement benefits and perks available to all City employees, like free membership at the Milpitas Sports Center. Summer jobs also commonly serve as a stepping-stone to long-term careers in the public sector, helping entry level workers make valuable networking connections. The City of Milpitas has a surprising number of full-time employees at all levels and in various departments who got their start as summer recreation staff! Apply online: <https://milpitas.info/3JNfpRx>



Sunnyhills Augustine Memorial Park



Pinewood Park