



MILPITAS

CONNECTED

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS

May 2021 Issue

Milpitas Fire Family

by Acting Fire Chief Rick Frawley, Milpitas Fire Department

The Milpitas Fire Department has a tradition of building a healthy and supportive work place and naturally becomes a second family for our Firefighters. Working twenty-four hour shifts and living in the firehouse work environment for extended periods of time helps build strong bonds that typically spans a career that is twenty to thirty years long. Often our crew members build significant friendships as a result of the merging of 'on-duty' and 'off-duty' time, making it become *family time*. This has been a part of the fire service culture for generations and has always been one of the great advantages of being a Firefighter. As family members visit our on-duty Firefighters, especially during the holiday season, we build strong connections and a love and appreciation of fire service traditions. Seeing family members respond to emergencies and witnessing firehouse camaraderie helps our loved ones understand what public safety work and community service really means. Occasionally, we are fortunate enough to pique the interest of the younger generation in considering Fire Service as a career. Recently, we had a first in the Milpitas Fire Department's 77-year history. During our very competitive recruitment process, we hired a new Firefighter, Kristen Cunningham whose father, Rich Cunningham worked for the Fire Department as a Fire Captain. This was a unique and fortunate culmination of the Fire Department's recruitment process, which resulted in gaining a new employee who grew up while her parent worked for Milpitas. When Firefighter Cunningham graduated from our fire academy, she was assigned to shift work and started her career in her father's footsteps but carved her own pathway as one of the City's first female Firefighter Paramedics. Before joining Milpitas, she worked as a paramedic in Solano County and also completed a fire academy early on. While Rich and Kristen never worked together

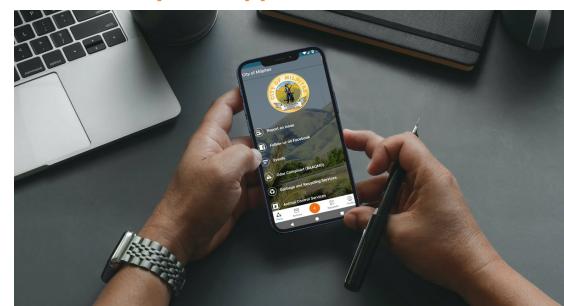


on the same unit due to rules and regulations, there was one opportunity before Rich retired in December 2020 for both Firefighters to work side by side in a vegetation fire / power outage emergency around the Elmwood Correctional Facility.

Do you need assistance submitting a service request? We are here to help. Download MyMilpitas App today!

MyMilpitas App is ready for you to download! Powered by SeeClickFix, MyMilpitas makes connecting with the City of Milpitas easier than ever. If you see something that needs attention – such as graffiti, abandoned vehicles or potholes – you can submit a service request and even attach a photo. The exact location of the issue can be pulled automatically using a GPS (Global Positioning System) or adjusted manually. MyMilpitas app is the fastest, easiest way for you to submit non-emergency requests, stay updated, and initiate change. Get it today. Download the **FREE** App from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

Please note that the App is not intended for emergency requests. If you need to report an emergency or life threatening situation, CALL 9-1-1 immediately. Thank you for being our eyes and ears in the community!



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LETTER FROM THE CITY MANAGER



COVID-19 has had a significant impact on communities across the world. It has evolved from an isolated disease overseas to a global pandemic. Unfortunately, there is no instruction manual for how to feel or act at a time like this. So many lives had been lost. Everyone who passed away left loved ones behind. During a time when business is not usual amidst a backdrop of great anxiety and uncertainty, we all realize the moment when the work we do for our community members is most critical.

As we try to embrace our new normal, I would like to take a moment to share a few highlights of the important work that took place to keep our Milpitas community safe in the past year:

- On March 12, 2020, the City of Milpitas declared a local emergency. To maintain continuity of City operations, as well as to promote social distancing measures aimed at inhibiting transmission of the virus, the City designated certain positions as eligible for telework arrangements on a limited term basis with the full support and guidance of the City Council.
- An *Employee Self-Health Check App* was developed so that City staff who need to enter the workplace could enter the premises safely and protect their co-workers and the community we serve.
- Under the leadership of the City Council, following the announcement of a shelter-in-place order by the County of Santa Clara, the City of Milpitas became the *first city* in the County to hold a virtual City Council meeting on March 17, 2020. Along with being able to join the zoom call, residents were also able to tune in and watch the meeting on Facebook Live.
- With great foresight and strategic planning from City Council, Milpitas became the *first city* in Santa Clara County to issue a mask order on April 24, 2020.
- Milpitas is the *only city* in Santa Clara County to partner with a local company to create an innovative mobile testing unit utilizing a Fire Department ambulance as a testing base and fire department personnel to administer the tests. The public-private partnership with IGeneX, resulted in testing nearly 17,000 people over eight months.
- A *Virtual Business Assistance Center* was established to improve customer service delivery and has assisted over 1,000 business representatives with unique needs. Language assistance was provided in English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- The Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) offered in partnership with the Aging & Adult Services section of Santa Clara County provides high quality, cost-efficient, nutritious meals to seniors. As of the end of April, the City has served about 30,000 senior meals.

On April 5, 2021, the County of Santa Clara launched its mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic with the support of public safety agencies including the Milpitas Fire Department. The administration of in-home vaccines began on April 14. The mobile clinic operation is another critical step towards vaccinating our most

vulnerable residents who need the help of another person or medical equipment such as crutches, a walker, or a wheelchair to leave the home.

All of these efforts were part of the City's approach to create a framework and mindset aimed at keeping the Milpitas community healthy and safe. However, the important work we need to do doesn't stop with keeping everyone protected. There is significant work on the horizon associated with several strategic initiatives such as a new Economic Development Strategy, a Recreation and Parks Master Plan, Trails, Bike, and Pedestrian Master Plan, and major updates to the City's General Plan, Transit Area Specific Plan, and Midtown Specific Plan. We will continue to work hard to ensure that community members are better prepared to meet the anticipated challenges associated with restarting the local economy and restoring in-person education.

On January 12, 2021 Councilmembers attended a virtual retreat that included workshops intended to help with identifying strategic priorities for 2021 as well as creating a renewed drive to achieve the City's mission and plan for the future. The retreat gave elected officials and City staff an opportunity to step back from the day-to-day routine and revisit the basic tenets of serving the Milpitas community – *who we serve, what values we uphold, and what path we are headed towards*.

Equally important is how much your opinion matters to us. When we plan for the future of our City, we want to hear about your honest opinion. This past January, we asked for your input through our annual community survey. We heard you overwhelmingly agree that Milpitas' diversity is an asset because different cultures are celebrated and consider the City a great place to raise a family. When it comes to the annual budget development process, we want you to weigh in as well. Your input in the 2021 budget survey (which closed on April 30) will also be submitted to City Council as part of the May 11, 2021 Budget Study Session. With the release of the Budget, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Milpitas voters for passing Measure F in November 2020, generating an additional revenue of \$6.3 million and to the four City employee groups for foregoing promised wage increases saving \$2.4 million of expenditures. As shown in the proposed budget, we have successfully regained fiscal stability through the foresight, leadership and direction of the Mayor and members of our City Council and the support of our community and employees.

I am sure that my list of worries right now is identical to yours – the safety of family, friends, and colleagues as well as the damage that will be caused by the economic fallout in our community. *I just want to let you know that we're going to get through this, together.*

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Sincerely,



WELCOME ABOARD

ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) CORNER

Meet our New City Clerk and Finance Director

Wendy Wood's professional career began in the private sector as an Administrative Assistant, where she honed her skills in customer service and document management. She transitioned these skills to pursue a career in the public sector and was hired as the Deputy City Clerk for the City of Campbell. She received her designation as a Certified Municipal Clerk from the

International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2014. In 2015, Wendy was appointed by the City Council to serve as the City Clerk in Campbell. Wendy earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Jose State University and is currently working on her Master Municipal Clerk certification. She is also a graduate of the Santa Clara County Leadership Academy.



Lauren Lai joins the team with 25 years of professional experience and fifteen years as Finance Director in the cities of Monterey, Marina and Capitola. She has a solid track record of helping communities obtain fiscal sustainability, engaging the public to solve difficult problems and being a positive leader in any organization she works with.



Lauren is a California Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from San Jose State University. She was selected to be on the Inaugural 2021 ICMA (International City County Management Association) Leadership Institute for Race, Equity and Inclusion.

CITY OF MILPITAS

Accessory Dwelling Units

adu@ci.milpitas.ca.gov

Animal Services

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

Building Safety and Housing

BuildingPermitCenter@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
Code_Enforcement@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
housing@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3240

City Attorney

cityatty@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3040

City Clerk

cityclerk@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3001

City Manager

citymanageroffice@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3051

Economic Development

econdev@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3058

Engineering

(flood zone, transportation)
engineeringpublicmail@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3300

Finance

financecustomerService@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3100

Fire Department

fireadmin@ci.milpitas.ca.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@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
408-586-3365

Public Works Department

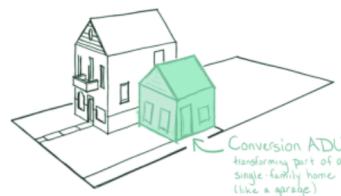
(parks, streets, trash, trees)
milpitasworks@ci.milpitas.ca.gov

MyMilpitasApp
408-586-2600

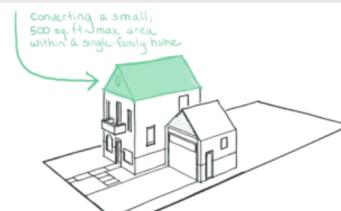
Recreation and Community Services

community_center@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
Rentals:
recreationrentals@ci.milpitas.ca.gov
Community Center: 408-586-3210
Barbara Lee Senior Center:
408-586-3400
Sports Center: 408-56-3225

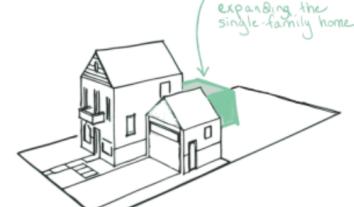
Conversion



Junior ADU



Attached ADU



Detached ADU



Learn more about Accessory Dwelling Units — also called ADUs, secondary units, or granny flats — are small living units, including a kitchen and bathroom, on properties zoned residential with a single-family home, duplex home, or multifamily building in place. Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) are very small living units (less than 500 square feet) created out of space within an existing single family home. ADU & JADU information and requirements can be found on <https://bit.ly/3tZe9QG> (ADU Zoning Ordinance). If you would like to e-mail your questions regarding ADUs, please send them to adu@ci.milpitas.ca.gov.

ADU Mondays

The City of Milpitas launched an ADU Monday Program to provide a simple and easy pathway to encourage Milpitas residents to explore the idea of developing an ADU on their property. The program provides a complimentary consultation service to help answer any questions regarding ADUs. Please note that this is not an express plan review service. Should you decide to submit a permit application to develop an ADU, City procedures and charges in accordance with the City's fee schedule will apply. An online appointment platform has been created where you will be able to schedule a virtual meeting with members from Building Safety, Planning, and Land Development to explore the development of an ADU. For more information, please visit www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/adu.

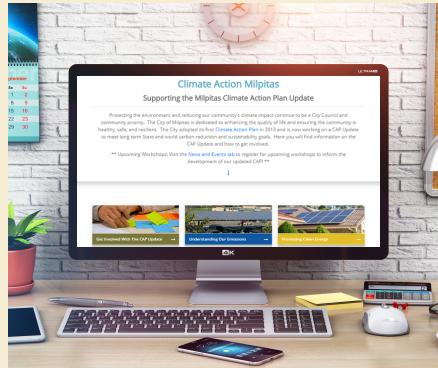


Environmental Services



Climate Action Plan

Work is underway to update Milpitas' Climate Action Plan (CAP) to include bold actions that will meet California's climate neutrality goals. Share your ideas and feedback on the climate actions you'd like us to prioritize so we all work together to build a more sustainable Milpitas. Our CAP Dashboard can be found at www.climateactionmilpitas.org. Here, you can view existing greenhouse gas emissions profiles for the City and community and contribute your ideas through an interactive polling and survey feature. Check it out today to follow our progress and future engagement opportunities!



Park and Creek Cleanup, Volunteers Wanted!

We invite you to a **Park and Creek Cleanup** event at Higuera Adobe Park and Creek on **Saturday, May 15th** from 11am – 1pm. It's the perfect outdoor event to show your support and love to keep our local waterways and parks clean, while practicing social distancing. Those interested in participating in Park Cleanup events should register with the Milpitas Volunteers Program at: <https://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/residents/volunteers/>



Can it, Don't Drain it! Keep Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) out of your Drain

Do not clog up your drain with Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG). Instead, put them in a can and place them on the curb next to your carts for collection. When fats, oils, and grease are poured down the drain, they solidify and stick to the insides of sewer pipes, both on your property and in the City's collection system, which overtime causes obstructions and eventually blockages. Once these blockages are formed, they can cause sanitary sewer overflows. Sewer overflows can cause raw sewage to enter the streets, storm drains, streams, businesses, yards and even homes. Sanitary sewer overflows pose a risk to public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and are costly to clean up. For small amounts, scrape or use paper towels to wipe FOG from your pans, then place the FOG or soiled paper towels in the Food Scraps side of your gray GARBAGE/FOOD SCRAPS split cart. For large amounts, use the curbside cooking oil collection program! Residents may place up to two (2) gallons of used cooking oil at the curb for collection each week in special containers that can be requested from Milpitas Sanitation. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/2rlkBgy>



Greening Your Home

Use Your Clean Power to Cut Emissions from Your Home

There are so many things you can do today to make a big difference for our future. Use your clean electricity from Silicon Valley Clean Energy to power your entire home, car and appliances.

Save money and reduce your emissions with eHub, Silicon Valley Clean Energy's free, one-stop-shop for transitioning to electric living. With SVCE, you already receive clean electricity, eHub gives you the power to use that energy to power your home, car and appliances. Browse efficient, electric appliances with the Appliances Assistant, compare electric vehicles with the EV Assistant and explore additional clean energy

Food Waste Prevention

In the landfill, food waste organic material is broken down through a process called anaerobic digestion. Greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere as a result of the process, which contributes to air pollution and climate change. Help prevent food from entering the waste stream by doing the following:

- Make use of the freezer and freeze leftover food.
- Use leftover ingredients to cook up something interesting in the kitchen.
- Composting and Vermicomposting! Worm-castings resulting from decomposed food effectively fertilize the garden! Let these guys do the work and save money.
- Regrow your grocery scraps into veggies.
- Properly store food - separate foods that produce more ethylene gas from those that don't to reduce spoilage. Foods that produce ethylene gas in the process of ripening include: bananas, avocados, tomatoes, cantaloupes, peaches, pears, and green onions.



Did You Know?

Cooking with a gas stove can emit harmful levels of nitrogen dioxide into your home?

Improve your indoor air quality by switching to an induction cooktop.



SVCleanEnergy.org/eHub

SILICON VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY

options with the Solar+Battery Assistant. Visit eHub today:

<https://www.svcleanenergy.org/ehub>

Induction cooktops are safer to use, easier to clean, quicker to boil water and provide better control. You can just try it out yourself. Get \$50 back when you purchase a portable induction cooktop of your choice on bit.ly/try-induction.

Community Services

In-Person Activities Return to Milpitas Parks, Recreation Facilities



As the Santa Clara County and the State of California relax pandemic-related Public Health restrictions, Milpitas Recreation and Community Services staff are excited to be welcoming customers back for in-person activities, with appropriate safety measures in place. The Milpitas Sports Center and Barbara Lee Senior Center both recently reopened their gyms for indoor workouts on cardio and weight machines. Customers must reserve a workout time slot in advance, and workout durations are limited to accommodate as many customers as possible, with time in between customers for staff to sanitize and disinfect the room equipment. Lap swim, water exercise and recreation classes and youth camps that can be offered outdoors with participants socially distanced have also resumed. The Senior Nutrition Program provides affordable hot lunches on a to-go basis. Look for even more in-person activities beginning this summer! Some indoor programs will be offered with capacity limitations, COVID screening questions, temperature checks and masks required before entering a facility.

The Summer Activity Guide, recently mailed to every household in Milpitas, includes details on these changes.

For program specific information on how Milpitas Recreation is welcoming customers back safely, please call the facility you are inquiring about. Reach the Milpitas Community Center at (408) 586-3210; Milpitas Sports Center at (408) 586-3225; and the Barbara Lee Senior Center at (408) 586-3400.



Social Services Help Available for All Residents

In the past six months, Milpitas Recreation and Community Services has greatly expanded its ability to help Milpitas residents get the social services they need. Our new full-time Social Services Coordinator Charu Aggarwal specializes not only in helping seniors, but also families with children, people with mental or physical disabilities, people with limited English-language skills, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those facing food or housing insecurity. She is well connected with a variety of nonprofit organizations providing service throughout the South Bay and able to provide individual referrals, as well as connections to free workshops, relevant community events and support groups. For help finding resources to meet your family's needs, contact Social Services Coordinator Charu Aggarwal through email caggarwal@ci.milpitas.ca.gov or phone (408) 586-3405.

Make Your Neighborhood Park Your Special Place

With more than 30 parks in the City of Milpitas, we invite you to show your park pride this summer! Here are five ways you can claim your special park:

1. Sign up for your park's email list. Stay up to date on news pertaining to your favorite park, including construction notifications, event invitations, cleanup days and more. Search activities "Park list" on apm.activecommunities.com/MilpitasRec to sign up for the park(s) of your choice.
2. Organize a park cleanup activity for your family, sports team or church. For more information email rgeneral@ci.milpitas.ca.gov or call (408) 586-3206.
3. Plan a picnic at your park to show it off to friends and neighbors. Picnic sites can now be reserved online. Search facilities for your park by name on apm.activecommunities.com/MilpitasRec.
4. Share a picture you took at your park. Tag your picture with #Milpitas on your Instagram or Facebook page, or if you are willing to let us share on our page or in future publications, request a photo release form. Call (408) 586-3206 or email rgeneral@ci.milpitas.ca.gov.
5. Help us celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month in July. This year's theme is "Our Parks and Recreation Story," and we'd love to hear yours. What special memory do you have of good times in a Milpitas Park? Call (408) 586-3212 or email tmclane@ci.milpitas.ca.gov to share. You could be featured in a video!



Neighborhood Clean-up Days are Back in Milpitas!

Have unwanted items piling up? Four Neighborhood Clean-up Day Events will be held between May and August 2021, and will be open to all Milpitas residents regardless of their resident address.

- May 22nd – Milpitas Community Center
- June 19th – Pearl Zanker Elementary School
- July 17th – Pearl Zanker Elementary School
- August 28th – Cardoza Park



Get added on the waitlist. To be added to the waitlist and for notifications of future Neighborhood Clean-Up Events, or for questions, email MilpitasRecycles@ci.milpitas.ca.gov. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, you will be required to register in advance on the City's website in order to limit the number of participants at the event at any given time. Staff involvement at the Neighborhood Clean-Up Day events will be limited to verifying the Milpitas residency of attendees and directing traffic flow and vehicles to specific debris containers. **Staff will not be physically assisting residents in unloading items.**

TRASH & JUNK ACCEPTED

Residents will be able to dispose of items such as mattresses, cabinets, appliances, bricks, and scrap wood. For E-Waste and tire collection at the events, staff is partnering with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School.

NOT ALLOWED

Household Hazardous Waste (such as batteries, light bulbs, used paint, etc.) will not be accepted. Please visit the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program website, <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rwr/hhw/Pages/hhw.aspx> for more information about scheduling a drop-off appointment.

For more information about Neighborhood Clean-up Days, please visit www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov.



City of Milpitas

455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 586-3000
www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov



Economic Development and Placemaking

What is the Milpitas Metro Area?
By Ned Thomas, AICP, Milpitas Planning Director



More than a decade before the first bus or BART train rolled into the new Milpitas Transit Center, the City embarked on an ambitious plan to transform older industrial areas surrounding the site into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood connected by a full network of linear parks, trails, pedestrian bridges, and complete streets. Building upon past success, the City is now working toward completing the original plan to create significant opportunities for new housing, streets, parks, businesses, and jobs. In June 2008, the Milpitas City Council adopted the Transit Area Specific Plan (TASP) and established a mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented development pattern in the area surrounding the future Milpitas Transit Center. The City envisioned the Transit Center becoming a regional transportation hub connecting Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail and regional bus service with the long-awaited extension of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) into the South Bay. It also envisioned new streets, parks, and public infrastructure to support thousands of new residents and visitors. Shortly after the city adopted the original TASP in 2008, the Great Recession significantly challenged the viability of land use conversion plans as nearly all development in the region slowed and then stopped for roughly three to four years. However, development interest rebounded between 2012 and 2020.

The Milpitas Metro Plan

In February 2020, the City of Milpitas hired a team of consultants from Urban Field Studio to work with staff to update the TASP and enhance the plan vision consistent with the City's new General Plan. This update effort, rebranded as the Milpitas Metro Specific Plan, envisions a robust expansion of the TASP to take advantage of the unique relationship and proximity to both BART and VTA light rail. In addition to new residential and mixed-use development, the Metro Plan seeks to create significant new opportunities for commercial and office/employment uses while improving the public realm and pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the area.

Future Opportunities

The City of Milpitas is actively engaged with the owner of the Great Mall,

Simon Property Group, in exploring scenarios for the future evolution of this important site. Simon first approached the City in 2019 to discuss possible new mixed-use opportunities for the Great Mall site similar to their redevelopment efforts at shopping center sites in other areas of the county. Promoting new office and employment opportunities adjacent to inter-connected light and heavy rail transit, regional bus service, and new higher-density housing is another primary goal of the Metro Plan effort. Approximately 45 acres between Berryessa Creek and the I-680 freeway have been designated for future development of an Innovation District. The City's General Plan and Economic Development Strategy both establish a general policy framework for the creation of an Innovation District at this location with a focus on new jobs within walking distance of the Milpitas Transit Center.

The City also partnered with VTA to complete a colorful new pedestrian bridge over Montague Expressway, with two additional pedestrian bridges planned for other key locations within the TASP area.



New Workforce Recovery Program Launches in Milpitas to Help Residents and Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

TRAINING



Pursuant to the City Council adoption of the Economic Development Strategy on May 5, 2020 and the General Plan 2040 on March 9, 2021, the City of Milpitas Office of Economic Development commenced its COVID-19 Workforce Recovery Program. The goal of the program is to provide customized workforce training workshops, assessments, career navigation and career counseling for Milpitas unemployed, underemployed workers, young adult learners, and Milpitas-based businesses impacted by COVID-19. A survey will become available during the month of May for Milpitas residents and businesses to complete. The results will help the City of Milpitas determine which trainings are most needed in the community. Actual trainings and workshops are anticipated to begin in the late fall to early winter of 2021. To learn more about this free program, please visit: <https://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/covid-19-availability-city-services/covid-19-business-resources-and-relief-information/>