

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025

CITY MANAGER'S

WEEKLY LETTER TO COUNCIL

Mayor Liang Chao
Vice Mayor Kitty Moore
Councilmember JR Fruen
Councilmember Sheila Mohan
Councilmember R "Ray" Wang

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. Please find below this week's updates on recent and upcoming City news and events.

GENERAL UPDATES

New Business Opening - HEYTEA

Love boba tea? A new boba tea café, HEYTEA, is scheduled to open today at 19469 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Main Street Cupertino. The space was formerly occupied by Pasta Armellino. HEYTEA's new location marks an exciting addition to Cupertino's food scene.



Chamber Legislative Action Committee (LAC) with Captain Valenzuela

Today, Captain Neil Valenzuela from Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office – West Valley Station provided an update on property and retail crimes affecting Cupertino and the broader West Valley region. Economic Development Manager Daniel Degu joined the meeting to stay informed on public safety matters relevant to the local business community.

Local Restaurants Receive Support from the California Restaurant Foundation and PG&E Foundation

Two Cupertino restaurants — L'epi D'or Bakery and Ox 9 Lanzhou HandPulled Noodles — have each received a \$5,000 grant from the California Restaurant Foundation and The PG&E Corporation Foundation for investment in equipment upgrades, workforce training, and other improvements. This support is part of a larger \$1.1 million charitable contribution from The PG&E Foundation.



Parking Lot Painting Phase 2

The Streets Division will conduct Phase 2 of the City Hall parking lot painting project on Tuesday, August 5, from 5 to 11 a.m. This work will refresh stall lines and markings in the designated orange areas. To support a smooth operation, please do not park vehicles in the work area. All vehicles should be relocated by Monday, August 4 evening. Signage will be posted in advance to notify staff and visitors of the scheduled work.



Lehigh/Heidelberg Materials Cement Plant and Quarry Public Meeting

Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga hosted a community meeting on Thursday, July 31, to discuss the current status of the Lehigh/Heidelberg Cement Plant and Permanente Quarry. The event provided updates, shared key information, and offered residents an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns. Ben Fu, Director of the Community Development Department, participated as a panelist during the meeting joining representatives from other agencies to address community concerns.

New ERP Project Update

We are pleased to share that the ERP replacement project has reached a key milestone of the ten proposals received in response to the City's RFP, seven met the minimum qualifications and were thoroughly evaluated by the selection committee. Based on this evaluation, three vendors have been shortlisted to advance to the next phase of the process.

These finalists will participate in on-site software demonstrations and implementation strategy presentations sometime in August/September timeframe. Following these sessions, the committee will complete additional due diligence and its final evaluation to identify a preferred finalist vendor with which to begin contract negotiations and statement of work development.

Our goal is to present the recommended contract for City Council approval before the end of the calendar year.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual India Flag Raising Ceremony

The India Flag Raising Ceremony is hosted by City of Cupertino and the Cupertino-Bhubaneswar Sister City Initiative on Friday, August 15 at 3 p.m. at the Civic Center Plaza.

National Night Out

The City is excited to participate again in National Night Out, an annual community-building event that strengthens partnerships between residents and law enforcement. This year's celebration takes place on Tuesday, August 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. across Cupertino neighborhoods. More information on the event is at cupertino.gov/nationalnightout.



Cupertino Community Bell Ringing for Peace

The Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities invites you to its 6th annual Community Bell Ringing for World Peace on Tuesday. This year's gathering will mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Toyokawa, Japan, and offers a meaningful opportunity to come together in a shared wish for peace. The event begins promptly at 6 p.m. behind the Quinlan Center at Cupertino Memorial Park.

Cupertino Puzzle Hunt

As part of the Mayor's Initiatives, Solving Fun will be hosting the Cupertino Puzzle Hunt--a free, family-friendly adventure where participants of all ages can journey to wonderful places in Cupertino to find clues and solve puzzles throughout the month of October. Puzzles will be available at the Cupertino Library or can be downloaded by going to solvingfun.com/cupertino.



MEETINGS AND RESIDENT CONCERNS

Montebello Open Space Preserve Fire

We received word this morning of a fire that erupted overnight in the Montebello Open Space Preserve, west of Cupertino. Staff connected with County Fire and confirmed that they are actively managing the incident. No immediate action is required by the City or the residents. I will keep you informed of any significant developments as they arise.

Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Seema Swamy

On Monday, I met with Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Seema Swamy for a productive discussion, including topics related to facility usage and other Parks and Recreation matters.

Emergency Preparedness and Volunteer Coordination

On Tuesday, July 29, I met with Vice Mayor Moore, Captain Valenzuela, and Andy Hwang to address resident concerns regarding Cupertino's emergency preparedness and volunteer coordination.

Discussion topics included the roles of local volunteer groups, strategies to rebuild volunteer engagement, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staffing needs, and fire hazard mitigation in high-risk areas such as Rancho San Antonio.

Mandatory IIPP Training – Injury & Illness Prevention Program

On Wednesday, the City conducted a mandatory training session for all staff on the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). The session covered key safety protocols, employee responsibilities, and emergency procedures to ensure a safe and compliant workplace. Staff were also instructed to log their training completion in the TMA system.

City Manager's Office Monthly Meeting

On Thursday, July 31, the City Manager's Office held its monthly meeting, which included a discussion on hybrid position duties. The meeting concluded with team updates, roundtable sharing, and peer recognitions.

Tsunami Advisory Issued for the Bay Area

On the evening of July 30, a Tsunami Advisory was issued for the California coast following an 8.7 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Kamchatka. The advisory affected all coastal areas in the Bay Area and Central Coast. The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was monitoring the situation and shared the advisory from the National Weather Service with Operational Area Joint Information System (JIS) members. The City is part of the JIS and staff was able to promptly post updates from the NWS on the City's social media platforms.

The advisory was short-lived, but it provided a good opportunity for staff to test communication channels with the County OEM.

Highway 280 Soundwall Gap Update

The City was made aware of a gap in the soundwall along the south side of Highway 280, just east of the Blaney Avenue overpass. This 700-foot section has little to no noise protection, and nearby residents have asked the City to look into ways to reduce traffic noise.

The City reached out to the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and learned that there's currently no funding available for new soundwall construction. Based on recent construction bids, building a new soundwall could cost between \$2,500 and \$5,500 per linear foot. The City is looking at other, more fiscally responsible options that may help to alleviate resident concerns. Staff also urged VTA to consider using quieter pavement materials—like rubberized asphalt—during future resurfacing work on I-280. While VTA has no resurfacing plans in this area right now, the City will continue to advocate for noise-reducing pavement when a project is approved.

Memorial Park Re-Striping Update

In response to recent community inquiries regarding the pickleball courts at Memorial Park, City staff has continued to monitor and support the re-striping work currently underway.

Following the initial clean-up activities, staff inspected the court surface and confirmed that no damage was observed. To ensure the work meets expected standards, an additional inspection will be conducted prior to the start of striping to verify that the surface is properly prepared and conducive to paint application. City staff will continue to monitor the surface conditions of the court. Any concerns should be directed to the City so appropriate action can be taken. We appreciate the community's feedback and attention to the project and will continue to provide updates as progress continues.

Resident Concern: Abandoned Vehicle

A resident on Rose Blossom Drive reported a vehicle—last registered in 2023—parked in front of their home for over three weeks, raising concerns about limited guest parking and missed street sweeping. The Sheriff's Office was promptly contacted to dispatch a deputy to address the issue. Staff is following up and will continue coordinating with enforcement partners.

Strategic Planning Process Kickoff

Staff has begun the City's long range strategic planning process to better connect the budget, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and City Work Program (CWP) building on the Strategic Framework that Council adopted in March. Because Council prioritization and the City Work Program are closely tied to the Strategic Plan, this effort will focus on creating a clear framework and planning calendar that better integrates all efforts. Considerations include reducing "spot budgeting" where new projects and initiatives are brought up throughout the year, aligning resources with priorities, looking at models from other cities, and establishing regular Council touchpoints throughout the year.

Over the fall and winter, staff will continue shaping the process and building on what's already working well for Cupertino. We expect to bring a proposed framework forward for Council consideration in the coming months.

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Help Is on the Way for Hybrid Meetings!

A special thank you to the City Council for their support in making hybrid meetings possible. I am pleased to welcome Lindsay Nelson as the new full-time Administrative Assistant in the City Clerk's Office. Lindsay joins us from the Community Development Department, where she supported several bodies, including the Planning Commission.



In her new role, Lindsay will provide dedicated support for the City's transition to fully hybrid Commission and Committee meetings, beginning in September. She will attend meetings in person, assisting with agendas, logistics, and live technical support to ensure smooth operations and Brown Act compliance. Please join me in welcoming Lindsay to the team!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Thank you for your partnership and support!

WARM REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Tina Kapoor'.

Tina Kapoor

INTERIM CITY MANAGER