

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

CITY MANAGER'S

WEEKLY LETTER TO COUNCIL

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

Dear City Council,

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

NOTEWORTHY UPDATES

Welcome New Mayor and Vice Mayor!

At the Special City Council Meeting on Thursday, the Council unanimously selected Kitty Moore to serve as Cupertino's new Mayor and Liang Chao to serve as Vice Mayor for the coming year. Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga and Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens of California Assembly District 26 joined the meeting to offer their congratulations. The proceedings concluded with the administration of the Oath of Office. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).



City Council Orientation

This morning, I led the City Council Orientation session, bringing together Councilmembers, the City Manager's Office, the City Attorney, the City Clerk's Office, and Department Heads for an overview of key procedures and expectations for the upcoming year. Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the helpful refresher, and Mayor Moore thanked the City Manager and staff for preparing and facilitating the orientation. The session provided an opportunity to align on responsibilities and prepare for a productive year ahead.



Mayor's Initiative Wrap-Up



On Thursday, Mayor Liang Chao hosted the Mayor's Initiative Wrap-Up and Reception at Cupertino Community Hall. The event celebrated a year of community-focused programs during her Mayorship, highlighting efforts that brought neighbors together, supported youth, and promoted culture, arts, and civic engagement. The reception took place ahead of the City Council meeting.

December Mayor's Chat

At this month's Mayor's Chat, held at Azuma Japanese Cuisine, residents and the Mayor discussed key community topics ranging from the Mary Avenue and Code Enforcement capacity to new retail activity at Hashi Market and the former Jo-Ann Fabrics' space. The conversation also covered pickleball noise mitigation, Morro Bay Terrace noise issues, and event updates including wildfire preparedness and Wreaths Across America. We appreciate the community's engagement and thoughtful questions. Thank you, Mayor Chao, for a great year of hosting Mayor's Chat.



End of the Year Employee Appreciation Luncheon



On Tuesday, City staff came together for the End-of-Year Employee Appreciation Luncheon. The celebration featured an ugly holiday sweater contest, a visit from Santa, and a festive meal enjoyed together as we closed out the year. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for hosting this wonderful event and creating a joyful space for staff to connect and celebrate the season.



CMO Holiday Potluck

On Thursday, the City Manager's Office held its annual holiday potluck during lunch. This year featured a festive White Elephant game. CMO staff gathered to enjoy good food and seasonal cheer, coming together for another year of celebrating hard work and teamwork.

Intro to Mandarin by Silicon Valley Chinese School

The Silicon Valley Chinese School (SVCS) will be providing free Intro to Mandarin classes for City, offering voluntary enrichment opportunities for interested staff to participate on their own time. Then Mayor Liang Chao, David Dong, Director of the Education Division at TECO in San Francisco, and Jenny Kuo, Director of TECO, attended the MOU signing alongside SVCS representatives.



Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce Mayors' Breakfast



On Thursday, then Mayor Liang Chao participated in the annual Breakfast of Mayors of Silicon Valley, hosted by the Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce. The program brought together mayors from Cupertino, Milpitas Mountain View, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale. Discussions covered upcoming major sporting events such as the Super Bowl and FIFA World Cup, as well as broader dialogue about the future of Silicon Valley. Economic Development Manager Daniel Degu also attended on my behalf.

Apple Expands Its Presence in Cupertino



As I informed council, Apple has further expanded its real estate holdings in Cupertino, purchasing two office buildings on Stevens Creek Boulevard for \$216 million. This acquisition continues Apple's significant investment in the community and reinforces its long-term presence in the heart of Silicon Valley. The transaction highlights ongoing economic activity in Cupertino and the company's continued commitment to maintaining a strong footprint in the city.

New Restaurant Dr.ink Now Open

Dr.ink, a new specialty coffee, premium tea, and creative seasonal retailer, is now open. Located at 19959 Stevens Creek Blvd., they welcome customers seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with adjusted hours on Tuesdays when they close at 3 p.m.



Waymo Demonstration Ride



On Thursday, then Mayor Chao and Councilmember Wang met with Waymo at its headquarters in Mountain View to learn more about the company. As noted in my June 27, 2025, City Manager's Weekly Letter to Council, Waymo extended their service area to include parts of Cupertino, primarily along the outskirts of Highway 85 and Highway 280. Economic Development Manager Daniel Degu attended the meeting on my behalf.

Meeting With CUSD

On Tuesday, I participated in a meeting with Superintendent Yao of the Cupertino Union School District, their attorney Scott Sheldon, and our Interim City Attorney Andrews regarding the Finch property.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony

The 10th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 13, at 10 a.m. at Gates of Heaven Cemetery on Cristo Rey Drive. This local ceremony is part of a nationwide observance honoring veterans through the placement of wreaths at memorial sites.



Fire Wise Cupertino kick-off

Fire Wise Cupertino, a community-led fire preparedness group supported by initial funding from the Cupertino Library Foundation, will hold its first educational presentation on Saturday, December 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 201 at the Cupertino Library. Cal Fire Battalion Chief Brian Olson will discuss how Cal Fire Hazard Maps are produced and the insurance implications for residents, particularly those living on the west side of Cupertino. The program will also include a panel sharing practical guidance on post-disaster recovery, featuring individuals with firsthand experience.



2026 CERT Academy Schedule

Help spread the word! Registration is now open for the 2026 CERT Academies, including Winter and Summer sessions, with a Teen CERT Academy planned for March 2026. Community members are encouraged to share this training opportunity. More details and registration links are available here: [Winter Academy](#) and [Summer Academy](#).



Cupertino Symphonic Band Winter Concert

The Cupertino Symphonic Band will host its annual Winter Concert on Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m. at the Quinlan Community Center. The program will feature a mix of contemporary and classical selections, including Krommer's concerto for two clarinets, A Mariah Carey Christmas, and The Holidays in Five. More information, including opportunities to join the band, is available [here](#).



SEWA International Policy Café

SEWA International will host a Policy Café on December 16 at 1:00 p.m. focused on building hunger-free neighborhoods through sustainable food access and community collaboration. More information is available [here](#).

KUDOS RECEIVED

Resident Appreciation for Staff Support

The City received a thoughtful message from a resident expressing appreciation for the work of Administrative Assistant Lindsay Nelson. The resident commended her professionalism, dedication, and growing expertise in supporting multiple commissions, noting the valuable cross-departmental experience she brings to the organization. Lindsay came to the City Manager's Office when the strategic creation of a new centralized function to support Hybrid meetings for all commissions was approved by Council. We are grateful for this recognition and appreciate the consistency this new position brings to all commissions and committees.



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Informational Memos

The following Informational Memo has been added to the City website. The information can be accessed at cupertino.gov/memos.

- [12 - December 12, 2025 - Mayor and Commission Chairs Meeting on November 19, 2025](#)
- [12 - December 12, 2025 - Informational Update on the Cupertino Disaster Council Meeting of October 30, 2025](#)

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Thank you for your continued support!

WARM REGARDS,



Tina Kapoor
CITY MANAGER