

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

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

Cupertino Student Delegation Visit

On March 18, the City welcomed a delegation of students and a chaperone from Cupertino, Italy. During their visit, the delegation toured Community Hall, City Hall lobby, and the Cupertino Library alongside Councilmembers.

The group also enjoyed lunch catered by local business La Pizzeria. We value our Sister City and Friendship City relationships and appreciate opportunities like this to strengthen connections between communities.



Business License Amnesty Program Launches March 30

CITY OF CUPERTINO

BUSINESS AMNESTY PROGRAM

The City of Cupertino is offering a 60-day phased amnesty program to help businesses resolve unpaid business license fees.

If you are operating without a required license or have delinquent business license fees, take action **now**.

Business license enforcement begins **May 29, 2026**.

LEARN MORE AT
cupertino.gov/businesslicense

Penalty Forgiveness Available for a Limited Time
Beginning Monday, March 30, 2026

100%
Penalty Forgiveness
Monday, March 30 – Tuesday, April 28, 2026

50%
Penalty Forgiveness
Wednesday, April 29 – Thursday, May 28, 2026

I'm pleased to announce that the Business License Amnesty Program will launch on March 30th to offer a chance to businesses to reduce or eliminate tax penalties and interest while coming into full compliance with the City's business license requirements. This program aims to bring equity to all businesses, ensure that businesses are able to participate in various City programs, such as Restaurant Week, and provide a source of ongoing revenue for the City.

Sales Tax Increase Effective April 1 (Measure A)

Beginning April 1, the sales tax rate for Cupertino is going up from 9.125% to 9.75% as a result of Santa Clara County's Measure A, which was approved by voters in the November 2025. Measure A is a temporary 0.625% (five-eighths cent) countywide sales tax that will remain in effect for five years. The measure was placed on the ballot to help offset significant federal funding reductions impacting critical County services, particularly healthcare, emergency response, and public safety programs. It is estimated to generate approximately \$330 million annually to support these services and maintain operations across the County.



Upcoming Ballot Measures – UUT and Parkland Zoning



In light of the uncertainty around sheriff's contract and per Council direction, the City will begin pursuing the development of two potential ballot measures for a future election: (1) a Utility Users Tax (UUT) measure, which may include an extension, potential rate adjustment, and/or modernization of existing language; and (2) a Parkland Zoning measure, which was originally approved for exploration at the March 3 Council meeting.

Staff has re-engaged with qualified consultants who have confirmed their availability and willingness to support the City in polling, public outreach, and ballot measure development. Staff will return to Council with a proposed consultant agreement and a request for additional appropriations to support this effort.

I-280/Wolfe Road Interchange Improvement Project Update

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), in partnership with the City of Cupertino and Caltrans, will begin construction on a replacement interchange at Interstate 280 and Wolfe Road in early April. Construction is expected to take three to four years. The interchange was originally built in the 1960s. The project will improve traffic flow by adding vehicle lanes and will enhance safety for bicyclists and pedestrians with separated bike lanes and wider sidewalks.



Funding is primarily provided by the 2016 Santa Clara County Measure B sales tax measure, along with state, local, and private contributions. The construction contract was approved in February. VTA will host an online community meeting on April 1, at 6 p.m. For the public to learn more about the project. A groundbreaking ceremony is slated to take place on April 28, at 10:30 a.m. on the Vallco property south of the Hyatt House. Council will be invited and more information, is available at the [website](#).

City Launches Online Encroachment Permitting System



I am happy to announce a new Online Encroachment Permitting System, available to the public as of March 23. Developed in-house through collaboration between the Information Technology and Public Works Departments, the system is designed to streamline the permitting process and improve customer experience.

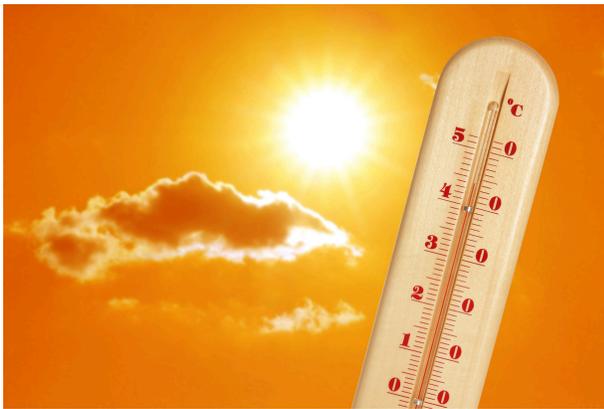
This new system is designed to support a wide range of projects, from small residential projects submitted by property owners; to major utility companies submitting routine encroachment permits. The entire permitting process, from plan review to permit issuance, will be completed through a single online portal that is streamlined and provides real-time status updates. The application portal is available to the public through the following link: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/CUPERTINO>

Cupertino Business Outreach Program

This week, City staff visited several local businesses as part of the City's Cupertino Business Outreach Program, many of which are among the City's top 25 sales tax producers. Business visits included Target, TJ Maxx, Benihana's, Shane Company, Dish n' Dash, BJ's Restaurant, and Local Kitchens. During the visits, staff engaged with business representatives to share information about ongoing City initiatives.



Heat Advisory in Cupertino



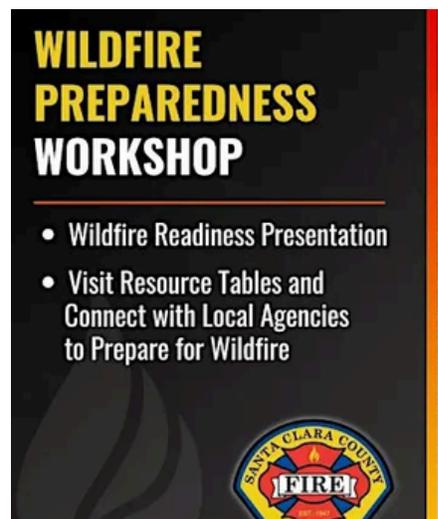
[The National Weather Service](#) has issued a Heat Advisory through March 20. Residents are encouraged to stay hydrated, limit sun exposure, and check on others.

[The Cupertino Library](#) is available as a cooling location during regular hours. Additional resources are available through the County Office of Emergency Management, and updates can be found on the [City's Hazard Awareness Dashboard](#).

2026 Wildfire Preparedness Workshops

The Santa Clara County Fire Department is offering 2026 Wildfire Preparedness Workshops to help residents prepare for wildfire season. Topics include defensible space, home hardening, and evacuation planning.

Workshops will be held April 23 (Los Gatos), May 2 and June 2 (Saratoga), July 15 (Cupertino), and August 27 (Los Altos). More information is available through the Santa Clara County Fire Department, and additional details can be found [here](#).



**WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS
WORKSHOP**

- Wildfire Readiness Presentation
- Visit Resource Tables and Connect with Local Agencies to Prepare for Wildfire

New Hearing Date for Lehigh Permanente Plant NPDES Permit



The California Regional Water Quality Control Board has scheduled a new public hearing for June 10, 2026, to consider the NPDES permit for the Lehigh Permanente Plant in Cupertino. The Board will review the draft permit and respond to previously submitted public comments.

Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Enrollment Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2026–27 school year at the Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) Center for students in participating school districts across Santa Clara County. Enrollment will open to all 10th–12th grade students and adult learners countywide beginning April 6.



Silicon Valley
Career Technical Education

SVCTE programs provide career-focused, hands-on learning opportunities, including college credit, industry certifications, and internships. All courses are UC “a–g” approved, supporting both college readiness and workforce development.

Additional information about programs and enrollment is available through [SVCTE](#).

RECAP MEETING AND RESIDENT CONCERNS

SCC FireSafe Council Event: Wildfire Games

On Tuesday, March 17, staff attended the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council hosted MJ Johns, a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where they direct and co-design wildfire preparedness games with community partners and contribute to academic research on serious games and community engagement. Johns shared research on using mobile games to promote wildfire preparedness. The team created three mini-games: packing a go-bag, experimenting with home hardening, and practicing a community evacuation. The games were featured at tabling events, encouraging parents to discuss preparedness while children played. Survey results showed participants felt more prepared for evacuation planning, more confident in following local guidance, and better able to implement home hardening measures.

Sheriff's Contract Ad-Hoc Committee Teams Meeting

On March 19, Mayor Kitty Moore and I joined the Mayors and City Managers from the Cities of Los Altos and Saratoga for a Sheriff's Contract Ad-Hoc Committee meeting. The group continued to discuss strategy, review key considerations, and identify next steps and follow-up actions regarding the contract.

Mayor and Commission Chairs Meeting

On March 18, Mayor Kitty Moore hosted her first Mayor and Commission Chairs Meeting at the Quinlan Community Center. The meeting provided an opportunity to share updates from each commission, welcome new commission chairs, strengthen communication, and align on City priorities. Mayor Moore also presented updates on Sports Center data, Silicon Valley Hopper ridership, and the County's budget review.

Women's History Month Luncheon

On March 20, I joined local women leaders at the 2026 District 5 Women's History Month Luncheon hosted by Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga's office. The event recognized women's leadership across the region and provided an opportunity to connect with community leaders.

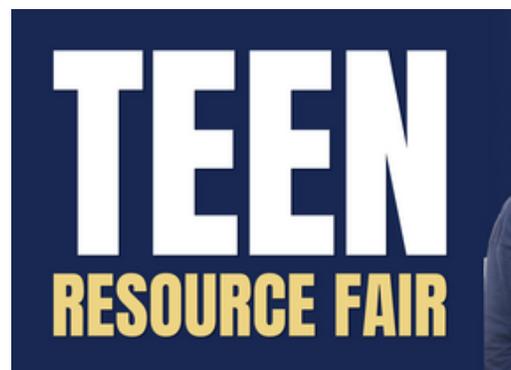
Fourth of July Prep Coffee Meeting

On March 20, I joined Councilmember Wang, Assemblymember Ahrens, and Parks and Recreation staff at Voyager Craft Coffee to discuss potential plans for this year's Fourth of July celebration. The discussion included initial ideas and coordination opportunities as we begin planning for this year's event. Staff will continue to explore options and bring forward updates as planning progresses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Weekend! Teen Resource Fair

The City will host a Teen Resource Fair this Saturday, March 21, from 12 to 3 p.m. at Main Street Cupertino. The event will connect teens and families with mental health and wellness resources, including support available through IDC Wellness. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about City summer job openings and teen volunteer opportunities. Additional information is available on the [City's website](#).





Holi: Festival of Colors

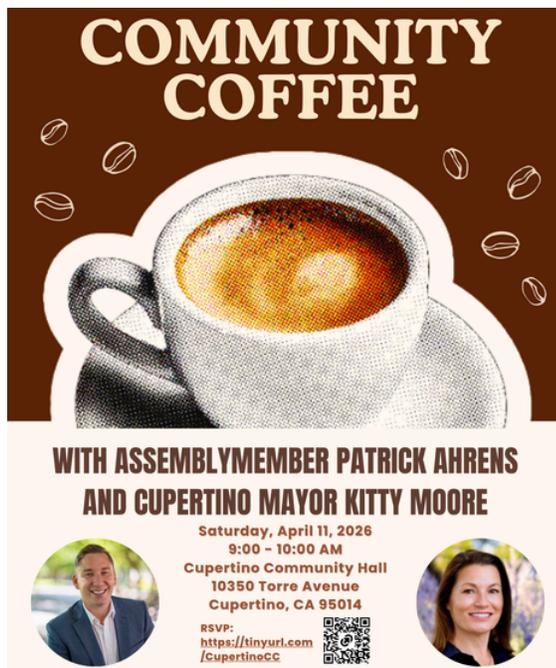
On Saturday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Holi Cupertino Festival of Colors at Memorial Park. Council is invited to participate in the festivities.

Save the Date <hack> Cupertino

<hack> Cupertino returns April 11–12 at the Quinlan Community Center. This annual 13-hour overnight hackathon is open to teens ages 13–18. Participants will work in teams to tackle a unique challenge revealed at the opening ceremony while building coding skills, collaborating with peers, and exploring creative solutions. Registration information is available [online](#).



Community Coffee: Assemblymember Ahrens and Mayor Moore



Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens and Mayor Kitty Moore will host a Community Coffee on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Cupertino Community Hall.

Community members are invited to attend, connect with elected officials, and discuss local and regional issues. Coffee and pastries will be provided at no taxpayer expense. Additional information and RSVP details are available [here](#).

FUNDING UPDATES

Federal Funding Secured for SV Hopper in Cupertino

Congressmember Ro Khanna recently announced over \$13 million in federal funding for community projects across the region as part of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations package.

Included in this funding is \$1.2 million for the Silicon Valley Hopper program, a partnership between the Cities of Cupertino and Santa Clara. This funding will support the expansion of the on-demand microtransit service, improving access to affordable and flexible transportation options for residents.



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

WARM REGARDS,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kapoor".

Tina Kapoor
CITY MANAGER