Out of this World
Via-Cupertino Community Shuttle Skyrockets to Success

PLUS: PROTECTING DATA AGAINST DISASTERS | NEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS DASHBOARD | STUDENT ART INSPIRES BIKING
Wow! The data is in for Via-Cupertino on-demand shuttle, and service is out of this world. The shuttle program has made thousands of trips in just three months (details on Page 6). The numbers show how the Cupertino community has truly embraced this new service offered by the City. Our school kids, families, and seniors are using the shuttle to get out and about. Popular destinations include schools, restaurants, Caltrain, and, of course, home-sweet-home.

The more we all use this on-demand service, the more we help to lessen traffic congestion on our streets, reduce emissions in our air, and relieve parking in our most impacted areas, such as our wonderful library and well-used Civic Center.

You’re also in good company. The City uses electric vehicles where we can and offers a robust commute alternatives program for City employees. City Councilmembers often use public transit to get to critical meetings in other locations in the Bay Area.

The City is adding more vans to the program and the hope is to continue expanding the service in the future.

I highly encourage everyone to utilize Via-Cupertino!

Deborah Feng
City Manager

Questions or comments about The Scene? Contact staff at scene@cupertino.org.
As more of everyday life moves to the online world, we continue to rely on computers to communicate with each other and safeguard our valuable private information. This, however, makes us vulnerable to natural disasters—such as earthquakes and floods—and person-made disasters—such as cyber-attacks. Disaster recovery plans are essential for agencies, whether private or public, to keep operations and data protected.

Ransomware is malicious software that cyber criminals use to block access to a computer network and hold it hostage, demanding payment to undo it. Cyber criminals continue to target cities around the country, as many cities lack the critical technology infrastructure to keep them safe. In recent years, even major cities like Atlanta and Baltimore have been left incapacitated by such attacks—residents were left unable to access services like viewing traffic tickets, processing utility payments, or submitting online applications. In many cases, city computer servers were paralyzed, and even affected airports and 911 call centers. In 2019, there were at least 104 ransomware attacks against administrative systems in schools and governments, and last October the FBI issued a high-impact cyber-attack warning in response to increasing attacks on local government targets.

The City of Cupertino’s Innovation Technology (IT) Department has implemented a disaster recovery solution to protect City data from cyber-attacks, as well as natural disasters. The solution involved the following steps: First, IT built two identical, yet separate server/storage infrastructures named “Cluster 1” and “Cluster 2”. Cluster 2 will serve as a back-up of the City’s network. Cluster 1 lives in Cupertino, while Cluster 2 is housed in a highly secure data center in Phoenix, Arizona. In December, IT staff traveled to Phoenix to complete installation of Cluster 2 and perform final tests to ensure the two structures could communicate with each other.

Adopting this technology ensures that City services will experience minimal disruption in the event of a network emergency.

City Council Prohibits the Sale of Electronic Cigarette Products

In February, City Council approved an ordinance to prohibit the sale of electronic cigarette and vaping products in Cupertino, along with other requirements such as those listed below. The City will be working with Santa Clara County to administer and enforce this ordinance.

Starting July 1, 2020

• All tobacco retailers are prohibited from selling electronic cigarette/vaping products.
• The minimum age of store clerks selling tobacco must be the minimum age to purchase tobacco, which is currently 21.
• The period in which a retailer’s violations would accumulate will be extended from 24 months to 60 months.

These new provisions are in addition to the policies adopted in November, which include a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, among other requirements. The ordinance can be viewed at Cupertino.org/tobaccopolicies. This approved ordinance is an important and successful step towards reducing youth access to e-cigarettes in Cupertino.
On January 21, the Cupertino City Council voted to join a cities and counties amicus brief—drafted by the City of Los Angeles—in the Ninth Circuit case Flores v. Barr. The City Council’s vote follows a unanimous decision last October to join numerous cities and counties opposing the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The current case is about enforcement of the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement, which sets nationwide policy for the detention, release, and treatment of immigrant children in the custody of the federal government. The agreement has a general policy favoring release and requires that the government place children in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the minor’s age and special needs. It also requires that children be housed in state-licensed facilities and be provided adequate access to medical care, counseling, language services, and legal representation.

In 2019, the federal government adopted new regulations that were intended to terminate the Agreement. A District Court issued an order prohibiting implementation of the new regulations, and that order is now being challenged in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal.

The Ninth Circuit amicus brief therefore urges the Court to affirm the District Court’s order to enforce the Flores Settlement Agreement and prevent the federal government from implementing the new regulations. It argues that the regulations would hold immigrant children in substandard, detention-like facilities for unnecessary and indefinite periods of time, without any oversight or accountability, and deprive them of essential procedural protections without adequate justification.

Keep up-to-date with projects in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan with the Capital Improvement Projects Dashboard. The dashboard highlights projects that are expected to begin construction or be completed by July 1, 2020. It provides a breakdown of projects by status and project type as well as quick descriptions and status updates for each project.

The application provides a true interactive experience. Clicking the arrow icon on the top-left corner of the map allows users to select projects directly from the map. Users can also click the name of a project from the right of the screen to zoom the map to the appropriate location. Additionally, users can click the bar chart or the pie chart to filter the list of projects.

Once the project is started, the status phases are as follows: feasibility, preliminary design, design, bidding and advertising, construction, and construction complete. Check the site regularly to see if a project’s status has changed.

To view the Capital Improvement Projects Dashboard, visit gis.cupertino.org/webmap/cip/

Questions? Email them to CapitalProjects@cupertino.org.
A future filled with more walking and biking begins, like many things do, with the youth of today.

With that in mind, the City of Cupertino’s Safe Routes to School team partnered with talented local high school students to design new streetlight banners for Cupertino. These new banners are intended to inspire, encourage, and promote bicycling and walking throughout the City. Banners have been placed on streetlights along De Anza Boulevard, Stevens Creek Boulevard, Stelling Road, and Torre Avenue.

The winning artists include:

A. Indira Abhyanker – Getting to School Safely

“My artwork aligns with the theme of active and sustainable transportation because along the path, there are kids walking, biking, and scootering, which are all healthy and environmentally-friendly ways to get to school. I hope my banner will inspire our community to make a cleaner, safer Cupertino.”

B. Fiona Luo — Clear Skies, Safe Rides

“Clear Skies, Safe Rides reflects the joy of walking and biking, both of which are sustainable forms of transportation... Most importantly, the banner’s vivid colors, concise figures, and large text make it understandable for drivers to see while moving quickly.”

C. Claudia Kok, Abigail Ho — Riding for my Planet

“Riding for my Planet depicts the environmental benefits of biking. Less pollution every day will allow us to happily coexist with the planets, plants, and animals—even creatures such as the two-legged fish!”

D. Kathy Lou — The Bliss of Biking

“As cities have the economic responsibility to promote alternative modes of pollution-free transport such as biking, my design highlights the joy of biking. I hope that all residents, of all ages, in the City of Cupertino will be able to understand and recognize the enjoyment that biking brings to the table.”

For more information on the Safe Routes to School program, visit cupertino.org/saferoutes.
Via-Cupertino Takes Off to New Heights

It all began with a thirst for more options in an otherwise parched landscape.

Cupertino had become a transit desert as public transportation all but dried up in the West Valley. Then one day, a few folks with a bit of grit and a lot of faith decided to call in the cavalry. And that’s when Via-Cupertino rode into town.

Ten Thousand

Via-Cupertino, the City’s on-demand shuttle service, hit the streets at the end of October 2019. Ridership grew quickly, and the program swiftly turned into a full-fledged stampede. By the time of this newsletter’s printing, Via-Cupertino had made more than 10,000 trips in approximately four months. (Fun fact: According to Via, the ridership in Cupertino has grown much faster when compared to other Via systems worldwide.)

Due to growing popularity and increased demand, two additional vans have been ordered. This will increase the fleet size from six to eight vans and allow for faster pickups during the busiest times of the day. One of the new vehicles will be a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) since Cupertino has a high percentage of trips that request a WAV.

As a planned part of the launch of Via-Cupertino, a $1 introductory fare was offered, allowing residents to try Via for an affordable price. The promotional fare lasted through the holidays and transitioned to $3.50 in February 2020. Pop-up events were held to publicize the service, in addition to the use of “street marketers” which have been successful advertising tools. The shuttle service was also promoted in the Scene and on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In the first quarter, ridership grew 105% with the only dips occurring during the holidays.

The City has received positive feedback from a wide range of community members, from high school students to seniors and daily commuters to the disabled. Many have noted they enjoy the increased freedom Via-Cupertino provides them while others, who no longer drive, have said that the service has been life-changing for them. The City released a survey in February to ask the community for their opinions and learned that 88% would recommend the service to others.

Top Pickup Intersections ............. Requests

Monta Vista High School ................. 1,035
Caltrain Sunnyvale Station .................. 674
McClellan Rd & Imperial Ave .............. 393
Cupertino High School (Flinch Ave) .... 250
Stevens Creek Blvd ....................... 218

Top Dropoff Intersections .............. Requests

Caltrain Sunnyvale Station ................. 863
Monta Vista High School .................. 469
De Anza College Lot C ...................... 317
In front of Alexander’s .................... 238
Homestead Rd. ....................... 224
I am delighted, impressed, happy. I could go on and on with adjectives. I love Via. I don’t call it Via, I call it ‘Joy Ride.’ And I’m so glad I read the Cupertino Scene. And I’m so happy that you initiated this system. It’s wonderful and I love it.

I used it on Saturday to do one of my favorite activities: the flea market. I had a beautiful day and Via has added so much to my life because I don’t drive, and I love to go out. And Via does it for me. Thank you!

- Vivian Zarosi, Longtime Cupertino resident

Continuing to Improve

In the beginning of the program, some riders with mobility concerns noted that the vans have a high step up that can be difficult for those that use walkers or canes. To address this, foldable stools with railings were installed in each van. If needed, the driver can set the stool out and assist passengers in. There has been a delay in installing the bicycle racks, we anticipate they will be ready for use by March 2020.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve Via-Cupertino, please email us at viashuttle@cupertino.org. We encourage riders to give feedback on their ride or driver by leaving comments in the App, they are monitored by Via and City staff. You can also provide feedback by email at viashuttle@cupertino.org or by phone (408) 777-3174.

For more information on the service, visit cupertino.org/shuttle.
Cupertino’s 12th Annual Earth and Arbor Day Festival

Celebrate our shared community and home with fellow residents and organizations at the City of Cupertino’s annual Earth & Arbor Day Festival! Join us for a wide variety of family-friendly experiences while learning about environmental solutions and ways to take action.

Enjoy the gentle breeze and sunshine as you ascend the rock climbing wall, glide through Cupertino’s streets on bike, or stretch during the morning yoga session. As music from live performances, oxygen from Cupertino’s trees, and renewed energy for climate action fill the air, treat your taste buds to delicious plant-based delicacies from local food trucks. Don’t forget to check out the interactive and informational activities hosted by dozens of local businesses and organizations, including an electric vehicle demonstration.

To learn more about the festival and opportunities to volunteer or host a table, please visit Cupertino.org/earthday.

NASA Speaker Series
Artemis: Design, Discovery, and Exploration

Nettie Roozeboom, who began her career at NASA in 2008, is an aerospace engineer who specializes in aerodynamic flow field and surface measurements. Ms. Roozeboom is NASA’s foremost expert in pressure-sensitive paint measurement technology.

She will present her work to advance the pressure-sensitive paint technology for implementation in large-scale production wind tunnel facilities. She will highlight how her work to connect experimental and computational facilities will decrease the design cycle time for developing new advanced aerospace vehicles. She will share how experiences throughout her life have shaped her to examine and solve exciting engineering challenges.

The event will be Wednesday, March 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue.
When an emergency happens—like an earthquake, wildfire, or person-made disaster—we all have a role to be a survivor and not a victim. With an understanding of what to expect, what resources are available, and how to access them, you, your family, and your business can have a better outcome.

What are your resources when an emergency happens? We all know to call 911 to reach the Sheriff’s Office, the Fire Department, or an ambulance. On any given day, we are very fortunate to have our emergency response within three to seven minutes after calling 911. But the most important resource after an emergency is yourself—when something happens to you or around you, you become the “First Responder” to provide aid and get the additional resources you see fit for the situation. Your ability to safely respond can have a big impact on the outcome of the event.

If a larger emergency affects First Responder response times, what do you need to know to take care of the situation until help arrives? The City of Cupertino’s Office of Emergency Services and the Santa Clara County Fire Department have trainings available to everyone including neighborhood groups, Homeowners Association, business owners, and residents.

**Cupertino Personal Emergency Preparedness Workshops**

Scheduled monthly, learn about the City’s response plan, fire extinguisher usage, communications plans, medical response, and more about how to prepare yourself, your family, and your neighborhood. The next workshop is scheduled for March 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at City Hall, 10300 Torre Avenue.

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Course**

CERT academies are offered in the communities served by the Santa Clara County Fire Department and rotate throughout the year. Some of the skills taught include organizing resources, medical operations, basic search and rescue, how to use a fire extinguisher, and damage assessment. The CERT Academy’s first session in Cupertino is July 27, 2020. Learn more and how to register at the link below.

**CPR, AED, First Aid, and Personal Emergency Preparedness Classes**

The Santa Clara County Fire Department offers American Heart Association hands-only CPR/AED training, and Heartsaver CPR/AED training. Learn more at sccfd.org/education-and-preparedness-overview/emergency-preparedness.

For more information about the Office of Emergency Services and to view the schedule for upcoming trainings and classes, visit cupertino.org/emergency.

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**<hack> Cupertino**

Cupertino is a 13-hour overnight hackathon for teens organized by Cupertino’s Teen Commission and Cupertino’s Park and Recreation Department. During our opening ceremony, <hack> staff will present a problem in which teams will have to work together to address.

Please note that this event is a lock-in, if you leave the premises at any point once the event has started, you will not be allowed back in.

Winning teams will have the opportunity to present their projects to the Cupertino City Council during a live, televised meeting for maximum exposure to their success. Teams will also receive a formal commendation from the Cupertino City Council.

Learn more at bit.ly/hackcupertino2020
Wafu Ikebana 50th Anniversary Flower Show
Saturday – Sunday, March 7 – 8, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Quinlan Community Center
Nearly 150 ikebana floral artists will be presenting the Wafu Ikebana 50th Anniversary Flower Show. Highly accomplished Wafu ikebana artists will also present demonstrations of this eloquent art form, discussing the materials and techniques used. For more information, see the Wafu Ikebana Society website at wafu-ikebana.org.

Block Party Planning Open House
Thursday, March 12, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m., 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Quinlan Community Center, Music Room, 10185 N. Stelling Rd.
Learn information about the Block Leader and Neighborhood Watch Programs—ask general questions about Block Party applications, learn tips and ideas for successful Block Parties from past party planners, and view a sampling of games from recreation leaders to bring to your party.

Coffee Talks Series
Fri., March 13, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Philz @ Main Street Cupertino, 19439 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Grab your reusable mug and get ready to talk about the issues that matter most to you. City Manager Deb Feng and Councilmembers are hosting a Coffee Talks Series around Cupertino throughout the fall and winter seasons. Residents and business owners/operators are invited to these casual meetings where they can discuss any topic they want with two of the City’s decision makers.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop
Wed., March 25, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Cupertino City Hall, 10300 Torre Ave.
Do you know what to do if the phones don’t work? Emergencies are scary and can happen at any time, but with a little planning and training, you and your family can be better prepared to handle one. During this three-hour class, you will learn simple, basic safety skills that will better prepare you to handle an emergency. Please RSVP to Ken E. at KennethE@cupertino.org or call (408) 777-3176.

Trivia Tuesday – Marvel Themed
Tues., March 3, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cupertino Teen Center
Put your knowledge to the test! Work on your own or in teams to answer three rounds of trivia based on the Marvel movies and comics. Winning team gets 5 tickets towards the monthly raffle!

Mario Kart Challenge
Thurs., March 12, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Cupertino Teen Center
Test your Mario Kart racing skills against your friends and the teen center staff! See if you have what it takes to come out on top. Winner gets 5 tickets towards a monthly raffle!

Pot of Gold Slime
Tues., March 17, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Cupertino Teen Center
Come in and make your own green and gold sparkle slime for St. Patrick’s Day!

Paper Airplane Challenge
Mon., March 23, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Cupertino Teen Center
Put your folding skills to the test! Make a paper airplane and we will test it for farthest distance, longest hang time, and accuracy of flight. Best plane wins 5 extra tickets for the monthly raffle!

Cultures of the World - Japan
Thurs., March 12, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Quinlan Community Center
Cultures of the World is a free monthly program where children ages 4-12 learn about different cultures throughout the world. Every month will feature a different culture where children will explore what makes that culture unique.

FitFest
Sat., March 14, 9 p.m. – 11 a.m. Quinlan Community Center
Join the City of Cupertino for the second annual FitFest! Attendees will be able to try a variety of fitness classes taught by instructors from the Sports Center, the Quinlan Community Center, and the Senior Center. This free event is open to anyone 13 years and older. Learn more at bit.ly/fitfest2020.

Cupertino Symphonic Band Children’s Concert
Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m. Quinlan Community Center
The Cupertino Symphonic Band is hosting its annual Children’s Concert for Young Audiences. Admission is free. Your donation of canned goods will benefit West Valley Community Services.

Baer Blacksmith Shop Free Drop-In Hours
Sun., March 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. McClellan Ranch Preserve
The restored Baer Blacksmith Shop is now up and running. Come and learn a bit about early Cupertino history and the craft of blacksmithing.

For more information on library programs, visit the Events section of the Cupertino Library’s website at sccl.org/cupertino.

CULTEROINO LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Sensory Storytime
Saturday, March 7, 11:15 a.m. Cupertino Library Story Room
Sensory Storytime is an inclusive storyline for ages 2-8 years old of all abilities, especially those with special needs. This storyline features a small group, interactive stories, lots of music and movement, a sensory friendly setting, plus an understanding environment with...
fidget toys and a cool down corner. Space is limited and registration is required at the Cupertino Library Children’s Reference Desk.

Learning from the Lemonade Stand for Kids & Parents
Saturday, March 7, 3:00 p.m.
Cupertino Library Story Room
For many children, their first business experience is selling lemonade to neighbors and passers-by. They learn more than how to make money—they are developing an entrepreneurial mindset and life skills that will help them pursue their passions and reach their full potential. This presentation for kids in grades 3 and up, and their parents, will be led by Brian Weisfeld, author of The Startup Squad book series.

TEEN PROGRAMS

CMAP Teen Photoshop Workshop
Saturday, March 14, 4:00 p.m.
Cupertino Library Story Room
Learn how to use the basic tools in Photoshop to make your pictures shine, and make fantasy photos a reality—change colors, adjust lighting, make a statement, and make the impossible look real! Online registration required at sccld.org starting March 7.

ADULT PROGRAMS

VITA Tax Assistance
Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Cupertino Library Story Room
Get help filing your tax returns! Assistance provided on a first come, first served basis, so please arrive as early as possible. Assistance is available in English, Chinese, Hindi, and Tagalog.

Smart Phone Essentials for Seniors
Friday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.
(Android) & 12:30 p.m. (iPhone)
Cupertino Library Think Tank Room
Would you like to better understand how to use your smartphone? Learn how to make your phone cyber-secure, read and send attachments, share pictures and videos, organize your files, and more. No skill level required; all you need to bring is your own smartphone, and any questions you have.

Wellness: Cannabis as Medicine
Sunday, March 15, 2:00 pm
Cupertino Community Hall
Dr. Harry McIlroy presents our Wellness lecture for March on the different facets of cannabis as medicine.

Galloping Horses: Artist Xu Beihong and His Family in Mao’s China
Sunday, March 22, 2:00 pm
Cupertino Community Hall
This program is presented in Chinese. Author Xu Fangfang speaks on Galloping Horses: Artist Xu Beihong and His Family in Mao’s China, a memoir about her father based on her own experiences and her mother Liao Jingwen’s recollections. Xu Beihong became one of the best known and most influential 20th century artists in China, influencing generations of artists.

Wherever There’s A Fight: Author Elaine Elinson
Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.
Cupertino Library Story Room
Elaine Elinson, author of Wherever There’s A Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California, will talk about how freedom and equality have grown in California from the gold rush to the current post 9-11 era. She was the communications director of the ACLU in Northern California and editor of the ACLU News for more than two decades.

For more info on the Senior Center, or to sign up for classes or events, visit cupertino.org/senior or stop by 21251 Stevens Creek Boulevard.

EVENTS & SOCIALS

The Better Part Encore Presentation: The Inner World of Tai Chi
Fri., March 27, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The City of Cupertino has an ordinance that regulates how long trash and recycle containers can be stored at an “authorized collection station.” An authorized collection station, for example, would be the front curb in front of a home for a resident. Cupertino Municipal Code (CMC) Chapter 6.24 regulates the compliance of the requirements. CMC Section 6.24.070(D) specifies that containers shall be placed at the authorized collection station not more than 24 hours proceeding the scheduled collection time and containers must be removed within 24 hours after collection.


D. Garbage containers, organic materials containers and non-organic recycling containers shall be placed at the authorized collection station not more than twenty-four hours before the scheduled collection time, unless the resident subscribes for “Walk-Up” services. All containers shall be removed from the collection station area within twenty-four hours after collection. Where containers are placed within a designated bike lane, containers shall be removed within twelve hours after collection. All bins, boxes, and containers of one cubic yard or more, which are serviced by the solid waste collector, shall be identified with the name and telephone number of the collector servicing the bins, boxes and containers.

Further, CMC Section 6.24.030(A) requires the owner of each occupied residential or nonresidential premises shall subscribe to and pay for a level of service sufficient to provide for the collection of all solid waste generated on the property.


A. The owner of each occupied residential or nonresidential premises shall subscribe to and pay for at least the minimum level of garbage collection service made available to that premises by the solid waste collector, as specified in the franchise agreement between the city and the solid waste collector executed pursuant to Section 6.24.120 of this Chapter or obtain an exemption under Section 6.24.031 below. The owner of each occupied residential or nonresidential premises shall subscribe to and pay for a level of service sufficient to provide for the collection of all solid waste generated on the property. Customers at non-residential properties must subscribe to services on a regular weekly basis sufficient to prevent container or bin overages and, where necessary, to extra services to prevent overages. Nonresidential customers’ solid waste, if bagged, shall be in clear plastic bags.

The City encourages the community not to store trash/recycle containers at the authorized collection station and to also subscribe to a level of trash service that is adequate for the property.