A Look Back at 2020
Highlights and Notable Events from the Past Year

PLUS: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PACKAGE THEFT | SAVE WATER WITH CLIMATE VICTORY GARDENS | CITY EARN PLATINUM BEACON VANGUARD AWARD
Welcome to December! It’s the season of giving and the month of reflection.

As I look back on the year 2020, I’m grateful for my health, my friends and family, and my job with the City. I’m thankful to have a staff dedicated to serving the community the best they can.

This holiday season will definitely be different in our quest to keep our family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues safe. I know I’ll attempt to create that sense of togetherness by going for physically distanced walks or hikes with friends, connecting with my loved ones through curbside visits, and having dinners with friends and family in my backyard.

There are plenty of ways to stay connected during the holidays without risking the health of our loved ones (or ourselves).

When I think about how good my life is, I can’t help but turn my thoughts to those less fortunate than myself. So many people have lost loved ones, their businesses, or their jobs. Even within our own small community.

With that in mind I try to stay present and do the small things for others: hold open a door, pay it forward by buying a stranger’s cup of coffee, or just offering a kind greeting.

Who knows what these people have been through?

Stay safe and be kind.

On to 2021.

Deborah Feng
City Manager
The holidays are here, but this year, they come among a global pandemic. This means many consumers will be shopping online, and with that, residents can expect package thefts. West Valley Patrol would like to remind residents to be wary of this crime and follow some crime prevention measures.

Between 2017 and 2019, the total approximate value of known stolen packages in the City of Cupertino was $25,185. Understandably, with gift-giving during the holidays, December sees the highest number of these thefts.

Often, delivery parcels are simply left on the front doorstep or porch, making them susceptible to theft. Other options include having a neighbor or relative accept the parcel if you can’t be home, having the package delivered to your workplace if permitted, requesting the shipper hold the package at their facility for pick-up, providing delivery instructions to have the parcel hidden in a location that is out of sight, or utilizing shipping lockers as offered by some companies. You may also want to track the package with text or email alerts, require a signature for the delivery, or insure the package.

The holiday season is a busy time of year and provides a lot of distractions. As always, stay alert and immediately report anything suspicious by calling 9-1-1 or the Sheriff’s non-emergency number at (408) 299-2311.

Cupertino residents are encouraged to apply for positions on City commissions that will have vacancies in January of 2021. Commissions with upcoming vacancies include: Audit Committee, Bicycle Pedestrian Commission, Fine Arts Commission, Housing Commission, Library Commission, and Planning Commission. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021. Council will conduct interviews beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021 and Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Applications can be submitted via the Online Commission Application at cupertino.org/vacancies. For more details, please see the website or call the City Clerk’s office at (408) 777-3223.
Did you know that during the holidays, Americans produce more than 25% more waste than other times of the year? Shopping bags, bows and ribbons, packaging, and wrapping paper can contribute an additional one million tons of waste per week to our landfills, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Smarten up your holiday with these tips to reduce waste, help the environment, and save money.

**Decorate smart**
- Avoid single-use decorations like tinsel, stickers, balloons, or confetti. Check out thrift stores for donated decorations instead of buying new.
- If you get a holiday tree, consider a potted tree that can be replanted, buy a fake tree that can be used again, or rent a live tree.
- Choose LED holiday lights instead of traditional incandescent lights. If you are upgrading your lighting, dispose of your old lights where electronic waste is accepted.

**Eat smart**
- Put food waste (even bones and plate scrapings) and food-soiled paper in the organics cart with your yard waste.
- Use reusable cups, plates, napkins, and tablecloths instead of single-use disposable options.

**Shop smart**
- Donate to a charitable organization on your loved one’s behalf, or give gift cards or certificates.
- Look for treasures from a secondhand shop or third-party resale app.
- Give the gift of rechargeable batteries if you are giving a gift that needs batteries.

**Wrap smart**
- Substitute wrapping paper by reusing gift bags and materials like fabric, newspapers, magazines, or paper grocery store bags instead of using wrapping paper.
- Try electronic greeting cards rather than paper cards. If you do send paper greeting cards, use cards made from recycled paper and without metal decoration. Avoid singing greeting cards which end up as hazardous e-waste.
- Dispose of holiday trees and wreaths by placing them in the organics bin or on the curb on day of collection. Trees must be cut shorter than five feet.

**Dispose smart**
- Donate unwanted decorations instead of throwing them away.
- Double-check recycling rules that may differ city to city.
- Dispose of holiday trees and wreaths by placing them in the organics bin or on the curb on day of collection. Trees must be cut shorter than five feet.

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**Holiday Closures**

Cupertino City Offices will be closed and nonoperational from Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Sunday, January 3, 2021 and will resume providing services online and by phone Monday, January 4, 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, City facilities will remain closed to the public to ensure the safety of visitors and staff.

- Cupertino City Hall, Quinlan Community Center, and the Senior Center: Closed from Thursday, December 24 through Sunday, January 3, 2021 and will begin providing services Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Blackberry Farm Golf Course: Closed on Friday, December 25.
- Sheriff’s Office: Closed Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1, 2021. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency officer assistance, call (408) 299-2311.
- Cupertino Library: Will close early at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31. Closed on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1, 2021.
With the holiday season upon us, naturally, the urge to see family and friends will be strong. Undeniably, we all yearn for that personal connection, to share gifts of food and friendship, and to experience what we knew as “normal.” This year is different. This year we remain vigilant. This year we sacrifice for the same family and friends we yearn to see.

COVID-19 remains a reality for all of us. This La Niña winter will limit opportunities to gather outside where it is safer, but we know how to protect ourselves and those we love. Washing (or sanitizing) your hands frequently, wearing a face covering, and maintaining physical distance from others significantly minimizes the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

By doing our part, we can protect those at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness than others. Even as COVID-19 cases rise around the nation, the winter season brings a stark reminder that the seasonal flu remains a threat and complicates the COVID-19 contact tracing process. Symptoms of the flu can be similar to early symptoms of COVID-19, meaning that this year, people with flu symptoms may require a COVID-19 test and may need to stay home from work and isolate away from their families while awaiting results. The flu shot is a safe, effective way to preserve medical resources for older adults and people with underlying health conditions are more likely to develop more serious symptoms and to require more intensive medical care from flu or COVID-19.

Thank you for doing your part and remaining vigilant in our response to COVID-19. The people of Cupertino have led the County to a safer reopening and remain stronger together while staying apart.

**Stay Vigilant: COVID-19 Safety Tips**

- **Wear a face covering when you go out.**
- **Stay at least six feet apart from people outside your household.**
- **Protect yourself from flu with an annual flu shot.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home if you are sick.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**
- **If you are feeling ill, please contact your healthcare provider.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
- **If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**
This year may have looked a bit different for everyone—there were many surprises, challenges, and hardships that have affected every aspect of life. Looking back at Cupertino in 2020, we’ve had to find innovative ways of working, shopping, having fun, and building community.

**Emergency Response**

**COVID-19 Response**

When COVID-19 found its way to our community, the City quickly responded to make sure the latest information was available through regular COVID-19 Response Updates. The Open for Business webpage listed all Cupertino businesses that continued to operate under Santa Clara County’s Shelter-in-Place Orders. City facilities were closed to ensure the safety of residents and staff, but the technology was in place to allow staff to provide services online and over the phone. The Senior Center provided virtual check-ins for its members, and weekly virtual fitness and recreation classes were created for residents to keep moving and stay connected at home. The #CupertinoCares initiative was created to provide weekly activities for all ages, and foster a sense of community while we all had to stay apart.

As the pandemic continued, the City stepped up its efforts to aid the community. The City and West Valley Community Services provided $50,000 to residents in need, the City and Meriwest Credit Union provided emergency assistance funds to tenants, and City Council passed an Emergency Relief Grant for small businesses. Cupertino was also one of the first to implement a Citywide face coverings order, and continues to have regular testing days at the Cupertino Senior Center.

**2020 Wildfire Season**

This year, the Bay Area also experienced a severe wildfire season, along with high temperatures and poor air quality. The City established the 2020 Fires webpage to keep residents updated with the latest information and provide a fire evacuation map. The Cupertino Senior Center opened as a cooling center in response to the heat and air quality. Block Leaders also took a wildfire preparedness webinar from the Santa Clara County Fire Department to get updates and prepare in case of an emergency.

**Events and Virtual Events**

**NASA Speaker Series**

NASA has landed in Cupertino! The first NASA Speaker Series kicked off with two in-person events featuring speakers Jerry Davis and Dr. Wendy Okolo. After the start of the pandemic, the event came back in virtual form in June with speaker Dr. Helen Hwang. Although we had to pause the series, we look forward to bringing it back once we can gather in person.

**Teen Programs**

Many teen events and programs had to be canceled or postponed, but the ingenuity of Cupertino’s youth allowed many to take a new format. In June, the Cupertino Teen Commission collaborated with the Cupertino Library’s Teen Advisory Board to coordinate the second year of TEDxYouth@TorreAve, and in July, Cupertino became a week-long at-home coding competition. In October, the Youth and Teen Commissions of Cupertino, Saratoga, and Campbell reunited to host the fifth Pizza and Politics, a biannual political forum coordinated by youth for youth. The Info-Teeno webinar series was created to teach teens finance management, and the next event is set to take place on January 24.

**#CupertinoCares**

The online, weekly initiative was created to provide activities for all ages and build community in Cupertino. Although many big celebrations were canceled this year, the #CupertinoCares initiative provided 4th of July Boxes and Halloween Buckets to hundreds of households across Cupertino for families to celebrate these holidays at home.

**Virtual Coffee Talks and Mornings with the Manager**

City Manager Deb Feng didn’t let the pandemic stop her from meeting with residents to discuss the issues that matter to them. Originally, these casual meetings were held in-person at local coffee shops throughout Cupertino, but had to switch over to a virtual format during the pandemic.
In Solidarity

Council Resolution Passed in Solidarity with the Black Community

This summer, people across the country stood up for Black lives after the senseless killing of George Floyd. In response, City Council unanimously passed a resolution in solidarity with the Black community as a commitment to continue to work towards a future with more equity and inclusion in Cupertino. The resolution was passed days after community activists held a peaceful protest in Cupertino to stand with the Black community.

Community Forums on Policing

The City hosted two virtual forums on policing for residents to ask questions and express their views on this important topic. The first event was held with Captain Ricardo Urena from the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office West Valley Division, and the second focused on policing in school with members from the CUSD and FUHSD school boards.

Forum on Implicit Bias

Hosted by Dr. Shaun Fletcher, Assistant Professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at San Jose State University, this virtual forum delved into why it’s important to address bias, broke down “privilege” and what it means, and built confidence for participants to engage in tough conversations.

New in 2020

Welcome Joanne Magrini

The City is thrilled to have Joanne Magrini as the new Director of Parks and Recreation! Magrini joins Cupertino after serving in a similar role for the City of San Bruno’s Community Services Department. She has done an excellent job leading Parks and Recreation in innovative ways during the pandemic.

New Applications

The City’s IT Department has released a number of new applications to make everyday life more convenient for Cupertino residents. The Capital Improvements Project Dashboard, the Pavement Program App, and NextRequest are just a few that can get you the information you’re looking for in just a few clicks. Cupertino Connect was released to be an all-in-one app for finding the latest City updates and to submit requests for service, and the incredibly handy and fun Cupertino ARTour app will take you on an augmented reality tour through Cupertino’s public art and historic locations.

New Projects

Several highly anticipated projects were completed this year. Byrne Avenue sidewalk improvement, adding bike bollards to several intersections, and the asphalt improvement project on Bollinger Road are just a few additions that will help keep drivers and cyclists safer on the streets. The Dog off Leash Area trial period at Jollyman Park was also extended until June, 2021.

Celebrating 65 Years of Cityhood

2020 marked the 65th anniversary of the City of Cupertino’s incorporation. Happy 65th birthday, Cupertino! Additionally, this year also celebrated the Sports Center’s 30th anniversary.
After World War II, Americans were asked to create gardens known as Victory Gardens to help with the food shortage crisis and boost morale. Today, there is a new type of crisis—a warmer and dryer California. The City of Cupertino wants you to help fight the climate crisis by installing a Climate Victory Garden in your front yard. Reduce the demand for water, store carbon in your soil, and give local wildlife a fighting chance. Your garden can help build a more resilient, modern city, and show your neighbors how you are taking care of the natural world.

The City has partnered with Ecology Action to launch a new program to help Cupertino residents and multi-family properties design and build a new front yard.

1. The process starts with a no-cost site inspection at your property.
2. Ecology Action’s design team will create a custom planting and irrigation design with you.
3. Once you are happy with the design, you can choose from Ecology Action’s pre-vetted, qualified contractors to complete your landscaping project at an affordable rate. Ecology Action can also provide hands-on assistance to make it a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) project and save you money.
4. Save more water with additional features such as advanced irrigation controls, laundry to landscape grey water systems, rain barrels, and pervious paving.
5. After the installation is finished, Ecology Action will help you apply for rebates to keep the costs down.

Cupertino Climate Victory Garden is a pilot project. This offer is for a limited time only. Sign up for a no-obligation, no-cost site visit today by visiting cupertino.org/ClimateGarden.

City Earns Platinum Beacon Vanguard Award for Leadership on Climate Change

The City of Cupertino was one of six cities recognized with a Beacon Vanguard Award from the Institute for Local Government (ILG) for achievements in climate action, one of the highest honors a city can achieve in the ILG’s Beacon Program. The Beacon Program recognizes voluntary action by local governments in California for best practices in addressing climate change and promoting sustainability in their communities. After receiving an award in all five Spotlight categories and completing a climate action plan, a city earns a Beacon Vanguard Award. Cupertino earned the Vanguard Platinum Award this year based on the following achievements:

- Platinum Level Award in 2020 for 24% Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions comparing 2010 to 2018.
- Platinum Level Award in 2016 for 22% Agency Energy Savings.
- Platinum Level Award in 2016 for Sustainability Best Practices.

This is a huge accomplishment for the City, and it publicly acknowledges the leadership and efforts the City has taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Although deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Cupertino’s business community has had many highlights to celebrate in 2020. This includes welcoming the following restaurants and businesses to the City:

- SpiceKlub Modern Indian Cuisine (10310 S De Anza Boulevard)
- Egghead Café (19929 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- La Pizzeria (Nineteen800, 10088 N Wolfe Road)
- Tiger Sugar (The Marketplace, 19620 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- Vampire Penguin Shaved Snow, Drinks, and Desserts (McClellan Square)
- Noodleosphy (McClellan Square)
- Pasta Armellino (Main Street)
- Bank of America (21020 Homestead Road)
- O2 Valley (Loree Center, 19058 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- Tarim Global Cuisine (19930 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- Pineapple Thai (Main Street)
- The Original Facial Bar (Main Street)
- Myungrang Hot Dog (Main Street)
- Hanlin Tea Room (10271 Torre Avenue)
- Code Ninjas (The Marketplace)
- Ippudo Ramen (Main Street)
- Savory Kitchen (Cupertino Crossroads, 20530 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- Sleep Number (20803 Stevens Creek Boulevard #100)
- F45 Training (Nineteen800, 19700 Vallco Parkway)
- TAKU Ironware (10215 S De Anza Boulevard)

Employees:
- Covered employees include anyone who performs two hours or more of work per week in Cupertino.
- Covered employees are entitled to these rights regardless of immigration status.

Employers:
- Post official notice in the workplace informing employees of the rate increase and their rights.
- Must document all hours worked and keep records for four years.
- Retaliation against employees exercising their rights is unlawful.

New businesses we’re looking forward to opening in 2021 and joining our community include:

- Vons Oven Fried Chicken (10520 S De Anza Boulevard)
- Mantra India (20840 Stevens Creek Boulevard)
- Little Dipper Shabu Shabu (Crossroads Cupertino)
- Fire Wings (Crossroads Cupertino)
Holiday Events

Shine Bright Cupertino

It’s that special time of year—there’s a chill in the air, and neighborhoods are full of holiday spirit. Take a moment this month to step away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the Shine Bright Cupertino light tour. Neighbors have thoughtfully decorated their homes with holiday décor for Cupertino to enjoy.

A few touring tips to remember:

• Drive carefully! If you’re doing a driving tour, please be mindful of the road and your surroundings. Briefly pull over to safely view lights, and always watch for pedestrians. Drive politely and quietly through neighborhoods.

• Be courteous to the homeowners and their neighbors.

• Best touring times are early nighttime. Don’t tour too late, as many lights get turned off after 10 p.m.

Find the Shine Bright Cupertino light tour at cupertino.org/holidayevents.

Zoom with Santa

December 4 to 5 and 18 to 19, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
$10 Residents / $12 Non-Residents

This year Santa visits will look a little different but feel just as special. Instead of face to face visits, Santa will be coming to you live from the North Pole. Register for a Zoom call and get the chance to chat with Santa...virtually.

After registering, we will have a staff member contact you to collect information about the children that will be on the call. We want to ensure that this will be a call they won’t forget!

To book a Zoom call with Santa, visit bit.ly/zoomwithsanta.

Holidays in Hawai’i

December 9, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sway along with the Cupertino Senior Center’s Lei Nani Hula dancers and the Pilo Ho’ okani band as they celebrate the holidays with Hawaiian songs and dances. The program will be presented on Zoom and mostly pre-recorded with live introductions from members of the dance group. Open to the public.

Register at bit.ly/3mNOBU.

The Santa Stop

December 11 to 12, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 13, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
$5 Residents / $6 Non-Residents

Santa is coming to Cupertino! For one weekend he’s leaving his post at the North Pole to greet Cupertino families from a safe distance. Participants will get to say hello to Santa as they drive through the Quinlan Community Center’s parking lot. Santa letters are encouraged!

Drive-through sessions, set in specific 30-minute time slots between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. December 11 to 12 and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on December 13. To do a drive-through, a ticket must be purchased in advance. All registrants will receive candy canes and an ornament to help spread holiday cheer!

To purchase a ticket, visit bit.ly/thesantastop.

Deck the Doors

“Deck the doors” with boughs of holly…. Fa la la la la, la la la la...

#CupertinoCares is hosting a door decorating contest, and we want you to participate. How festive can you make the front door to your home or an inside door in your office? Any door will do. We aren’t picky!

Send a photo of your decked out holiday door to cupertinocares@cupertino.org by December 16. Doors will be judged on creativity and holiday spirit. Gift cards will be sent to the winners and will be announced on Friday, December 18.

’Tis the season to be jolly. Fa la la la la, la la la la...
Live Fitness Classes

The City of Cupertino’s Parks & Recreation Department offers free live fitness classes, which you will be able to live stream from home via the Zoom app! Please download the app on your home computer or smartphone. Note: Class schedule is subject to change. For the latest information, please visit bit.ly/cupertinovirtualfitness.

### MONDAYS

**Zumba® with Monica** | 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Zumba® routines feature aerobic intervals with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body.

### TUESDAYS

**Bootcamp with Raychel** | 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
An interval training class that mixes calisthenics and body weight exercises with cardio and strength training. No equipment needed.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Zumba Gold® with Grace** | 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Zumba Gold® is a dance exercise class designed for active adults 50+. The dances feature Latin moves such as Salsa, Cumbia, Cha Cha, and more. Steps are fun and easy to follow and learn. The class is designed to help improve balance, strength, and flexibility.

### THURSDAY

**Body Sculpting with Raychel** | 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Body sculpting is a muscle-toning total body workout, incorporating strength and flexibility training. No equipment needed.

### FRIDAYS

**U-Jam® with Monica** | 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Join the dance party with U-Jam®, burn those calories away with easy to follow moves and high energy music.

**Cardio Dance with Monica** | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Join Monica for her very own Cardio Dance Class filled with Pop and Bollywood music.

### Facilities

**Dog Parks**
Mary Avenue Dog Park and the Jollyman DOLA has reopened. Users must follow the latest limitations to the Santa Clara Country Shelter-in-Place order.

**Blackberry Farm Golf Course**
Blackberry Farm Golf Course has reopened. Daily tee times are between sunrise to 1.5 hours before sunset.

**Book a Tee Time:** Tee times can be reserved any time online at blackberryfarmgolfcourse.com or during business hours by phone (408) 253-9200.

**Cupertino Park Tennis Courts**
The tennis courts at these parks are open:
- Memorial Park
- Monta Vista Community Center
- Varian Park

**Picnic Sites**
The City of Cupertino began taking picnic site reservations on Wednesday, October 21. Reservations can be made online at reg4rec.org or by calling the City’s Recreation Office at (408) 777-3120.

**Sports Center**
The tennis courts at the Cupertino Sports Center have reopened for Sports Center members. Sports Center court hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Reserve a Court:** Court reservations can be made during business hours by calling the Cupertino Sports Center (408) 777-3160.

Indoor activities are closed due to a seismic retrofit of the Sports Center.

**Playgrounds**
The City of Cupertino reopened park playgrounds on Monday, September 21. The City will not be sanitizing play structure surfaces. Use at your own risk. Playground users should follow social distancing recommendations, wear a face covering, practice good hygiene, and follow the regulations put forth by the California Department of Public Health.