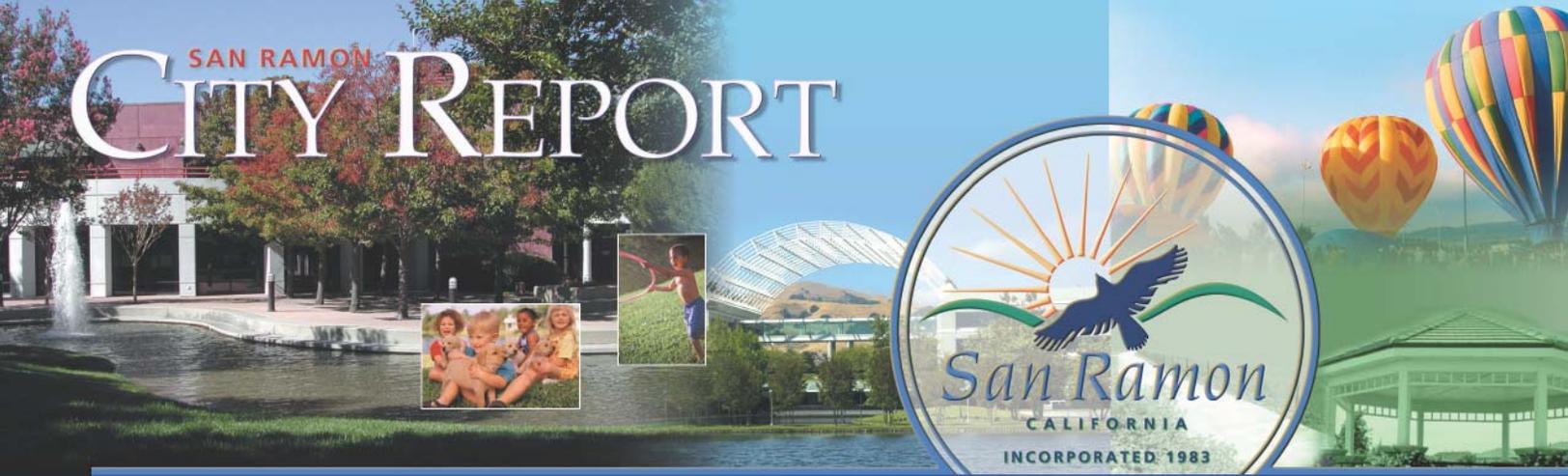


SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



Fall 2009 ♦ Volume Six ♦ Edition Three

Happy Trails (and Parks) to You!

The longest open space trail in the City of San Ramon is now open for use by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrian users. The Hidden Valley Trail in the Dougherty Valley - connecting to the Tassajara Ridge Trail - constitutes approximately 5 miles of amazing views of the Dougherty and Tassajara Valleys.

The trail head for the Tassajara Ridge Trail is located off of Windemere Parkway, (south of Longleaf Circle) where it runs east, then north through the open space and converges with the Hidden Valley Trail north of Piccadilly Square. Access to the Hidden Valley Trail is located east of Piccadilly Square and Ivy Hill Way.

Compass Point, the newest neighborhood park in San Ramon (developed by Windemere, BLC), is located between Dawes Court and Balmoral Court, east of Windemere Parkway.

Hidden Valley, the most pristine of all open spaces in the Dougherty Valley, has been protected for future generations to enjoy with areas set aside for native species, flora and fauna. Be sure to plan a nature hike along these trails and enjoy this beautiful valley, which is especially picturesque in the spring with the wildflowers in bloom.



“Government 101” coming soon!

Last spring, the City of San Ramon City Clerk’s Office hosted the inaugural class of Government 101, a six week course designed to enhance understanding of local government and encourage civic engagement through participation in the City’s various committees and commissions. Linda Mannina was one of thirty residents who spent six weeks learning about their City. “This was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about San Ramon’s past, present and future,” said Mannina. “This class gave us a ‘behind the scenes’ look at the City.” Classmate Maura Connell agreed. “Wow, what an experience! For all of us – new and long-term residents alike – San Ramon Government 101 was a great way to become more connected to our City and to get involved in new ways.”

The second Government 101 class will be presented on six consecutive Mondays starting on February 22, 2010. Classes run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The course is free but space is limited. Applications will be available in January 2010. If you are interested in participating, send an e-mail to cityclerk@sanramon.ca.gov or call (925) 973-2538.

CLASS TOPIC/DATE (Tentative)

Overview of City Organization

Monday, February 22, 2010

Introduction/Tour of City Facilities

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Funding City Services

Monday, March 1, 2010

Playing and Sustaining San Ramon

Monday, March 8, 2010

Public Safety in San Ramon

Monday, March 15, 2010

Growing the City of San Ramon

Monday, March 22, 2010

Planning San Ramon’s Future/Wrap Up

Monday, March 29, 2010

Recognition at City Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

GENERAL PLAN 2030 UPDATE

Since April, City Commissions and Committees have been meeting to review proposed changes to the City's General Plan Elements. The City's environmental consultant, Michael Brandman Associates, is reviewing staff's work and is beginning work on the environmental impact report.



As part of this General Plan 2030 Update, the City has developed its first Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Element. The Element includes new policies that promote the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and identifies strategies to meet the required emission reductions set by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The strategies in the draft Element build upon San Ramon's already strong commitment to sustainable development and practices.

The meetings of the Planning Commission and City Committees are open to the public. All San Ramon residents are encouraged to get involved in this very important process and make their opinions known. Future meetings and agendas can be found on the City of San Ramon web site: www.sanramon.ca.gov. This site also features important information about the public review process. For more information, please contact Debbie Chamberlain at dchamberlain@sanramon.ca.gov or (925) 973-2560.

FOR LOCAL INFORMATION, TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 'AM 1610'

The City of San Ramon re-equipped its ability to broadcast local highway, road, traffic, and emergency information on AM 1610. In August 2009, contractors completed the last phase to provide this radio network. Two broadcast stations were required to complete the coverage over and around the hilly terrain of San Ramon. One station broadcasts from Memorial Park. The second broadcasts from the new Dougherty Valley Service Center. Take the time to listen for emergency preparedness tips and know where to turn for emergency, traffic, and city street information.

TRAFFIX "jams"...

TRAFFIX is a program specifically designed to reduce traffic congestion in the community's most congested roadways and intersections. The more students who participate in the school bus program, the more cars we can remove from the roadway. Removing cars translates into less congestion and better air quality for everyone. The \$250 annual bus pass equates to \$0.55 cents per trip, about a quarter of what it costs parents to drive to school and back!

TRAFFIX provides service to Pine Valley Middle School, Country Club, Neil Armstrong and Walt Disney Elementary Schools. For more information, contact Aram Boyd, TRAFFIX Program Manager at (925) 866-8739 or visit the website at www.RideTRAFFIX.com.

Reporting Emergencies via Cell Phone

In an emergency, every minute counts. Did you know that if you dial 9-1-1 you may actually lose precious minutes? If you are using a cell phone in San Ramon to dial 9-1-1 for help, your call will be initially routed to the nearest California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center. The dispatcher will inquire as to the location of the caller and will transfer the call to San Ramon Police or the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

When you dial 9-1-1 from a land-line, the dispatcher receives computer aided information such as police, fire and medical jurisdictions, and telephone number and address from where the call is being made. When a dispatcher receives a wireless 9-1-1 call, the only information the dispatcher receives is the cell phone number making the call.

If you make a cellular 9-1-1 call it is important to stay on the line and provide the dispatcher with the exact location of the emergency to ensure that help can be dispatched to the correct location. The City recommends that you program the local San Ramon Police (925-973-2779) and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (925-838-6691) dispatch numbers into your cell phone so that your call is properly routed. Saving time may save a life!



San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (925-838-6691) dispatch numbers into your cell phone so that your call is properly routed.

Do you live in a "Flood Zone?"

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has generated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) which delineate flood zone areas. Property owners in or near a flood zone are encouraged to obtain flood insurance. Mortgage lenders may require flood insurance regardless of proximity to a flood zone. The City participates in the Community Rating System which gives San Ramon property owners a discount on flood insurance premiums.

You can use the following resources to determine if your property is in a flood zone:

- www.fema.gov
- <http://msc.fema.gov>
- www.floodsmart.gov
- Contact the City's Engineering Services Department at (925) 973-2670.

Only rain down the drain please!

Lawn care plays an important role in local water quality. Each year, Americans apply 70 million pounds of pesticides to lawns. Overuse of chemical fertilizers combined with runoff from over-watering pollutes our creeks. Check sprinkler timing to ensure that you are not over-watering your lawn causing runoff to carry fertilizers directly into the stormdrain. Take time to check sprinkler coverage to ensure that the water is falling on the lawn and not on the street or sidewalk. Everything from the gutter flows to our local creeks untreated!

For information contact Steven Spedowski, Senior Analyst, at (925) 973-2653.



Free 2-Day Recycling Drop-off Event

Where: Iron Horse Middle School
South Parking Lot

When: Saturday, January 16th and
Sunday, January 17th
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Recycle:

Green waste / yard trimmings
Clean wood / lumber
Cardboard / Paper / Scrap metal
Bottles & cans
T.V's / Computer Monitors
Electronics
Microwave ovens
Household batteries
Fluorescent lights

Donate:

Clothing / Shoes / Toys / Housewares

Free compost for San Ramon residents while it lasts!

Call (925) 973-2824 or visit
www.sanramon.ca.gov for more info.

City Adopts Housing Element

After an extensive public outreach effort and refinement of the City's housing plan over the past two years, the City Council on October 27, 2009 adopted the 2009-2014 Housing Element of the City's General Plan 2020. The purpose of the Housing Element, required by State law, is to ensure that cities adequately plan to meet the housing needs of all people within the community—regardless of their income. The Housing Element assesses current and future housing needs, identifies constraints and opportunities to meet those needs, and provides a strategy for achieving housing goals, policies, and programs.

San Ramon is one of the first communities in the Bay Area and the first city in the East Bay to be in compliance with California Housing Law requirements by having a state-certified Housing Element. The City now begins the task of implementing the Housing Element and working towards accomplishing the goals set forth in the document over the next five years. For additional information on the Housing Element, please contact the Planning/Community Development Department at planning@sanramon.ca.gov or (925) 973-2560.

Housing Rehabilitation Grant & Contra Costa Neighborhood Preservation Loan Program

Housing Rehabilitation Grant
Program provides a grant for up to \$5,000
(925) 973-2596

Only San Ramon homeowners are eligible

Neighborhood Preservation Program

County Program provides a loan up to \$40,000 for housing rehabilitation
(925) 335-1137

Income limits apply
Call for details



City of San Ramon
 2222 Camino Ramon
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 (925) 973-2500

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Home for the Holidays

CELEBRATE SAN RAMON

Holidays are a time for friends and family. By shopping in San Ramon you will have more time to spend with your loved ones! Take advantage of the many shopping and dining experiences that your city has to offer.

Visit the Restaurant Guide online for local dining information:
www.sanramon.ca.gov/econdev/restaurant.html

Visit our special holiday website for details on local shopping opportunities and holiday events:
www.sanramon.ca.gov/holiday

By shopping locally you help support local businesses and your sales tax dollars help fund municipal services.

Do your holiday shopping and enjoy these great holiday events:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12/3 | Bishop Ranch Tree Lighting |
| 12/4 - 13 | Every Christmas Story Ever Told |
| 12/5 | Bah Humbug 5K |
| 12/5 | A Day in His Life |
| 12/6 | Holiday on the Farm |
| 12/11 - 13 | SRV Dance Academy <i>Nutcracker</i> |
| 12/12 | Breakfast with Santa |
| 12/18 | Symphonic Band Holiday Concert |
| 12/18 | Community Chorus Holiday Concert |
| 12/19 - 23 | If You Give A Mouse A Cookie |
| 12/20 | Messiah Sing Along |

Happy Holidays from the City of San Ramon family to yours!

SHOP , DINE , ENTERTAIN

Contact Information

City Council:

- H. Abram Wilson, *Mayor*
 Dave Hudson, *Vice Mayor*
 Jim Livingstone, *Councilmember*
 Scott Perkins, *Councilmember*
 Carol J. Rowley, *Councilmember*
- City Council 973-2530
 City Manager 973-2530

Department Services:

- Building 973-2580
 Business License 973-2510
 City Clerk 973-2539
 Economic Development 973-2554
 Employee Services 973-2523
 Engineering 973-2670
 Passport Services 973-2533
 Planning 973-2560
 Police 973-2700
 Police Sub Station (Dougherty Station) 973-3300
 Public Services 973-2800
 Transportation 973-2650

Facilities:

- Dougherty Station
 Community Center 973-3350
 Dougherty Station Library 973-3380
 Dougherty Valley
 Aquatic Center 973-3335
 Dougherty Valley
 Performing Arts Center 973-ARTS
 San Ramon Community Center
 and Central Park 973-3200
 San Ramon Library 973-2850
 San Ramon Olympic Pool 973-3240
 San Ramon Senior Center 973-3250

www.sanramon.ca.gov