

# SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



Fall 2013

## Municipal Election Update

The City of San Ramon will hold an election for Mayor and two Council seats on November 5, 2013. Mayor Clarkson is running unopposed. The following residents have qualified as candidates for the City Council seats. Their names are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot per the Secretary of State's random alphabetical order.

### City Council (two seats)

- Dave Hudson
- Harry Sachs
- Thomas von Thury
- Rene Matsumoto



November's City election will also include two ballot measures, Measure D and Measure E. Both measures are

related to the change in City elections from odd years to even years. The full text of the measures and the impartial analysis are available at: [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov).

The City Clerk's office encourages all new residents to register to vote. If you have moved within the City of San Ramon, you will need to re-register in order to vote. The last day to register to vote is October 21, 2013. Applications for Vote By Mail ballots must be received by the Registrar of Voters in Martinez by October 29, 2013.

*Please register and vote! Remember—Voting is your right and your responsibility!*

## School is Back in Session, Remember to be Street Smart!

Whether you are a parent with school-aged children or a resident who drives by local schools, it is everyone's responsibility to obey speed limits, particularly near school zones. It's also important to constantly watch out for children around schools. They might be walking, biking, skateboarding, or riding their scooters. Remember, crosswalks are important places for children to cross the street, so never

stop your car on a crosswalk. At your child's school, make sure you don't park along a red curb. These are set aside for emergency vehicles, buses, or for other important safety reasons. For more safety tips or to learn about traffic safety activities taking place in our schools, visit the San Ramon Valley Street Smarts website [www.street-smarts.com](http://www.street-smarts.com) or call (925) 314-3382.

## Free Transit Tickets for Students

The City of San Ramon in concert with 511 Contra Costa provides free public transit tickets as an alternative to driving your student to school. Students who are eligible will receive two 12-ride County Connection transit tickets. Students must be registered in a public or private school (1st – 12th grade) in San Ramon. This offer is available at a maximum of 3 students per household while supplies last. The application is available online at [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov).

The City of San Ramon now uses Instagram@cityofsanramon to showcase the outstanding infrastructure, parks, facilities and services we offer our citizens. These photos highlight our unique features and excellent quality of life. Pictures are posted regularly and monitored by members of the Social Media Team. Connect to all of San Ramon's social media accounts like Twitter and Open San Ramon at <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/connect.html> or by scanning this QR code.



The City of San Ramon

## ***City and School District Joint Use Agreement Amended***

**T**he partnership between the City and the School District on joint use of facilities has been strengthened to include a new school park and language covering how joint use facilities can be modified. The City Council and the School Board approved the amendments to the Master Use Agreement, last revised in 2009. The agreement covers terms and conditions of shared use and operations at the school-parks on all San Ramon elementary and middle school sites, the aquatic centers at both high schools, the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, the gymnasiums at Pine Valley and Iron Horse Middle Schools, and after school teen centers on all middle school campuses. Since the City's incorporation in 1983, the City and District have enjoyed a unique and positive partnership which provides excellent facilities for both school and community use. Both agencies have invested millions of taxpayer funds to build and operate facilities for the public to use and enjoy.

## ***City Facility Rental Promotions!***

The City of San Ramon is currently offering a variety of promotions for San Ramon Businesses, Special Events, and Receptions held at our beautiful indoor or outdoor rental locations (not all meeting rooms will qualify for this promo). For more information, call the Facility Rental Team at (925) 973-3200.

## ***Be Local. Buy Local.***

**D**o you own a business in San Ramon? Do you have a San Ramon business license?

A business license is required for doing business in the City of San Ramon. In keeping with San Ramon's business friendly environment, the fee is a modest \$40 per year for businesses with 0-5 employees, lowest in the Tri-Valley!

***What are the benefits of acquiring a San Ramon Business License?***

If your business is physically located in San Ramon, your license entitles you to free advertising in the form of a listing on the Shop San Ramon First Website. 'Shop San Ramon First' branding and advertising encourages residents and visitors to use the website to locate San Ramon

businesses first for their shopping needs. The Shop San Ramon Logo is visible in many of the City's guides, maps, and theater programs. Check out our new website at [www.shopsanramonfirst.com](http://www.shopsanramonfirst.com) and remember to Be Local. Buy Local.

***Shopping in San Ramon enhances your San Ramon community!***

When you shop in San Ramon, sales tax dollars stay here. These dollars support your favorite parks, sports fields, and other recreational facilities, as well as, roads resurfacing, and fire and police services throughout San Ramon. Shopping, dining, service, and entertainment purchases contribute to your San Ramon community.

***Shop San Ramon First!***



## ***San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park - Chemical Conversion Project***

In January of this year, the City was notified that gas chlorine will no longer be available to aquatic facilities after November 2013 due to industry wide safety concerns. The 50 Meter pool at the San Ramon Olympic Pool has been treated using gas chlorine since the facility was built in 1974. The City has had an excellent safety record and no safety issues.

The gas chlorine will be replaced with a liquid chlorine treatment system. This treatment option is currently in place at the other pools at the Olympic Pool as well as at the Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center, and is current industry standard. The existing maintenance shed will be altered to accommodate the new equipment. The project will be completed by November 2013. The project is funded by the City of San Ramon at an approximate cost of \$300,000.

# Prepare Now For a Safe Holiday Season



**D**on't let the rush and excitement of the holiday season make you careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. Taking a few preventive measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

- ◆ Be extra cautious, lock doors and windows when you leave home, even for a few minutes.
- ◆ When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up your newspapers and mail. Put lights on timers to give the impression someone is home.
- ◆ Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

*Shopping during the holiday season can present unique dangers. Keep these tips in mind the next time you go out.*

- ◆ Shop during daylight hours when possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member and park in a well lit area.
- ◆ Lock your vehicle. Clear it of anything visible to the public. If it can be seen, it can be taken.
- ◆ Stay alert to your surroundings. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. "Con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

*The holidays can present potentially dangerous situations for children. Simple measures can help keep your children safe.*

### **Teach your children to:**

- ◆ Go to a store clerk and ask for help if your child is separated from you.
- ◆ Stay close to you at all times while shopping. Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- ◆ How to give their full name, address and telephone number to police officers or mall security.
- ◆ Immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

## **Fall Leaf Season**

Fall is here! Leaves and other yard waste entering the stormdrain system pollute our local creeks when they decompose, producing bacteria and robbing the water of oxygen. You can help improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding by raking and sweeping leaves and other debris before they enter the stormdrain system. Please do not leave piles of leaves in the gutter for the street sweepers as this can clog the sweepers and delay street sweeping. Residents should also inform their gardener or landscaper about not blowing leaves into the gutter. Leaves should be put in your green bin along with other landscape materials.

## **Landscaping & Lighting District Landscape Renovation Projects**

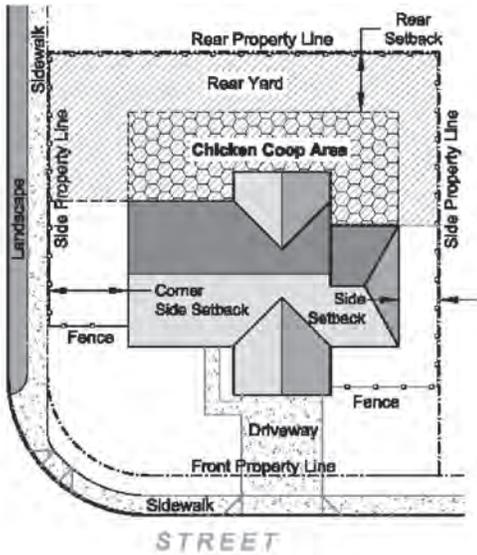
**T**he City is continuing to renovate existing landscape throughout the Citywide Landscaping Zone. This zone is funded by property owners throughout San Ramon outside of Dougherty Valley. Renovations include removal and replacement of missing or unhealthy plant material and in some cases, an upgrade of the irrigation system. The City will continue these renovations over the next 5 years throughout the City.

Of the more than 25 locations identified along major arterial roadways, the following will be completed in FY 2013/14:

- ◆ San Ramon Valley Blvd – Bollinger Canyon Rd to Castleton Ct and Crow Canyon Rd to City Limits
- ◆ Alcosta Blvd – Norris Canyon Rd to Crow Canyon Rd
- ◆ Alcosta Blvd – Old Ranch Rd to Thunderbird Dr
- ◆ Montevideo Dr at Alcosta Blvd
- ◆ Crow Canyon Road Median Landscape Beautification Project (CIP 5351) - San Ramon Valley Blvd to Bollinger Canyon Rd. In addition to renovation of plant material, this project includes an upgrade of the irrigation system which will result in reduced maintenance and water use as well as improved appearance.

## Raising Chickens and Keeping Honey Bees

In May 2013, the City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance to permit residents to raise chickens and keep honey bees on their properties. The Zoning Ordinance allows up to 5 hens in the backyard of a single-family residential property that is 6,000 sq. ft. or larger, provided that a chicken coop is kept in the back yard as shown on the *layout location*. The Zoning Ordinance also allows that residents may have honey bees on residential properties that are one acre or larger within RC (Rural Conservation), HR (Hillside Residential), and RE (Residential Estate) zones. These properties are primarily located on the west side of the City. For more information, please contact the Planning Services at (925) 973-2560.



Example of Chicken Coop Area

## City's Pavement Management Program

The City of San Ramon has approximately 214 miles of streets to maintain. To ensure the safety of our roadways, the City's Pavement Management Program (PMP) reviews the condition of every City-owned street and maximizes the number of streets that can be repaired based on available funding. Priority is given to the busier roadways (arterials and collectors), neighborhood areas with poor pavement conditions, streets that need full reconstruction, and streets eligible for slurry seal (a preventative maintenance treatment) that extends the life of the pavement.

The PMP includes the preparation of the Five-Year Pavement Repair Plan, updated annually as part of the City's Budget Process. The basis of the Plan is the pavement condition survey performed biennially in which a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is



assigned to each street section (1-100). The Plan identifies the streets to be repaired, reconstructed, or slurry sealed within a five-year period. The Annual Paving Project is then developed each summer. This year, Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road near the I-680 interchanges and various residential streets were repaved; Montevideo Drive and Camino Ramon were slurry sealed.

For more on our PMP, visit <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/engr/pavement.html> or call Engineering Services at (925) 973-2670.

## 511 Contra Costa – Drive Less Commuter Incentive Program

Get \$50 just to try another way to get to work! Whether



it is one day a week or five days a week, you are making a difference to help improve air quality and to reduce traffic congestion by driving less and using a commute alternative. For more information regarding the 511 Contra Costa commuter incentives, visit [511cc.org/driving/](http://511cc.org/driving/) or contact the San Ramon Transportation Division at 925-973-2650.

## Rancho San Ramon Community Park Construction Update

Construction is underway on the first phase of this new park located on eastern Bollinger Canyon Road where it becomes Dougherty Road. The first phase includes about 22 acres and includes a playground, splash pad, baseball/softball field, batting cage, restrooms, tennis courts, picnic areas, walking path, both synthetic and turf soccer/lacrosse fields. Construction is being completed by Shapell Homes as a part of their park dedication requirements. Completion is anticipated to be in Summer 2014. Also included is a 10,000 sq ft recreation center, known as Amador Rancho Center. Comprised of 4 multi purpose rooms, patio, and kitchen, construction on the Center is expected to start this fall with completion in 2014.

## ***Housing Element update to begin, get involved***

**S**tate law requires every city and county in California to adopt a Housing Element as part of its General Plan. Unlike other mandatory general plan elements, the Housing Element is required to be updated every eight years and is subject to statutory requirements and mandatory review by the State's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). In the Bay Area, local jurisdictions must complete updates to their Housing Element by January 31, 2015. San Ramon has begun the process of updating the City's Housing Element and is seeking community input.

The regional governing agency, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is responsible for developing a methodology to

distribute the region's housing need to each jurisdiction. San Ramon's current housing allocation for the period of 2009 to 2014 is 3,463 units. ABAG has determined that in the upcoming housing cycle between 2014 to 2022, San Ramon must develop a housing plan that will be able to accommodate 1,417 housing units. The significant reduction in units allocated is mainly contributed to a shift in regional goals to build housing closer to transit. While San Ramon is not obligated to construct these housing units, we are required to identify where such housing could be developed and process development applications, if requested. The City plans to use the existing, unbuilt housing opportunity sites as a starting point for developing our housing plan.

With high land costs and recent changes in the housing market, it will be challenging for all jurisdictions in the Bay Area to meet the State's goals. However, the City is optimistic that our Housing Element will successfully address these challenges and is encouraging your participation in the process. Share with us your opinions and suggestions on topics such as affordable housing, planning for the needs of an aging population and housing stock, and what the City's housing priorities should be.

Public hearings on the Housing Element Update are scheduled to begin in Spring 2014. Comments and/or suggestions can be directed to [planning@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:planning@sanramon.ca.gov) or (925) 973-2560.

## ***Do You Live In A Flood Zone?***

**T**he Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has generated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) which delineate flood zone areas. Areas designated as "A" or "AE" have an estimated risk of 1% or more of being flooded per year. Property owners in or near a flood zone are encouraged to obtain flood insurance, and mortgage lenders may require flood insurance regardless of your proximity to a flood zone. The City participates in the Community Rating System, giving San Ramon property owners a 20% discount on flood insurance premiums!



To determine if your property is in a flood zone or for more information about flood risk or flood insurance, visit FEMA's websites at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), <http://msc.fema.gov>, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov), or contact the City's Engineering Services Department at (925) 973-2670.

## ***Ongoing Employment Opportunities***

**T**he City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department has ongoing part-time, temporary employment opportunities.

- ◆ Recreation Leaders I-II - in the areas of Sports, Teens, Building Attendants
- ◆ Lifeguards I-II
- ◆ Senior Lifeguards
- ◆ Pool Managers

Visit our website at <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/employ/opportunities.html> for additional information.



City of San Ramon  
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 (925) 973-2500

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**San Ramon Performing Arts  
 2013-14 Season**

The 2013-2014 Season will begin this year at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center on October 26, 2013 with Grammy Award winning Australian singer songwriter **Rick Springfield**. He is well known for his hit singles "Jesse's Girl", "Love Somebody", "Human Touch" and "Don't Talk to Strangers".



The fun will continue with **Upright Citizens Brigade** a comedy powerhouse that will take San Ramon by storm on Friday, January 31, 2014. This comedy improv show is the brainchild of Amy Poehler and is considered one of the best comedy improv shows in the country.

**Under the Streetlamp** will deliver an electrifying evening on Friday, February 28, 2014. The audience will be energized by their unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves to Doo-Wop, Motown, and old time Rock 'n' Roll hits. The group is comprised of recent leading cast members of the Tony Award-winning sensation Jersey Boys.

**Air Supply** will perform their classic love songs on Friday, March 28, 2014. Air Supply is best known for their live concerts and will perform their popular hits such as "Lost in Love", "All out of Love" and "Making Love Out of Nothing at All".

The series will end with the tremendous talent of **Robert Moses Kin - Modern Dance** on Saturday, May 10, 2014. The dance company performances are a combination of athletic techniques, rhythmic complexity and gestural details.

Tickets can be purchase online at [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com), or by calling or visiting the box office (925) 973-3343.

**Contact Information**

**City Council**

- Bill Clarkson, *Mayor*
- Dave Hudson, *Vice Mayor*
- Jim Livingstone, *Councilmember*
- Phil O'Loane, *Councilmember*
- Scott Perkins, *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
- Parks & Community Services ..... 973-3200
- Planning ..... 973-2560
- Police ..... 973-2700
- Police Sub Station (Dougherty Station) ... 973-3300
- Public Services ..... 973-2800
- Transportation ..... 973-2650

**Facilities**

- Alcosta Senior & Community Center ..... 973-3250
- Dougherty Station Community Center ... 973-3350
- Dougherty Station Library ..... 973-3380
- Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center ..... 973-3335
- Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center . 973-3343
- Permit Center ..... 973-2574
- San Ramon Community Ctr & Central Park . 973-3200
- San Ramon Library ..... 973-2850
- San Ramon Olympic Pool ..... 973-3240

[www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)