

# SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



◆ Spring 2012 ◆

## ***San Ramon Art & Wind Festival May 27 & 28 • Central Park***

The San Ramon Art & Wind Festival is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, May 27 and 28, in San Ramon's Central Park, 12501 Alcolta Blvd., from 10:00am to 5:00pm both days. This family-friendly festival features professional kite flying demonstrations, over 200 arts & crafts booths, entertainment on three stages, two large kids' activity areas, food booths and much more!

The festival also includes an early morning hot air balloon launch on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00am. Bring the family for a spectacular close-up view of



six hot air balloons as they lift slowly into the sky (weather permitting).

Mark your calendar for the San Ramon Art & Wind Festival, the BEST festival in the East Bay! For more information, call the City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 973-3200 or visit our website at [www.ArtandWind.com](http://www.ArtandWind.com).

## ***City Schedules Town Hall Meetings***

Communication with residents is critical to the success of the City's ability to provide relevant information and services. Several Town Hall meetings are planned to give residents the opportunity to express their opinions. The first 2012 Town Hall meeting was held on March 26, 2012 at the San Ramon Community Center. The second Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2012, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Boulevard. Another meeting will be scheduled in September—details to follow in a future newsletter. Please come and share your comments so that your input will be considered in the important decisions which will shape San Ramon's future.

## ***Parks & Community Services Expands Online Services***

### **New Online Group Picnic Reservation System for Group Picnic Sites**

Enjoy the accessibility and ease of online registration with Picnic Rentals! The City of San Ramon Parks & Community Services Department has recently enhanced its website to enable Online Picnic Reservations for Ramona Park, Hidden Valley Park and Valley View Park. San Ramon Residents are now able to reserve these three parks by visiting [www.SanRamonRecGuide.com](http://www.SanRamonRecGuide.com) and select "Book a Facility." From there, residents can check the availability of the parks as well as make a reservation.

### **New City Lights Volunteer Program Online Services**

The Parks and Community Services Department has recently launched a new online tool to allow volunteers to sign-up online for City volunteer opportunities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. City Lights volunteers can now manage their own event registrations and automatically receive event reminders. Interested adults can first register to be a volunteer at [www.citylights.volunteerhub.com](http://www.citylights.volunteerhub.com) and then begin selecting volunteer opportunities. Those under the age of 18, who are new to the City Lights program, are required to submit a volunteer application with parental permission that is available to download online. For more information please visit [www.sanramon.ca.gov/parks/volunteer](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/parks/volunteer), call Bonnie Mertz at 973-2608 or email at [bmertz@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:bmertz@sanramon.ca.gov).

## **Double Impact – Spring Clean Your Home and Support Your Community!**



Beautiful spring weather reminds us that it is time to spruce up and repair our homes in the ritual of spring cleaning! Home improvement materials, outdoor patio furnishings, and even experts to plan a whole remodel are all available in San Ramon. Shopping at San Ramon businesses has a multi-layered impact: it is convenient, can save you money (sales tax is 8.25% compared to 8.75% in Dublin or Pleasanton), keeps businesses open, jobs in place, and a portion of sales tax dollars goes back into the community to support city services.

If you're not sure if the business or service you need is located in San Ramon, visit [www.ShopSanRamonFirst.com](http://www.ShopSanRamonFirst.com) where over 600 businesses are listed. When deciding where to shop, put your money where your home is and Shop San Ramon First!

### **San Ramon Welcomes these New Businesses!**

#### **HomeGoods**

The Shops at Bishop Ranch  
120 Sunset Drive  
[www.HomeGoods.com](http://www.HomeGoods.com)  
(925) 277-1308

#### **Clementine's Cafe**

18070 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
[www.clementinesca.com](http://www.clementinesca.com)  
(925) 973-0433

#### **Divan Indo-Pak Restaurant**

Magnolia Square  
2005 Crow Canyon Place  
[www.divancuisine.com](http://www.divancuisine.com)  
(925) 275-0890



## **East Bay Regional Park District**

The East Bay Regional Park District spans Alameda and Contra Costa counties with 111,000+ acres in 65 parks, including over 1,200 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature study. The Park District offers lakes, shorelines, campgrounds, visitor centers, interpretive and recreation programs, picnic areas, indoor/outdoor rental facilities, golf courses and much more. The nearest locations to San Ramon are the Bishop Ranch Open Space, Sycamore Valley Open Space and the Iron Horse Trail. For more information please visit [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org) or call 1-888-EBPARKS.



## **Summer Spare the Air**

The summertime Spare the Air program notifies residents when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, and urges residents to drive less and reduce their emissions of ozone-forming pollutants.

In the Bay Area, the summer Spare the Air season generally runs from May through mid-October when clear skies, hot temperatures, lighter than usual winds and strong temperature inversions combine to create smoggy conditions.

On these Spare the Air days, residents are urged to cut back on any activities that cause pollution such as driving, using oil-based paints, gasoline-powered lawn mowers, or household aerosol products like hair sprays. People who are sensitive to unhealthy air are advised to limit their time outdoors, particularly in the afternoon hours.

Learn more about this program and other Spare the Air programs at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).



## **Proposed Bollinger Canyon Road Operational Improvement Project**

The Engineering Services Department has been studying options for improving the traffic operations on eastbound Bollinger Canyon Road between Alcosta Boulevard and Canyon Lakes Drive. Following the restriping of this segment from two to three lanes in 2008, recurring vehicular damage to the fence and other operational issues prompted a study that analyzed improvement alternatives. Some of the study's recommendations were implemented in 2010 with the installation of warning flashing beacons near the Alcosta Boulevard/Bollinger Canyon Road intersection, as well as the installation of improved delineation at the south edge of the roadway.

Consideration of the various alternatives and their associated funding implications and impacts to the users of this segment is underway. Due to numerous constraints, including right-of-way and existing utilities and facilities, the selected solution may involve widening the roadway and associated modifications to median landscaping and existing obstructions.

The City Council will be reviewing the alternatives and staff will continue to provide information about this project to the public and opportunities for feedback.

Any questions regarding this project should be directed to the Engineering Services Department at 973-2670.

## ***City Center Project Still on Hold***

“When will we see the City Center?” is an often asked question by residents, and the simple answer is: When the economy gets better. Alex Mehran, President and CEO of Sunset Development, the primary developer of the City Center project, provided an update to the City Council last October that still holds true today. In his presentation he said, “You haven’t seen a significant retail project, or a significant residential project for sale of the magnitude we’re talking about with the San Ramon City Center developed anywhere in the Bay Area, and we have one of the best economies in the country...”

“We only have one chance to do this project correctly. I think it is ill advised to be building a project of this magnitude into headwinds. We want the wind at our back with certainty. I think that it will provide for a better project, it will provide for better stores, a higher quality residential product, a higher quality hotel, and a general sense of place that is far better than what we would do going into an economic arena that is quite uncertain...Going into these kinds of major projects demands a lot of capital, a lot of patience, and a will to do it right. We certainly have that; we are committed to doing this project.”

*To read the complete transcript of Mr. Mehran’s presentation, or to learn about the landscaping project underway on that property, visit the City’s website at [www.SanRamon.ca.gov](http://www.SanRamon.ca.gov) and select “City Center.”*



### ***Save the Date!***

## ***San Ramon Residents Gear Up for Bike to Work Day—May 10, 2012***

Bike to Work Day (BTWD) encourages residents and commuters to try bicycling to work! BTWD is part of a Bay Area wide ongoing effort to relieve traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

Energizer stations are planned in each Bay Area county. As a bicycle commuter you can stop at an Energizer Station for refreshments, giveaways, and bicycling information or simply to be “cheered on” by fellow participants. In San Ramon, energizer stations will be located along the Iron Horse Trail at Crow Canyon Road and Bollinger Canyon Road, and at Whole Foods in the Shops at Bishop Ranch.

May is National Bike Commute Month. The Team Bike Challenge is a Bay Area campaign and contest to encourage existing bicycle commuters to recruit their colleagues, friends, neighbors, and local “honorary” figures to bicycle to work, school, errands or recreational activities during the month of May. The team with the most trips made by bicycle by the end of May will win a grand prize!

Visit [www.511contracosta.org](http://www.511contracosta.org) for more information, or contact Darlene Amaral at (925) 973-2655 or [damaral@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:damaral@sanramon.ca.gov) for more information.

*Bike to Work Day is generously funded by [511.org](http://511.org) and Kaiser Permanente.*

## ***Public Service Center Tour***

**Monday, April 23, 4:00-5:00pm**

***San Ramon Service Center, 5000 Crow Canyon Road***

Enjoy a tour of the City’s Service Center and see the equipment that is used to keep San Ramon safe and beautiful. The Public Services Department is responsible for maintenance of roads, City buildings, parks, landscaping, street lights, traffic signals, fountains, the City’s two Aquatic Centers and many creeks. For more information, call 973-2800.

## Time for some TLC

Recently many of our residents have been victimized by auto burglaries. The majority of these losses could have been avoided with a little TLC. In this case, TLC (Take, Lock and Close) provides reminders which can be used to prevent auto burglaries. Theft from vehicles represents our largest percentage of crime. Following these three easy steps will prevent 80-90% of these crimes and protect you from being a victim!

- 1. TAKE OUT VALUABLES!** Remove all visible items from your car. If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Be aware that someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat, or in your trunk, especially at the gym.
- 2. LOCK IT UP!** Always lock your vehicle and take your keys! If you have an alarm—use it!
- 3. CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS!** Close all doors and windows. Even a crack in the window makes the thief's job so much easier. Take the time to make sure you have closed everything. At home, park in your garage if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors. Park your vehicle in well lit areas.

When parking in a parking lot, check to see that your vehicle is visible from pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Utilizing these simple yet effective preventive measures could save your vehicle from becoming a target. These same techniques can be used on your home as well to

keep burglars out and your property SAFE.

Keep it locked up and stay safe!

Keep your family and property safe By Being Aware! Help promote this awareness with your neighbors and friends. The police department will continue to implement programs to keep those who live, work and play in San Ramon—SAFE.

**THIS IS WHAT YOUR CAR LOOKS LIKE TO A THIEF!**



## Welcome New Police Officers

The City is pleased to announce five vacant police positions have been filled. Please join us in welcoming:

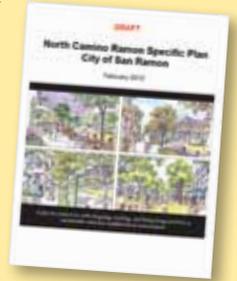
**Officer Jessica Simonds • Officer John Cranford**

**Officer Rachel Wentz • Officer Matt Malone**

**Officer Tami Williams**

## North Camino Ramon Specific Plan Public Review

On February 10, 2012, the City of San Ramon released copies of the Draft North Camino Ramon Specific Plan (NCRSP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for public review and comment. The NCRSP area consists of approximately 295 acres bounded generally by the City limits to the north, Executive Parkway to the south, Highway 680 on the west and Alcosta Boulevard to the east.



The NCRSP is a land use plan that includes a variety of uses, transit-oriented and pedestrian/bicycle friendly. Additionally, the Plan will provide stimulus for economic development to address unmet commercial, retail and housing needs while balancing quality of life for San Ramon residents.

Public Hearings are scheduled through the Spring of 2012 and copies of the documents are available at City facilities and on the City's website at [www.sanramon.ca.gov/plan](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/plan). Contact Planning Services at (925) 973-2560 if you have any questions about the NCRSP, DEIR or Public Hearings.

## San Ramon Library Advisory Committee Library Services Survey

The City of San Ramon Library Advisory Committee will be asking residents and library patrons to complete a brief survey about the library facilities and services currently provided in San Ramon.

The Library Advisory Committee is interested in hearing from the public about San Ramon's libraries, and what facility changes, if any, are desired to make it more inviting and user-friendly. Additionally, the Committee would like to learn if any of the current library services or programs need to be improved.

The results of the survey will be compiled and a report made to the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission. The participation of our community in this survey is vital to accurately reflect the ideas of library patrons. Surveys will be available at both the Dougherty Station and the San Ramon libraries this spring, please inquire at the library to participate.



## ***Trash Capture Pilot Program***

Each year the San Francisco Bay is polluted with 1.36 million gallons of trash originating from Bay Area stormdrain systems. Forty-nine percent of the trash consists of plastic items (lids, straws, snack bags) 21% is paper products (fast food containers, coffee cups, food wrappers), plastic grocery and shopping bags account for 8%, 7% styrofoam, and the rest is miscellaneous debris including cans and bottles.

The City of San Ramon received grant money for a pilot project to install full trash capture devices in stormdrain inlets. The devices consist of a steel mesh cage inside the inlet and a screen at the face of the curb to keep large debris out of the stormdrain. A total of 36 devices have been installed so far, with another 50 devices scheduled to be installed this summer.

You can help by keeping trash, including yard waste and leaves, from entering our stormdrain system. Please make sure to sweep or rake any yard waste left in the curb. The City stormdrain system includes over 4,000 inlets, your help keeping them clean is appreciated!



For further information, please contact Steven Spedowski at 973-2653.

## ***Regional Transportation***

Improving mobility on our existing roads through enhanced accessibility for transit, carpools, and vanpools is a step we can take now to help reduce traffic congestion in the future. In 2004, Contra Costa voters approved Measure J, which continued the Contra Costa half-cent transportation sales tax program to 2035. Approved by 67 percent among those who voted in San Ramon, Measure J provides San Ramon with program dollars for carpool, vanpool, and transit incentives, student transit/carpool incentives, TRAFFIX school bus service, and local street maintenance and improvement funds – all of which benefit our community as a whole.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is responsible for implementation of the Measure J Transportation Expenditure Plan, which includes funding for programs and projects. For the San Ramon Valley, several improvements along the I-680 corridor from Walnut Creek to Dublin are being considered. In this capacity, CCTA - working in cooperation with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the City of San Ramon – has initiated the process for the environmental review and drafting of the environmental document for a project to promote and facilitate carpooling, vanpooling and transit use by improving freeway access for these types of High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs) in San Ramon.

Residents can get involved by attending a series of workshops being planned over the next 9-12 months to receive input and feedback during the project development and environmental review process. Each workshop will be widely publicized in the community and residents are encouraged to attend. For more information about this project go to [www.ccta.net](http://www.ccta.net) or call CCTA at (925) 256-4700. You can also email [norriscanyonhovproject@gmail.com](mailto:norriscanyonhovproject@gmail.com) to ask questions, request information, or be added to our project mailing list to receive project updates and meeting announcements.

## ***Celebrate America —Celebrate San Ramon***

In the tradition of honoring America and recognizing San Ramon's incorporation as a City on July 1, 1983, and the civic pride that residents have about their City, the City will be hosting a patriotic celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup> at San Ramon Central Park. This event will include music and honoring our nation's armed services and veterans, however, the aerial fireworks display will not be a part of this year's event. The City has been concerned about the size and scale of the event. Record crowds in 2011 raised numerous public safety concerns. The City Council deliberated at two meetings in February and reviewed public input from citizens to help guide their decision. Approximately 660 emails were received and reviewed by the Council. The responses were fairly evenly split between canceling or downscaling the event, and keeping the aerial fireworks display. Additionally, the City Council directed the Parks & Community Services Commission to form a group to review future event alternatives including the return of an aerial fireworks display for 2013 and beyond.

Please look for event information regarding the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 event in the Summer Recreation Guide, or on the City's website [www.SanRamon.ca.gov](http://www.SanRamon.ca.gov).



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 San Ramon, CA 94583  
 (925) 973-2500

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**San Ramon Performing Arts Spring Performances**

**Night at the Improv**

March 24

**Better than Ezra**

April 20

*San Ramon Community Theatre Presents*

**The Odd Couple**

April 20 – May 5

**BACT Presents The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**

May 12 – 20

**Dave Koz**

May 18

**San Ramon Youth Symphony Concert**

May 21

**San Ramon Symphonic Band**

***An American Portrait***

May 25

**San Ramon Community Chorus**

***Broadway & Beyond***

June 8

**Night at the Improv**

June 9



For more information or to purchase tickets to any of the above events please visit our website at [SanRamonPerformingArts.com](http://SanRamonPerformingArts.com) or call the Box Office Tuesday through Friday, 12pm to 5pm at (925) 973-3343.

**Getting Ready for Spring Cleaning**

Thinking about hosting a Garage Sale or ordering a Portable Outdoor Storage Unit for your spring home improvements? Registration is required for advertising and hosting garage sales or placing portable outdoor storage units on your property. Registration is easy and the forms are available online. Free Garage Sale registration can be done by mail, e-mail, phone, fax, or in person at the Permit Center. The registration fee for Portable Outdoor Storage Unit is \$25 and can be done at the Permit Center. Please visit our website [www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/plan/default.htm](http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/plan/default.htm) for more details.

**Contact Information**

**City Council**

Bill Clarkson, *Mayor*

Jim Livingstone, *Vice Mayor*

Dave Hudson, *Councilmember*

Scott Perkins, *Councilmember*

Phil O'Loane, *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**

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)