



THE SARATOGAN

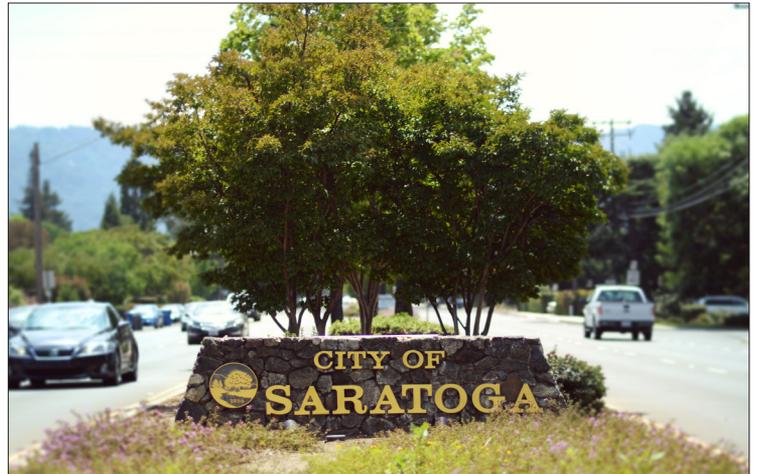
FALL 2014

Know Your City Government and All it Does for Saratoga

The City of Saratoga has a lot to offer the community, but it can be easy to forget all that's available to residents.

The Saratoga City Council and staff work to ensure that the essential needs of the community are met by keeping roads paved, overseeing home remodels and housing developments, and operating with a balanced budget.

The City is also able to keep the pulse of the community due in part to the work of Saratoga's six Commissions. The Commissioners gather information, weigh public opinion, and examine current issues in order to make recommendations to the Council.



However, the City does contract with various other organizations for public safety, landscape maintenance, traffic engineering, street sweeping, animal control and legal services.

This issue of *The Saratogan* focuses on knowing and understanding the City of Saratoga. Read about:

- The City's six Commissions, including the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Traffic Safety Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Library Commission, and Youth Commission
- Each City department, such as the City Manager's Office, Public Works, Community Development, Recreation and Facilities, and Finance and Administrative Services
- Information on the City's service providers, such as the Sheriff's Office, West Valley Collection & Recycling, and San Jose Animal Care Center

James Lindsay Begins Work as Saratoga City Manager



City Manager James Lindsay

Former Saratoga Community Development Director James Lindsay began his new position as City Manager on Thursday, July 24. He took the position of retired City Manager Dave Anderson, who was on the job for 14 years.

James served as Saratoga's Community Development Director since October 2011 and supervised several important projects throughout the past three years. They included an overhaul of the City's sign regulations, an update to the City's General Plan Noise Element and ordinance, and the implementation of a downtown outdoor music program, among others.

The City Manager's Department supports the Council's legislative and policy interests, provides management and leadership, and gives direction for the City organization. The City Manager's Office also supports Commissions, interacts with community groups, fosters community relationships and provides public awareness of municipal programs, services, and goals.

City's Commissions Provide Valuable Services to Saratoga



2014 Summer Movie Night at El Quito Park

Saratoga is fortunate to have beautiful parks and wonderful recreation opportunities, but not everyone knows about them. So the Parks and Recreation Commission works to expose the community to what Saratoga has to offer.

One way the Commission does this is by planning a Summer Movie Night program each year in a City park. Hundreds of people attend the events and those who show up are able to get away from the hustle and bustle of Silicon Valley for a few hours, mingle with neighbors, and catch up with friends.

The Summer Movie Night program is just one example of what the City's six Commissions accomplish for the betterment of Saratoga.

Commissioners are appointed by the City Council and advise the Council to help address community needs. Residents in this role have the opportunity to share their vision and help mold Saratoga's future.

The Planning Commission works to maintain the unique character of Saratoga by ensuring that the physical development of the City is consistent with the goals set forth in the City's General Plan. The Commission is also responsible for acting on applications for use permits, design reviews, and other planning approvals.

The Library Commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council and Santa Clara County Library District on Library policies, budgets, and plans. The Heritage Preservation Commission is responsible for recommending proposed historic landmarks, districts, and heritage trees to the City Council. The Traffic Safety Commission provides a venue for the public to express concerns regarding traffic safety issues. And the teens of Saratoga also receive an opportunity to have their voices heard by serving on the Youth Commission and communicating with the City Council regarding youth issues.

For more information on the City's Commissions, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/commissions.

Public Works Department Helps Maintain a High Quality of Life

The Public Works Department is integral to many of the City's services that maintain the quality of life in the neighborhoods and business districts for which Saratoga is known.

The Public Works Department is broken up into three divisions:

- **Engineering:** Engineers review and oversee major City projects, such as the ones currently underway at the Quarry Park and at Blaney Plaza in downtown Saratoga
- **Streets:** The Streets Division maintains Saratoga's roadway systems, including streets, signals, lighting, and storm drains
- **Parks:** Saratoga's parks, trails, medians, right-of-ways, landscape districts, and the grounds at City Hall are maintained by the Parks Division

The Department is also responsible for the upkeep of the City's infrastructure. In addition, Public Works manages 25 Landscape and Lighting Districts.

For more information on the Public Works Department, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/publicworks.



Recreation Department Keeps Residents Happy and Healthy

If staying active is key to health and happiness, then look no further than the Recreation and Facilities Department.

The Recreation Department organizes and supervises more than 1,600 classes and activities per year for children, teens, adults, and seniors. This involves over 10,400 hours of activities at 24 different parks and facilities, and planning 22 trips each year.

The Department also administers the Facility Rental Program. Community groups and the public can rent space at City parks, Joan Pisani Community Center, Warner Hutton House, and Saratoga Prospect Center.

The Recreation and Facilities Department's mission is to provide safe, high-quality recreation services at reasonable prices. For more information on the Recreation and Facilities Department, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/recreation.



Finance Department Does More Than Pay the City's Bills

When residents think about the responsibilities of the Finance and Administrative Services Department, the first thing that might come to mind is paying the City's bills. Although important, the Department provides many more services through four divisions:

- **Finance:** Provides financial oversight to assure legal and fiscal responsibility and accountability
- **Human Resources:** Offers professional, technical, and support services to attract and develop a professional workforce that provides excellent customer service and promotes a safe workplace
- **Information Technology:** Supports the delivery of technology-based services throughout the City while maintaining and supporting the City's information systems
- **Administrative Services:** Provides Department and City-wide administrative oversight and support

Visit www.saratoga.ca.us/finance for more information on the Finance Department.



Guiding the Physical Growth of Saratoga

The Community Development Department is split into two Divisions. The Building Division is responsible for administering the California Building Code, plan-checking and on-site inspections. The Planning Division is focused on zoning administration and land-development review.

The Department assists residents with a variety of common issues: code enforcement, guidance with remodels of homes, and questions for the City arborist about trees.

The Community Development Department also guides the growth of the City. The Saratoga community provides input to the Department through the Planning Commission and Heritage Preservation Commission, and by citizen involvement in long-term planning efforts and updates to the City Code.

For more information on the Community Development Department, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/cd.



Upcoming Community Events

- Friday, Aug. 15th Saratoga Movie Nights 7:30 p.m. at El Quito Park
- Sunday, Aug. 24th Bollywood 5 - 8 p.m. on Big Basin Way
- Saturday, Sept. 6th Brews and Blues Afternoon at Wildwood Park
- Saturday, Oct. 4th Heritage Day Noon to 3 p.m. on Big Basin Way



Stay Up to Date on City Projects

The City of Saratoga has its own YouTube page, which is used to educate the community on projects going on in the City. Make sure to bookmark it and keep up with some of the major projects happening in Saratoga.

Visit www.youtube.com/CityHallSaratoga.

Saratoga Service Providers

Below is contact information for some of Saratoga's key service providers



Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff

911 (Emergency)
(408) 299-3233 (Non-Emergency)
www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff

West Valley Collection & Recycling

(408) 283-9250
www.westvalleyrecycles.com

San Jose Animal Care Center

(408) 794-7297
www.sanjoseanimals.com

San Jose Water Company

(408) 279-7900
www.sjwater.com

Santa Clara Valley Water District

(408) 265-2600
www.valleywater.org

Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council

(408) 868-1257
www.sascc.org

Santa Clara County Fire Department

(408) 378-4010
www.sccfd.org

Saratoga Fire Protection District

(408) 867-9001
www.saratogafire.org

West Valley Sanitation District

(408) 378-2407
www.westvalleysan.org

Cupertino Sanitation District

(408) 253-7071
www.cupertinosanitarydistrict.org

Santa Clara County Vector Control

(408) 918-4770
www.sccgov.org/sites/vector

Santa Clara County Assessor's Office

(408) 299-5570
www.sccassessor.org



Photographs by Saratoga Intern Marissa McPeak

Most of the pictures in this edition of *The Saratogan* were taken by the City's summer photography intern Marissa McPeak. Marissa is currently attending San Jose State University and studying photography and fine arts.



To learn more about *The Saratogan*, make comments, suggest story ideas, or just ask a question, contact Brian Babcock at bbabcock@saratoga.ca.us or 408.868.1275. You can also find *The Saratogan* online and sign up for email alerts at www.saratoga.ca.us/saratogan.