



THE SARATOGAN

SUMMER 2015



The health benefits of being outside are almost endless. Beyond the physical benefits, recent studies have shown that taking a walk, run, or bike ride outdoors can improve a person's focus, and lower stress levels and feelings of depression.

And what better place to be outside than in Saratoga?

Saratoga boasts a number of parks with varying amenities: tennis, volleyball and bocce ball courts, children's play areas, exercise areas, and picnic areas (there's much more about the City's parks on the next page).

The City is also home to numerous trails. There's Joe's Trail at Saratoga DeAnza and the 4.5-mile Heritage Loop Trail that creates a triangle from Saratoga Avenue to Fruitvale Avenue to a walking path along Highway 9. Many of these trails connect to local open space areas. For more information on Saratoga's trails, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/trails.

Saratoga's trails have been the focus of the Parks and Recreation Commission's "Let's Walk Saratoga!" events. These tours have allowed residents to come together and learn more about the beautiful city they live in. This year's program features guided tours of the future Saratoga Quarry Park. Find out about the next event at www.saratoga.ca.us/letswalk.

In This Issue

This issue of the City of Saratoga's quarterly newsletter focuses on the benefits of being outside. Saratoga has plenty of beautiful areas for those looking to get a little more Vitamin D, exercise, or time away from their computers.

Residents will also be introduced to new Community Development Director Erwin Ordoñez and new Sheriff's Office Captain Rick Sung. Also learn about LinkAges TimeBank, a program that brings community members together to help each other.

Read about upcoming community events and how to be prepared for an earthquake.

Happy reading!



Visit and Volunteer at Hakone Gardens

One of the most unique places to visit in Saratoga is Hakone Gardens, the City's century-old Japanese gardens. Guests can view the koi pond, ascend the moon bridge, have tea overlooking the dry landscape garden, or enjoy quiet reflection in Hakone's bamboo gardens.

Hakone is also in need of volunteers. Opportunities include answering calls and questions, welcoming guests, and opening the gate for guests with wheelchairs and strollers. For more information, visit www.hakone.com.

Parks

Where are the City of Saratoga's parks and what do they have to offer?

Saratoga has a number of neighborhood parks available for the community's enjoyment. Amenities include picnic areas, tennis courts, and children's play areas. For more information, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/parks.



Congress Springs Park

Location: 12970 Glen Brae Drive

The nearly 10-acre park is home to many sports user groups. Congress Springs boasts six soccer fields, six baseball diamonds, two children's play areas, and picnic areas with barbecues.

El Quito Park

Location: 12855 Paseo Presada

El Quito's 6.3 acres features a softball field, a children's play area, four barbecue picnic areas, three horseshoe pits, two chess tables, and a sand volleyball court.

Foothill Park

Location: 20654 Seaton Avenue

This 3-acre park includes two exercise areas and a large open turf area.



Saratoga Quarry Park

In October, the City will open up the Saratoga Quarry Park to the public. The 64-acre site—located about a mile west of the Saratoga Village off of Highway 9—will have a trail, picnic area, restrooms, and on-site parking.

Azule Park

Location: 12277 Goleta Avenue

This 4.3-acre park features two playground areas, three picnic areas with barbecue pits, a horseshoe pit, and a tennis court.

Beauchamps Park

Location: Beauchamps Lane

The 2.2-acre neighborhood park sports a tennis court, half basketball court, and two children's play areas.

Brookglen Park

Location: 12734 Brookglen Court

The City's second smallest park at .7 acres offers a children's play area and a half basketball court.



Gardiner Park

Location: 19085 Portos Drive

Gardiner is a 1.3-acre neighborhood park that offers two children's play areas and a three-table picnic area with barbecue.

Kevin Moran Park

Location: 12415 Scully Avenue

The beautiful 10.3-acre park includes two children's play areas, two bocce ball courts, a tennis court, an exercise area, and a meditation garden.

Ravenwood Park

Location: 13830 Ravenwood Drive

The City's smallest park at half an acre features park benches, a drinking fountain and a small-tot play area.

Wildwood Park

Location: 20764 Fourth Street

The 4-acre Wildwood Park is arguably the City's most unique park with a wooded creek bed running through it. The park offers picnic facilities, a children's play area, a sand volleyball court, two horseshoe pits, and a stage.

Welcome to the Saratoga family...

Erwin Ordoñez



Erwin Ordoñez is the City of Saratoga's new Community Development Director. As the City's Community Development Director, Ordoñez oversees City planning, building permits and inspections, code enforcement, and arborist services.

Before starting with the City of Saratoga in January, he was a Senior Planner with the Town of Los Gatos.

Ordoñez holds a Certified Planner credential from the American Institute of Certified Planners. He has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Planning from the University of California, San Diego.

Rick Sung



Rick Sung is the Captain with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office – West Valley Patrol Division. The Division oversees patrols for Saratoga, Cupertino, Los Gatos Hills, and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

Captain Sung's career has come full circle. He began his career with the Sheriff's Office in 2004 as a deputy with the West Valley Patrol Division. Now as Captain, Sung acts as the Chief of Police for Saratoga.

Captain Sung utilizes a "customer-oriented policing" model. This includes constant interaction and collaboration with community members and leaders to identify issues and find successful solutions.

Give and Receive Help with LinkAges TimeBank

Want to get involved in the Saratoga community and meet neighbors with similar interests? Then look no further than LinkAges TimeBank.

LinkAges TimeBank is a neighborhood service-exchange network that matches people with unique skills, talents, and needs with those who live nearby. Members earn hours by providing services, and use those hours to receive services in return.

The network allows people to give and receive help, learn new skills, share hobbies and interests, and be a greater resource in their community.

LinkAges TimeBank was founded by the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in 2013 as part of a larger initiative to support the wellbeing and quality of life of older adults and family caregivers. The program's goal is to create connections across all ages to build a strong social support network for our community.

To learn more, or sign up for an orientation in Saratoga, visit timebank.linkages.org or call (650) 934-3556.





Be Ready when the 'Big One' Hits

The recent 2.9 earthquake centered just outside of Saratoga is a reminder that earthquakes are a real danger.



So how can residents be ready when the "Big One" hits? The best thing to do is prepare in advance.

Ready.gov has a comprehensive list of ideas that residents can use to protect their families and property in the event of an earthquake, such as:

- Build an emergency kit
- Create a family communications plan, and
- Fasten shelves securely to walls

Saratoga residents can learn how to be on their own after a disaster by registering for the Santa Clara County Fire Department's Personal Emergency Response class. Visit www.sccfd.org for more information.

Residents can also prepare to help their families and neighborhoods during a disaster by signing up for the Saratoga Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and team organization.

For more information on the program, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/cert.



Ask Our Staff featuring Erwin Ordoñez

Have a question? Send your question(s) to bbabcock@saratoga.ca.us or (408) 868-1275.

Q: I'm interested in renting out my home or a bedroom for a short period of time in order to earn some additional income. Is this allowed in Saratoga?



A: Saratoga homeowners can legally rent out their homes or bedrooms in a residential area for a minimum of 30 days (such as a month-to-month lease).

The rental of a home or individual bedrooms for a period less than 30 days (such as a short-term rental) is not permitted in residential areas.

Possible City Code violations can be reported using one of three methods:

- Call (408) 868-1214
- Email Code Enforcement at enforcement@saratoga.ca.us
- Visit www.saratoga.ca.us/enforcement

Erwin Ordoñez is the Community Development Director for the City of Saratoga. Ordoñez oversees City planning, building permits and inspections, code enforcement, and arborist services.



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.