Falling Leaves Clog Storm Drains

Leaves in street gutters can clog storm drains and potentially cause flooding of neighborhood streets. Resident cooperation and assistance in the prompt removal of fallen leaves is vital for several reasons: reduce potential flooding; prevent pollution to local creeks; and increase public/ environmental health. In Santa Clara Valley, storm drains flow directly to local creeks and into San Francisco Bay with no pollution treatment processing.

If leaves build up in underground catch basins, a poisonous gas (hydrogen sulfide) can occur. This can deplete oxygen in creeks and streams where fish and animals live, and can be extremely dangerous to City workers during efforts to unclog the storm drain. Keep Santa Clara cleaner and safer by not allowing leaves to blow down the gutter and into the storm drain.

Please keep an eye on your neighborhood catch basin. If it looks like it is clogging with leaves, clear it with a broom or call the City of Santa Clara Public Works/Street Department at (408) 615-3080. *Do not blow or rake leaves from your yard into the street*.

Place leaves along with other yard waste (small twigs, grass clippings) in your Clean Green cart or start a composting pile. To learn more about composting, contact the County Home Composting Education Program at (408) 918-4640. To learn more about what else should not go down the storm drain, call the City of Santa Clara Public Works/Street Department at (408) 615-3080.

Free Performances for Families

Two fun programs for all ages are scheduled for Central Park Library in October. Award-winning singer Patricia Shih will perform a children's concert on Sunday, October 13, at 2 p.m. Enjoy the music of this musician who wrote her first song at age 12. She has six albums to her credit and is the author of two books about music.

"Fun & Spooky Stories" will be performed by storyteller Megumi on Saturday, October 26 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit the website *Library.SantaClaraCA.gov*.

Ethics, Honesty, and Fairness in Public Service

CITY COUNCIL
Mayor Jamie L. Matthews
Debi Davis — Lisa M. Gillmor
Pat Kolstad — Patricia Mahan
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City Clerk/City Auditor Rod Diridon, Jr.
City Attorney Richard E. Nosky, Jr.

SEPTEMBER, 2013
santaclaraca.gov
(408) 615-2210

Children's Halloween Party

Thursday, October 31 – 3 - 6 p.m.

Come celebrate Halloween at our annual SPOOKTACULAR party, sponsored by Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department. This FREE event is held at the Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center (YAC), 2450 Cabrillo Avenue. The party includes carnival games, tiny tots play, arts and crafts, pumpkin walk, and, of course, a costume contest! Come visit the Fire, Police, and Library booths. Refreshments will be sold by the Youth Commission. Preschool age children through 5th grade are welcome to participate.

Volunteers are needed to help with activities during the party, as well as set up and clean up before and after the event. Volunteer applications are available about a month before the event and must be submitted to the YAC. For more info, contact the YAC at (408) 615-3760.

Code Enforcement in Your Neighborhood

Code Enforcement involves many City departments and is about ensuring a safe, livable and enjoyable community for all. The City Code enforces a variety of local regulations as well as State laws that are delegated to the City. Many of the complaints referred to Code Enforcement can be avoided by being thoughtful good neighbors and maintaining your property in a neat and orderly manner. Maintaining front yard landscaping and avoiding excessive storage of materials or automobiles will help contribute towards making Santa Clara a beautiful City for everyone to live. Graffiti is a blight that affects our entire City and its cost of removal can be significant. The City Council has adopted a new Graffiti Ordinance Program in which the City of Santa Clara will remove graffiti from private property at no cost to the property owners. To inquire about the Graffiti Ordinance, contact the Department of Public Works/Street at (408) 615-3080. To report problems such as weeds and blight in your neighborhood, contact Code Enforcement at (408) 615-2460.

Your Municipal Utility is Public Powerful!

More than 2,000 public power utilities across the U.S., including the City of Santa Clara municipal Electric Utility, Silicon Valley Power (SVP), will celebrate Public Power Week, October 6-12, 2013. Businesses and residents benefit from having a municipally owned and operated utility by paying lower rates and enjoying very reliable electric service. As a not-for-profit utility, the City utility's primary responsibility is to serve and provide the community with reliable and environmentally friendly power at the lowest possible prices. SVP will be at Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. on Tuesday, October 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with materials on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric safety. See *siliconvalleypower.com* or call (408) 244-SAVE (7283) for information.

Fire Prevention/Home Safety

The Santa Clara Fire Department would like to remind residents to "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The kitchen is often at the very center of family life, but leave cooking unattended in the kitchen and you could have a serious fire on your hands. While a few minutes may not seem like much time to be away from what's cooking, that is all it takes to start a fire that could destroy your home and harm your family. For this reason, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has chosen the theme "Prevent Kitchen Fires"" for Fire Prevention Week, October 6–12, 2013**.**

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Unattended cooking was a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries. Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of home cooking fires, but these incidents accounted for 16% of the cooking fire deaths.

Microwave ovens are one of the leading home products associated with scald burn injuries not related to fires. Nearly half (44%) of the microwave oven injuries seen at emergency rooms in 2011 were scald burns.

Safety tips the Santa Clara Fire Department and safety advocates emphasize are:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners, stovetops, exhaust hoods and inside ovens.

To learn more about "Prevent Kitchen Fires" visit NFPA's website at *firepreventionweek.org.*