

Your City, Our Community

SAN MATEO NEWS

Spring 2026

Letter from Your City Manager

Staying Connected and Getting Involved in San Mateo



San Mateo is strongest when people stay connected, informed and involved in community life. Whether that means reporting an issue, sharing input on a City project, attending a public meeting or spending time with neighbors at local events, there are many ways to take part in shaping our community.

One of the newest ways to connect with the City is through the **My San Mateo app and web portal, available at *cityofsanmateo.org/mysanmateo***. This tool makes it easy to request City services, report concerns and stay informed about what's happening in your neighborhood. You can track the status of your requests, receive updates and communicate directly with City staff, making it simpler and more transparent to connect with City services. Whether you're at home or on the go, My San Mateo puts City services at your fingertips.

There are many ways to stay engaged in civic life so you can **help shape decisions that impact your community**. Residents can follow the work of City boards, commissions and committees and explore opportunities to serve in the future, for example by volunteering with us, applying for a City job or by getting better involved in your local neighborhood association. Elections matter, so make sure you are registered to vote ahead of the primary June 2nd and the general election on Nov. 3rd. Community input will also help shape important upcoming City efforts, including the development of a new pool facility and resiliency center at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and the Zoning Code updates, which will guide future development and help implement the long-term vision of the 2040 General Plan. As our City continues to evolve, grow and see new developments, I encourage you to stay up to date by visiting our projects website: *cityofsanmateo.org/developmentprojects*.

This newsletter issue includes updates on **topics that affect daily life across our community**, such as public safety, emergency preparedness efforts and ongoing investments in infrastructure, particularly transportation safety improvements. You'll also find highlights on economic development initiatives, including downtown activities tied to the upcoming FIFA World Cup, as well as Parks and Recreation programs that bring people together and strengthen community connections.

The City is also continuing to take a proactive approach to long-term financial planning through its Financial Sustainability Plan, which focuses on maintaining core services and investing in priorities like infrastructure by managing costs, pursuing grant funding and identifying sustainable revenue sources.

As summer begins, there will be many opportunities for connection. Join us for **Concerts in the Park on Thursdays starting in June and Movies in the Park this September**. Events like these bring our communities together from across San Mateo.

Community engagement and communication are top priorities. To stay up to date on City news, events, public meetings and opportunities to get involved, I encourage you to **sign up for the City's eNews** at *cityofsanmateo.org/eNews*.

Please read on for updates on many of these efforts and other important work happening across the City in this issue of the newsletter.

Alex Khojikian
City Manager

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City of San Mateo

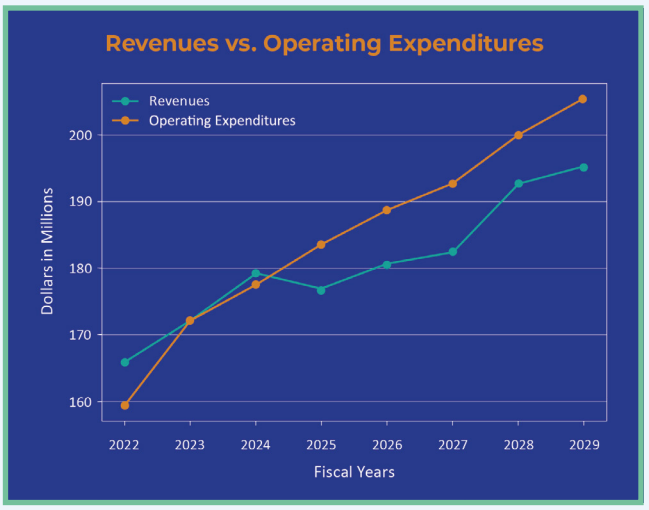
cityofsanmateo.org/socialmedia

Financial Sustainability Plan Update: Planning for the Future

The City of San Mateo is implementing a comprehensive Financial Sustainability Plan to support long-term fiscal health while maintaining essential services.

The plan focuses on balancing costs with operational efficiencies. This work comes as the City continues to navigate ongoing budget challenges driven by increasing costs and declining revenues amid economic uncertainty.

The City estimates structural budget gaps of $5–7 million in the General Fund over the next few years, assuming the City does not lose any of the revenue sources currently at risk at the State and Federal levels. The City's General Fund budget supports core services like police, fire, library, parks and recreation, street maintenance, housing, planning and general administration.



Due to prudent spending by the current and previous City Councils, the General Fund has healthy reserves to help cover current deficits and give the City time to implement elements of its Financial Sustainability Plan. However, if these efforts do not properly address the budget deficits or if there are further losses to the City's General Fund revenue sources, the City will need to make cuts that may impact core services. As part of its Financial Sustainability Plan, the City is evaluating all the options at its disposal to reduce the deficit and avoid service cuts including expenditure control, revenue enhancements, cost recovery and cost allocation, grant opportunities and economic development.

For example, under expenditure control, the City has limited filling several positions and continues to look for ways to reduce operating expenses and lower the deficit. In addition, City staff are focused on applying for more grants for operating and capital improvement projects with the help of an outside grant writing consultant, and on facilitating short- and long-term revenue improvements through the goals outlined in the 2026-2029 Economic Development Workplan.

The City is also exploring a potential revenue enhancement through the potential placement of a ¼ cent sales tax measure on the November 2026 ballot.

Learn more about the potential measure at *cityofsanmateo.org/ballotmeasure*. Learn more about the City's Finance department at *cityofsanmateo.org/finance*.

City Considers Measure to Maintain San Mateo's Quality of Life

Keeping San Mateo clean, safe and well-maintained requires thoughtful, long-range planning and budgeting.

The City is taking a proactive approach to financially ensure essential services, infrastructure and community amenities remain strong for years to come, including:

- Fast and reliable 911 fire, police and medical emergency response
- Safer, well-connected streets, sidewalks and transportation systems
- High-quality parks, libraries and community centers
- Preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters

Like many communities, San Mateo is experiencing rising costs for core services such as police, fire, emergency medical response and street and park maintenance. At the same time, aging infrastructure, increasing state-mandated costs and uncertainty in state and federal funding are placing pressure on the City's budget.

As outlined in the City's 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, these trends mean that existing revenues are not keeping pace with the cost of maintaining the level of service residents expect. As part of this planning process, the City is evaluating options to generate additional revenues, including a potential local ¼ cent sales tax measure on the November 2026 ballot to help ensure reliable, locally controlled funding to support essential services and the quality of life residents expect.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and share their feedback as the City continues planning for a strong and sustainable future.



Make an Impact: Serve on City Boards, Commissions and City Council

San Mateo is stronger when people with diverse talents and perspectives come together. If you want to help shape the policies, programs and decisions that impact our community, now is the time to get involved. Everyone has the potential to be a leader and foster connection between their neighbors and local government.

Running for City Council

City Council members shape local policy and impact the quality of life for San Mateo residents for years to come. San Mateo has five Council districts. Districts 1, 3 and 5 will elect Council Members in November 2026, and Districts 2 and 4 in 2028. Interested residents may complete nomination documents through the City Clerk during the official filing period.

Learn more at *cityofsanmateo.org/runforcouncil*.

Boards and Commissions

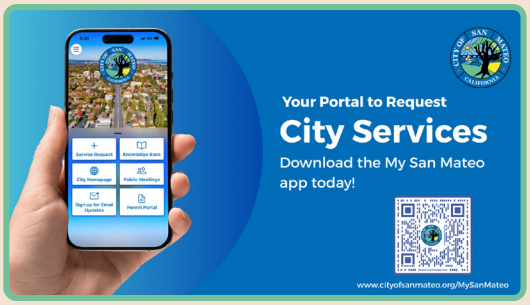
Serving on a Board or Commission is a meaningful way to make a difference in your community. Members collaborate with residents, staff and fellow commissioners to shape policy and advise the City Council.

Youth Commissioners

Youth Commissioners ages 13 to 17 provide valuable perspectives on issues that directly affect their future and their peers. Several Boards and Commissions offer opportunities for motivated young people to serve.

Learn more at *cityofsanmateo.org/boardscommissions*

Introducing the New My San Mateo Phone App and Web Portal: Report Issues and Track Your City Service Requests



The City of San Mateo has a new reporting tool called *My San Mateo*. This online portal and iPhone app let you report issues, request services and stay updated on the status of your requests—all in one place.

With *My San Mateo*, you can report things like potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping, streetlight problems or other neighborhood concerns. You'll also be able to track your request, get updates and communicate with City staff—so you know what's happening every step of the way.

My San Mateo puts City services right at your fingertips—whether you're at home, at work or out in the community. Give it a try at *cityofsanmateo.org/mysanmateo*!

Gas Leaf Blower Ban Starting Jan. 1, 2027

On March 16, 2026, the San Mateo City Council adopted an ordinance to prohibit the use of gas leaf blowers in San Mateo beginning Jan. 1, 2027. The ordinance responds to growing community interest in limiting gas leaf blower use.

This effort aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan and will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while addressing noise and air quality concerns related to gas leaf blowers. Now, City staff are focusing on community outreach and education regarding these new requirements.

Current regulations will remain until the new ordinance takes effect.

The City's current regulations, outlined in San Mateo Municipal Code Chapter 10.80, Operation of Leaf Blowers, limits use to:

- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and certain designated holidays

These limits apply in residential zoning districts and in areas bordering residential zoning districts. These hours will continue to apply to electric leaf blowers when the new ordinance takes effect.



Save on Electric Leaf Blowers with City Rebates

San Mateo residents can receive up to $100, and landscaping businesses with an active San Mateo business license are eligible for up to $500 toward the purchase of an electric leaf blower and batteries. Electric models are quieter, cleaner and the future of landscaping in our city. Share this program with your gardener or neighbor. Together we can make a real impact!

Find out more at *cityofsanmateo.org/leafblowers*.

Community Input Needed for Zoning Code Update to Guide Future Development



The City of San Mateo is undertaking a comprehensive update to its Zoning Code (Title 27 of the San Mateo Municipal Code) to align it with the long-term vision of the 2040 General Plan. This effort aims to create a clearer, more intuitive framework to support balanced and equitable development. The updated Zoning Code will establish specific rules on what can be built, what types of activities or uses are allowed on-site and within buildings and which kinds of development permits are needed. It guides the form and character of development, including building size, height and certain design standards, ensuring compatibility between new development, land uses and surrounding neighborhoods.

The City team is currently preparing a draft Zoning Code, with a public release targeted for fall 2026. Once published, there will be community outreach and engagement to get input on how the Code should be updated and which rules and requirements should be implemented. To learn more about the project, read white papers on key issues or share ideas via online surveys, please visit: *strivesanmateo.org/zoning-code-update/*.

City on Track for 2031 Housing Targets With Over 7,000 Units in Pipeline

To help address the Bay Area housing crisis, the California Department of Housing and Community Development assigned the City of San Mateo an allocation of 7,015 new housing units to be constructed by 2031. **As of March 2026, the City's development pipeline has reached more than 7,000 new housing units, putting San Mateo on track to meet its long-term targets.**

Learn more about all of San Mateo's housing development projects at the City's Current Development Projects page at *cityofsanmateo.org/developmentprojects*.

Economic Development Plan and FIFA Events to Boost Downtown Business

The City Council recently approved a three-year Economic Development Work Plan (FY 2026–2029) focused on supporting local businesses, fostering partnerships and diversifying the City's economic base. The plan includes strategies geared toward business retention and attraction, along with exploring ways to engender a resilient, adaptable and inclusive business community that benefits residents, businesses and visitors.

SF BAY AREA
HOST OF
WORLD CUP 2026

This summer, San Mateo will partner with the Downtown San Mateo Association, San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to build on the excitement of the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a series of community-focused events and promotional activities. The goal is to bring the community and visitors together in celebration of this global sporting event as they enjoy special promotions offered by local businesses. They can also enjoy fun activities in our downtown Pedestrian Mall on June 12, and a celebratory viewing event on June 25 at Central Park. Learn more at *cityofsanmateo.org/EDworkplan*.

Preparing for Emergencies With Training, Resources and Volunteers

The San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) continues to expand emergency preparedness efforts in the City of San Mateo through Disaster Service Worker training, shelter readiness initiatives and community-based programs. Recent activities have focused on strengthening the City's ability to support residents during emergencies while building a more prepared and resilient community.



The OES partnered with the American Red Cross to conduct Disaster Shelter Training for City staff. These trainings walked staff through real-world shelter operations on how to support residents in case of an emergency. Participants worked through role-play scenarios alongside Red Cross personnel and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers to simulate realistic shelter conditions and decision-making.

Ensuring community members feel ready in case of an emergency is an essential part of our City's preparedness. The OES hosted a recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy for community members and volunteers. Participants received training in fire safety, disaster medical operations and light search and rescue, culminating in a hands-on Skills Day exercise. CERT graduates expand neighborhood-level preparedness and provide additional trained personnel to support response and recovery efforts.

Together, these initiatives enhance Disaster Service Worker readiness, improve shelter capability and strengthen community preparedness across the City of San Mateo.

Police Department's New Traffic Substation Supports Safer Streets

The San Mateo Police Department has opened a new Traffic Unit substation, a key step in addressing traffic safety concerns throughout San Mateo. Located at Barneson Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas, the substation serves as a dedicated hub focused on improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

This centralized facility allows Traffic Unit officers to work more efficiently, with shared space that enhances coordination, supervision and deployment of specialized equipment such as speed trailers and electronic message boards. Previously housed in multiple locations, these resources are now consolidated to improve response times and service.

Positioned near busy corridors, schools, parks and community centers, the substation also increases officer presence in areas with high activity.





San Mateo Police Department Releases First Annual Report

The San Mateo Police Department has released its first annual report, highlighting the department's work, accomplishments and key statistics from 2025.

Inside, readers will find an overview of key programs, crime data and trends and a closer look at the department's mission and personnel. The report also highlights community engagement efforts, including partnerships with mental health clinicians, local organizations and service providers, reflecting a continued focus on building strong relationships. From major cases to everyday calls for service, the report reflects the wide range of work performed to keep the community safe. It also outlines the department's focus areas and priorities throughout the year.

Learn more at *cityofsanmateo.org/SMPDannualreport*.



Get More With Your Library Card

Your San Mateo Public Library card gives you access to powerful tools—free.

- Read 3,000+ newspapers from 100 countries with PressReader.
- Get 24/7 tutoring with Brainfuse for students from elementary through college.
- Discover your family history with the Bay Area's only public FamilySearch Affiliate and Ancestry.com.
- Plus, visit the Job Seekers Center at the library for help with online job searching, applications, resume writing and interview practice.

Start exploring today—your library card opens the door.

Federal Dollars Secured to Expand Childcare at Lakeshore Center

The City of San Mateo is working to expand access to affordable full-day preschool for local families through planned improvements at the Lakeshore Center, which has not had significant upgrades since it was built in 1967. For years the City has only been able to offer part-time, unlicensed childcare as the facility did not meet code requirements for full-day licensed care.

Thanks to the support of Congressman Kevin Mullin, the City has secured $1.2 million in federally earmarked funds to increase access to affordable full-day preschool in San Mateo for the city's lowest income families, including potential renovations at the Lakeshore Center. Staff have engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study which will explore options for the facility, including offering full-time licensed childcare and the opportunity for a public-private partnership. These funds will be used to make the necessary upgrades, which may include updating outdated plumbing and electrical, increasing the office space, adding air conditioning and making the center ADA compliant to facilitate licensed childcare.



Get Out and Enjoy San Mateo: Summer Events & Activities

From outdoor concerts to hands-on programs, San Mateo Parks and Recreation offers something for everyone this summer:

- **Concerts in the Park** – Live music on Thursday evenings throughout the summer (except July 2 due to July 4 concert)
- **Summer Camps & Youth Programs** – Sports, arts, aquatics and enrichment opportunities
- **Fitness & Wellness Classes** – Outdoor and indoor options for all levels
- **Seasonal Activities** – Arts and crafts, music and senior programming in the summer and more
- **Movies in the Park** – Family-friendly films on select Friday evenings in September

Registration for summer programs begins in early May, with activities running through September. Explore the full schedule of special events at *cityofsanmateo.org/specialevents* and summer activities at *cityofsanmateo.org/activityguide*.





Envisioning a Remodeled Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, built in 1968, has long served as a vital gathering place in San Mateo. This summer, the City will launch a visioning process to reimagine its future.

The City will renovate the center to continue to support daily programs while also serving as a resiliency center—an adaptable space that can serve the community during emergencies.

The upcoming visioning process will bring together community members, stakeholders and City staff to define priorities and identify both near-term and long-term improvements. This effort builds on the City's 2025 Facilities Assessment, which evaluated existing conditions, identified critical needs and outlined cost estimates. Early discussions are expected to focus on accessibility, building systems, program space layout and overall functionality, as well as strengthening the center's connection to the neighborhood.



In the first phase, the City will focus on developing a new pool facility and make upgrades to allow operation as a resiliency center, including updating the locker rooms, kitchen facilities and heating and ventilation system. These updates aim to restore a heavily used community asset while expanding recreational and wellness opportunities. The City has secured $850,000 in federal funding, approved $550,000 in local funding already and plans to allocate an additional $4 million from its Capital Reserve as part of the upcoming five-year Capital Improvement Program to set-aside $5.4 million total towards Phase I of the project.

Through thoughtful planning and community input, the goal is to transform the King Center into a modern, adaptable facility that serves San Mateo for generations to come.

Transportation Safety: Progress and Next Steps

The City of San Mateo is advancing transportation safety improvements across the community through targeted investments, data-driven planning and community engagement. The City has secured significant grant funding, **increasing dedicated dollars for pedestrian and bicycle safety projects from $24 million to more than $40 million** to accelerate safety improvements citywide.

This work is guided by the City's **Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan and Local Roadway Safety Plan**, which together create a coordinated roadmap for improving safety across the transportation network. These plans analyze collision data, identify high-risk locations and outline infrastructure and programmatic improvements to make San Mateo more walkable, bike-friendly and safe for everyone. Learn more about these plans here:

- *cityofsanmateo.org/bicyclemasterplan*
- *cityofsanmateo.org/pedestrianmasterplan*
- *cityofsanmateo.org/safetyplan*

Since adoption of the Local Roadway Safety Plan in 2024, seven of the top 10 priority locations are either complete or in design, with additional improvements underway.

Recent projects reflect how this work is being carried out.

At **North Delaware and State streets**, the City is advancing both near-term and long-term safety improvements. Initial updates include Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and shortened crossings using striping and delineators to improve visibility and driver awareness. These will be followed by permanent upgrades, including concrete curb extensions, yellow high-visibility crosswalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and AB 413 Daylighting, which involves painting the curb red 20 feet back from a crosswalk to prevent parked cars and support visibility.

On **Humboldt Street**, following extensive community engagement, the City Council reviewed alternatives to the existing Class II bike lanes. Council directed staff to maintain the current configuration while advancing strategies to address community concerns, including increased traffic enforcement, a potential Residential Parking Permit Program, traffic calming, upgraded lighting and evaluation of a one-way street configuration.



We're also implementing safety and multimodal improvements at **19th Avenue and Fashion Island Boulevard**, as well on Peninsula Avenue, particularly at its intersection with Delaware. Multimodal improvements take into account people traveling via different modes—so that pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, people on wheels and drivers can interact more safely and effectively.

Through continued investment, planning and community input, the City remains committed to building a safer, more connected transportation network for all.

Track our progress on our **Transportation Safety webpage** at *cityofsanmateo.org/transportationsafety*.



Stay Safe on San Mateo Streets

Improving transportation safety takes a combined effort—through roadway improvements, targeted traffic enforcement and community awareness. Everyone plays a role in keeping San Mateo's streets safe:

For Pedestrians:

- Stay alert and avoid using phones or headphones while crossing
- Follow signal phases—don't enter on a flashing "Don't Walk"
- Make eye contact with drivers before stepping into a crosswalk

For Cyclists:

- Stay alert—avoid headphones and ride predictably
- Follow traffic laws and watch for turning vehicles
- Use lights and reflective gear, especially at night

For Drivers:

- Put your phone on *Do Not Disturb* and keep it out of reach
- Set navigation and music before you start driving
- Avoid texting, eating or multitasking behind the wheel
- Slow down, follow signals and always yield to pedestrians

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San Mateo NEWS

Your City, Our Community

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cityofsanmateo.org/sanmateonews

Main Phone Numbers

City Clerk (Public Meetings)	650-522-7040
Planning/Building/Permits	650-522-7200
Code Enforcement	650-522-7150
Business Licenses	650-522-7113
Fire Department	650-522-7900
Main Library	650-522-7802
Parks and Recreation	650-522-7400
Police	650-522-7700
Public Works	650-522-7300

Register to Vote in Time for the Upcoming Election

Don't forget to register to vote. Visit *registertovote.ca.gov* to get started and learn more. Even 16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register and are automatically eligible to vote on their 18th birthday. Current voters may also check their registration status online. Make your voice heard in the next election!

Stay Connected in an Emergency

Get timely updates from official sources so you know what's happening—and what to do.

Sign up for:

Nixle – Local public safety alerts and advisories
SMC Alert – Urgent countywide alerts, including evacuations

Learn more and sign up: *cityofsanmateo.org/socialmedia*

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Learn more at
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Work for the City of San Mateo

Want to make an impact? Working for the City of San Mateo offers:

- **Meaningful Public Service** – Contribute to programs, services, and spaces that directly impact the City's diverse residents.
- **Collaborative Workforce** – Join a team of over 500 professionals who work in collaboration to serve the community.
- **Diverse Career Paths** – Explore a wide range of roles and disciplines within one organization.
- **Innovation in Service** – Help shape innovative solutions to meet evolving community needs.

Explore opportunities:
cityofsanmateo.org/careers.