

*Your City, Our Community*

SAN MATEO NEWS

March 2024



Connect with Your City Council, Commissions & Boards

Your San Mateo City Council invites you to attend and share your input on City business being conducted at their regular meetings, which take place on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. These public meetings are hybrid, so you can join in person at City Hall or via Zoom. Visit cityofsanmateo.org/publicmeetings to learn more about City Council, commission and board meetings.

Our Council, commissions and boards have a priority to create:

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Letter from Your City Manager



As your new City Manager, I want to share some important updates in this newsletter about your local government and the public services we offer to make life and business better in San Mateo.

I am honored to have been appointed by the City Council and to lead an incredibly dedicated and diverse team of City staff, who are all committed to making San Mateo the best place to live, work and play. Because I have a passion and robust history of building community and transparency through

engaging and collaborating with residents and businesses, you will see our team communicating regularly via newsletters, social media, community meetings and projects. My values for myself and the team are centered around leading with empathy and compassion, being caring and responsive, supporting people of all backgrounds to thrive, and proactively collaborating with the community on public policy solutions.

I believe community engagement is vital as we prepare for a more sustainable future for our city. Since the City's incorporation in 1894, San Mateo has grown and evolved into a dynamic community with about 105,000 residents—the largest city in San Mateo County. One of our greatest strengths is our diversity. Not only are we diverse demographically, but we also have a diverse cityscape of vibrant neighborhoods, business districts, parks and an active downtown. It's what makes San Mateo such a special place. You may already be interacting

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*Connect with Your City Council,
Commissions & Boards Continued...*

- Safe, clean, complete, and attractive neighborhoods.
- A range of successful businesses and a solid tax base.
- A community where residents of all ages can flourish and enjoy an enhanced quality of life.
- Orderly planning for a complete community, which accounts for reliable infrastructure, a vibrant downtown, a variety of housing options and recreational amenities that meet the needs of our entire community.
- An open, and effective City Government that actively invites the community to participate in shaping the future.

Interested in making a difference in any of these areas? We look for a diverse cross-section of residents to help guide our organization by serving on our boards and commissions. We encourage you to learn more at cityofsanmateo.org/becomingacommissioner.



Letter from Your City Manager Continued...

with the City, whether it be using our utility or emergency services, taking part in library services, attending recreation classes at our community centers, visiting our over 200 acres of parks and open spaces, running a business or working here, or shopping in our two major shopping centers and downtown; however, there are other opportunities to be involved if you'd like to help shape the future of our community. On cityofsanmateo.org you will find opportunities to take part in City Council meetings and Commissions & Boards, volunteer for your Neighborhood Watch, attend a community event, train to be a member of our Community Emergency Response Team and much more.

If you do not have time to engage with us more, I'd like you to know that there are more than 600 dedicated City employees providing an array of vital services such as maintaining local streets and infrastructure—including storm drains and sewers—supporting parks and recreational opportunities and maintaining parks and community centers. We also have a top-notch team of public safety and public works teams—including fire, police and sanitation—helping keep our community safe, healthy and clean.

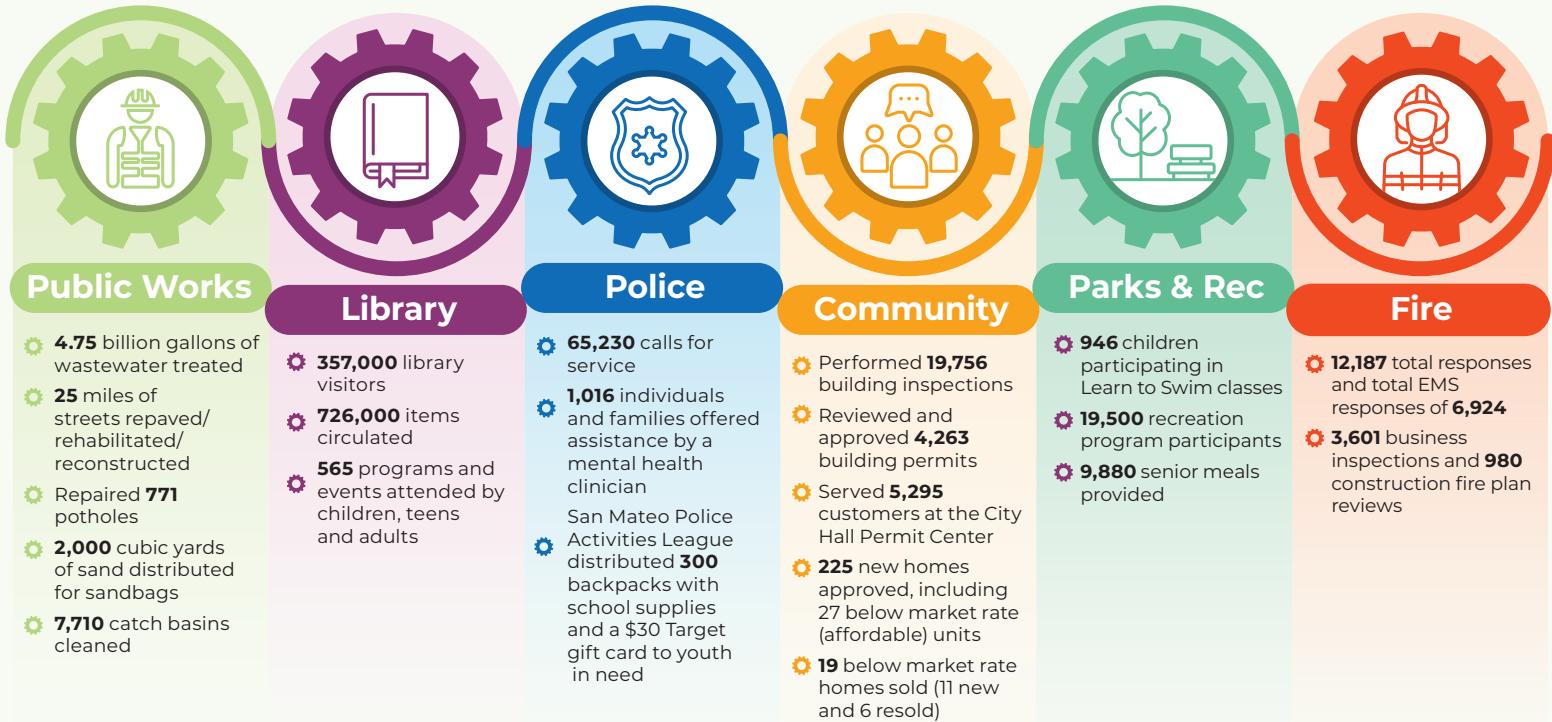
San Mateo is a regional leader in tackling important issues and with your help, we will continue to make progress on **community priorities such as:**

Expanding affordable housing opportunities	Improving safety on our roads and throughout our flood control network	Reinvesting in City infrastructure
Developing and implementing emergency response plans	Enhancing our sustainability and resiliency by protecting our natural environment and infrastructure	Increasing opportunities for youth activities and civic engagement
Sustaining and boosting economic vitality	Keeping San Mateo a safe and inclusive place for all	Supporting residents' daily needs so that people of all backgrounds can thrive

We are proud to be members of the San Mateo community and hope you enjoy learning more about your City government.

Alex Khojikian
City Manager

Quick Facts on Annual City Services



City Approves \$317 Million Spending Plan

San Mateo's budget is the foundation of our City; it funds the public services we rely on every day, allows us to invest in our future, and ensures responsible stewardship of tax revenue. The annual budget not only supports vital services such as emergency response and recreation programs but also funds critical capital improvements that keep our community safe, and make it more sustainable, and enjoyable for decades to come.

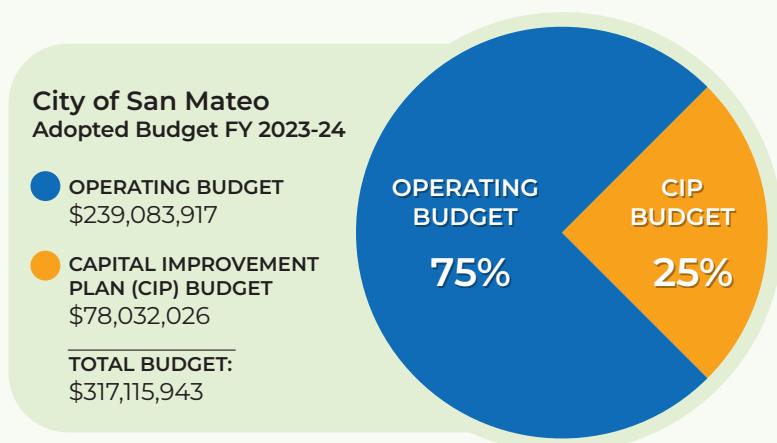
The City Council approved a \$317 million spending plan for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. This includes \$239 million toward operations and a \$78 million Capital Improvement Plan (CIP.) Through this year's CIP, the City will repair more local roads, improve parks, expand our Clean Water Program's wastewater treatment plant, transition the rest of our streetlights to efficient LEDs, and enhance health and safety with more bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

San Mateo residents, workers, and visitors rely upon the City's core services every day – whether it's walking down the street, visiting a park, having a building inspected, or needing to call 911 for police or fire emergency services. These vital services are largely funded by your tax dollars, which the City shares with a variety of other public agencies at the school, county, and state levels.

Community members also pay "User Fees" for a few specific services such as treating your wastewater when you flush your toilet, solid waste pick up of garbage/recycling/compost, or golfing at Poplar Creek. The rest of the City revenue comes largely from taxes that ensure we can provide critical services at an affordable cost or freely to everyone in the community.

Like many other cities, San Mateo's budget is impacted by broader economic challenges. Budget deficits are expected for several years as a result of the pandemic and other factors; however, since our City leadership has engaged in prudent fiscal planning, we expect to weather the current challenges by drawing on reserves. According to the latest General Fund Long-Term Financial Plan, the City has \$68.8 million in rainy-day reserves. It is anticipated we will use the rainy-day reserve to weather the next economic cycles and support the City's core services during future deficits. The long-term plan projects the City will draw the rainy-day reserve down to \$21 million by 2031 before building it back up to the City's policy goal of \$30 million in 2033.

City leaders recognize being fiscally responsible and transparent with public finances is critical to ensuring we can continue to provide the core services our community relies upon.



Community Resilience

The City of San Mateo prides itself on promoting a culture of inclusivity and enhancing its collective resiliency so that people of all backgrounds have opportunities to thrive here.

Below are just a few steps we're taking to support our residents today and plan for our future.

Community Safety

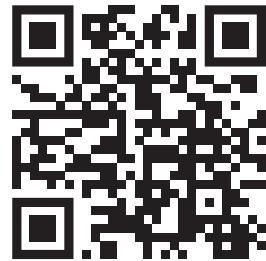
Safe communities need robust stormwater systems to protect residents and businesses from flooding, especially now in the rainy season. When rain falls anywhere in San Mateo, it gets channeled away from homes and businesses through our stormwater infrastructure. Much of that infrastructure is 50 years old or older, so the City is pleased that property owners recently voted in favor of the Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee, which aims to generate approximately \$4 million annually. This money will be dedicated entirely to improving the City's aging stormwater system. In the meantime, to reduce strain on our existing infrastructure, our crews have been out proactively clearing catch basins and trash racks throughout the City, repairing pump stations, preparing for wet weather, and later this year, will begin work on developing a Stormwater Master Plan and other major stormwater improvement projects.

Join us in getting ready with some of the tips in the Be Storm Ready article!



Be Storm Ready

The National Weather Service forecasts an El Niño winter to hit our area this rainy season and it is important we all take steps to be prepared. Visit cityofsanmateo.org/stormprep for safety tips, sandbag stations & more.



- Prepare in advance – get supplies, sandbags etc. and learn more at cityofsanmateo.org/floodprep.
- Find low-cost tips on building an emergency preparedness kit at Ready.gov.
- Clear gutters on your roof and in the street in front of your home (if applicable).
- Prepare for power outages, including buying batteries, portable lights and charging your devices.
- Adopt a Drain to help keep storm drains clear, or report clogged drains.
- Never drive through a flooded road and follow warning signs/closures.
- Stay in the know – tune in for weather updates, and sign up for emergency alerts at SMCAalert.com and Nixle.com.

Are you in a flood prone area?

- Get sandbags in advance – we have four free, self-serve sandbag stations open 24/7 cityofsanmateo.org/sandbags.
 - **Corp Yard** - 1949 Pacific Blvd.
 - **Beresford Park Parking Lot** - 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas
 - **Parkside Aquatic Park Parking Lot** - 1595 Seal St.
 - **Anchor Road/Bay Trail Parking Lot** - Anchor Rd at 3rd Ave./J. Hart Clinton Drive.
- Check sump-pumps on your property to make sure they function properly.
- Remove valuable belongings from flooded areas in advance of storms.

Learn more at cityofsanmateo.org/stormprep.





STRIVE SAN MATEO

GENERAL PLAN 2040

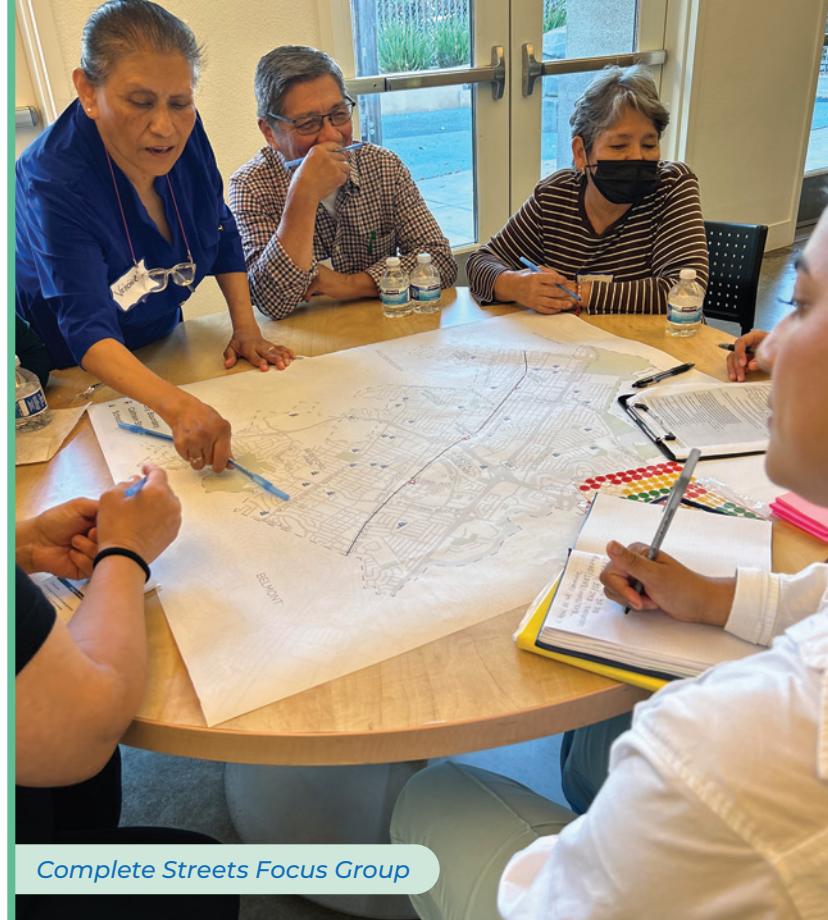
Planning for Our Future

After years of community engagement, our Strive San Mateo team recently reached a major milestone by finalizing the draft General Plan 2040 and environmental impact report. This critical planning document will help guide the future of our community and touches on everything we do, including housing, sustainability, transportation, infrastructure, public safety, recreation, historic preservation and more.

Community input is vital to this process. Over the last 5 years, we've received input from thousands of individuals and community organizations through in-person and virtual workshops, pop-up events, neighborhood meetings, public hearings, online surveys and written comments. This past summer alone, we hosted five in-person town hall events across the City to connect with residents and held a series of public hearings on the draft General Plan.

We will continue to engage residents in this process, including City Council public hearing dates on March 4 and March 18. We will look toward a ballot measure in November 2024 that will cover certain aspects of the General Plan. Learn more at strivesanmateo.org.

The City Council also adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element, a state-mandated plan for how the City of San Mateo can accommodate at least 7,015 new homes at all levels of affordability over the next eight years. It includes goals, policies, and programs to help address current and future housing needs for all residents and community members. It was developed with extensive community engagement and in line with state requirements. The City is pleased to report that on Jan. 19, 2024 the State Housing and Community Development (HCD) department determined the City's updated 2023-2031 Housing Element, with the incorporation of the technical clarifications submitted on Jan. 17, 2024, to be in substantial compliance with State Housing Laws. Public hearings to consider adoption of the 2023-2031 Housing Element are now scheduled, with the Planning Commission meeting on March 12, 2024 and the City Council meeting on April 1, 2024. Following local adoption, the Housing Element will be submitted to HCD for formal certification.



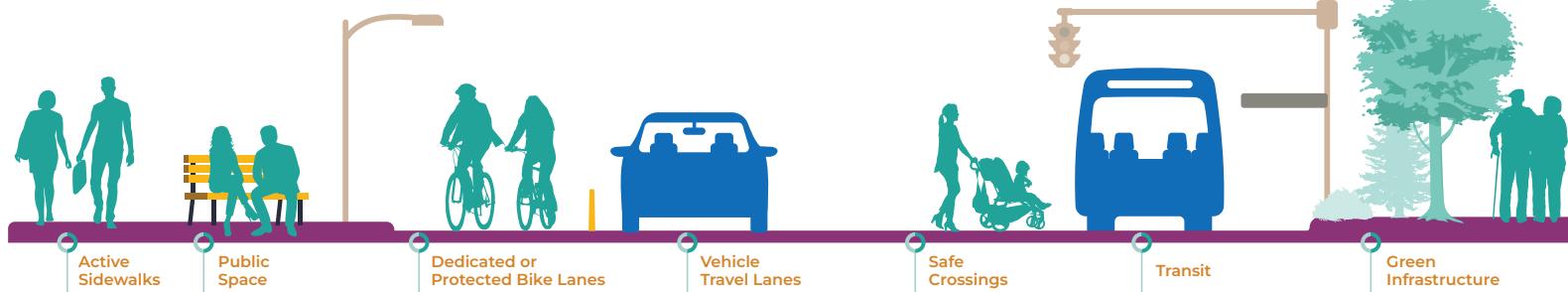
Complete Streets & Transportation Safety

Whether you walk, bicycle, drive, or take public transit – we're looking to improve safety and your ability to move throughout the community. Our transportation planners have been collecting data and community feedback to develop the Complete Streets Plan and the Local Roadway Safety Plan, which aims to transform the existing vehicle-centric transportation network to one designed for safety and access for all travel modes. This has resulted in a comprehensive list of multimodal infrastructure projects.

As our community continues to grow and evolve, we're working to make sure our transportation system, roads and safety efforts develop to meet the needs of current and future generations. After the plan is adopted in 2024, it will serve as a guide for future roadway infrastructure improvements.

Learn more at cityofsanmateo.org/completestreets.

A Complete Street is one that is safe, comfortable, and accessible for all users and multiple forms of transportation. This illustration shows what may be included in a Complete Street to meet that goal.



San Mateo, the Place You Want to Be

San Mateo has so much to offer to everyone who lives, works in, or visits our city, and we're always looking for ways to continue enhancing it so it's the premier place everyone wants to be in San Mateo County.

Reinvigorating Downtown

Making the downtown core more attractive is a vital part of wanting to live, work and play here. To help beautify downtown, we recently completed a new public art project along the B Street Pedestrian Mall. The colorful new work titled "Cultural Pattern" reflects our community's cultural diversity and spans about 480 feet along two blocks of B Street. The artist, who was selected after input from throughout the community and the Civic Arts Commission, has done a wonderful job of brightening up our pedestrian mall. Make sure to tag us [#SanMateo](#) or [@cityofsanmateo](#) if you snap a picture for social media.

Coming this spring to downtown is the grand opening of Kiku Crossing, which will bring more residents and business traffic to shops, restaurants and cultural venues. Kiku Crossing is the result of a public-private partnership between the City and Mid-Pen Housing and will bring 225 affordable residential units to downtown San Mateo, right near convenient transit and many of San Mateo's most popular shops and restaurants. Connected to Kiku Crossing will be the new 5th Avenue Garage, which opened in February and provides parking for the residences as well as 526 parking spaces available to the public.

In addition, we are continuing to make investments in downtown, and this year you'll start to notice more improvements like more decorative elements, new outdoor seating areas, enhanced bollards, and landscaping. We are also investing additional resources to keep downtown clean and safe for all community members, including sidewalk power washing and near daily sidewalk trash pick-up through a porter service.

We'd like to give a shout out to our Downtown San Mateo Association (DSMA) and San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce for helping make San Mateo one of the business friendliest cities in the County, which is why so many companies have called the historic buildings home for decades, and why innovative new startups have begun here. The DSMA provides a variety of resources for businesses, such as a San Mateo Small Business Development Center and a business library in the San Mateo Public Library including low-cost business workshops. The Chamber offers resources such as educational programs, networking events and the Business Referral Network (BRN). Learn more about DSMA at www.dsma.org and the Chamber at sanmateochamber.org.





New Fallen Heroes Memorial Coming to Central Park

The City and community celebrated the groundbreaking of the Fallen Heroes Memorial at Central Park on Dec. 19, 2023. The Memorial, which will be unveiled this spring, honors our servicemembers, police, and firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The project, located by a beautiful grove of trees adjacent to the large grassy field, will include a number of monoliths etched with the names of community members and City employees who died in their service to the community and country. When aligned, the monoliths form the shape of the iconic Remembrance Poppy. An eleven-member steering committee, comprised of City Council members, veterans, retired police and fire representatives, community members, and City staff developed the memorial's concept with extensive community interest and input.

The City of San Mateo is forever indebted to the men and women who defend our country and protect our community, and we are grateful for the overwhelming community support this project has received. Those interested in contributing to the Fallen Heroes Memorial fund may submit their donation to the San Mateo City Parks and Recreation Foundation 501(c)3, which supports parks, recreation programs and capital projects that can be enjoyed by all San Mateo residents at ilovesanmateocityparks.org.

Marina Library Repairs

More than 50 years ago, the Marina Library first opened its doors to the San Mateo community. Since then, tens of thousands of people have visited the library to find their new favorite book, listen to bilingual storytimes, and participate in senior computer classes.

However, the years have put strain on the well-loved library and the building needs critical structural repairs. We are thrilled to have secured more than \$3 million in state and federal funding, thanks to former Congresswoman Jackie Speier and former Assemblyman, now Congressman, Kevin Mullin.

During construction, which will begin in mid-to late 2024, the library will be closed. When complete it will help better meet our community's expanding needs for years to come!

Mayor Shares Accomplishments and Plans at State of the City Address

On Feb. 12, 2024 Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash delivered the State of the City address to a live audience. The presentation, held at the Main Library, focused on the accomplishments of last year and what's coming in 2024.

Highlights of the accomplishments included:

Parks and Recreation: In addition to the December groundbreaking of the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Central Park, the team managed several park improvement projects, including planting 200 new trees, painting play structures and replacing picnic tables at Parkside Aquatic Park, resurfacing of the Beresford Park tennis courts, basketball court updates at Washington Park, and more.

Community Development: Completed the updated General Plan 2040 Update after extensive community engagement, which will be presented to the City Council for adoption in March. The team also made several updates to the City's Housing Element 2023-2031, which the State Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently determined was in substantial compliance with State Housing Laws.

Library: Some of the accomplishments included: welcoming the San Mateo County Genealogical Society to the Library; launching the Parks Pass Program to provide free passes to CA state parks; using grant funding to produce a series of sustainability and environmental programs; securing a grant to bring Fixit Clinic to SMPL; creating the first annual San Mateo Celebrates Arts and Culture Festival with the San Mateo Public Library Foundation.

City Clerk: The team created the first Elections Campaign Dashboard in San Mateo County and engaged youth via programs like the first Youth Commissioner recruitment for the Park and Recreation Commission, Generation Voter program in high schools, and the first "I Voted" Sticker competition.

Police: The Dispatch Center fielded over 173,000 calls and the Police Department responded

to over 90,000 incidents in 2023. The Homeless Outreach Team successfully connected nearly 150 individuals with housing and other services, while the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team clinician responded to over 200 calls for service in crisis situations.

Fire: The Fire Department responded to 15,641 incidents and conducted 19,719 apparatus responses and 3,509 Inspections. They hosted many events, including an Open House event at Fire Station 28 for nearly 1,000 attendees and a fire camp for high school girls at the College of San Mateo.

Public Works: The team is in the process of completing a variety of projects, such as the Underground Flow Equalization System (UFES), which modernizes our sewer system, and improvements to the Lagoon Pump Station, which helps our stormwater system. They adopted the Transit Oriented Development Access Plan to enhance pedestrian safety and create comfortable walking routes to transit for all people of ages and abilities.

Finance: Finance staff successfully completed the City's 2023-24 budget and five-year capital improvement plan and launched the Online Payment Portal.

Some exciting developments coming this year include the roll out of a new Recreation Registration App, the opening of the Kiku Crossing Garage, which will provide over 500 parking spaces downtown, completion of the Kiku Crossing Housing development and its 225 affordable units this summer, the renovation of Marina Library, and the anticipated adoption of General Plan 2040 and certification of the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element. Learn more about City departments and projects at CityofSanMateo.org.



San Mateo City Hall
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

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San Mateo NEWS

Your City, Our Community

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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
Trees	650-522-7420

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social media:



City of San Mateo



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Minimum Wage Increase

The new minimum wage increase is now in effect. As of Jan. 1, 2024, the hourly minimum wage increased to \$17.35 for all employees working within the City of San Mateo limits.

The City of San Mateo's hourly minimum wage applies to all businesses within city limits, regardless of size. Learn more about the City's minimum wage ordinance and how to report violations on our web page, cityofsanmateo.org/Minimum-Wage.

Looking Ahead

March 18	City Council Special Meeting	5:30-7 pm – City Hall
	City Council Regular Meeting	7-9 pm – City Hall
April 1	City Council Special Meeting	5:30-7 pm – City Hall
	City Council Regular Meeting	7-9 pm – City Hall

For more events, check the City Calendar at cityofsanmateo.org/calendar.