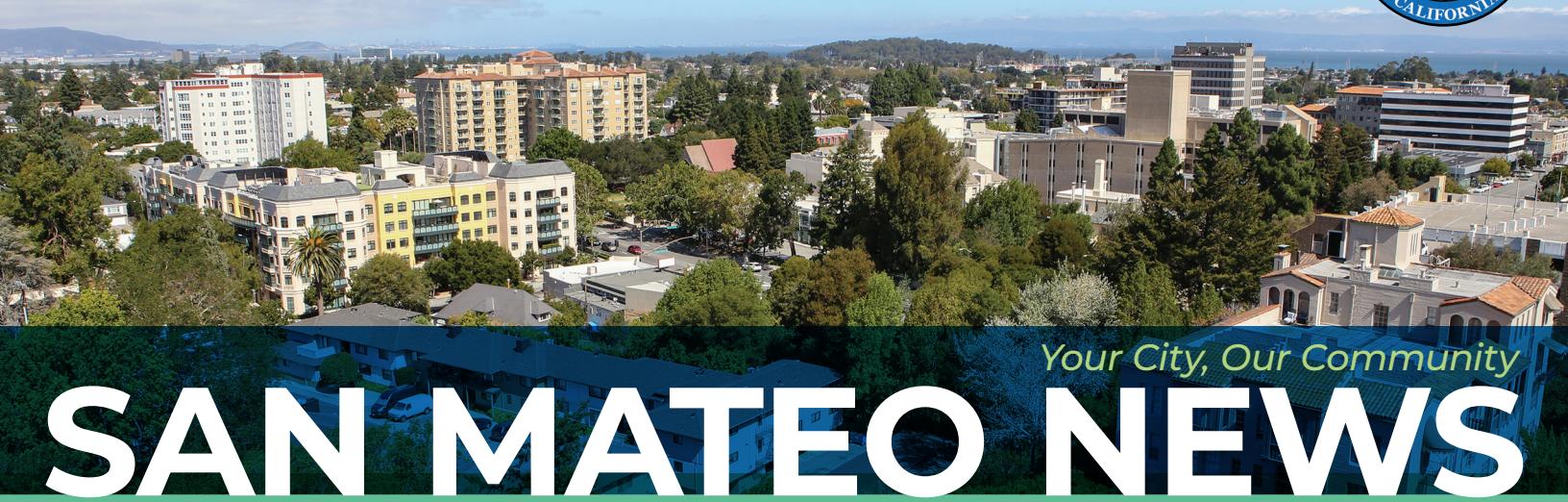


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Your City, Our Community

SAN MATEO NEWS

April 2025

Letter from Your City Manager



As your City Manager, one of my top priorities has been improving how we connect – with you, our residents, businesses and community partners. In my

experience, a great city isn't just about being well-managed—it's also shaped by the voices of its community.

Your participation—through surveys, meetings, and conversations with City staff—has helped guide key decisions and ensure we're addressing issues and concerns that matter most. Like any city, we face challenges, but I'm grateful to serve a community so dedicated to making San Mateo a thriving and inclusive place for all.

Here are just a few examples of how your feedback is making a difference—our recent **biannual Community Survey** found that **85% of respondents rate San Mateo's quality of life as excellent or good, and 71% are satisfied with City services**. That tells us we're on the right path. Meanwhile, your inputs through the **Downtown Survey**, conducted with the **Chamber of Commerce** and **Downtown San Mateo Association**, helped shape improvements to the pedestrian mall and launch initiatives like **Revv Up San Mateo**, which activates our downtown and supports local businesses, arts, and entertainment.

While we are making great progress, we do face some financial headwinds, such as funding the modernization of our aging City facilities and infrastructure, which impacts public safety, accessibility and quality of life. Right now, we have over **\$300 million in capital projects** that have no funding sources, posing a major financial hurdle. We also are addressing a structural budget deficit in order to continue funding essential City services. We are currently able to bridge the funding gap in the interim using our strong reserves from prudent financial stewardship, but this is not sustainable. In addition, we are facing regional, state, federal and global economic uncertainty. For all these reasons we are developing a multi-pronged multi-year financial sustainability plan to work toward the long-term fiscal health of the City and meet the community's needs.

Despite the challenges, we are excited about the great momentum and positive steps we are taking to improve the quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors. Some of these improvements and initiatives include the new wastewater treatment plant coming online this year, the new upcoming Central Park Playground, East Hillsdale Park improvements, Marina Library modernization, the police's successful retail task force and establishment of a new Real Time Information Center, transportation and street resurfacing projects, pedestrian mall enhancements and hosting new cultural celebrations.



San Mateo Shines in Resident Survey!

What residents love:
Parks, Shopping, Dining, Downtown,
Special Event & Public Safety Services

View Full Survey Results
www.cityofsanmateo.org/CommunitySurveys

Looking ahead, we'll soon adopt a new **Strategic Plan** focused on **housing, transportation, infrastructure, climate resiliency and essential services**—priorities shaped by your input. This plan will help us implement the recently adopted **General Plan 2040** while creating a sustainable business plan.

In the coming year, I remain focused on **attracting and retaining top talent, strengthening communications, and deepening community engagement**.

I invite you to stay involved, share your insights, and help shape San Mateo's future.

You'll find ways to connect with us on the **back cover**, and let's keep the conversation going! Keep reading for updates on key projects and initiatives that are moving San Mateo forward.

Warm regards,
Alex Khojikian
City Manager

City Partners with Samaritan House

Worker Resources Center Connect's Day Laborers with Local Employers

Samaritan House's Worker Resource Center (WRC) in San Mateo serves as a vital bridge in connecting workers with local employers. The goal of this community partnership with the City of San Mateo since 2003, is to offer a safe meeting place for both day laborers and employers, including contractors, local business owners and homeowners looking to hire workers.



The service is free to vetted employees and employers and helps ensure a safe, reliable match. This process also helps prevent wage theft and exploitation which is pervasive out on the streets. At the WRC, employers and homeowners have a location where they can either hire people for an agreed upon wage, for daily work or full-time employees. The center does its best to create partnerships and lasting relationships with local businesses and residents.

In 2024, the WRC facilitated more than 4,500 job placements, underscoring its critical role in the community. The WRC helps provide a dignified place for day laborers to stay out of the elements, have access to proper restrooms, meals delivered daily from the Samaritan House kitchen, English language classes, resume assistance, job applications, behavioral health services, recovery services, and referrals to internal and external social programs. These services along with holiday events help alleviate some of the stressors associated with economic hardship.

Day laborers are part of the community and the WRC and the City of San Mateo are committed to fostering economic independence and workplace dignity for all community members, one job placement at a time.

For more information go to www.cityofsanmateo.org/wrc.



Serve on a City Board or Commission!

San Mateo is looking for passionate residents to serve on Boards and Commissions that help shape local policies and programs. If you want to make a difference, now is your chance!



Current Openings:

- **Community Relations Commission** – 1 Vacancy
- **Library Board** – 2 Vacancies
- **Measure S Oversight Committee** – 2 Vacancies
- **Parks and Recreation Commission** – 2 Vacancies
- **Personnel Board** – 2 Vacancies
- **Planning Commission** – 2 Vacancies
- **Senior Advisory Commission** – 2 Vacancies
- **Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission** – 1 Vacancy
- **Youth Commissioners** (including Park and Recreation, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Library Board, and Senior Advisory) – 7 Vacancies

Who Can Apply?

- **Requirements:** Must be a San Mateo resident, a registered voter, and able to attend meetings regularly. Appointees must complete orientation and training.
- **Youth Commissioners:** Must be between 13 and 17 years old at the time of appointment and provide written parental or guardian consent. Youth Commissioners serve in an advisory capacity only and do not count toward a commission's quorum.

How to Apply

Recruitment begins in April, with vacancies posted on the City's website. Applications and instructions will be available online, and the City Clerk's Office is happy to assist with questions.

Selected applicants will be interviewed by an appointment subcommittee. If chosen, they'll be formally appointed by the City Council and sworn in at a public meeting.

Make an Impact!

Board and Commission members serve four-year terms (Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms) and provide essential input on City policy making. Get involved and help shape San Mateo's future!



For more details, scan the QR code here or contact the City Clerk's Office.

Public Works

Building a Better San Mateo: Key Public Works Updates

San Mateo is investing in infrastructure that enhances quality of life, modernizes essential services, and improves safety for residents and visitors alike. From cleaner water to safer streets and better connectivity, the city's latest public works projects reflect a commitment to long-term sustainability and smart infrastructure planning.

This update highlights major initiatives, including the upcoming completion of the new wastewater treatment plant, ongoing street safety improvements, and new policies for small cell wireless facilities. Here's what you need to know about the projects shaping the future of San Mateo.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Opening This Summer

Construction on the City's brand new wastewater treatment plant is nearing completion. Testing of systems using clean water is currently underway to make sure equipment functions as intended before introducing wastewater. Plant "seeding" will begin in June, when biological organisms necessary to the treatment processes are introduced to the plant. Performance testing will follow in July and August with the plant anticipated to be fully operational by the end of August. Once the plant is fully operational, much of the existing treatment plant will be decommissioned, and existing facilities converted to wet weather storage to support the operation of the new plant. All site work is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2026.

Safer Streets Update

The City is planning, designing, and constructing numerous projects focused on enhancing transportation safety for all road users—pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Projects like the 3rd and Norfolk Intersection Safety Improvements and Poplar and Humboldt Intersection Safety Improvements are reducing collision risks at key intersections. The Delaware Safe Routes to School Corridor Bicycle Improvements and Safe Routes to School Program prioritize student safety, making walking and biking to school safer and more accessible. To enhance pedestrian safety, we are upgrading crossings and sidewalks through projects like the Downtown Parking Garage Pedestrian Safety improvements and the Hillsdale High School/31st Avenue Pedestrian Safety improvements. Future traffic signal upgrades at Hillsdale Boulevard & Alameda de las Pulgas will help manage traffic flow and reduce accidents.

Meanwhile, the 19th Avenue Fashion Island Complete Street and 28th Avenue Gap Closure projects that are currently under design will create safer, more connected roadways. Our Local Roadway Safety Plan takes a data-driven approach to prioritizing safety improvements.

The City of San Mateo is also progressing on its "Smooth Streets Program" which is a special pavement reconstruction program that focuses on 17 miles of "failed" and "at-risk" streets identified in 2013. This program was a priority for the City's voter-approved Measure S sales tax revenues, which are supplemented with other countywide and state transportation funds. Many of these streets require complex road reconstruction technologies to restore the street surface given the extensive soft soil under the road section. The City is currently constructing Phase 4 of the program, with the final Phase 5 remaining for construction in 2026.



Expanding 5G Service in Our City: What You Need to Know

As wireless providers upgrade to 5G, small cell wireless facilities are being installed to improve coverage and capacity gaps. While federal and state laws limit the City's ability to regulate these installations, we've taken steps to ensure they fit well within our community.



To help manage where and how these facilities are placed, the City has updated its rules:

- **New guidelines** ensure small cell facilities are installed in a way that respects neighborhood aesthetics and minimizes impact.
- **Setback requirements** have been introduced for residential areas, schools, and daycares, with limited exceptions.
- **A clearer process** is now in place for reviewing applications.

These updates went into effect on **Nov. 18, 2024 (Municipal Code update)** and **Jan. 8, 2025 (new City Policy)**.

For more details and the latest updates, visit: www.cityofsanmateo.org/smallcell

Community Development

General Plan 2040 Takes Effect—What's Next for Zoning & Housing

With the recent voter approval of Measure T, San Mateo's vision for the future is officially underway. As of December 19, 2024, **General Plan 2040** is in full effect—marking a major milestone in shaping a more sustainable, affordable and inclusive city over the next two decades.

To bring this community-driven plan to life, the City is now gearing up for the next critical step: **updating the Zoning Code**. These updates will ensure that local rules and regulations align with the goals and priorities laid out in General Plan 2040, from walkable neighborhoods and climate resilience to housing affordability and economic vitality.

In March, the City issued a request for proposals to find a qualified consultant team to lead the Zoning Code update. Once a consultant is selected, work is expected to kick off this summer.

Tracking Progress: New Dashboards Coming Soon

To keep the public informed and engaged, the City is launching a **new interactive dashboard** to track implementation of the General Plan. A separate **Housing Element progress dashboard** is also in the works, offering residents an easy way to monitor how San Mateo is meeting State-required housing goals. Both tools will be available soon at StriveSanMateo.org.



Housing: A Key Focus in 2025

Efforts to implement the **Housing Element**—a critical part of the General Plan—are already underway. This includes code updates and policy changes to support new housing production, expand affordable housing, and support renters. Throughout the year, City Council will consider various housing-related initiatives, and the community is encouraged to stay informed and involved by following Council agendas.

To support missing middle housing, the City is partnering with the San Mateo County ADU Resource Center to help homeowners interested in building an ADU. You can learn more by visiting www.smcadu.org.

To track recently submitted housing development applications, visit the City's **What's Happening in Development** page: www.cityofsanmateo.org/whid.

Your Voice Matters

As part of the Zoning Code updates—including state required revisions to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance—the City will host community workshops and information sessions later this year. These events will offer residents the opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and provide input on new policies before they are adopted.

Stay tuned for updates and ways to participate. Together, we're building the future of San Mateo—thoughtfully, inclusively, and with the community at the center.

City Manager's Office Updates

Help Shape San Mateo's Electrification Strategy

Switching from natural gas to carbon-free electricity is essential for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improving public health. Gas appliances release pollutants linked to significant health risks, while electrification eliminates these hazards, creating a safer, healthier community.

While San Mateo has made progress in electrifying new buildings, existing buildings present the biggest opportunity for emission reductions. In 2024, the City gathered community and City Council feedback on challenges and opportunities for building electrification. Now, we need your input to shape the next phase.

The City is developing the Electrify San Mateo: Sustainable Building Strategy and exploring policies to support the transition to electric buildings. Your feedback is crucial in guiding future actions.

Check out the www.cityofsanmateo.org/ElectrifySanMateo for project updates, how to provide feedback and to learn about future meetings.

(CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE SECTION
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

ELECTRIFY SAN MATEO



Building a Vibrant San Mateo: Economic Development in Action

San Mateo is developing an economic development plan focused on strengthening the local economy and growing community vibrancy. We are dedicated to supporting businesses of all sizes across all sectors Citywide. The plan aims to attract new businesses while retaining and growing existing ones. A key part of the plan is enhancing the customer experience in downtown San Mateo. A 2024 community survey showed that residents and visitors alike want a more user-friendly, inviting downtown with spaces to sit, gather, and enjoy. Recent improvements, such as new public seating and landscaping in the Pedestrian Mall addresses some of these needs. When the Downtown Master Plan launches in 2026, the community will have the opportunity to provide input on what additional enhancements they want to see in the Downtown area.

In the meantime, exciting events are on the horizon this summer and fall. The San Mateo Downtown Association is busy hosting free public events and collaborating with Headwest Market to host a marketplace every third Sunday of the month between 1st and 3rd Avenues on B Street, from March through December. Headwest Market features local vendors and artists, and we encourage you to come out and support the event. Please be on the lookout for fall events such as September Nights on B street, the Chamber of Commerce's Art and Culture Fest, and Boos on B Street.

Finally, we are strengthening partnerships with organizations like the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce to develop community events on 25th Avenue, bringing vibrancy to the city and fostering greater community engagement.

To learn more about economic development activities visit www.cityofsanmateo.org/EconomicDevelopment.



San Mateo Hosts Conversations Engage Asian/Pacific Islander, African-American, and Latinx Communities

Over the past eight months, the City of San Mateo has hosted a series of community conversations aimed at building stronger connections with its diverse populations, specifically the Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, and Latinx communities—groups that have historically had less engagement with the City. These dialogues provided essential insights into the unique needs, challenges, and aspirations of these communities, helping to shape a clear vision for a more inclusive and vibrant San Mateo.

Key issues identified during the conversations included housing affordability, transportation, and traffic congestion. Additionally, residents expressed a strong desire for increased civic engagement opportunities and community events that foster stronger neighborhood connections.

The City of San Mateo is grateful for the input from these communities, which will play a vital role in shaping future initiatives and ensuring that all residents have a voice in the City's growth and development.

Small Actions, Big Impact: How Proper Waste Sorting Fights Climate Change



Every day, our waste choices matter. Simply sorting items into the correct bin—the green organics bin—is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to reduce our carbon footprint and combat climate change.

Why It Matters

Organic waste in landfills releases methane—**28 times more potent than CO₂**. To combat this, California's SB 1383 law requires that food and green waste be diverted from landfills to composting facilities.

What SB 1383 Requires

- **Organics collection for nearly all businesses**
- **Universal organic waste service for residents** (at no extra cost)
- **Routine bin inspections to prevent contamination and ensure compliance**
- **Fines and penalties for continued non-compliance**

Get Involved

The City, **Rethink Waste**, and **Recology San Mateo County** offer education, workshops, and resources to help you sort waste correctly. We can also help you obtain free compost.

For more information, contact **Jack Johnson** at jjohnson@cityofsanmateo.org or visit:



CalRecycle – SB 1383
<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/education>



Recology San Mateo County
<https://www.recology.com/recology-san-mateo-county/>



Rethink Waste
<https://rethinkwaste.org>

How You Can Help

- **Use your green bin** for food scraps and yard waste.
- **Recycle properly** to keep contaminants out of blue bins.
- **Claim free compost**—offered by the City and its partners—to enrich soil and **sequester carbon**. Find info on that and our **Compost Awareness Event** on May 10 at www.cityofsanmateo.org/compost.

Parks & Rec

Investing in San Mateo's Parks & Pools

A New Era for Central Park: Adventure Village Themed Playground Breaks Ground



The Parks and Recreation team is overseeing major improvements across San Mateo, starting with the transformation of the **Central Park playground**. On **April 24, 2025**, the City will break ground on adventure village themed forest-inspired play area designed to blend seamlessly with the park's tree canopy.

This thoughtfully designed space will feature:

- **Woodland play towers** for climbing and exploration
- **A raised boardwalk** offering unique play and walking experiences
- **A toddler-friendly play area** with a **music zone**
- **Swings, a picnic shelter, a new restroom building, and improved pathway lighting**

This highly anticipated playground aims to be more than an amenity—it will be a welcoming space where children can explore, families and friends can gather, and lifelong memories will be made.


Eggstravaganza Central Park
Saturday, April 19, 2025

East Hillsdale Park: Enhancing Recreation for the Community

The East Hillsdale Park Playground Improvements Project is making steady progress. On Feb. 14, 2025, the Notice of Determination was issued, listing eight prequalified bidders. The project is now in the bidding phase, with Plans and Specifications finalized and released in March for contractor bidding. The bidding phase ends April 18.

Once completed, these upgrades will enhance amenities and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, ensuring a more vibrant and accessible park experience for the community.



Keeping Pools Open: Critical Repairs Underway at MLK and Joinville Pools

To keep San Mateo's community pools operational this summer, the City Council approved funding for essential repairs during a special meeting on Nov. 18, 2024. Both Martin Luther King, Jr. Pool and Joinville Pool are facing operational and structural issues, with immediate repairs focused on critical infrastructure needs.

Key repairs include:

- Replastering cracks at Joinville Pool
- Replacing the sand filter and chemical pump at MLK Pool

Repairs are expected to be completed by April 2025. While the city does not anticipate disruptions to aquatics programming, unforeseen issues may arise. The community will be kept informed of any changes to pool availability. For the latest updates, visit: www.cityofsanmateo.org/Aquatics

Library

Expanding Access, Community Enrichment

The San Mateo Public Library is always finding new ways to inspire learning, foster connections, and bring resources to the community. This summer, exciting updates include a reading challenge for all ages, a seed library to help your garden grow, and a new all-electric outreach vehicle to expand library services beyond its walls.

Summer Learning Challenge: Read, Learn, and Win Prizes



Kids! Teen! Adults! Take the Summer Learning Challenge. Starting June 1, pick up your reading log at any of the San Mateo Library locations. Read or listen all summer long and earn a chance to win cool prizes. Check out our website smplibrary.org for the latest events and fun activities.

Sow, Grow, and Sustain: Free Seeds from the Library

The San Mateo Public Library's Seed Library offers free vegetable, herb, and California native flower seeds to San Mateo and Hillsborough residents. Limit of one packet per seed type per visit, and five packets total per visit at the Main Library. Choose seeds for your spring and summer garden and peruse our Community Seeds drawer for additional types of vegetables and flowers.



Bringing the Library to You: A New Outreach Vehicle

After a long wait, the **San Mateo Public Library** is hitting the road in a **brand-new, all-electric outreach vehicle!** In line with the city's sustainability goals, this **Ford Transit EV** has been customized to carry equipment and supplies for outdoor events and community programs beyond the library walls. The van will travel to parks, schools, the CSM Farmers Market, family and community events, and other locations where the library **is invited to share its services and programs**. Keep an eye out—the van will soon feature a **vibrant, library-themed wrap**, making it easy to spot around town!

Public Safety

Cracking Down on Retail Theft: Task Force Makes Major Impact

The Daly City, San Bruno, and San Mateo Police Departments are seeing major success in combating organized retail crime through the Organized Retail Theft Task Force (ORTTF), funded by a state grant from the BSCC.



Since launching in November 2023, the task force has made 229 arrests, handled 199 cases, and recovered over \$90,000 in stolen goods. In 2024 alone, over 189 arrests, 163 cases, and \$80,000 in recovered items highlight the task force's effectiveness.

This multi-agency collaboration ensures a strategic, coordinated response, working closely with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office to investigate and prosecute cases.

The Daly City, San Bruno, and San Mateo Police Departments remain committed to reducing retail theft and protecting local businesses. With continued grant funding and enhanced investigative tools, the task force will keep making our communities safer.

Stronger Together: SMPD Launches Business Watch for Safer Commerce

The San Mateo Police Department has launched Business Watch, a new crime prevention initiative that fosters collaboration between local businesses and law enforcement to enhance safety. Similar to Neighborhood Watch, this program helps businesses share information, access crime prevention resources, and build stronger partnerships with SMPD.

Participants gain direct communication with police, security training, and updates on crime trends to better protect their businesses and customers. Businesses can register for Business Watch at www.cityofsanmateo.org/4833/Business-Watch and enroll security cameras in the NEST program at www.cityofsanmateo.org/2726/Security-Camera-Registration.

For more details, email businesswatch@cityofsanmateo.org.



Real-Time Intelligence: How SMPD's RTIC Supports Business Watch

The San Mateo Police Department's Real-Time Information Center (RTIC) is a game-changer for public safety, providing real-time intelligence, video analysis, and data-driven insights to help officers respond quickly and effectively. Since its soft launch on October 2, the RTIC has already assisted in over 133 calls for service, with 67% involving criminal complaints.

For businesses participating in Business Watch, the RTIC enhances security by monitoring live camera feeds, mapping crime trends, and improving situational awareness. As the initiative grows, increased staffing and capabilities will further strengthen efforts to prevent crime and protect businesses in San Mateo.

SMC Fire Board Appoints Matt Turturici as New Fire Chief

The San Mateo Consolidated (SMC) Fire Board appointed Deputy Chief Matt Turturici as the next Fire Chief. With over 30 years of fire service experience, including 27 years in San Mateo, Turturici has played a key leadership role in the department.

He succeeds Fire Chief Kent Thrasher, who retired, and will now oversee a \$52.6 million budget and 160 staff across San Mateo, Belmont, and Foster City. Turturici emphasized trust, preparedness, and community service as key priorities for the department's future.

For more information, visit SMC Fire's website at www.smcfire.org.





San Mateo City Hall

330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

San Mateo NEWS

Your City, Our Community

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Sign up for our
eNewsletter:
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escanee este código QR.

[www.cityofsanmateo.org/
sanmateonews](http://www.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
Trees	650-522-7420

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City of San Mateo



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[www.cityofsanmateo.org/
socialmedia](http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/socialmedia)

We Are Hiring!

- Competitive wages
- Comprehensive benefits
- Diverse and inclusive workplace
- Meaningful, impactful work

Current Openings Include:

- ✓ Police Officer Trainee
- ✓ Dispatcher Lateral (Hiring Bonus)
- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-In-Training, I and II
- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator III
- ✓ Wastewater Electrical Technician



Learn More and Apply at www.calopps.org/city-of-san-mateo

Earth Day Bayfront Cleanup

APRIL 26
at Ryder Park



www.cityofsanmateo.org/earthday

Opportunities to Work with the City: Expanding Our Talent Pipeline

In line with the City Council's priority to engage more youth and seniors, the City's Human Resources (HR) team is actively recruiting individuals from these communities. Additionally, the City is welcoming experienced professionals over the age of 40 who are eager to start a new chapter and make a lasting impact. The City actively connects with these groups through internships, job fairs, and more.

Internships

The City offers a dynamic summer internship program across various departments, including Police, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and the City Manager's office. These internships provide invaluable experience and training, with potential career pathways within the City. To learn more about the program, contact Lourdes Coles at lcoles@cityofsanmateo.org.

Job Fairs

The City is committed to connecting with local job seekers by sponsoring and participating in job fairs, such as the Career Expo held last fall, where we engaged with many youth interested in working for the City. In addition, we have partnered with Phase2Careers.org to support professionals in transition. Don't miss our "Over 40" recruitment event on April 16—see the "We Are Hiring" box below for more details and a link to current job opportunities with the City!