

# SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



**SPECIAL EDITION ♦ Summer 2010**

## **2010-11 to include reductions/enhancements in services**

**T**he City of San Ramon, like most government agencies in California, has been negatively impacted by the severe recession that began in late 2007. In preparing the 2010-11 budget, City staff was challenged to continue to deliver high quality services with revenue sources that are not keeping pace with rising operational costs and new areas of development. While development has slowed recently, the City's population continues to grow and is now in excess of 64,860.

In evaluating how to reduce maintenance and operational costs in the Public Services and Parks & Community Services Departments, staff had two main goals in mind: *minimizing the impact of reductions on the San Ramon community while preserving essential and core City services*. Examples of core services include public safety and providing access to City facilities and parks, among others. This newsletter contains a summary of all the reductions as well as some new service enhancements.

### **Special Edition of CITY REPORT**

*We hope you will take time to read this special edition of "City Report," as it includes important information regarding some reductions in services. These decisions were made thoughtfully and with a balanced approach so that no department or area of the City bears an unfair burden.*

### **Enhancements in services...**

#### **New Online Registration Features**

The Parks & Community Services online registration system has recently been enhanced. Customers can now set-up their own online access, enabling faster registration. Additionally, memberships for the Department's popular GO Card program, recreation and lap swim passes can also be purchased online.

#### **New Hours**

The customer service hours at the San Ramon Community Center, Dougherty Station Community Center and Alcosta Senior & Community Center will be expanded to 8:30am – 5pm Monday thru Friday.

#### **Park Maintenance – Signs**

The City has installed signage at City parks with contact information for park users to report vandalism or any unsafe or unsanitary conditions via the web at [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov) or by calling the Public Services Department at 925-973-2800.

### **New projects/cost-saving strategies**

#### **Central Park and Red Willow Park Playground Renovations**

In April of 2009, the City of San Ramon was awarded voter-approved Measure WW grant funding for the renovation of both Central Park and Red Willow Park. The completed renovations include new play equipment and surfacing to comply with current safety standards and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

#### **LED Streetlight Conversion Services**

San Ramon was awarded federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation funds to convert over 600 high-pressure sodium streetlights to light-emitting diode (LED) technology to lower energy usage and costs, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The LED streetlights will be installed on Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon Valley Boulevard and Bollinger Canyon Road.

#### **Landscape Water Savings**

EBMUD water rates have increased sharply since 2008, however, as a result of implementing strict water conservation strategies during 2009 the City realized an overall savings in water use of approximately 40 million gallons between July 2008 and July 2009. The strategies included using weather sensing/auto adjust "smart" controllers which cut irrigation run times by approximately 10%. As water rates are expected to increase again this year, the City will continue to implement these and other water conservation strategies.



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### Reductions in services...

#### Senior Center/Aquatic Programming Changes

The City continues to support core services such as senior center and aquatic programming however, some daily drop-in fees for senior programs will increase, and some facilities will close on holidays. The City has an excellent partnership with the San Ramon Senior Foundation which will continue its ongoing support of San Ramon senior programs. The Foundation will provide funding for the homebound nutrition program Meals on Wheels and also fund one of the Senior Vans that provide transportation for seniors who can no longer drive.

Both aquatic centers will now be closed during most City recognized holidays after Labor Day and until Memorial Day. During the summer season, one lap swim hour on Sundays will be eliminated, and there will be no lap or recreation swim on Wednesday evenings. Additionally, during the off-season, Sunday lap swimming at the San Ramon Olympic Pool will not be offered. The City will continue to offer 26 hours of lap swimming per week for community use.

#### Park Landscape and Tree Maintenance Reductions

Shrub and groundcover maintenance in City parks has been scaled back, resulting in a savings in contract services. This service will now be provided as, necessary, by City staff. In addition, tree pruning services have been reduced, leaving funds available for selective pruning only, in order to ensure public safety. Annual flower plantings in parks and street landscaping were eliminated saving water and planting costs.

#### Fountains

The City currently operates seven display fountains. Fountains that are not funded by homeowner assessments through the Landscaping and Lighting District will be turned off, resulting in a savings of approximately \$100,000 per year. These include the fountain on Bollinger Canyon Road at Chanterella Drive and the display fountains surrounding the San Ramon Community Center at Central Park.

#### Banners

The installation of City event and holiday banners/wreaths on City owned street light poles has been suspended.

#### Recycling of Household Batteries

The City will discontinue battery collection at City facilities in August, 2010. Residents can recycle their used household batteries at City-sponsored recycling drop off events or at several local stores. Check the City website for more details on recycling events and store locations: <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/recycle>

#### Street Sweeping Schedule

Beginning the week of September 6, the City of San Ramon's residential street sweeping frequency will be reduced from twice per month to once per month. The day of the week a street is swept will not change. For example, if the current scheduled sweeping day falls on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, the new schedule will change to the 1st Tuesday of the month only. Additional sweeping may occur during heavy leaf season and when deemed necessary by City staff. The new street sweeping schedule will be ready for online viewing at [www.sanramon.ca.gov/publicsvc/street-A.asp](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/publicsvc/street-A.asp) prior to the implementation of the schedule change.



With the opening of the David Glass House this spring, a new Victorian Life field trip program will be offered for grades 2 – 5. Additionally new public tours of Forest Home Farms and the Glass House will be held on the second Saturday of each month.