

August 2019

Sustainable Sunnyvale

Making A Difference Together

Bring on the Camping and Refillable Gas Cylinders!



Summer means more time to enjoy nature! When you prepare for summer camping trips or tailgating events with your friends, don't forget to purchase refillable gas cylinders at local retail stores instead of disposable ones. Refillable cylinders last more than 10 years and can be refilled hundreds of times. Using reusables instead of disposables reduces the danger to sorters at garbage facilities as disposables often end up improperly disposed in the trash. [Find a store](#) where you can buy refillables.

Have empty disposable one pound cylinders that you don't know how to get rid of? The SMaRT Station® now has a pilot drop-off program for recycling them! There's a limit of 3 cylinders per trip. Drop-off hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday (no weekend drop off). The SMaRT Station is located at 301 Carl Road. Available

to residents of Sunnyvale, Palo Alto and Mountain View only.

Water Conservation as a Way of Life

Drought has become all too common in California. With all the rain in recent winters, it may seem like we can breathe a sigh of relief. Not so fast, however. "The reality is we will be going in and out of drought over time. We can't waste water for purposes that are not necessary," notes Newsha Ajami, Stanford University's Director of Urban Water Policy. Here's what you can do to preserve this valuable resource:



- Learn to read your water meter with [this handy guide](#).
- Signup for [Valley Water's Rebates](#) and learn how to capture rainwater and graywater.
- [Attend a free landscaping class](#) offered by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency in Sunnyvale or a neighboring city (classes start September).

Walk and Roll Back to School



Are you interested in improving your health, strengthening your community and caring for the planet? If you answered yes, then walking or biking to school is for you! Biking and walking reduces traffic congestion, improves air quality, and cultivates children's health and attention.

If you're ready to walk and roll, check out these tips for a safe and enjoyable trip:

- Get your gear. Make sure you have a helmet, lock and lights to keep you and your bike safe. For added security, register your bike on [Bike Index](#).
- Plan and practice your route. Consult the [Sunnyvale Bike Map](#) for bike-friendly streets. Do a run-through with your student(s) before school starts to practice the route and discuss how to safely navigate any intersections.
- Attend Sunnyvale Safe Routes to School's Bike Rodeo and helmet-fitting event on Aug. 10 at Gateway Neighborhood Center, 477 N. Mathilda Ave., Sunnyvale.
- Start a [walking school bus or bicycle train](#) by walking and biking with other families in your neighborhood.
- Join a [walking or biking tour](#) between Aug. 3 to 6 for the Active Transportation Plan to explore how to make walking and biking safer and more convenient.

Interested in learning more? Call 408-730-7140 and ask for Norma O'Connell, Sunnyvale's Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

Why Some Pipes are Purple

Ever seen those purple pipes around Sunnyvale and wondered what they were for? Other than adding a pop of color to our streets, the purple pipes distribute recycled water from the City's Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant). The Plant treats about 10 percent of our dirty wastewater to very high standards to make recycled water that is used by more than 100 customers, mostly for irrigating outdoor areas.



The Plant is currently undergoing a significant rebuild – called the [Cleanwater Program](#) – to replace aging infrastructure and to upgrade it to serve the future needs of our community. As a part of this program, the Plant has implemented a new system that allows for continuous flow of recycled water, rather than producing it in batches. As a result, over the last year, the Plant has produced a total of 263 million gallons of recycled water for various uses.

The Cleanwater Program ensures that producing recycled water will continue to be a significant part of the Plant's operations. Keep an eye out for purple pipes and even purple irrigation sprinkler heads and know that together we are saving water by recycling water.



Upcoming Events

[National Night Out](#)

Join the Public Safety Department to get out and mingle with your community! Make sure to check with your neighbors, or neighborhood associations, to see if your block is hosting an event.
Aug. 6, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Various locations

[Thermometer Exchange](#)

Exchange your mercury-containing thermometers and receive a mercury-free one. Limit to one per family.
Aug. 28 & Sept. 18, 2019
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunnyvale Senior Center, Sequoia Room
550 E. Remington Dr., Sunnyvale

[Back to School Extravaganza](#)

Join the City of Sunnyvale to help bridge the opportunity divide by allowing every child to enjoy the back-to-school rituals.
Aug. 10, 2019
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Gateway Neighborhood Center, 477 N. Mathilda Ave., Sunnyvale

[State of the City](#)

Join us for our annual State of the City event, as we celebrate all the great things happening in Sunnyvale.
Sept. 14, 2019
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Murphy Avenue in Downtown Sunnyvale

[Compost Workshops](#)

Learn the basics of backyard and worm composting at this workshop! Compost bins are available for purchase after the workshop.
Aug. 10 & Sept. 14, 2019
10 a.m. to noon
Murphy Park Building
260 N. Sunnyvale Ave., Sunnyvale

[Coastal Cleanup Day](#)

Register as a volunteer for this nationwide coastal cleanup day! Volunteer locations vary and are Bay Area-wide.
Sept. 21, 2019
9 a.m. to noon
Sunnyvale Baylands Park
999 E. Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale

What topics do you want to read more about?
We want to hear from you!

Connect with us
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