

# MEMORANDUM

*City of Milpitas Parks and Recreation Department*

---



5

**To:** Tom Williams, City Manager  
**Through:** Bonnie Greiner, Parks and Recreation Services Director  
**By:** Renee Lorentzen, Acting Senior Center Supervisor  
**Subject:** **Barbara Lee Senior Center Increased Operating Hours**  
**Date:** February 2, 2011

---

## Background

Currently, the Barbara Lee Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9am – 4pm. During that time, seniors are offered drop in recreation programs, fitness room, arts and dance classes, trips, informational seminars and lunch through the County Senior Nutrition Program. The Senior Center current evening and weekend programs and events include evening Bingo on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of every month from 5pm – 8:30pm and special events and trips throughout the year on weekends that include Holiday Dances (Christmas & Valentines Day), Bingo Marathons, and theatre trips.

Milpitas Senior Center Staff have not received any direct requests from their daily participating members to add evening or weekend open hours. Attendance to events or programs held later in the evening have traditionally shown lower or no attendance due to members not having transportation and a limited desire to travel at night or lack of interest due to established nightly routines.

In response to Council direction to consider expanding open hours to weekday evenings or weekend, staff conducted a poll of comparable Bay Area City senior centers and their operating hours. Cities polled were San Jose, Campbell, Pleasanton, Los Gatos, Foster City, Mountain View and Los Altos. Of these seven cities, two cities, Mountain View and Pleasanton, were the only cities offering programming after 5pm. Mountain View staying open twice during the week until 9pm and Pleasanton staying open once a week until 8:30pm. No cities are open on the weekend.

Should operating hours of the Senior Center be extended, two possible scenarios have been created. In trying to remain cost neutral with the current Senior Center budget the programming during the listed scenarios would include access to the Fitness Room and select drop in activities.

## **Scenario I**

This option would increase open business hours two nights a week, on Tuesday and Thursday.

### Business Hours

Monday: 9am – 4pm

Tuesday: 9am – 7:30pm

Wednesday: 9am – 4pm

Thursday: 9am – 7:30pm

Friday: 9am – 4pm

## **Scenario II**

This option would increase open business hours to include Saturdays.

### Business Hours

Monday: 9am – 4pm

Tuesday: 9am – 4pm

Wednesday: 9am – 4pm

Thursday: 9am – 4pm

Friday: 9am – 4pm

Saturday 9am – 1pm

Should regular open hours not be feasible at this time, a third scenario would be to have the Senior Center open at “special” times, highlighting, sports and various events such as the NFL Superbowl, March Madness, etc.

## **Recommendation**

Staff is recommending conducting a survey among its current membership as well as through community outreach to seniors who may not be using the center.

The survey would gather information to see 1) what hours they would like to see the Senior Center open and 2) what activities and/or programs they would like to see offered during possible evening and weekend operating hours.

## Survey : Senior Centers Hours of Operations

City	Contact	Days	Hours
Milpitas	Lynette Wilson (Rec Coord)	Mon-Fri	9:00 am-4:00 pm
	Notes: Evening Bingo offered 1st & 2nd Tuesday evenings, 4:30-8:00 pm. Facility open to evening /weekend rentals starting in January 2011.		
Pacifica	Jim Lange (Sr Superv)	M, T, Th Wed Fri	8:00 am - 5:00 pm 8:00 am - 7:00 pm 8:00 am-1:30 pm
	Notes: Senior Services operates out of the Community Center.		
Los Altos	Candace Bates (Rec Coord)	Mon-Fri	8:30 am-3:30 pm
	Notes: The facility is also a school so there are classes going on after Sr Ctr hours, but not generally Sr programs.		
Burlingame	Tim Barry (Rec Superv)	Mon-Fri	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
	Notes: No dedicated Sr Ctr (housed in Recreation Center).		
Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council	Susan Huff (Exec. Dir)	Mon-Fri	9:00 am-4:00 pm
	Outside group runs senior programs in a City facility. Receives 2 "free" uses a year for off hour events. Pay discounted rate after that. City offers general recreation programs in off hours.		
Mountain View	Steve Achabal (Sr Rec Coord)	Mon-Wed Thur-Fri	8:30 am-9:00 pm 8:30 am-5:00 pm
	Notes: Facility available for private rentals on Fridays after 5 & weekends.		
Foster City	Colleen Fae (Rec Coord)	Mon-Fri	9:00 am-5:00 pm
	Notes: Foster City Senior Wing operates out of the Recreation Center and shares rooms with other recreation classes and meetings.		
Los Gatos-Saratoga	Stephanie Douglas (Rec Superv)	Mon,Tu, Th, Fri Wed	8:00 am-5:00 pm 8:00 am-4:00 pm
	Notes: Senior Services/Senior Programs runs out of the Adult Recreation Center, so the majority of classes/programs are not specifically for seniors. Also, the NA/AA holds meetings frequently at the facility in evenings and weekends and has their own key. If she had her own Sr Ctr, she would recommend hours of 7am-2pm and then adult/general classes/programs could be held afterwards.		
Brisbane	Russ Carmick (Rec Superv)	Mon-Fri	11:00 am-4:00 pm
	Notes: Brisbane's Senior Sunshine Room runs out of their recreation facility and the room is only for senior programs.		

N. County Recreation & Park Dist.	Judy Burditt (General Manager)	Prunedale Mon-Fri Castroville:M-F Pajaro: M-F	9:00 am-3:00 pm 8:30 am-1:30 pm 10:00 am-1:00 pm
	Notes: Prunedale Site is dedicated Senior Center. Castroville site has afterschool programming, classes, meetings & rentals after 1:30 pm. In Pajaro, it "borrows" space from South County Housing in a low income apartment complex.		
San Carlos	Anna Kertel	Mon-Thur Fri	9:00 am-5:00 pm 9:00 am-4:00 pm
	Notes: Most of the Sr Ctr special events take place on Friday evenings. Recreation classes take over facility Mon-Fri after 5:00 pm. Rentals are allowed in any and all rooms, especially on weekends.		
Redwood City	Bruce Utecht (Rec Mgr - Comm Srv)	Mon-Fri Sat Sun	7:00 am-9:00 pm 9:00 am-5:00 pm 8:00 am-6:00 pm (Bingo)
	Note: There is some down time during late afternoon some some days but the fitness room, computer classes, rehabilitation fitness program and special needs afternoon program are held. A Friday night dance is held once a month and some additional special events throughout the year. Bingo is "Big Money" with \$250 payouts on Sundays and 1st & 3rd Wednesday eventings (18 games/\$20 buy-in).		
San Mateo	Hope Whipple (Comm Srv Superv)	Mon-Fri	9:00 am-5:00 pm
	Notes: After 5:00 pm, the Senior Center converts to a Community Center. Rentals are allowed on the weekends.		
Pleasanton	Raymong Figueroa (Rec Coord)	Mon/Tu/Wed/Fri Thur	8:30 am-4:30 pm 8:30 am-8:30 pm
	Notes: After closing at 4:30 pm, the center reopens at 5:30 pm and operates as a Community Center for Parks & Recreation classes (i.e. exercise, crafts, meetings, etc.).		
Campbell	KC Whitcomb (Sr Services Superv)	Mon-Fri	8:00 am-4:00 pm
	Notes: No evening/weekend programs offered (at this time). Facility used by used by Recreation Dept for classes and private rentals in evenings and weekends.		
San Jose	Anthony Ossenfort Rec Prog Specialist	Cypress Mon-Fr Willow Glenn M-F	9:00 am-4:00 pm 8:30 am-5:00 pm
	Notes: All Community Centers are mixed programming. Cypress and Willow Glen are exclusive senior programming but are transitioning into mixed use. Other Centers hours range from 8:30 am-5:00 pm, 9:00 am-4:00 pm		