

## SUNNYVALE'S STATE OF THE CITY WILL BE QUITE THE AFFAIR AGAIN BY VICTORIA KEZRA

For the second straight year, there will be plenty of pomp packed into the Sunnyvale mayor's annual State of the City ceremony.

Set for July 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Civic Center, 456 W. Olive Ave., the event will feature food and entertainment in addition to the obligatory political oratory.

It'll all start with Mayor Glenn Hendricks delivering the State of the City speech, complete with an overview of current local events and achievements over the last year. A presentation of the Sunnyvale Community Awards will follow.

The State of the City traditionally had been a low-key affair limited to the mayor's speech and award presentations, but the city last year decided to spice things up by turning it into a larger celebration.

"We loved how we added the celebration piece into it instead of being just focused on mayor's address and community awards," said Alisha Rodriguez, Sunnyvale community services coordinator, who spearheaded this year's State of the City. "We are mirroring what we did last year."

This year's theme is "connecting the city," and the event will try to make that happen by offering face painting, balloon artists, a rock wall, a magician, comedy sports and a local hula dancing troupe, along with food trucks.

There also will be a "connecting with your city" zone where residents can learn about ongoing construction and capital improvement projects and ask staff questions about them.

Plus, there'll be an area where city staff can answer questions about the FoodCycle scraps program that's rolling out this fall.

A "community zone" will have representatives from numerous organizations throughout the city such as Sunnyvale Community Services, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, the Sunnyvale Downtown Association and several neighborhood associations. Like last year, there will be virtual gift bags containing a State of the City app with deals and discounts at downtown businesses.

Rodriguez said the event will be a great opportunity for people who aren't normally involved in cityCity, page 6

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government to meet elected officials and city staff and ask questions.

"We really wanted to make it appealing to a wider range of people, for them to want to learn what's going on in Sunnyvale and create an atmosphere where we're bringing everyone together," Rodriguez said. Contact Victoria Kezra at 408-200-1053.

### **Sunnyvale Mayor Glenn Hendricks**



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