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Electrify Your Life

The graphic for the Electric Home Tour event features a blue header with the text "Electric Home Tour" and "Saturday, October 14, 10am - 4pm". Below the header is a photograph of a modern, light blue house with a dark roof and a white door. A text box on the left of the photo says "See how your neighbors have electrified their homes" and "Sign up for free at bit.ly/elec-home". At the bottom of the graphic, there are logos for "Electric Home Tour" and "ElectricHomeTour.org", along with logos for sponsors: Peninsula Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, and City of Palo Alto.

Last week was the Electric Home Tour, including 5 Mountain View homes. Read about the featured homes on the [event website](#).

Did you Celebrate [California Clean Air Day](#) on October 4? It's not too late! Whether you are a homeowner or renter, there are many resources to help you reduce your carbon footprint and energy bill! Electrifying your home can increase comfort, safety, and energy efficiency. Find rebates and incentives, discover contractors, or talk to experts at svcleanenergy.org and bayren.org.

Plant-Based Eating

Our plant-based eating program focuses on promoting healthy and sustainable food choices, supporting equitable access to healthy food, and spreading awareness about the positive health and environmental impacts of a plant-based diet.

[Sign up for the Plantiful Fall Challenge!](#)

Reminder: The Plantiful Fall Challenge begins next Monday! Learn new recipes and resources while reducing greenhouse gas emissions with Acterra and the City of Mountain View!

JOIN US AND FRIENDS!



PLANTIFUL FALL



OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 20

Sign up at acterra.org/plantiful-fall

Fall Stuffed Acorn Squash



We appreciate Connor W. sending us his delicious Fall Stuffed Acorn Squash recipe! Connor grew up eating this meal during the Fall and enjoys incorporating squash into a variety of plant-based foods throughout this season. Find this and more community recipes at [EngageMV's Plant Based Eating page](#).

Ingredients:

- 2 acorn squash
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ~5-6 stalks celery (about 1.5 cups chopped)
- 1 apple, peeled and cubed
- 4 cups kale, stems removed and torn into small ~1-2 inch pieces
- 1-1.5 cups croutons (use gluten-free croutons or skip for a gluten-free stuffing!)
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans (skip for nut-free stuffing)
- 1/4 cup fresh chopped herbs (I used 2 tbsp fresh thyme leaves and 2 tbsp chopped fresh sage leaves for a classic Fall stuffing flavor)



Instructions Continued:

Stuffing:

1. Sauté chopped onion, garlic, and celery in olive oil over low heat for about 5 minutes, or until the onion softens.
2. Add torn kale leaves, chopped apple, and fresh herbs. Cover with

- Salt and pepper

Instructions:

Roasted Acorn Squash:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Cut 2 acorn squashes in half and scoop out the seeds.
3. Brush the acorn squash 'meat' with olive oil
4. Roast for about 30 minutes, or until the acorn squash is fully cooked.

Notes:

- For zero waste, acorn squash skin can be eaten if it is cooked long enough to become tender. However, it's still not as tender as the acorn squash meat. If you plan on eating the skin, roast the acorn squash halves an extra five minutes or so to make sure the skin is tender.

a lid and allow the kale to cook down for about 5 minutes, stirring to prevent burning, if needed.

3. Add chopped pecans, dried cranberries, and croutons, season with salt and pepper, and sauté for another 1-2 minutes to allow everything to mix together. Taste the stuffing to make sure it is seasoned well enough before you stuff the acorn squash!
4. By this time the acorn squash should be fully cooked in the oven - double check by piercing it with a fork, the fork should go in easily. Carefully stuff each half of the acorn squash with the stuffing. Lower the temperature to 350F and place the stuffed acorn squash back into the oven for about 5 minutes, or until everything is heated through.
5. Cool before serving and enjoy!

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Recycling and Zero Waste

Events



Paper Shredding Event

Saturday, November 4, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale.

Protect your privacy by securely shredding and recycling confidential papers such as bank statements, pay stubs, cancelled checks and credit card offers at this free event for Mountain View and Sunnyvale residents. Proof of residency is required. The event line closes at 3:00 p.m. sharp. Late arrivals will be turned away. Limit of five bags or banker size boxes per household.

Visit MountainView.gov/ZeroWasteEvents.



Recycle your Holiday Tree

Free holiday tree recycling! For residents with curbside cart services, holiday trees will be collected at no charge on your weekly compost collection day between Dec. 26, 2023, and Jan 19, 2024. Make sure to follow the set-out instructions by removing decorations and metal or plastic stands. Apartment managers and businesses may arrange for on-site tree collection services by calling Recology Mountain View at 650-967-3034. Please note, during this period Recology will not provide on-call plus appointments. For more information, visit

MountainView.gov/CollectionCalendar.

Tips

Free Compost and Mulch

Did you know that the organic materials you throw in your green compost cart are made into finished compost, full of beneficial nutrients to grow new plants? Residents can pick up free compost as well as tan mini-mulch (up to 96 gallons each) from the SMaRT Station (301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale) 7 days per week. Please bring your own container and proof of residency. Shovels are available on-site. Please call 408-752-8530 to check availability or visit MountainView.gov/Composting for more information.



We can't be-leaf it is already Fall!

Now that fall is here, please remember that leaves and other yard waste should always be placed in your green compost cart. Leaves and other yard trimmings get sent to Recology's South Valley Organics processing facility in Gilroy where it is turned into compost. The City then has the free compost and mulch available at the SMaRT Station in Sunnyvale as already noted. Thank you for doing your part to close the loop and help Mountain View reduce greenhouse gas emissions!

If fall leaves have left your cart a bit too full, you can set out up to 2 extra containers of yard trimmings using large paper lawn and leaf bags or plastic cans (no metal cans or plastic bags). Extra containers should be no more than 32 gallons in size, and less than 50 pounds each. If you regularly have extra yard waste, order a free larger or second cart from Recology at 650-967-3034 or ContactUsRMV@Recology.com.

Holiday Lights Take-Back

Got burnt out or broken holiday string lights? For the health and safety of our community and the environment, these lights don't belong in the trash or recycling carts. They become tangled at recycling centers and can damage equipment and/or cause delays. Find the disposal option that works for you:



- Drop-off at the SMaRT Station at 301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale. Look for the e-waste collection container in the Buy-Back and Drop-Off Center.
- You can mail them in to the [Christmas Light Source recycling program](#), which donates all proceeds to Toys for Tots, and receive a discount code to purchase new lights.
- Dispose of them safely by making a free drop-off appointment at HHW.org or call 408-299-7300.

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Active Transportation: Roll into Monster Bash



Roll into [Monster Bash!](#) Mountain View's Annual Halloween festival in Rengstorff Park. Join us for two spooktacular bike rides on Saturday, October 28. [View the routes here.](#)

- 10 AM – The Grown-ups' Ride departs from Mountain View Transit Center
- 10:30 AM – The Kids' Ride departs from Mountain View Library. Meet at the SE corner of Franklin and Mercy Streets

The Grown-ups' Ride will join the Kids' Ride once it reaches the Library. Be ready to ride your bike and wear your helmet.

Roller skates, scooters, skateboards, training wheels, and balance bikes welcomed. Costumes encouraged for kids AND adults!!!



Check out the Bike Circus at Rengstorff Park on the Basketball Courts for a Free Bike/Ped Safety Training Course, Free Bike Repair, and educational materials.

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Water Resources

Transform Your Landscape this Fall

Fall is a great time to plant your new landscape. Warm soil temperatures from the late summer and shorter, cooler days helps plants establish strong root systems. Valley Water offers several rebate programs for Mountain View residents to upgrade their landscape. Learn more about how rebates can help transform your yard.



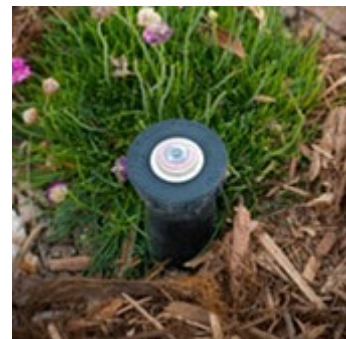
Landscape Conversion

Convert grass to low water-use landscapes and receive a rebate. Upgrade to native ornamental grasses or flowering perennials like hummingbird sage and common yarrow.

Check out our [landscape information and resources](#) for plant ideas and design inspiration.

Irrigation Equipment Upgrade

Replace qualifying irrigation hardware with approved efficient equipment. Change out an old sprinkler timer for a weather-based irrigation controller with a rain sensor and swap other irrigation components for water savings.



Rainwater Capture

Save water and reduce runoff during the wet season by capturing and storing rainwater. Add a unique, creative look to your landscape and by installing a rain barrel, cistern or rain garden.

[Learn more and apply for a rebate today.](#)

Contact the City of Mountain View, Water Resources for questions.

Water Resources | 650-903-6216 | ConserveWater@MountainView.gov

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Reimagining Recycled Materials

Community Services staff has been working with an organization named CANVUS that recycles retired wind turbine blades to make functional furniture. CANVUS has a donor + recipient program where they connect communities with organizations/businesses to help make spaces and places more sustainable and interesting. Because of the City of Mountain View's commitment to green initiatives, CANVUS provided the City with opportunity to participate in the program, and they were successful in finding a sponsor to fund 6 benches. Staff will identify locations for the benches, including new parks, that will complement the aesthetic, utility and features of these unique pieces. More information about this project will be publicized upon installation. Below are sample pictures of the types of pieces the city will receive:



For more information about CANVUS, please visit <https://www.gocanvus.com/>

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