MOORPARK

Magazine



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AMERICA 250™

SUMMER 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dear Moorpark Residents and Visitors,

Summer in Moorpark is a special time when the community comes together to enjoy warm evenings, local events, and the City's parks and public spaces. From the Annual Fireworks Extravaganza on July 3rd to concerts and movies in the park, it's a season that highlights Moorpark's strong sense of community and quality of life.

Moorpark has been celebrating Independence Day on July 3rd since the 1990's to provide a safer, more accessible, and community-focused experience for residents. By hosting the event a day early, the City is able to avoid scheduling conflicts with other regional celebrations on July 4th, making it easier for families to attend locally while still having the option to enjoy additional events on the holiday itself. Holding the celebration on July 3rd also saves on costs and helps the City better coordinate public safety services, staffing, and event logistics, ensuring a well-organized and enjoyable experience for attendees. Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 people attend Moorpark's July 3rd event annually.

This summer is especially meaningful as the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States. Moorpark will proudly take part in this historic milestone with a variety of celebrations and activities. The City will recognize the occasion with a formal proclamation as well as a commemoration on the July 3rd celebration. Residents can also enjoy patriotic music and movies, special giveaways, and themed summer camps for the kids. Together, these events will honor the nation's history while continuing Moorpark's tradition of bringing the community together in meaningful and memorable ways.

Sincerely,
PJ Gagajena, City Manager
pjgagajena@moorparkca.gov
(805) 517-6212



Connect with Us!

2026 Free Community Cleanups

BY RESERVATION ONLY

Moorpark Metrolink Station

65 First Street, South Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. – Noon

July 11 | September 12 | November 14

What We Accept

- Furniture & patio items
- Mattresses & box springs
- Bundled branches & bagged green waste
- Microwaves, washers & dryers
- Books, magazines, pots & pans

Not Accepted

- Automotive items & tires
- Batteries
- Chemicals & hazardous waste
- Electronics (E-Waste)
- Medical/safety items
- Commercial/remodeling waste
- Refrigerators

Important Reminders

- Moorpark residents only – bring photo ID and reservation number
- No trailers
- No company vehicles
- Event may be canceled due to inclement weather

Questions? Contact Mark Jones at mjones49@wm.com

Scan to schedule your appointment.

WM

City of Moorpark
(805) 517-6200
323 Science Dr.
Moorpark, CA 93021
moorparkca.gov

City Council

Chris Enegren, Mayor
Renee Delgado, Councilmember, District 1
Chris Barrett, Councilmember, District 2
Tom Means, Councilmember, District 3
Dr. Antonio Castro, Councilmember, District 4

Email City Council: *citycouncil@moorparkca.gov*

City Hall Hours

City Directory

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STATE OF MOORPARK - MOMENTUM & PROGRESS



The 2026 State of Moorpark (formerly State of the City) offered a positive and energizing look at a community that continues to thrive. Held at the High Street Arts Center in partnership with the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce on April 7th, the event brought together residents, business leaders, community partners, and local officials to reflect on recent accomplishments and look ahead to the future.

"...4TH SAFEST CITY IN CALIFORNIA BY SAFEWISE"

The program included remarks from Mayor Chris Enegren who highlighted the qualities that continue to set Moorpark apart, including its strong sense of community, economic vitality, and ongoing investment in infrastructure, public safety, and essential services. Attendees heard updates on downtown progress, new business activity, housing development, public works projects, and innovation in emergency response. The program also celebrated Moorpark's recent recognition by SafeWise as the fourth safest city in California, one of many signs of the community's continued momentum.





City Manager PJ Gagajena spoke about the dedication of the City's workforce and the importance of planning responsibly for the future while maintaining the high level of service the community expects. Teen Council Chair Aadya Magadala also highlighted how local teens are growing through leadership development, hands-on learning, and community-based projects. Another highlight of the evening was the post-event networking mixer, featuring food and drinks from local Moorpark restaurants and another chance for Moorpark to shine. To watch the recorded 2026 State of Moorpark presentation, visit *www.moorparkca.gov*.

TEEN COUNCIL: BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



Moorpark's Teen Council is continuing to grow as a meaningful way for local teens to build leadership skills, learn how local government works, and strengthen their connection to the community. In late 2025, the program transitioned to the City Manager's Office, creating new opportunities for members to engage more directly with City leadership, public service professionals, and important community issues.

CONNECTING LOCAL TEENS WITH LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND CITY GOVERNMENT

Since transitioning to the City Manager's Office, Teen Council members have taken part in hands-on civic learning experiences, including a Mock City Council Meeting and opportunities to hear directly from the Mayor, City Council, and other City leaders. Members have also explored public safety and career pathways through sessions with the Moorpark Police Department and Ventura County Fire Department. In addition, teens are working through subcommittees focused on career exploration, mental health, and marketing and social media, while continuing to strengthen community connections through the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce Job Fair and conversations with local business and community leaders.

As the current Teen Council cohort wraps up, the City will begin recruiting for the coming year. Teens interested in leadership, civic engagement, and community involvement can apply and learn more about the 26/27 cohort by contacting Assistant City Manager Jonathan Royas at *JRoyas@MoorparkCA.gov* before the second week in June.





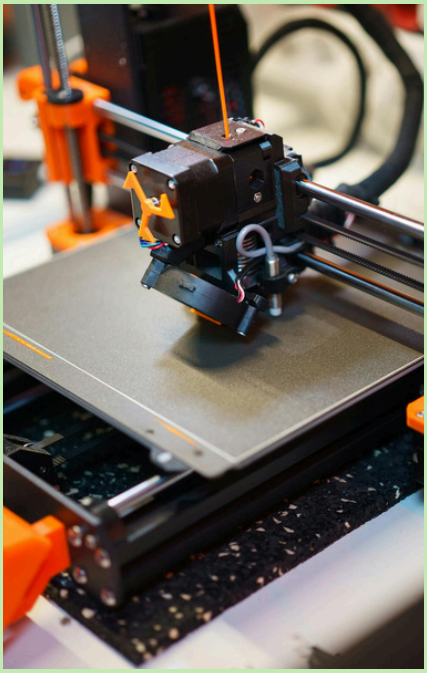














MOORPARK COLLEGE'S HUB FOR HANDS-ON INNOVATION

You walk into a room. It's an open space, filled with the soft hum of machines running and people chatting. An art student is running a laser cutter while nearby, an environmental science major is designing apparel. Together, they're helping a business student build a logo and fabricate promotional merchandise for their own business.

This is a typical day at the Moorpark College MakerSpace. Established in 2017, the MakerSpace is a creative hub all about experimentation, collaboration, and hands-on making. Students have access to a wide range of industrial-grade technologies, laser cutters, 3D printers, vinyl cutters and printers, CNC mills, routers, and more!

"A CAMPUS SPACE WHERE CREATIVITY, TECHNOLOGY, AND COLLABORATION COME TOGETHER"

No experience? Not a problem. Skilled student specialists are available to provide guidance and help you get started. The space is open to all registered students, and community members can also participate through the program's free, flexible, non-credit courses. These class offerings can be found in the Moorpark College schedule of classes.

The MakerSpace doesn't just teach – it also produces! Student specialists and designers take on real projects, bringing ideas from initial design all the way through fabrication. Working as a team, they produce everything from screen-printed apparel and engraved water bottles to custom stickers and buttons.

Whether you want to explore, learn, or bring an idea to life, the MakerSpace is open to you! For more information, visit *moorparkcollege.edu/program/makerspace.*



THE SMALL CITY THAT FIGURED OUT HOW TO CUT RED TAPE

MOORPARK IS REDEFINING WHAT BUSINESS FRIENDLY REALLY LOOKS LIKE

Opening a business is often a slow and expensive process. Before serving a single customer, owners must navigate permits, plan checks, and reviews across multiple agencies, sometimes waiting months while paying rent on an empty space. Moorpark decided that was not good enough.

In 2025, the City's Community Development Department launched SPARK, or Same-Day Permit Approval and Review Kickoff, to streamline the process. Instead of a long back-and-forth cycle, SPARK brings reviewing agencies into one coordinated one-hour meeting with the applicant and design team, including:

- Planning
- Building and Safety
- Fire
- Air Quality
- Other agencies, as needed

During the meeting, plans are reviewed live, questions are answered immediately, and revisions happen in real time, allowing businesses to leave with approvals or clear next steps. What once took months can now take about an hour.

SPARK was created when Quantum Systems, a defense and technology company, needed to quickly expand into a new 135,000 square foot facility in Moorpark. By convening all agencies at once, the City issued a same-day building permit and created the blueprint for the program. Since, SPARK has supported both major employers and local entrepreneurs. Park Golf Lounge, a 3,000 square foot indoor golf venue, went from its initial meeting to final approval in two months, with City staff assisting with site selection and marketing.

MOORPARK'S APPROACH IS SIMPLE: BEING BUSINESS-FRIENDLY IS NOT A SLOGAN, IT IS A SYSTEM.



Even outside of SPARK, Moorpark continues to deliver, completing 1,862 plan reviews in 2025 with an 89 percent on-time rate and an average turnaround of about five working days. To learn more, visit *discovermoorpark.com* to start the conversation.





ARROYO VISTA COMMUNITY PARK: PLAY, GATHER, THRIVE

Arroyo Vista Community Park is one of the City's premier recreational assets, encompassing approximately 69 acres of parkland and serving as a central hub for community activity. Largely hidden from public view between Los Angeles Avenue and Tierra Rejada Road, the park features more than 18 distinct amenities and recreational opportunities, including athletic fields, ballfields, tennis and pickleball courts, disc golf practice baskets, a 1.2 mile recreational trail, playgrounds, picnic areas, and multipurpose spaces that support both organized sports and casual use. Large-scale community events such as the annual Fireworks Extravaganza, recreation programs, and camps draw residents and visitors alike. Nearly every weekend of the year is busy with sports leagues or special events.

Beyond recreation, Arroyo Vista Community Park contributes to the local economy by attracting regional visitors, supporting youth and adult sports leagues and tournaments, and generating activity for nearby businesses. Its events, programming, and facility rentals help stimulate local spending while enhancing property values and overall quality of life in Moorpark. As both a recreational destination and community centerpiece, the park plays a meaningful role in supporting economic vitality and community engagement. For more information, go to *moorparkca.gov/recreation*.





MOORPARK HISTORY: THE MAMMOTH BENEATH US







Long before Moorpark became the community we know today, mammoths roamed the region. In 2005, during construction at the Meridian Hills development, paleontologist Trevor Lindsey noticed small bone fragments in the soil. What followed was a remarkable discovery: the remains of a rare southern mammoth, estimated to be more than 750,000 years old. The find included large portions of the skeleton, teeth, and impressive tusks, offering a rare glimpse into Moorpark's prehistoric past.

The Moorpark Mammoth is especially significant because southern mammoths are rarely found in California, and this discovery is believed to be the only known southern mammoth found along the California coast. Additional fossils from ancient animals, including horse, camel, mastodon, and another mammoth species, were also found at the site.

Today, the Moorpark Mammoth is permanently housed at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, while Mammoth Highlands Park in Moorpark honors the discovery locally. To learn more, visit *MoorparkCA.gov/747/Moorpark-Mammoth* to watch NBC news coverage, or connect with the Moorpark Historical Society at *MoorparkHistoricalSociety.org*.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

RODRIGO "RIGO" CEJA

Rodrigo "Rigo" Ceja has helped care for Moorpark's parks and public spaces for more than 25 years. As a Senior Maintenance Worker in the Parks Department, Rigo plays an important behind the scenes role in keeping the City's parks safe, clean, and welcoming for everyone who uses them.

Rigo's connection to Moorpark runs deep. Growing up in Moorpark and attending local schools, he's built lifelong ties to the community. That hometown connection gives special meaning to the work he does each day.

His responsibilities are wide ranging and hands on. Rigo conducts weekly inspections of all 19 City parks, checking for safety issues, vandalism, and graffiti. He also performs playground safety checks, handles plumbing and electrical repairs, maintains and levels ball fields with tractor work, supports turf renovation for soccer and football fields, and helps keep restrooms and park amenities in top shape.

Over the years, Rigo has also stepped up during emergencies, assisting during major floods and supporting response efforts during local fires. He takes particular pride in projects like the ball field improvements at Campus Canyon, and residents regularly share compliments about how well Moorpark's parks are maintained.

Rigo's long service, steady work ethic, and pride in his craft have made a lasting impact on the community he has called home for most of his life.

