While technically you’re still in your fifth decade, age 59½ is a good milestone to remind you to take inventory of your IRA and assess whether you have enough for the next two, three, even four decades. At this age you can begin taking money out of your retirement accounts without penalty but be aware of the tax consequences, especially if you plan to keep working. Create a plan for taking distributions based on your goals for retirement.

Up to May 1, 2016, you can apply for a Lifetime Senior Vehicle Pass from the Santa Clara County Parks Department at the Reservations Office located in Vasona Lake County Park. You can also try an entrance kiosk at any County Park staffed by a Park Ranger. The passes are provided for a one-time fee of $75 to all persons 60 years and older, but note that they will not be available effective May 1, 2016. They’ll be replaced with a 50% discount off the Annual Pass. To help plan your county park visits, check out Library resources like this:

This is a good time for you to review your Social Security retirement options more closely. Note that according to the Life Expectancy Calculator of the Social Security Administration (SSA), men who turn 61 in 2015 can expect to live on average an additional 23 years and women an additional 25 years. If you’re planning to start benefits as early as possible at age 62, keep in mind that the SSA recommends applying three months in advance at age 61 years and 9 months old.

Saratoga Library presents

THE SEXAGENARIAN CHECKLIST

Embrace your sexagenarian years!

Your 60s mark major transitions in life. So, if you’re working on a bucket list, here are a few important “to do’s” to add.
America the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass - Bargain of a Lifetime!

For just $10, you can get this lifetime pass. It provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites at hundreds of locations throughout the country. You can get a pass at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont and several locations in San Francisco, Marin County and the Pinnacles in Hollister. For an extra $10, you can apply online or by snail mail. To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and must have turned 62 before buying the pass. Senior Passes also provide the pass owner a discount on Expanded Amenity Fees (such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours).

Can't wait to get this one!

Earliest age to start receiving Social Security benefits regardless of birth year.

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but they will be reduced compared to benefits at full retirement age (see SSA.gov). The Library has several resources that can help you optimize your retirement options. However, note that the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, will affect popular claiming strategies.

Go for a health check-up

Check out the free services at PlaneTree Information Center to make informed health decisions and for health resources like SCCLD’s Staywell Knowledgebase.

If you retire at age 63, your reduction from full retirement benefits is about 20%.

Life expectancy of men who reach age 63 is 84 years.

Life expectancy of women who reach age 63 is 86.4 years.

Medicare is complicated and is not one size fits all. Make sure you do your homework before you turn 65. When you are 64 years and 9 months, be on the lookout for a letter from Medicare asking you to complete the Initial Enrollment Questionnaire. In many cases, if you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, you'll have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B. In some cases, it makes sense to delay Part B. Medicare's Should I get Part B? is a helpful resource to assess your situation. For more details, check Medicare.gov.
You are eligible for:

- **Medicare** – If you enrolled three months before turning 65, your coverage starts the first day of the month you turn 65, unless your birthday is on the first day of the month in which case your coverage starts the first day of the prior month.

- **VTA senior rate** - Passengers aged 65 and older qualify for the discounted senior fare when riding VTA. Proof of age is required when paying the discounted senior rate.

- **SCCLD senior exemption qualification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
<th>Full Retirement Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937 or earlier</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>65 and 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>65 and 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>65 and 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>65 and 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>65 and 10 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943-1954</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>66 and 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>66 and 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>66 and 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>66 and 8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>66 and 10 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 and later</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you were born in 1960 or later, this is your full retirement age for Social Security benefits.

**Do you have a will and estate plan?**

Explore the Library’s online Legal Information Reference Center’s Wills &Estate Planning resources. Full-text publications and legal forms from Nolo Press are available.

**OLD AGE begins?** At least that’s the finding of a survey on aging conducted by the Pew Research Center on Social & Demographic Trends among a nationally representative sample of 2,969 adults. 68 was the average of all answers among the survey respondents, but this average masks a wide, age and gender driven variance in responses. Women, on average, say a person becomes old at age 70. Men, on average, put the number at 66.
Plan a 70's party! How about the following themes:
- Do the hustle!
- Saturday Night Fever
- May the Force be with You: Star Wars!

Check out these resources for some entertainment ideas:
Around the Table by Martina McBride, Camille Styles Entertaining, Indian for Everyone, and Gather.

REFERENCES

IRAs
IRA FAQs – Distributions (Withdrawals)
Retirement Plan and IRA Required Minimum Distributions FAQs

Health and Aging
Growing Old in America: Expectations vs. Reality, Pew Research Center on Social & Demographic Trends
Health Screening: Men, ages 40 to 64, U.S. National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus
Health Screening: Men, ages 64 and older, U.S. National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus
Medicare - https://www.medicare.gov/
Part B Late Enrollment Penalty
https://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare-costs/part-b-costs/penalty/part-b-late-enrollment-penalty.html
Women's Health, U.S. National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus

Recreation
America the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass – The U.S. Department of the Interior | U.S. Geological Survey,
http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html
Santa Clara County Parks - https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Pages/Welcome-to-Santa-Clara-County-Parks.aspx
Santa Clara County Parks Department also offers Lifetime Senior Vehicle Passes (only through April 30, 2016) https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Whats-Happening/Pages/Annual-Passes.aspx#Lifetime

Retirement and Social Security
Retirement Benefits, Social Security Administration
http://www.ssa.gov/retire/
Retirement Planner: Benefits By Year of Birth
http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/agereduction.html