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New Affordable Housing Opens



Summer is in full swing, and besides the many great leisure activities taking place around town, we are still working toward our long term goals and priorities. Providing more affordable housing solutions is one of those priorities, and on June 29 we celebrated the grand opening of [Mayfield Place](#)— a mixed-use apartment building that is the result of a partnership between the City and Stanford University. The complex is located at 2500 El Camino Real, near California Avenue, and provides 70 units of affordable housing with the ground floor housed by the nonprofit [Vista Center for the Blind and Visually](#)

[Impaired](#).



Photo credit: Nikki Ritcher Photography

Summer in the City

Everywhere you look, you can find fun and free entertainment for all ages all summer long here in Palo Alto. On Thursday nights, [Music on the](#)

[Plaza](#) takes center stage across from Lytton Plaza, at Emerson and University.



Classic rock band TinMan kicked off the series on July 13. Bay Area favorite cover bands Pride and Joy, Pasto Seco, the Groove Doctors, Long Train Runnin' and J.C. Smith are all booked to help you enjoy Thursday nights on the town. The shows run from 6-8 p.m.



On Friday nights through September 1, the [Music is Magic Summer Concert Series](#) takes place at Magical Bridge Playground with popular children's entertainers such as Andy Z, Tim Cain, Nancy Cassidy and Noise Lab. You can view the weekly line-up [here](#).

The [Twilight Concert Series](#) can entertain your whole family on Saturdays with concerts and movies at different venues in Palo Alto through August 5. Jumanji (July 22) and Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (August 5) are slated to play on outdoor screens at Heritage Park, and the annual Children's Concert is coming up on July 29 at Mitchell Park.



Fun on the Fourth of July

Palo Alto is always a great place to celebrate the Fourth of July thanks to our annual Chili Cookoff that spices up Independence Day each year at Mitchell Park. This year marked the 36th year and saw 12 teams competing, including one from the Palo Alto Fire Department.



The firefighters sold out of their chili in 40 minutes and won the "People's Choice" award.



First time entrant Smoky Bowls won the first place for Best Overall Chili. I was on hand to announce the winners which were decided by a panel of judges that included Council members and City board members and commissioners.



My first order of business on the Fourth of July was participating in the [Greenmeadow Community Association's](#) annual parade and celebration that dates back to the 1950s, the same era of its distinctive

Eichler homes.



A drill team and marching band, floats, decorated bikes, and patriotic pooches all participated in the parade that traveled along the community center, pool, and park, on a loop that included Parkside and Creekside Drives.

This year's theme was Wonders of the World. The event is put on by community volunteers and includes a mini-triathlon, a 1K and 5K run, and a splash-dive contest in the pool.

This is a great time of year to get out and enjoy Palo Alto. I hope to see you at one of the free music series!



H. Gregory Scharff

Greg Scharff
Mayor