



August 2017

## Driving Down the 'Drive Alone' Rate



It's no secret the population of Palo Alto nearly doubles each workday, as thousands of employees drive to work in our city that is a Silicon Valley economic hub. But, this vibrancy contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution, and so, about a year ago, the [Transportation Management Association \(TMA\)](#) was established and tasked with reducing solo commuting into downtown Palo Alto by 30 percent. Since then, the TMA has launched programs aimed specifically at increasing carpooling. One program provides subsidized transit passes for low income employees, and another is a ridesharing program that caps carpooling costs at \$2 a ride.

## Calendar of Events



**Community Fun Day**  
Rinconada Pool  
Sat., Sept. 2, 12- 2 p.m.



**Palo Alto Airport Day**  
Palo Alto Airport  
Sun., Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



**Get Fit! Downtown**  
Sundays on King Plaza  
Sept. 10-24, 3-4 p.m.



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Those strategies seem to be paying off, according to a new survey of downtown commuting patterns that found the drive alone rate has dropped overall by 4 percent (from 57 to 53 percent) from a year ago. More impressive than that is the decrease by 10 percent (from 80 to 70 percent) of drive alone rates among service workers. Key to this:

- transit use increased by 6 percent
- ridesharing increased by 7 percent

The survey also confirmed the City's parking policies, coupled with TMA programs are having an impact on employee parking in neighborhood streets. A year ago, 19 percent of survey respondents reported parking on neighborhood streets; this year it dropped to just 7 percent.

You can read other highlights and find all the survey results [here](#). The Council is scheduled to discuss TMA's progress and funding at its Sept. 18 meeting.

## Connecting Palo Alto Hosts Second Community Workshop



Here's your chance to weigh in on the longstanding challenges associated with Palo Alto's four grade crossings on the Caltrain corridor in Palo Alto. The Connecting Palo Alto rail program is working to evaluate potential grade separations at Charleston Road, Meadow Drive, Churchill Avenue and Palo Alto Avenue (Alma Street).

We started a community engagement process beginning with our first rail workshop in May and a community survey in July that resulted in more than [800 responses](#). You are now invited to our second workshop on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road.

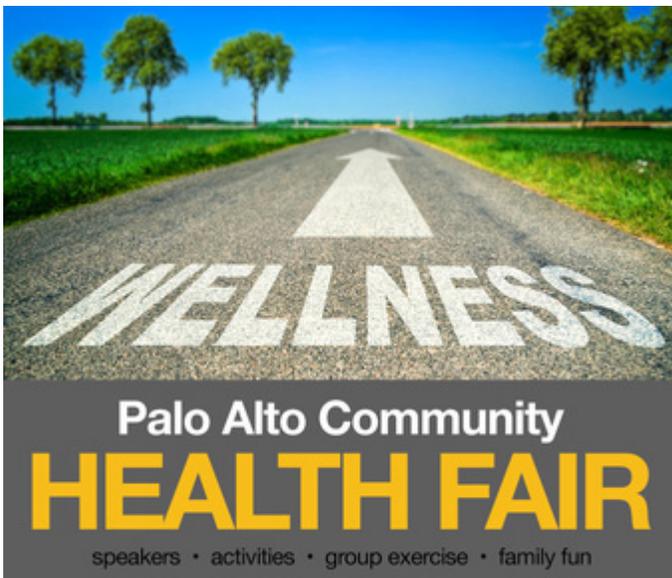
Among the workshop objectives:  
-review a final problem statement  
-evaluate criteria for the project

- identify what should be examined at each crossing
- develop alternatives for further study



On Tuesday, Sept. 5, Council is expected to adopt a Rail Program Alternatives Analysis Plan with goals and performance measures that meet the same criteria. You can find the Staff Report [here](#). To learn more about Connecting Palo Alto, click [here](#).

## Health Fair Returns in New Location



The Palo Alto Community Health Fair returns for a third year on Sat., Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. This year it will be held at City Hall's King Plaza. The free event is open to all ages and includes health screenings, group exercise classes, various workshops and a scavenger hunt. The workshops include Esther Gokhale known for her Gokhale Method for healthy posture and movement, and presentations on Nutrition and Stress, Mindfulness and Stress, and Sleep. There will also be a Teen Debate and QPR Suicide Prevention Training presented by [Project Safety Net](#). The health fair is part of the [Healthy Cities, Healthy Community Initiative](#) adopted by Council in 2015. Click [here](#) for the full schedule of events, speakers and booth participants.

## Season of Play! through Art



Get ready for a season of engaging fun and games as the Palo Alto Art Center prepares to launch [Play!](#) through Dec. 30. The exhibition will showcase the importance of play in our lives as a tool for innovation, expression, engagement, exploration and intellectual growth and emotional well-being at every stage of development. The series kicks off with miniature golf, balloon art and other activities during Friday Night at the Art Center on Sept. 15. There will be several family workshops and family days, including building a fort, an international games day, teen takeover day and an intergenerational play date.



Volunteers are currently needed to help build a balloon castle before the exhibition begins. You can sign-up for the playful fun [here](#) and view the full Season of Play! schedule [here](#).

## Last Chance to Whisper to Murmur Wall



If you haven't yet interacted with Murmur Wall, you won't want to miss your chance. Murmur Wall was one of the eight engaging, urban interventions that went on display downtown during the three day [Code:ART](#) festival in June, but its purple-hued lattice of LED lights and pods did not leave when the festival ended. Instead it's staying up through September as part of our ongoing rotating public art installations on King Plaza, in front of City Hall. Murmur Wall displays search terms that are trending in Palo Alto in real time- a stream of community consciousness, so to speak. You can anonymously contribute to the stream of data by logging on to [murmurwall.net](http://murmurwall.net) to submit your thoughts and whispers!

## Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what's on your mind.



[HanaHaus](#) @hanahaus August 24



RT: Good to see Palo Alto's downtown workers favor carpooling more frequently [#coworking](#) [#paloalto](#)



**City of Palo Alto** @cityofpaloalto

See how #PaloAlto's downtown commuter program is helping drive down the drive alone rate. [bit.ly/2w1t7bG](http://bit.ly/2w1t7bG)



[rangercurt](#) @rangercurt August 1

A little slice of quiet this morning.  
[#PaloAlto](#) [#FoothillsPark](#)  
[#BorondaLake](#)



[HardlyStrictlyJorge @SFTravelnTunes](#) August 1

Tres Generaciones [#GraceSlick](#) holding her daughter China in the **Palo Alto** home of her mother Virginia in 1971. Photo: John Olson

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: [www.ourpaloalto.org](http://www.ourpaloalto.org)