November 2018

Now that the Thanksgiving holiday is over, ‘tis the season to be jolly. Among all the hustle and bustle of this time of year, here are two upcoming events to help you enjoy the merriment of the season.

Joyful Holiday Gatherings

Calendar of Events

**Ceramics/Jewelry Studio Holiday Sale**
Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
Sat., Dec.1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Holiday Toy Drive**
Deadline Dec.16
Bring unwrapped toys to Palo Alto Fire Stations, Art Center, Libraries & the Junior Museum & Zoo
First up is the annual tree lighting ceremony taking place on Friday, Nov. 30 from 6-7 p.m. in Lytton Plaza. Councilmember Karen Holman will have the honor of flipping on the switch to dazzle the crowd with the tree’s twinkling lights. On Tap Quartet and students from the Melody Academy of Music and Keys School will perform holiday carols and Hanukkah songs. Tap Explosion dancers will lead the countdown to the tree lighting as they perform in their merry and bright, light-up tree costumes.

New this year, the Holiday Golf Extravaganza coming up on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the newly redesigned Baylands Golf Links. There will be free putting and chipping contests, great food and merchandise on sale for the golfer on your list.

Now let’s get to the business going on around town.

**Milestone Agreements for Pedestrian/Bike Bridge**

On Monday, Dec. 17, Palo Alto will celebrate a major milestone on the path to building the Pedestrian/Bike Bridge Overpass Project at Adobe Creek. Google, Caltrans, the Santa Clara County Water District, and various other agencies who have been committed to the project’s success will join Mayor Liz Kniss at a ceremonal event to sign public access, joint-
use and maintenance agreements that enable the project to proceed. The bridge is part of Palo Alto’s 2014 Infrastructure Plan and will span over Highway 101 from south Palo Alto to the Baylands, providing a link for bike riders and pedestrians to access businesses and recreation trails on both sides of the highway.

The Benjamin Lefkowitz Underpass is the current path across, but it is closed several months each year due to the Adobe Creek’s seasonal flooding. The ceremony will symbolically take place at the eastern entrance to that underpass. Once the bridge is built, it will provide a new year-round option. An estimated 74,000 trips will be made across the bridge annually once it is completed. To learn more about the City’s Infrastructure Plan projects, including the Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Overpass Project, click here.

City & VMware Explore Microgrid Partnership

On Nov. 1, Palo Alto announced a key partnership it is undertaking with VMware that will serve as a testbed to advance resiliency at both the corporate and community levels. The collaboration will explore developing a microgrid that could not only advance renewable energy efforts, but could also strengthen the City’s emergency services and readiness as a community. Microgrids can operate while connected to the main power grid or can power critical electric loads when off-grid from generators, batteries and electric loads. As envisioned, this microgrid would also be isolated from the larger power grid to operate independently if the larger grid fails – providing a level of backup power for critical systems. The microgrid could further augment the community’s emergency services by providing a charging site for the City’s emergency command vehicles and an emergency communications node that can be used during major emergencies that
cause extended power outages and fuel shortages. You can read more about the partnership here.

**Council Action: Public Safety Building Approved**

On the topic of the City’s Infrastructure Plan, Council unanimously approved construction of the new public safety building on Monday, Nov. 5. The project will be built after the 636-space parking garage goes up at 350 Sherman Avenue. Construction for the garage is expected to begin in June 2019. Once that is completed, the public safety building will begin in October 2020. The building will not only replace police headquarters at City Hall, but it will also house 911 dispatch services, the Emergency Operations Center, Office of Emergency Services and the Fire Department administration. You can find the staff report here.

**Agreement Approved: Pets in Need to Run Animal Shelter**

On Monday, Nov. 26, Council unanimously approved a five-year contract to have Pets in Need operate animal services for Palo Alto, as well as Los Altos and Los Altos Hills beginning in January. The Pets in Need board of directors is expected to approve the $3.7 million deal in December. The City will also fund the $3.4 million remodeling and expansion of the facility located on East Bayshore Avenue. The capital improvement plan will include an expanded medical suite, 16 new dog kennels and a modular office and classroom. You can read the full staff report here.
Cool Block Palo Alto Expands, Seeks New Leaders

Learn how you can lower your carbon footprint, get to know your neighbors and reinvent the world by starting in your very own neighborhood as the next phase of the Cool Block Palo Alto program gears up. There will be a second informational community meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Lucie Stern Fireside Room. By thinking outside the box and developing a block-by-block citizen engagement program, residents participating in the Cool Block have been able to adopt more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, become more disaster resilient, and strengthen the livability and social fabric of their blocks. Your neighborhood could be next as the Cool Block Program looks for new block leaders to begin its next chapter in Palo Alto. Come take the first step to address climate change, emergency preparedness and community building by attending the Dec. 4 meeting. RSVP here.

Socials of the Month

Are you following us on social media?
Connect with us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.
Minnie & Max the Pugs @MinnieMaxPugs
Nov 16

The look on our faces when we found out @ShakeShack is coming to @StanfordShop in the @CityOfPaloAlto! #NationalFastFoodDay #pug

Sudha Jamthe @sujamthe Oct 29

Today I saw this self-driving car on El Camino in @cityofpaloalto California. It’s a Ford, whose AV tech is it? #driverless
It does rain in Palo Alto after all! 😊☔️

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: www.ourpaloalto.org