35 acres. The last large piece of publicly owned land in Palo Alto. What will its future be?

Cubberley. Once a high school. Now a bustling community center. 35 acres, owned by the City (8 acres) and the School District (27 acres). Next year, a long-standing financial and use agreement between the City and the PAUSD expires if not renewed, and critical decisions must be made about how, as a community, we will proceed to plan for and use this vital piece of property — the last large piece of publicly owned land in the city proper. Will it be a school again, continue as a community center, or both?

This unique property plays a critical role in our community. Currently, it is home to a wide range of community services: education, private schools, child care, dance, music, art, theater, a gymnasium, playing fields for softball and soccer, meeting rooms for community groups, services for seniors — Cubberley provides all these and more. Cubberley is important to the city as our only full service community center. It is also important to the School District because it may be needed again as a school, possibly a high school, to accommodate a growing student population.

While you may know about the benefits of Cubberley, are you aware that a process is in place to determine the near and longer-term future of this facility? The 28 person Cubberley Community Advisory Committee has been working for months to develop a full understanding of the issues and community needs, with the goal of providing a report in February to the City Council and PAUSD to help them with the critical decisions they must make about Cubberley’s future.

An informed and involved public is critical to this process, which is why the CCAC has scheduled a community forum for November 8th at 7:30 at the Cubberley Theater. We urge you to attend this meeting to learn about the issues and to take advantage of the opportunity to ask or submit your questions and thoughts. The decisions that the Council and PAUSD must make moving forward are very difficult but critically important to both community services and education. Which means they will affect everyone in the community … which is why you should attend.

For more information about the Forum and the work of the CCAC, please visit our web site at:
http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/agendas/cubberley_community_advisory_committee.asp