



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNews

Join Us For a Slice With Our City and Talk About Palo Alto's Future



We are committed to moving our conversations about the future of Palo Alto beyond City Hall. We spent the morning of June 19 at [coffee houses](#) around town listening and talking with the community. We are set to do it again on Oct. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., but thought we'd change it up and head to local pizza places around town for a Slice with Our City. We hope you will join us for another community conversation, and we'll post all of the locations

Calendar of Events

Palo Alto Celebrates Electric Vehicle (EV) Week

Oct. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
King Plaza,
250 Hamilton Ave.
9:30 a.m., Press event at Lytton and Alma

The City will kick-off EV Week 2014 with a launch event at City Hall's King Plaza, featuring free EV test drives around the plaza and an Electric Vehicle Exposition showcasing the largest selection of new plug-in and all-electric vehicles, EV charging technologies, mobile applications, and car and scooter-sharing services. For more information, click [here](#).

Bicycle Boulevard Improvements Churchill Avenue

Oct. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.
Palo Alto High School,
SSRC Room/Library,
50 Embarcadero Road

Downtown
Oct. 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Palo Alto Council
Chambers,
250 Hamilton Ave.

For more information, click [here](#).

New Co. Silicon Valley

Oct. 22, 10 a.m.
Palo Alto City Hall,
250 Hamilton Ave.
The City will join Silicon Valley's most innovative companies in opening their

on <http://ourpaloalto.org/> soon so stay tuned for details.

Mitchell Park Library and Community Center Sneak Peek Draws Crowd



On Sept. 27, the City hosted a special “Come Together” event for the new [Mitchell Park Library and Community Center](#) that drew more than 1,000 people who went on “sneak peek” mini tours of the new

library and center. We expect the new building to be open to the public before Thanksgiving with the grand opening celebration set for Dec. 6. Those taking the docent-led tours of the new state-of-the-art facility got a look at and heard about the public art elements, the children’s, teen’s and second floor library areas, community center and El Palo Alto Room, sustainability features, and enjoyed a community mixer with dancers from our sister city Tsuchiura. And, a few hundred stayed to listen and dance to a two-hour concert by Beatles cover band The Sun Kings.

Would you like your own sneak peek of the new facility before it opens to the public? Click [here](#) to view photos of the mini tour. For more information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/mymitchell.

We also recently received a temporary occupancy permit for the new Rinconada Library, and we anticipate there will be a “soft” public launch before Christmas.

New Art Installation Aims to Spark Community Conversations

doors to the public for this event. Participants will get an inside look into the workings of local government with a tour of City Hall and a talk by City Manager Jim Keene on “Reinventing the Public Square.” For more information or to register, visit <http://sv.newco.co>.

Leadership Group Meeting

Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

Lucie Stern Community Room,

1305 Middlefield Road

Appointed to work with City staff on the community engagement aspect of the Comprehensive Plan update, the Leadership Group meets monthly to discuss ideas and give feedback to staff. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.



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[Our Palo Alto Community Events Calendar](#)



“What is a City? What sort of things do you think make a city different from other kinds of places? Would you define a city as a collection of buildings, or as a collection of people? If the latter, what sort of people are needed to make a city?” That is just one of the 20 provocative questions that you will see on signs installed on light poles around downtown. It’s the newest public art installation by Oakland-based conceptual artist Anthony Discenza called *Questions About Your City* and sponsored by the [Palo Alto Public Art Program](#) that aims to spark community conversations. Each sign asks a specific question with the installation intended to engage people in conversations about the issues affecting Palo Alto in an unexpected and humorous way. There is a self-guided map with sign locations [here](#) or to read the questions, click [here](#).

Discenza will also give a talk about his work on Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Library, 270 Forest Ave. For more information, click [here](#).

Update on Comprehensive Plan and Housing Element

On Nov. 3, the [City Council](#) is slated to discuss the Comprehensive Plan update, including potential revisions to the update process and schedule. Also on the discussion table are potential adjustments to the City’s zoning regulations that could happen before or as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

The City has also been working on an update to the [Housing Element](#) of the Comprehensive Plan. Housing Elements ensure that jurisdictions plan for housing in their communities, and are updated every eight years on a state-mandated schedule that does not apply to the other elements. The City started work on the element at the beginning of 2014, and it must be approved by the state by the end of January 2015.

We have received preliminary approval of the draft submitted last summer and the Council will consider the adoption of the Housing Element at its Nov. 10 meeting. As currently drafted, the Housing Element would not require re-zoning of any additional sites for affordable housing, but would rely on existing zoning and implementation programs to meet the state requirements.

Community feedback is always welcome and members of the community are invited to attend the Council meetings and give their input. For more information on the Comprehensive Plan update, go to www.paloaltocompplan.org.



What's Tweeting?

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

@robertjonas: Our new neighborhood library is almost ready for its grand opening. I'm very impressed! #mymitchell

@alyssa_briggs: Public art over the AMH/RFID book return at @PaloAltoLibrary new Mitchell Park library #mymitchell Great building!

@paloaltomedical: Happy to help celebrate & sponsor @cityofpaloalto's new library & Community Ctr event today! <http://ow.ly/C1paO>

@PaloAltoBuzz: Mitchell Park is buzzing: <http://sch.mp/1jNKy> - RT @cityofpaloalto Thank you for coming together Saturday to celebrate the Mitchell Park...

Overhear something funny or interesting while walking around Palo Alto? Share with us. #overheardinpaloalto"

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