



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter - November 2014



Slice With Our City

In October, we hosted Slice With Our City as part of the *Our Palo Alto* initiative designed to create community conversations about Palo Alto's future beyond City Hall. Instead of meeting at coffee houses like we did last summer during the successful [Coffee Chat With Our City](#), we gathered at eight different pizza places around town to chat. City Manager Jim Keene and other members of the city staff spread out to local establishments, including Palo Alto Pizza Company, Pizza My Heart, Pizzeria Delfina, Patxi's Pizza, NY Pizza, Howie's Artisan Pizza, Pizz'a Chicago and Mountain Mike's, to talk with citizens

Calendar of Events

Bicycle Boulevard Improvements

Charleston-Arastradero Corridor

Nov. 12, 6:30-8 p.m.

Herbert Hoover Elementary
Multi-Purpose Room
445 East Charleston Road

South Palo Alto

Nov. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Greenmeadow Community Room
303 Parkside Dr.

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

Leadership Group Meeting

Nov. 18, 4:30 p.m.

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell 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.

Sustainability Expo

Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m.

Downtown Library
270 Forest Ave.

As part of the update to its Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, the City is hosting an interactive "Ideas Expo" to invite bold ideas from the community to help advance its sustainability goals. For more information and details, click [here](#).

Mitchell Park Library and Community Center Grand Opening

Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

3700 Middlefield Road

and listen to what is on their minds.

We also posed the questions, "Have you ever imagined Palo Alto 50 or even 100 years from now? What do you think it will look like? What sort of things will be happening here?" We had a number of great conversations and received a lot of feedback on the issues that matter most to you. To view pictures from the day, click [here](#), or to read some of the thoughts and feedback we received, click [here](#).

Comprehensive Plan Update

On Nov. 3, the [City Council](#) held the first of two meetings to discuss the [Comprehensive Plan](#) update and outline the next steps in the process. Council is scheduled to continue the discussion at its meeting on Nov. 17 to consider a number of [staff recommendations](#), which include crafting a Draft Environmental Impact Report presenting the cumulative impacts over the next 15 years related to growth, transportation investments, and the location and density of housing sites.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan update, go to www.paloaltocompplan.org.

Housing Element Almost to Finish Line



Over the past several months, the City's Housing Element Community Panel has been meeting to discuss housing sites and programs for the 2015-2023 [Housing Element update](#). The panel recently concluded its work with a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the Draft Housing Element, which will be part of the Council's Nov.

The community is invited to celebrate the grand opening with a full day of free activities at the new center that will be geared toward all ages from young children to seniors. For more information, go to <http://cityofpaloalto.org/mymitchell>.



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10 agenda.

The Housing Element Community Panel was formed last March and tasked with helping the City to update the state-mandated Housing Element component of its [Comprehensive Plan](#). The panel was instrumental in providing valuable public input to the process, and the City extends its thanks to all of the members for their hard work and generous time commitment. Members of the stakeholder group included: Greg Tanaka, Ray Bachetti, Heidi Emberling, Faith Brigel, Sheri Furman, Lisa Landers, Tom Dubois, Paula Wolfson, Deborah Sue Stevens, Jessica Epstein, Doris Peterson, Bonnie Packer, Tony Carrasco, Lydia Tan, Dena Mossar, Caryll-Lynn Taylor and Elaine Uang.



Council to Consider Residential Parking Program

Over the past eight months, City staff has worked with the Residential Parking Permit Stakeholder Committee, a group comprised of dedicated residents and business leaders, on the development of a parking program for downtown. During the six month first phase, the City will allow unlimited permit sales to employees, and collect data on the number of employees purchasing permits, as well as the parking occupancy within the neighborhoods. The City would not allow permit purchases for individuals who do not live or work downtown. Both residents and employees with valid permits could park anywhere within the proposed district boundary and residents would get permits for free. Low-income employees would receive a discounted permit during the six month initial phase. The City plans to make changes to the program design following the initial phase. The City Council is scheduled to consider the RPP program on Dec. 1.

Ideas Wanted For Climate Action Plan

As part of the update to its Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (S/CAP), the City is hosting an interactive “Ideas Expo” on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Downtown Library to invite bold ideas from the community to help advance its sustainability goals. The new S/CAP will chart a path to a more sustainable future for Palo Alto and the region. The Ideas Expo is designed to be an interactive event to introduce the S/CAP, highlight best global practices and municipal advancements in sustainability, and to generate bold new ideas.

Palo Alto is already a world leader in sustainability and climate protection strategies and the S/CAP will continue to build on this success to create an achievable plan for 2015 and beyond.

We are framing our efforts with three potential scenarios:

- Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80 percent by 2050 (California's stated goal)
- Reducing emissions 80 percent by 2030 (the 2030 Challenge)
- Eliminating all emissions in 10 years or less (the California Moonshot)

For more information and details, go to www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/sustainability.

Online Tool Shows Latest Permit Applications

Ever wondered what new planning applications are in the works for your neighborhood? Now you can look online, thanks to an interactive tool that the City has launched in partnership with Buildingeye. The tool takes current and recently approved planning application records and puts them into a user-friendly map to make it easy for the public to see the latest planning applications in the City. Once you enter an address or zip code, the planning applications for that area show up as different color icons—blue for a new application and green for completed. Each click provides information on the project site address and contact details of the project planner. Information on the site is updated daily from the City's permit tracking system, and includes data for the past three years. To check out the tool, go to

<https://paloalto.buildingeye.com>. Read [here](#) for more details.

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@Carlamays [@cityofpaloalto](#)
[@howies](#) [#PaloAlto](#) gets online/offline
[#civicengagement](#) :) Thx 4 being t/national model! I love
FD Pepper Sauce!

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

@brianeule Love tinkering with the Aurora lights in
[@cityofpaloalto](#) Such a great piece of interactive [#art](#)

@NewCoFest Rise & shine! We're gearing up for Day 2 of [#newcoSV](#). First up: [@healthtap](#) [@cityofpaloalto](#)
[@xapo](#) [@SurveyMonkey](#) [@scienceexchange](#). Share pix!

@johnbattelle Great to have the [@cityofpaloalto](#) Mayor Nancy Shepherd kickoff [#newcosv](#) on [@SurveyMonkey](#) rooftop!

@lalahpolitico Library Envy here in [#losaltos](#) 'cause new PA Mitchell Library ready for its grand opening. [#mymitchell](#) pic.twitter.com/QbIO0k3SgW

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