



## Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, May 2015



### Council Addresses Retail

Retail – the preservation and definition – is a topic on the minds and agendas of City Council. On May 11, Council adopted an urgency interim ordinance that would prevent the conversion of ground floor retail and “retail-like” to office or other uses. Earlier this year, Council identified the loss of ground floor retail as one of the results of higher office rents

### Calendar of Events

#### **Our Palo Alto 2030 *The Summit***

**May 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Mitchell Park Community Center**

**3700 Middlefield Road**

Join your neighbors for conversations about Palo Alto’s future and help craft solutions on the critical issues facing our City now and into 2030. The Summit is free and open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).

#### **World Music Day**

**June 19, 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
**University Ave**

Palo Alto World Music Day is a music festival that takes place every year on Father’s Day. All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).



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and development. The interim ordinance – which takes effective immediately – will be in place for 45 days and apply citywide. Council has directed staff to move forward with the process needed to make these zoning changes permanent.

As part of the retail discussion, Council will also talk about changes to limit formula retail and preserve ground floor retail along California Avenue. The new streetscape was just recently completed with wider sidewalks, a new plaza and fountain, as well as other pedestrian amenities that are expected to attract more patrons. California Avenue has always been known for its distinctive character, and residents and businesses want to preserve its unique qualities. On May 18, the Council will talk about the potential to regulate chain stores or “formula retail” and provide greater protection for the local, “mom and pop” stores. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Our Palo Alto 2030 Summit

We expect a full house at the Our Palo Alto 2030 Comprehensive Plan Summit that will be held on **Saturday, May 30 from 8:30 to 5 p.m.** at the Mitchell Park Community Center. The day will begin with a welcome from Mayor Karen Holman followed by a keynote address by City Manager Jim Keene and Planning Director Hillary Gitelman on The Comprehensive Plan: Developing a Shared Vision for the Future. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be an information fair where you can “dive deeper” into topics ranging from the Stanford master plan to public art. Small group discussion topics will include Mobility and Convenience, Sustainable Prosperity and Housing the Next Generation of Palo Altans...and their grandparents.

We have been asking questions related to these topics both on Open City Hall and Nextdoor as part of our “open source” community engagement. More than 227 of you viewed the question, “**What three things would motivate you to drive less?**” on Open City Hall, 78 left a response – that’s 3.9 hours of public comment @ three minutes per response! And, more than 55 of you answered the question via Nextdoor, with great comments and feedback – the most we’ve received on a single post.

You can now answer our new question, “**What is the one aspect that best defines Palo Alto’s community character for you?**” by going [here](#) and to sign up to be notified anytime the city posts a new question on Open City Hall. For more information on the Summit, go to [www.paloaltocomplan.org](http://www.paloaltocomplan.org)

[Events Calendar](#)

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## Water Reduction Target = 24%

That's what Palo Alto will have to achieve to meet new mandatory water use reductions set by the state as we enter the fourth year of a statewide drought. The reduction is set from 2013

usage levels, and the City Council has approved new regulations that will limit irrigation to two days a week. Water customers with odd numbered addresses (or no address) can only water on Mondays and Thursdays with even numbered addresses watering on Tuesdays and Fridays. You may see some greener grassy areas in parks, schools and recreational playing fields. The City is allowing limited exceptions to the two-day-a-week water schedule but these sites will need to apply for an alternative irrigation plan, and still meet overall reduction targets. To keep up-to-date on the latest water info, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/water](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/water).

## Tweets of the Month

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



[@goodall\\_jeff](#) This weather is just [#perfect](#). Yah gotta love the [@cityofpaloalto](#).

[@tiffanychew](#) Checking out the Magical Bridge Playground [@cityofpaloalto](#). Fun for all kids including adults! [#accessibleforall](#)

[@michellekraus](#) Gorgeous sunset over the [@CityofPaloAlto](#)

[@Jonathan\\_Lyons](#) Another reason to love [@cityofpaloalto](#): some times the school marching band practices on your street!

[@TKapoorSJ](#) Magical bridge playground designed to include ALL kids, is quite awesome [@cityofpaloalto](#)

[@hoopstarzb](#) [@cityofpaloalto](#) Doing what I do best at Cubberley Community Center. [#EarthDayPaloAlto](#) !

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



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