Welcome to Our Palo Alto eNewsletter, July 2015

What’s Next for the Comp Plan?

Following on the Our Palo Alto 2030 Summit, the first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be held July 14 as the appointed group of 20 (17 voting members and three ex-officio members) will begin meeting monthly. To assist in their work, all of the data and input from the Summit where more than 300 community members provided ideas will be analyzed by Stanford research interns and organized into themes and concepts. In addition, the CAC’s work will be informed by community input on a new platform that will launch this summer within Open City Hall. If you haven’t already subscribed, here’s another good reason to get involved. Just click here to join. Each element of the Comprehensive Plan will be posted for two weeks prior to the CAC meeting with the opportunity for citizens to provide comments via a comment and ideas

Calendar of Events

Palo Alto Chili Cook Off
July 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mitchell Park
Join the fun at the 34th Annual Chili Cook Off and Summer Festival with music from Rockin Down the Highway, family activities and of course, chili tasting and more.

Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival
July 11-12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
The 23rd Annual Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival is a free, fun-filled two-day celebration of clay and glass art which has the reputation of presenting the best work in ceramics and glass produced on the West Coast. Featuring both fine and functional art, it is the largest show of its kind, with 140 juried artists offering their work. More information is here.

Confluence Celebration
July 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
California Avenue
The community is invited to celebrate the completion of Confluence, a water sculpture by artist Michael Szabo that is part of the newly enhanced California Avenue Plaza near
tool. This feedback will then be provided to the CAC each month in preparation for their meeting. For more information on how you can participate, click here.

#PaloAlto2030
We used the hashtag #PaloAlto2030 to drive awareness and engage with the community during the run up to the May 30 summit, and we encouraged community members to use the #PaloAlto2030 hashtag to engage and share their thoughts during the Summit. The results are pretty impressive with 179 total tweets, 82 retweets and 654,332 views. Thanks for being part of the Summit conversation and we hope you will continue to engage throughout the process.

Residential Preferential Parking Moving Ahead
If you start to see signs popping up in the downtown area with bags over their tops, don’t be alarmed. It is only the signage for the downtown Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) program that will launch in mid September. The RPP program is intended to preserve the integrity of residential neighborhoods that have experienced an influx of non-resident parking, either from tourists and visitors, commercial employees and local business owners or commuter parkers. The program is designed to provide preferential use of on-street parking to residents and either restricts or eliminates parking for outside users during select periods. There will be parking allowed for non-permit holders through time-limit sign restrictions (such as 2-hours). On street parking for residents will be prioritized through the sale of permits, but also makes a select number of permits available to Downtown and South of Forest Area (SOFA) commuter employees. Online sales of permits will go “live” in August. You can find out more information about the RPP program by clicking here. Look for more updates on parking management and strategies when the City Council returns from its break on August 17.
Water, water everywhere (but here)

Since the state issued mandatory water use reductions, Palo Altans have been doing their part to reduce the community’s overall consumption. Palo Alto must meet a state-mandated 24% water use reduction from June 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 – compared to 2013 water usage. To monitor our progress, city staff has been closely tracking water use and posting updates online at www.cityofpaloalto.org/water. Since the beginning of 2015, Palo Alto has reduced citywide water consumption by almost 20%. While we are close to our goal, we know that summer means hotter temperatures and increased irrigation needs, so we will need to keep at it. The City has taken the educational path to talk about water use and the drought, offering free workshops, information in utility bills, and other outreach efforts. We also encourage community members to report incidents of water waste through our PaloAlto311 mobile app or send us an email at drought@cityofpaloalto.org. Look for us at a number of community events over the summer (don’t miss the Worm Composting and Mulch Giveaway workshop on July 25) to provide drought info and water efficiency resources. For all things water, go to 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.

@akifmalik: “Downtown #PaloAlto #WorldMusicDay” https://twitter.com/akifmalik/status/612800224457723904

@mel_prest: “Fabulous show of #WalterRobinson @cityofpaloalto #ArtCenter” https://twitter.com/mel_prest/status/612325684900335617

@JessicaWeare: “And props to the @cityofpaloalto for making bike parking so easy! (also, isn’t my bike adorable?) @bikesv” https://twitter.com/JessicaWeare/status/612085192946114560

@CoolOldPhotos: “Cool 1895 Maps of Palo Alto http://j.mp/1lvucC @cityofpaloalto @palopatch @paloaltoweekly” https://twitter.com/CoolOldPhotos/status/608710486289309697

@CarlaMays: “The Mayor of #PaloAlto welcoming #NewCoSv & declaring #NewCoSV Day in the .@cityofpaloalto !!! @HackPaloAlto” https://twitter.com/CarlaMays/status/608079939582042112