



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

### New Online Commenting Tool Broadens Ideas for Comp Plan Update

#### *Council Also Adds Additional Members to Citizens Advisory Committee*

The [Citizens Advisory Committee](#) created by the Council to assist in the update to the Comprehensive Plan met on Aug. 8 to review the Community Services and Facilities element of the plan and to provide feedback and comments. The CAC consists of community members who represent a diversity of interests, as well as three ex officio (non-voting) members representing the Planning & Transportation Commission, the Palo Alto Unified School District, and Stanford University. The City Council reviewed both the membership and the schedule for the CAC's work at its regular meeting on Aug. 31, adding additional members to the group, and check in opportunities for the CAC and Council.



To provide even broader community input into the process, the City has partnered with Peak Democracy – the leading platform provider of digital democracy and founders of Open City Hall – to develop a new online tool called the [Digital Commenter](#) that allows the community to provide ideas and comments on each element of the Comprehensive Plan. The tool allows individuals to comment (and to comment on each other's comments) to make for a more interactive dialogue. The Digital Commenter was developed within the existing Open City Hall platform that the City uses to solicit

### Calendar of Events

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#### **Friday Night at the Art Center**

**Friday, Sept. 18, 7-10 p.m.**  
**Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road**

Join us for another fun-filled Friday Night at the Art Center! Celebrate the opening of our fall exhibition, Frontyard/Backstreet, meet the artists, see their work, enjoy a signature cocktail from the cash bar, treat yourself to yummy food truck fair and leave with an alternative map of Palo Alto created by exhibiting artist/illustrator Kate Pocrass.

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#### **Community Health Fair** **Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 - 3** **Mitchell Park Community Center**

**3700 Middlefield Road**  
The City is partnering with the YMCA and other community organizations for a health and wellness fair as a kick off to the Council's priority this year of Healthy City, Healthy Communities. The day will include panels and workshops with medical professionals, wellness consultations, children's activities and more. Follow us on Twitter using #HealthyPaloAlto.

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#### **Palo Alto Airport Day** **Sunday, Sept. 27, 10-4**

**Palo Alto Airport Day**  
Celebrating 80 years in operation, Palo Alto Airport will hold its annual Airport Day with free airplane rides for kids 8-17, as well as special tower tours and family activities. Free admission, free parking.

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input from the community on a wide variety of issues. Each element of the plan will be available for a minimum of two weeks, and the feedback from the Digital Commenter is part of the CAC's "homework" review for their monthly meetings. In addition, the City is partnering with researchers at Stanford who have volunteered their time and resources to analyze all of the ideas that we received electronically related to Transportation, Growth Management and Housing both as part of the [Our Palo Alto 2030 Summit](#), as well as on [Nextdoor](#) (a private social network that one-quarter of Palo Alto households are on) and within our virtual summit on Open City Hall. Currently, the plan's Transportation Element is posted on the Digital Commenter and will be available longer than usual (almost six weeks) since it contains lots of concepts and ideas for the public and the CAC to dive into. All CAC meetings are open to the public, and click [here](#) for a calendar of meetings and agenda materials. Also, be sure and sign up as a subscriber to Open City Hall [here](#) and have your voice heard. It is important to completely fill out the registration form for the Open City Hall platform to ensure that your comments are part of the feedback from identified community members that is provided to the CAC. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8 starting at 5:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information.

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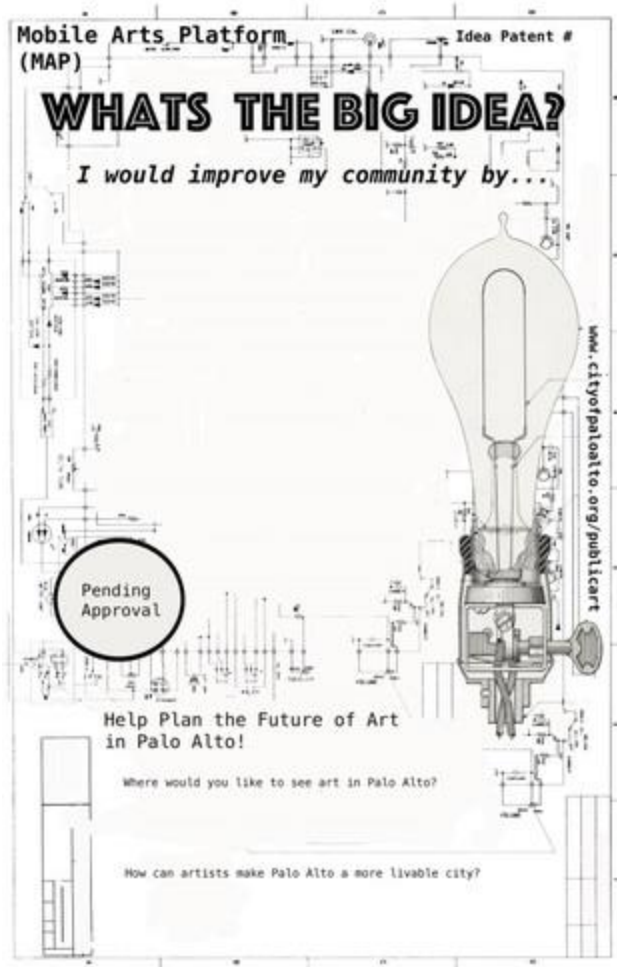
## Got Permits? Downtown Parking Program Kicks Off

We're glad to say that we've made it through the first few weeks of permit sales for the City's downtown Residential Preferential Parking program. So far, more than 2,000 accounts have been created. We know there have been some minor technical issues related to the website, and in some instances it may take three to four business days for applications to be processed. Permits were available as of Aug. 15 as the City launches its program to provide parking relief to neighborhoods facing an influx of non-residential parking. The RPP will officially launch on Sept. 15 when permits will be required for parking beyond two hours in the RPP district. For more parking information and to buy a permit, click [here](#).

## Public Art

*Mobile Arts Platform: "What's the Big Idea?"*

As part of the current Public Art Master Planning outreach efforts, the City's [Public Art Program](#) has commissioned artists Peter Foucault and Chris Treggiari (Mobile Arts Platform) to engage residents in a fun and creative exchange to solicit feedback from the community on the future of public art. The goal is to engage residents in a more informal way and gather their thoughts on how artists might make Palo Alto a more vibrant or livable city.



For this project, M.A.P. artists will custom build two trailers pulled by battery-powered motorized bikes that arrive on-site around the community. The idea is to form a mobile art making and idea generating space. Participants will be asked to respond to the prompt: *What would make Palo Alto a more vibrant or livable city?* Public responses to the question will be tweeted and displayed on a large LCD reader board attached to the M.A.P. trailer. All of the images, videos and social media posts will be collected into a culmination presentation as part of the public art master plan.

The artists will start off on Sept. 10 on King Plaza in front of City Hall from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and will head to the California Avenue Farmers Market on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 13, and then bike over to the Midtown Residents Ice Cream Social in Hoover Park. Other locations included in their six week stops around town include the Magical Bridge Playground and Mitchell Park Teen Center (Sept. 17), Palo Alto Art Center (Sept. 18) and the Moonlight Run (Sept. 25). As locations are confirmed, they will be posted at [www.cityofpalosalto.org/publicart](http://www.cityofpalosalto.org/publicart). Follow us on [Facebook](#) to get updates and images of the project.

After visiting the Mobile Arts Platform at its inaugural visit on King Plaza, head over to the community outreach meeting on the master plan that will be held on Sept. 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Downtown Library (270 Forest Ave.). Public art consultants Barbara Goldstein and Gail Goldman are working with the Palo Alto community to formulate a proactive vision for the future of public art for the next five to ten years. Public input and creative ideas are essential to the master planning process, and we want to hear your ideas.

*Brown Bag Lunch with Artist Anthony Discenza*



Photo by Jennifer O'Keefe

If you've seen the signs downtown and want to learn more about them, bring your lunch and come join artist Anthony Discenza on Sept. 24 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton to learn more about his work and current installation, *Questions About Your City*, before its de-installation later this fall.

Discenza's *Questions About Your City* is a series of 20 provocative, signage-based artworks, installed on existing light posts in downtown Palo Alto. The project aims to spark discussions about the issues affecting the Palo Alto community in an unexpected and humorous context. For more information about the temporary project, go to [www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicart](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicart).

## Tweets of the Month

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



@JeremyBravo: "A great day to be in the [@cityofpaloalto](#) for the festival of the arts. Great food, live music, and nice weather."  
<https://twitter.com/JeremyJBravo/status/635545163612327936>

@CarolineJapic: "What to do during another soccer tourney? Visit Magical Bridge [#Playground!](#) Another reason to love [@cityofpaloalto](#)  
<https://twitter.com/CarolineJapic/status/632978587826565120>

@HadarGuibara: "Downtown [#paloalto](#) lookin beautiful today!! ☀️ [#nofilter](#) [@cityofpaloalto](#) [@PaloAltoNews](#)"  
<https://twitter.com/hadarguibara/status/631180382440833024>

@MattBronson: "Great place to spend a weekend afternoon...Rinconada Pool in [@cityofpaloalto](#) [#parksmakelifebetter](#)"  
<https://twitter.com/mattbronson/status/630518414734307328>

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