



## Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, February 2016

### Transportation Next Stop on Comp Plan Update

The Citizen Advisory Committee appointed to assist on the update of the Comprehensive Plan is currently tackling the Transportation Element and will be working on it through February. The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for February 16.



The City Council is expected to take it up in March or April. The element will address areas including mass transit, walking, bicycling, parking, and other “circulation” aspects of transportation with a recognition that future growth in transportation needs cannot be met by the auto alone. Goals within the element include sustainable transportation, streets, neighborhood impacts, parking, traffic safety, special needs, regional collaboration, airport, and traffic congestion. You can provide your ideas and comments on the draft policies and programs or learn about existing conditions and key trends by clicking on the Digital Commenter [here](#). For more information on the Comprehensive Plan or the CAC, click [here](#).

### Council Maintains Priorities with Addition of Housing and Mobility for 2016

#### Calendar of Events

##### Lessons from Around the World

February 23, 7 p.m.

El Palo Alto Room, Mitchell Community Center

*How are cities making themselves more participatory and democratic?*

Palo Alto is partnering with the Swiss General Consulate in San Francisco to host a conversation on lessons learned around the world about advancing citizen participation. For more information, go to

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/p2p](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/p2p)

##### State of the City

February 24, 7 p.m.

El Palo Alto Room, Mitchell Community Center

The annual State of the City address by Mayor Pat Burt.



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At its annual retreat on Jan. 30, the City Council decided to keep the same priority headings it had last year, but add in Housing and Mobility to its areas of emphasis under The Built Environment. For 2016, the Council's priorities are now: The Built Environment: Housing, Parking, Livability and Mobility; Infrastructure, Completing the Comprehensive Plan

and Healthy City/Healthy Community. The Council also did a "dot" exercise as a way to indicate which of the 69 projects listed under the priorities (and some new ones were added to the list) were of special importance. While the exercise was meant to provide some indication of projects rising to the top, it was acknowledged that more conversations are needed as the Council's work plan for the year evolves.

## Citizen Survey Shows Overall Quality of Life Good

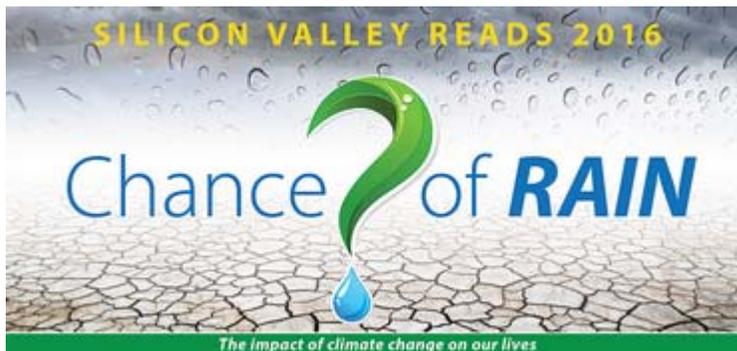
*Traffic, Housing, Retirement On List of Concerns*



Residents generally like living in Palo Alto with 88% rating the overall quality of life as good or excellent, but concerns over traffic, the cost to retire, housing and quality of new developments all showed downward trends in the latest National Citizen Survey. This is the 13th year the city has participated in the survey, which was distributed to 3,000 residents. Palo Alto still ranks high as a place to raise children and work (87% rating both excellent or good), but dropped to 52% as a good or excellent place to retire. The quality of services provided by the City climbed slightly from last year to 85%. To read the entire survey results, click [here](#).

## Silicon Valley Reads 2016: Chance of Rain: The Impact of Climate Change on our Lives

The Palo Alto City Library is participating in Silicon Valley Reads, an annual community program that selects books focused on a contemporary theme and offers free events throughout Santa Clara County, to engage the public in reading, thinking and discussing the topic.



This year, Silicon Valley Reads focuses on climate change and introduces an emerging literary genre, eco-fiction (also called climate fiction), with two outstanding books that speculate about a future with extreme weather: [Memory of Water](#) by Emmi Itäranta and [Sherwood Nation](#) by

Benjamin Parzybok. The program runs February-March 2016. All branches will have a display of the Silicon Valley Reads books. For more information, go to [www.siliconvalleyreads.org](http://www.siliconvalleyreads.org)

## Tweets of the Month

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



[@kluo](#): Thank you [@PaloAltoFire](#), you guys are the best! Fireman Erik made someone's day.



[@DianeMatar](#): Local voices heard on moving from obstacles to solutions toward c-neutrality #SCAP #paclimate #thinkglobalactlocal



[@wrighting](#):

[@cityofpaloalto](#) FYI at the corner of High Street and Palo Alto Creamery

[@cityofpaloalto](#):

[@wrighting](#) Thank you so much. Please feel free to report this issue via our 311 app:

[http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/paloalto311/ ...](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/paloalto311/)

Have a wonderful day!

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

