



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

### How Will Sea Level Rise Impact Palo Alto?



The San Francisco Bay has seen 0.63 feet of sea level rise over the last century, and while opinions vary on the rate of the sea level rise, there is little disagreement that the pace is accelerating due to climate change. What does this mean for Palo Alto and how will the City need to prepare and adapt? That will be the focus of a study session on sea level rise at the City Council meeting on May 23.

The combination of sea level rise and possible changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change will mean low-lying areas surrounding the San Francisco Bay will flood more frequently and more severely, and areas that are already flood-prone will be inundated. There are about 2,700 Palo Alto properties that are currently at risk of flooding from a one percent (100-year) high tide event assuming no sea level rise, due to levees along San Francisquito Creek that do not meet federal standards.

There are a number of critical City facilities and other infrastructure in Palo Alto that are within the floodplain such as the airport, golf course, animal services, the Regional Water Quality Control Plant and U.S. 101.

The main concepts outlined by staff to inform the discussion include:

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#### Calendar of Events

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##### Silicon Valley Open Studios

Cubberley Community Center  
Sat. & Sun., May 14-15  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

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##### Free Comic Book Day

Mitchell Park & Children's Libraries  
Sat., May 7  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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##### Bike to Work Day

Thurs., May 12

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#### Why Bike To Work?

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- Almost 40 percent of Bay Area commuters live within five miles of their workplace, a distance considered ideal for bicycle commuting.

- **Protect** (e.g. levees, floodwalls, wetlands)
- **Adapt** (e.g. build any new or substantially-improved structures elevated above future flood levels or as structures that can be submerged without sustaining appreciable damage)
- **Retreat** (e.g. either partially/seasonably or completely surrender an area to rising sea level)

Based on the Council's discussion and public input, staff will return in the coming months with specific recommendations to address sea level rise. For more information, click [here](#).

## Next Up: Comp Plan Explores Fifth Scenario



The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet on Tuesday, May 17 to review the Land Use and Community Design Element. The meeting will take place at the Mitchell Park Community Center from 5:30-8:30 p.m. More information on the Comp Plan update can be found at: [www.paloaltocompplan.org](http://www.paloaltocompplan.org)

Next up — the Council will define the fifth scenario for the Comprehensive Plan update at the May 16 Council meeting. The scenario will then be analyzed as a supplement to the Comp Plan Update Draft EIR that was originally published in February.

## May Fête Marches to a Healthy Beat



Come cheer on the 94th annual [May Fête Parade](#) on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will be marching to a healthy beat with this year's "Happy Healthy Habits" theme, part of the City Council's Healthy Cities, Healthy Community priority.

The entire Palo Alto [Partners in Education](#) (PiE) community organization will serve as the grand marshal as Northern California's oldest children's parade make its way along University Avenue and the surrounding streets.

The parade ends about noon at Heritage Park, where the May Fête Fair will be taking place. It will feature an array of fun children's activities, picnic areas, great food and a performance stage featuring local groups. The fair is organized by the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto.

The Museum of American Heritage (across from Heritage Park) will also be hosting their Annual Vintage Vehicle and Family Festival with activities from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- If every person living within five miles of their workplace pedaled to work on Bike to Work Day, more than 60,000 vehicles would be off the road, reducing tailpipe emissions by more than 150,000 pounds.

- Bicycling or walking could save both emissions and expenses. [Try the Commute Cost and Carbon Emissions Calculator](#) for your savings.

Source: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition



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## Bike to Work Day



If you don't already bike to work, dust off your bicycle and take it out for a spin on Thursday, May 12 for the 22nd annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day.

For 17 years, Palo Alto has been participating in this green commute choice. This year, the City is hosting four volunteer stations positioned at key commute locations:

- Alma Bike Bridge
- Wilkie Way Bike Bridge
- Downtown, on Bryant Street near City Hall
- California Avenue, near the Caltrain station

The California Avenue location is usually one of the busiest spots each year and volunteers are needed at all the stations. To help email: [Jeffery.Heckathorn@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:Jeffery.Heckathorn@CityofPaloAlto.org)

People on bikes who stop at the stations on Bike to Work Day can re-energize with a snack, pick up a canvas bag filled with treats, and get more details on biking to work.

We hope to see you in the bike lane on May 12. For more information visit: [www.youcanbikethere.com/](http://www.youcanbikethere.com/)Click to edit this placeholder text.

## Zero Waste Party Packs

Planning a party? Make it a green event by borrowing a FREE Party Pack from a Zero Waste Block Leader near you. The Party Packs have a table setting of plates, bowls, tumblers, utensils and cloth napkins for up to 24 people. Learn more at: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwb/](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwb/)



## Meet the Artists



Come spend an evening with renown artists Bruce Beasley and Roger Stoller on Wednesday, May 11, as they discuss the use of emergent technology in their art. They will be speaking at 7 p.m. in the Midtown Room at the Mitchell Park Library.

Beasley is recognized as one of the most

innovative sculptors on the West Coast. His work is part of the permanent collections in over 30 art museums around the world.

Stoller's inspiration comes from natural elements around him, and his methods range from bronze casting and stone carving to 3-D computer modeling and waterjet cutting.

Mitchell Park Library features artwork by both these artists.  
Visit: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicart](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicart) for more information.

## Tweets of the Month

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



[Palo Alto Utilities @PAUtilities](#), April 28

Our favorite Superhero? Superflush, aka "The Running Toilet." [#NationalSuperheroDay](#) <http://cityofpaloalto.org/greatrace>



[Palo Alto Library @PaloAltoLibrary](#), April 11

Make someone smile (: Write positive post-its at the library for Palo Alto students! <http://bit.ly/239g5mJ>



[City of Palo Alto @CityofPaloAlto](#), April 19

[.@CityofPaloAlto](#) shines as a top 10 national leader for most solar watts per customer. <http://bit.ly/1U3CeR>



[Palo Alto Open Space@PAranger](#), April  
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In case you haven't heard, wildflowers are at their peak in the Palo Alto foothills. Get out! <http://bit.ly/1Tu6DmS>

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