



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter November 2016

Election Results: Kniss Re-Elected, Council Adds Three New Members



The votes from Election Day 2016 are in, and Palo Altans have re-elected City Councilmember Liz Kniss to a second term while Adrian Fine, Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka were elected to their first terms. In addition to incumbent Kniss' re-election, the three other open seats were due to Mayor Pat Burt and Councilmember Greg Schmid terming out, while Councilmember Marc Berman successfully ran for Assembly in the 24th District.

Liz Kniss has a long history of public service and was first elected to the Council in 1989 and served as Mayor in 1994 and 2000. Adrian Fine is the current chair of the Planning and Transportation Commission, and currently works at Nextdoor. Lydia Kou has been a long-time leader of the citywide Emergency Preparedness program, is a member of the Citizen Advisory

Calendar of Events



The Princess and the Pea

Palo Alto Children's Theater
Lucie Stern Community Center
Nov. 19-20
10 a.m. & 12 p.m.



Studio Jewelry Sale

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
Nov. 19-20
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Committee working on the Comprehensive Plan update and is a residential realtor. Greg Tanaka has served two terms on the Planning and Transportation Commission and is the founder and CEO of a local Palo Alto business.

The elected Councilmembers will be sworn in at the official reorganization meeting of the Council on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017 when the Council will also select the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Housing & Transportation Measures Pass

Santa Clara County voters passed Measure A and Measure B, the county tax measures intended to address housing and transportation needs. Both measures were endorsed by the City Council.



Measure A, the \$950 million affordable housing bond, includes low and moderate-income individuals and families who might not qualify for aid under other housing programs. It will provide funding to acquire or improve an estimated 5,000 affordable-housing units and give assistance to 1,000 first-time home buyers. Up to \$150 million of the total funding could also be used to provide housing for moderate-income families and individuals.

Measure B's half-cent sales tax is earmarked for transit upgrades through the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and could fund an estimated \$6.5 billion in transportation projects. Palo Alto is expected to benefit from the \$900 million that is expected to go toward Caltrain grade separations. Other projects the half cent sales tax could help fund as part of the County expressways project in the Palo Alto area include:

- Page Mill Road at El Camino Real intersection improvements
- Page Mill Road at I-280 interchange modifications, including a roundabout, new traffic signals and bike and pedestrian improvements
- Page Mill Road from I-280 to Foothill Expressway improvements, including adding lanes and a possible HOV lane
- Page Mill Road from Porter Drive to Hansen Way intersection improvements including new and enhanced left-turn lanes

and the Wardrobe

Palo Alto Children's Theater
Lucie Stern Community
Center
Dec 1-18



Holiday Family Day

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
Dec, 4, 2-4 p.m.



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Help Shape Council's 2017 Priorities



You are invited once again to share your vision for the priorities you would like to see the Council adopt in 2017. A Council priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year. There is a goal of adopting no more than three to four priorities each year, and priorities generally have a three-year time limit. The priorities for 2016 included:

- The Built Environment: Housing, Parking, Livability and Mobility
- Infrastructure
- Healthy City, Healthy Community
- Completion of the Comprehensive Plan update

Submit your ideas by going to [Open City Hall](http://OpenCityHall) or send them to: info@cityofpaloalto.org

Next Up: Reviewing the Land Use Element

On Monday, Nov. 28, the City Council will review the draft Land Use and Community Design Element, which is the third element of the Comprehensive Plan that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be introducing to Council. The Land



Use and Community Design Element is used as the blueprint for the physical form and growth the City takes moving forward.

New Americans Learn Customs of their New Homeland



The Friends of the Palo Alto Library roll out a welcome mat each month for the [Welcome to America](#) program that introduces new immigrants and visitors to American culture and history. The series includes short presentations on selected

topics followed by an activity the whole family can participate in and enjoy. For example, the program on Thursday, Nov. 17 looks at the history of the all-American Thanksgiving holiday tradition, and attendees can share what they are thankful for, along with their hopes and dreams. Likewise, the topic for the Thursday, Dec. 22 date looks at winter holiday traditions in the U.S. and includes a recipe exchange and potluck. The programs take place in the Midtown Room of Mitchell Park Library from 7-8:30 p.m.

Siblings Seungwoo and Sojeong Che, whose family recently moved here from South Korea, learned how to carve a jack-o-lantern at the October meeting and celebrated their very first Halloween. Their family is a regular participant in the program and loves the Mitchell Park Library.



There is also a [Citizenship Clinic](#) at the Mitchell Park Library on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Immigration specialists from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) help people file citizenship applications and answer questions.

NEA Grant Brings Code: ART Downtown

Get ready for parts of downtown to be transformed into an interactive, creative lab thanks to a \$30,000 grant the Palo Alto Public Art Program received from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce a Code: ART festival. The festival will be held June 1 – 3 to coincide with the National Day of Civic Hacking,

bringing tech and art together in Silicon Valley.



Code: ART will feature eight downtown spaces that will be turned into urban intervention and locations for temporary art installations. These prototypes could include augmented reality, virtual reality, street furniture, projections, and other installations that temporarily alter downtown storefronts, alleys, parking lots, and blank walls in new and inventive ways.

The three-day festival will strive to create community based partnerships that integrate the arts with livability efforts. Those attending the festival will get to provide feedback on which prototypes they'd like to see developed downtown in the future.

Holiday Happenings



'Tis the season to give thanks and give back. The Palo Alto Fire Department teams up with the U.S. Marine Corps [Toys for Tots](#) program each year by helping collect toys. You can help make the holidays merry and bright for a child by bringing an unwrapped toy to any of

the City's six fire stations between now and the week leading up to Christmas. For a list of the fire station locations, click [here](#).



The countdown to the holiday season begins with the 6th annual Tree Lighting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5-7 p.m. at Lytton Plaza, on the corner of University and Emerson. Mayor Pat Burt will be on hand to flip the switch to light up the tree. There will be plenty of family activities including face painting for kids and holiday performances by students at Keys School and members of the [Palo Alto Children's Theater](#).

Willow Sculpture in the Works



Internationally acclaimed artist [Patrick Dougherty](#) is back, creating another one of his willow sculptures on the grounds of the Palo Alto Art Center (next to Embarcadero Road). He started this latest creation on Halloween and it's expected to be finished by Nov. 17. His previous willow structure in Palo Alto was built in 2011 and remained on site until this June. Woodchips from it were used in the landscaping of City parks.



Dougherty will also give a free lecture about his artwork and methods on November 16, 7 p.m., at the Art Center.

Tweets of the Month

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



Cross Marketing PR [@crossprgirl](#), Oct. 31

As part of Palo Alto Art Center's 45th Anniversary Celebration, artist Darin Wacs unveiled & signed her newest sculpture! [@cityofpaloalto](#)



Kris Sanchez [@KrisNBC](#), Nov. 2

A still and sparkling morning in downtown [#PaloAlto](#) [@cityofpaloalto](#) [@PaloAltoPolice](#)



Allie Rasmus
KTVU [@arasmusKTVU](#), Oct
16

[#veterans](#) at [#PaloAlto](#) VA
hospital about to start
[@Ride_2_Recovery](#) will bike
>500 miles to [#LA](#) [#KTVU](#)

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: www.ourpaloalto.org