



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter December 2016

Holiday Spirit & “Holiday Lights”



The holiday spirit is in the air as the 6th annual tree lighting ceremony in Lytton Plaza kicked off this festive season on Friday, Dec. 2. Mayor Pat Burt led the tree lighting countdown as carolers and performers from Children’s Theatre Choir, Terman Middle School, Keys School, and Dickens Caroling group entertained the crowd.

Calendar of Events



Cinderella
 Palo Alto Children’s Theater
 Lucie Stern Community Center
 Jan. 21-22
 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.



Friday Night at the Art Center
 "Spectral Hues: artists + color"
 Palo Alto Art Center
 1313 Newell Road
 Jan. 27
 7 p.m.- 10 p.m.





The Three Little Pigs

Palo Alto Children's Theater
Lucie Stern Community
Center
Jan. 26- Feb. 12



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“Holiday Lights” also happens to be the name of a wintertime pilot program being launched by the [Safe Routes to School](#) program from Dec. 12-31. Local bicycle ambassadors will ride along key bike corridors, such as the Bryant Street Bicycle Boulevard, the Bol Park Path, and the downtown area during the evening commutes, handing out free bike lights to riders cycling without lights. Look for Mayor Pat Burt serving as an honorary bicycle ambassador on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Palo Alto Bicycles is partnering with the City on this event.



New Year, New Laws



On Election Day, California voters passed Prop 64, the marijuana legalization initiative that allows legalized recreational marijuana use for those 21 or older, and allows up to six plants to be grown inside a household, out of the public view. Since Prop 64 does not address the outdoor cultivation of marijuana, the Council passed an ordinance in October that would continue to keep it illegal to grow

marijuana outdoors in Palo Alto. The ordinance expires in 12 months and will have to go back to the Council for formal adoption.

Under Prop 64, cities and counties can choose to require marijuana businesses to operate with a local license or permit, or they can ban all marijuana businesses by passing an ordinance. Such an ordinance means the city or county would not be able to receive any tax revenue from Prop. 64. State officials estimate it will take up to a year to develop regulations because Prop 64 is such a complicated document and the state has until Jan. 1, 2018 to begin issuing retail licenses. If Palo Alto decides to go the licensing route, there will likely be a concurrent permit process to sell marijuana within the City.



Council voted to ban tobacco smoking in multi-unit residences and their common areas on Dec. 5 as part of efforts to limit the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. This ban does not go into effect until January of 2018, but when it does Palo Alto will join Santa Clara and San Mateo counties that already have such restrictions, in addition to a list of local cities such as Belmont, San Rafael and Walnut Creek. Council also agreed to move ahead with the county administered permit program for tobacco

retailers, which includes a ban on tobacco that contains additives, or artificial and natural flavors or aromas.



Meanwhile, this new year ushers in a minimum wage increase in Palo Alto to \$12 per hour beginning Jan. 1, and it will increase annually by \$1.50 until 2019. Council unanimously approved the minimum wage increase in September, making the City one of 13 in Santa Clara County to follow the [Cities Association of Santa Clara County](#) recommendation to phase in minimum wage increases. The state's

minimum wage is currently \$10 per hour and will increase to \$10.50 on Jan. 1.

Healthy Cities Award Recognition



Fresh off the heels of the [Healthy Cities, Healthy Community Initiative](#) adopted by Council in 2015, the City has won three awards from the Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Campaign. We took home the prize for:

- Best in Active & Safe Communities
- Exemplary City for our Safe Routes to School program
- Healthy Cities Champion Award

To learn more about the Healthy Cities Campaign and view the full list of award winners, click [here](#).

Robot Greeters Coming to the Library



Two new high-tech assistants will soon meet and greet you at the Palo Alto Library. These LibraryBots, or robots, will serve as greeters in one of the branches, providing directional assistance to anyone who comes into the building. The robots are part of the new technology the library plans to adapt after it once again was selected to receive a Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) [Technology and Innovation Grant](#). With the winning \$14,000 grant, plus matching funds from Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Library plans to also adopt a powerful design workstation to run responsive and intuitive

modeling software, allowing the Library to utilize existing 3D printers to the fullest capability by pairing the two tools together.

Maker+



The PLP grant is awarded to an idea, program, or vision that provides a new service model or brings a fresh idea or interpretation to an existing model of library service. In 2014 and 2015, the grants enabled the library to deliver the successful Summer Maker Plus and the [Bike PALS](#) programs.



Calling All Geeks, Tinkers, Investors & Artists



Artists, innovative thinkers, inventors and geeks are invited to submit their concepts for cutting-edge, urban interventions, prototypes, or installations that will temporarily reimagine downtown alleyways for three days during the Code:ART festival coming to the City in June.

The interventions may be digital interactive artwork such as augmented and virtual reality, projections, physical installations, or interventions that activate or alter some of the downtown storefronts, alleys, parking lots or blank walls in new and inventive ways.

Up to eight urban interventions will be selected to receive \$4,000 stipends and technical assistance for installation. They should explore and encourage dynamic interactivity, discussion and engagement with residents, commuters, students and visitors. All applications must be submitted electronically by January 1 at 11:59 p.m. For a full list of submission requirements, click [here](#).

The Code:ART festival is made possible thanks to a \$30,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and it will coincide with the National Day of Civic Hacking.

New Year, New Council



The City will be swearing in new councilmembers Adrian Fine, Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka to their first terms, and Councilmember Liz Kniss to a second term on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. We also will be electing a new mayor and vice mayor, and the public is invited to join us in this civic engagement of democracy in action inside the Council Chambers. A reception will follow in the City Hall Lobby.

Until then, from all of us in the City of Palo Alto, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year

to you and yours!

Tweets of the Month

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



[shafi saxena @shafisaxena](#), Dec1

Walk through "whiplash" in [#PaloAlto](#). A sculpture of wind woven through willows. Artist P. Dougherty invited locals to help with the weaving



[7x7@7x7](#), Nov. 29

A Modern Guide to Palo Alto: Excellent Shopping, Trendy Eateries + Quiet Nightcaps

7x7.com/a-modern-guide



[Palo Alto Open Space](#)
[@PAopenspace](#), Nov. 19

Rainbow's end.
[#paloalto](#) [#openspace](#) via <http://ift.tt/2fPGjrL>

