



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, October 2016

A Regional First: Palo Alto Launches Smart Bikes, Bike Share System



Palo Alto is now the first city to launch a regionally integrated smart-bike, bike share system. The Council's unanimous vote for this on Oct. 4 paves one more way the City is finding transportation solutions using smart technology. State-of-the art Social Bicycles (SoBi) smart-bikes will be on the streets of Palo Alto in June. The 350 bikes will be operated by Motivate and are part of the Ford GoBike system.

SoBi smart-bikes allow customers to reserve, pay for, and locate bikes via an intuitive mobile application. Bikes can be picked up and returned at designated hubs or at any bike rack, making the system extremely versatile. The terms of the agreement will allow other cities on the Peninsula to join the regional system using SoBi smart-bikes under the same favorable terms. The new agreement with Motivate will also allow Palo Alto residents and visitors to use a single membership to ride up to 7,000 bicycles within the Bay Area's [Ford GoBike system](#).

Digital Commenter Needs Your Input to Shape the Natural Environment

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is now looking at one of the broadest elements of the [Comprehensive Plan](#) - the draft [Natural Environment and Safety Element](#). This element addresses the management of open land and natural resources and the protection of life and property from natural hazards. The Natural Environment Element contains eight goals that the online Digital Commenter currently is seeking public input on that include:

Bike to School Facts



Did you know?

- 32% of all Palo Alto students (K-12) bike to school

Here's the breakdown:

- 14% of elementary students
- 50% of middle school students
- 43% of high school students

Calendar of Events



Global Family Day

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
Oct. 16
2-4 p.m.



Artist Patrick Dougherty

Creates a New Willow



- › Open Space
- › Creeks & Streams
- › Urban Forest
- › Water Resources
- › Air Quality
- › Noise
- › Energy
- › Climate Change & Adaptation

It takes just a few minutes to help shape the plan that will protect the future of Palo Alto's natural environment. The deadline for [submitting comments via the Digital Commenter](#) is 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9. The comments will be forwarded to the CAC prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 15.

Barron Park & College Terrace, Next Up for Town Halls

Speaking of civic involvement, the City is hosting two more upcoming town hall meetings that grew out of the Engagement with Neighborhoods initiative the Council passed last fall. The town halls rotate throughout neighborhoods to hear their specific community concerns and city-wide issues.



The Barron Park neighborhood is first up with the town hall scheduled for Nov. 16 at Barron Park Elementary from 7-9 p.m. Then on Dec. 7, the town hall will move to the College Terrace neighborhood.

City staff and Council members attend the meetings. You can submit your neighborhood topic suggestions via email at: info@cityofpaloalto.org

The first town hall covered the Crescent Park, Duveneck-St. Francis, and Triple L-Leland Manor neighborhoods last year with a second town hall held for the Adobe Meadow, Green Meadow, Monroe Park, Charleston Gardens, Charleston Meadows and Fair Meadow neighborhoods.

Sculpture
Palo Alto Art Center
Oct. 31-Nov. 18



Art Center & Library Sign Unveiling

Designed by artist Darin Wacs
Newell & Embarcadero
Oct. 29
4 p.m.



Day of the Dead Celebration with Cascada de Flores

Nov. 1
Mitchell Park Library
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.



Early Voting

Oct. 29-30 & Nov. 5-6
Rinconada Library
12-5 p.m.



Drop-Off Ballot Box
Santa Clara Co. Voters Only
Outside City Hall

Serpentine Art Piece Coming to King Plaza

A wooden serpentine piece will soon wind its way to City Hall's King Plaza as part of the Public Art program's rotating temporary art exhibits. Artist Aaron Lee Benson will begin installing The Running Wall on Oct. 19. Created from 2x4 lumber, the work will flow through the trees and spill into the plaza, creating a seating element. All wood will be donated to Habitat for Humanity when the exhibit is removed in spring 2017.



Benson's serpentine is part of a series of temporary art installations on King Plaza that also featured Bruce Beasley's Rondo I interlocking rings that were on display for the past year.

City to Honor Veterans on Nov. 7

In honor of all Armed Forces veterans and active duty service members, the City is hosting a Veterans Day Recognition Event on Nov. 7 in the El Palo Alto room at Mitchell Park Community Center from 3-6:30 p.m. There will be Veterans services and resource tables open from 3-4 p.m. with the recognition event beginning at 4 p.m. Lieutenant General Rex C. McMillian, Commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, will be in attendance to share his experiences serving the nation. The public is invited to come salute our military members and veterans are encouraged to come in uniform.



Tweets of the Month

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



[Open Software @TeamOpencast](#), October 5

Hello Palo Alto - excited to be in the home of ... where do you start ? [#paloalto](#) [#TechNorthWestCoast](#) bit.ly/2dMs4aX



[Menlo Spark @MenloSpark2025](#), September 12

Learning about [#SafeRoutes](#) to School with [@CityofMenloPark](#) and [@cityofpaloalto](#) bit.ly/2dWLGp7



[CA Energy Commission @CalEnergy](#), September 8

The city of Palo Alto is on track to source 50 percent of its power from [#Renewables](#) by 2017:
<http://ow.ly/Dsw3303X57x> [@cityofpaloalto](#) bit.ly/2e9RRWC



[goodkarmainthecity @karmainthecity](#), September 14

[#goodkarmainthecity](#) in [#PaloAlto](#) is now 67. Go to <http://goodkarmainthecity.com> for all available cities. bit.ly/2egrHoJ

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