



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter January 2017

Quality of Life Still Rated High in Palo Alto



In the latest 2016 National Citizen Survey, which was released this week, residents generally like living in Palo Alto, with 85% rating the overall quality of life in the city as excellent or good. Other areas getting high marks as excellent or good: a place to raise kids (84%), a place to

work (82%) and quality of city services (81%). However, both participation rates in the survey and overall satisfaction have declined over time with traffic and the cost of housing being big factors. You can view the full survey report [here](#).

Inclusive, Protective Community

Palo Alto is proud to be home to a diverse, multicultural community. At its last meeting of 2016, the City Council adopted a [resolution](#) reaffirming Palo Alto's commitment to a diverse, supportive, inclusive and protective community. "The values articulated in the resolution are ones that we as Palo Altans recognize as emblematic of our



Calendar of Events



Creative Ecology: Mari Andrews In-the-Gallery Residency

Palo Alto Art Center
Sat. Feb. 4
1-3 p.m.



Valentine Card Making

Cubberley Comm. Center, Art Lab U7
Sat. Feb. 11
12-4 p.m.



The Snow Queen

Palo Alto Children's Theater
Lucie Stern Community Center
Sat. & Sun, Feb. 25-26

community,” said Mayor Greg Scharff. When swastika symbols were found on signs over the holidays, our community was reminded that these values need to be continually reinforced. One passage of the resolution speaks to this directly, and states, “The City of Palo Alto rejects bigotry in all its forms, including but not limited to Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, nativism, misogyny and homophobia.”



BEING DIFFERENT TOGETHER

On the topic of inclusiveness, the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission is hosting a four-part forum entitled [Being Different Together](#). The first in the series will focus on individual and community identity and our commonalities and our differences. It will be held on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 7-9 p.m. in the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium. The forum will be moderated by Dr. Joseph Brown, Associate Director, Diversity & First Gen Office at Stanford University and Rev. Kaloma Smith, pastor at University AME Zion Church.

An RSVP is required by Monday, Jan. 30 since space is limited. If you are interested, contact Mary Constantino at mary.constantino@cityofpaloalto.org or 650-463-4906.

Chinese New Year



The year of the rooster will ring in on Saturday, Jan. 28 as the Chinese New Year begins with its customary two weeks of celebrations. There will be two Chinese New Year events in the City this year over two consecutive weekends. The first one is the [Chinese New Year Fair](#) taking place on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2-5 p.m. at

Mitchell Park Community Center. Co-sponsored by the Community Services Department, the fair will include Chinese brush painting and calligraphy, dumpling making, Mahjong, Chinese folk music, dances and performances, feng shui, and games and crafts. The fair is free and the food sold will serve as a fundraiser for Palo Alto schools.

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library are also sponsoring a [Lunar New Year celebration](#) taking place on Saturday, Feb. 18 that features lion dancing, crafts and more. Stop by the El Palo Alto Room at Mitchell Park Library from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to join in the celebration.



Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Subscribe to [Our Palo Alto eNewsletter](#)

[Our Palo Alto Community Events Calendar](#)

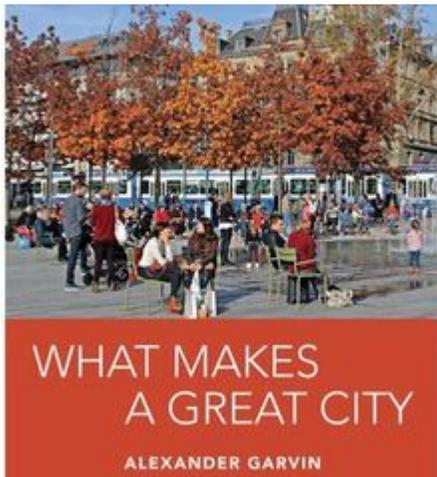
[Our Palo Alto mobile App for iPhone](#) and [Android](#)

Next Up: Reviewing Land Use & Transportation Elements



The Council will consider the Land Use and Community Design Element and revised Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 30. You can read the staff report [here](#).

What Makes a City Great?



City planner, architect and adjunct Yale professor Alexander Garvin comes to Palo Alto in February to answer the question “What Makes a Great City”- not a good or functional city, but a truly great city.

For Garvin, greatness is not just about the most beautiful, convenient, or well-managed city; it is about what people can do to make a city great. He thinks it’s up to all of us — residents, city staff, entrepreneurs and others - to make great cities.

Hear Garvin’s [presentation](#) on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 12 noon in the first floor Community Room of City Hall.

Tree Tributes



There’s two new trees in town thanks to the 21st annual Canopy Tree Planting ceremony that took place on Thursday, Jan. 26. Each year the

newly elected mayor plants a new tree in town, and this year Mayor Greg Scharff shared the honor with recently retired Police Chief Dennis Burns. The tree planting location continually changes, and this year the ceremony took place near the Magical Bridge Playground. Mayor Scharff planted a Valley Oak and Burns planted a Tea Tree.

Tweets of the Month

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



[WARREN SLOCUM @warrenslocum](#), Jan. 20

Proud to be part of a panel at the "Immigrants and Allies 2017: Feeling Safe in a New Era" forum in [@cityofpaloalto](#) last night.



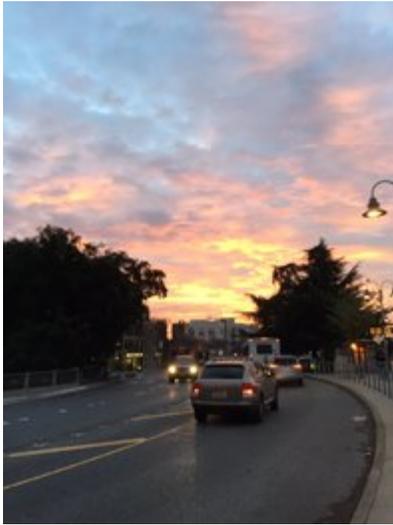
[Eric Jensen @etjensen](#), Jan. 10

Thank you [@cityofpaloalto](#) Public Works for cleaning up after [#paloaltostorm](#). Tree across the road Ramona and Colorado. [#overtime](#) [#geterdone](#)



[Cupertino @CityofCupertino](#), Jan. 23

SR2S Parent Meet-Up Wed, Feb 8, 3-5 pm @ Comm Hall. A strategy session for creating safer routes to school ft [@cityofpaloalto](#) SRTS program!



Sarah
[Wootton@SarahMakeMeWell](#), Jan.26

Sunrise over downtown Palo Alto
[@GoCaltrain](#) [@cityofpaloalto](#)

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