



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter February 2017

State of the City



This month the community had the opportunity to come together for Mayor Greg Scharff's State of the City speech on Feb. 8 at a very cool gathering spot, the HanaHaus workspace café on University Avenue. The mayor outlined some of the issues the City Council will take up this year, as well as his commitment to ensure Palo Alto stays an inclusive, welcoming community for all people and all viewpoints. Mayor Scharff stressed that the

very bedrock of a thriving democracy is to have an engaged community that can have respectful dialogue about the tough issues we face. He also talked about the City Council's five priorities for the year: Housing, Budget & Finance, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Healthy City, and said he wants to make progress and get the work done. One of his biggest goals of the year is on the housing front, where he wants to get at least two significant market and one affordable rate housing projects started. Mayor Scharff believes finishing the bike bridge over Highway 101 is realistic for this year, and the Council will be looking at prudent ways to grow revenue and close the structural deficit for this budget year. Transportation and

Calendar of Events



The Snow Queen

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



Spectral Hues Artist Panel

Palo Alto Art Center
Sun. March 5
2-4 p.m.

parking will also be two hot topics making multiple appearances on Council agendas in 2017 and beyond. For those who could not make it in person, we livestreamed the event for the first time ever on [Facebook](#), earning more than 450 views. You can read a more detailed recap of the State of the City speech [here](#).

Council to Hear About Stanford's Expansion Plans

The Council will hear more details about Stanford's plans for expanding the campus at a study session scheduled at their meeting on Feb. 27. The item is on the agenda for 6:45 p.m. The general use application calls for adding up to 2.2 million new square feet of academic facilities and up to 3,150 new on-campus housing units for students, staff and faculty.



Council questions and comments will also be used as part of a draft City comment letter slated for March 6. The comment letter is expected to address issues of potential concern, such as traffic and transportation issues, and public service needs. You can find the draft report [here](#).

Taking it to the Streets



WHAT'S A ROUNDBABOUT?

A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection engineered to maximize safety, reduce traffic congestion and moderate traffic flow. Roundabouts reduce vehicle pollution because drivers are not idling at a red light.

The City's Planning and Community Environment Department and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition are teaming up on a street education campaign. Each month, they are tackling one of the many ongoing street improvement projects that are taking place in Palo Alto. This month, the topic was roundabouts and how they work. In the months ahead, expect to learn more about green lanes, sharrows, rolled curbs, and bike signal heads, while also brushing up on bike lingo as part of this campaign.

Re-imagining & Rebuilding JMZ



The Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ), the City's hands-on science facility for children since 1941, is one step closer to getting a new and improved facility. Thanks to the Friends of the Junior Museum



Festival of Colors

Mitchell Park
Sun. March 12
4-6 p.m.



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and Zoo who spearheaded a fundraising campaign that netted \$10 million in private donations and a \$15 million matching grant from the Peery Foundation, Council could soon be signing off on the JMZ reconstruction project.

“The JMZ has a demonstrated history of teaching vital science education to generations of children, regardless of their economic background,” said Dave Peery, Managing Director of the Peery Foundation. “Our family is excited to help make the new Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo a reality, and ensure it will continue to bring science alive for future generations in this community.”

The JMZ currently teaches more than 19,000 children in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Mountain View, and hosts approximately 150,000 visits a year. To learn more about the rebuilding project, click [here](#).

In Search of the Truth

The next interactive public art project headed to Palo Alto is an eye-catching booth shaped like a giant comment bubble with the word “Truth” emblazoned on it. The public is invited to step into the bubble when it comes to King Plaza outside City Hall on Wednesday, April 19 and make a two-minute video recording of what “The truth is...” to them.



The Truth Booth as it is called, has traveled throughout the world since it first launched in 2011 and the responses have been empowering, poetic, revealing, confessional and even humorous. Throughout this long-term project, the video footage is being compiled and edited into a video installation to be exhibited in galleries, museums, and public viewings. The creators hope The Truth Booth will help people realize the universal commonalities we all face.

Tweets of the Month

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



[Bloopoop @Bloopoop](#) Feb. 15

Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo Raises \$25m for Rebuild [@FriendsJMZ](#)
[@cityofpaloalto](#)
<http://ow.ly/8a1d3091yaW>



Palo Alto Open Space @PARanger Feb 4

Beautiful evening for a Twilight Hike. [#paloalto](#)
[#openspace](#) <http://ift.tt/2iNeOVz>



PaloAltoFire @PaloAltoFire Feb 14

Some of the winners from the PAFD Fire Safety Poster Contest, with Mayor Scharff and Chief Nickel. Thx to all winners & participants!



Magical Bridge @magicalbridge, Feb. 3

Inclusion is MAGICAL everyday at [@MagicalBridge](#) Playground + in [@cityofpaloalto!](#) Come out + PLAY! Be part of the community![#inclusionisgr8](#)



Palo Alto Open Space @PARanger Feb 2

Lotta rainbows this winter. [#nocomplaints](#) [#openspace](#)
[#paloalto](#) <http://ift.tt/2kumf3i>