



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, March 2017

Council Priorities Make Headway

We are only three months into the new year, and the City Council has been busy making progress on their 2017 priorities. Here are some of the issues they have been addressing:

Affordable Housing Granny Units



At their March 7 meeting, Council voted to approve more accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to help add additional affordable housing options to our community. These granny units, as they are often called, can now go up on any lot, regardless of size as long as they don't exceed 17 feet in height. Bedroom conversions are also allowed, and incentives will be considered for units that are made available for low to moderate income

residents, seniors, people with disabilities and public employees.

Calendar of Events



Little Red Riding Hood

Palo Alto Children's Theater
Lucie Stern Community Center
Sat. & Sun., April 22-23



Youth Speaks Out Exhibit

Palo Alto Art Center
Through Sun., April 16

Infrastructure

California Avenue Parking Garage



The public had the chance to share their views on the size and number of parking spaces to be included for the California Avenue parking garage at two community meetings. Most of the feedback called for including more than 460 total parking spaces, and drew mixed reaction to including retail space in the garage. The structure will go up on Sherman Avenue prior to the public safety building. The Council is set to consider designs for the structure at their meeting on April 3.

Transportation

RPP Programs



On March 6, the City Council decided to make the downtown [Residential Preferential Permit Parking Program](#) permanent while they continue to monitor how the program is working. As the program moves forward, they will provide priority to neighborhoods serving businesses, and they decided to set the employee permit

limit at 1,500. In the meantime, RPP is expanding as permits went on sale this month for the Evergreen Park-Mayfield neighborhood. Residents in Southgate also received a survey this month to see whether they too will support RPP in their neighborhood.

Healthy City/Healthy Community

Airplane Noise



May Fete Parade Entry Deadline

Wed., April 19 Entry Deadline to walk & be part of the Sat., May 6 parade event



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Just back from the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C., Mayor Greg Scharff, Vice Mayor Liz Kniss and Councilmembers Adrian Fine and Cory Wolbach met with several Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials regarding the ongoing airplane noise issue caused by the FAA's NextGen program.



They were able to successfully secure a commitment that the 108 recommendations submitted by the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals and the SFO Roundtable will be sent to Congress this summer. While in D.C., they also learned that the FAA has formed an internal Executive Steering Committee on airport noise, and is developing a

noise compliant process.

Balancing Housing & Jobs

At their meeting on March 20, the Council adopted a "preferred scenario" for growth that they want to be evaluated as part of the update to the Comprehensive Plan for 2030. The scenario calls for 3,545 to 4,420 new housing units and the addition of between 9,850 and 11,500 new



jobs. At the same meeting, Council unanimously decided to restore program listings to the Comp Plan so the more than 350 programs will still

be included in the main document.

Save the Date: Great Race & Earth Day Festival



Mark your calendar for the [Earth Day Festival and Great Race for Saving Water](#) on Saturday, April 22 at the Baylands Athletic Center. In addition to the 5k fun run/walk, there will be a bird walk and bike tour, EV test drives, animals from the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, outdoor games and live music.

Bike to the event, and get extra raffle tickets, and a free bike tune-up and repair! Plus, there will be a station to trick out your bike with [RAFT](#)'s arts and crafts. Volunteers are also still needed. Sign up [here](#).



Re-opening Soon: Baylands Interpretive Center



Speaking of Earth Day, the improvement project for the [Lucy Evans](#)

[Baylands Nature Interpretive Center](#) is wrapping up this month, and the center will re-open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. as part of our festival celebrations on April 22. The improvement project, which provided new decking and railings, and a new nesting site for cliff swallows, was done in the winter to prevent the disturbance of flora and fauna in the sensitive, salt marsh habitat.



What is Your Truth?

Come to King Plaza outside City Hall on Wednesday, April 19 and pop into a giant, inflatable pop-up tent to video record the answer to the question, “What is Your Truth?” The Truth Booth will be open from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is part of a series of Palo Alto’s temporary public art installations. The Truth Booth has traveled throughout the world since it first launched in 2011 and the responses have been empowering, poetic, revealing, confessional and even humorous.



Tweets of the Month

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





[Tendai Garandi @GarandiNation](#) March 6

My fav city in the west coast
[@cityofpaloalto](#)



[Palo Alto Open Space @PARanger](#) March 5

A full arc rainbow at Foothills Park to start the day. [#PaloAlto](#)
[#BayAreaRain](#)
<http://ift.tt/2ILsmwE>



[rangercurt @rangercurt](#) March 5

We just had a brief hail shower in the Palo Alto foothills with a temp drop.
[#BayAreaRain](#) #1/8"Hail

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