As we ring in the holidays, Palo Alto has much to celebrate this time of year, and a great deal of gratitude to express for City Manager Jim Keene as he prepares to retire from a dedicated and decorated career serving the public.

A Lifetime of Public Service: Thank You Jim Keene
Keene was honored with a proclamation for his lifetime of public service during the Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 17. He will be retiring at the end of this month after four decades of public service that include ten years as the City Manager here in Palo Alto, as well as holding the same role in Berkeley and Tucson, Arizona. Not only was he honored by the Council, staff and the public, but his tributes included special acknowledgements from Assemblyman Marc Berman, State Senator Jerry Hill, Representative Anna Eshoo and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. You can read a full list of the City’s accomplishments under Jim’s leadership here.

Pedestrian/Bike Bridge Marks a Milestone

On Monday, Dec. 17, the City marked a major milestone on the path to building the Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bike Bridge at Adobe Creek. Google, Caltrans, the Santa Clara County Water District, and various other agencies who have been committed to the project’s success joined Mayor Liz Kniss at a ceremonial event to sign public access, joint use and maintenance agreements that enable the project to proceed. The bridge is part of Palo Alto’s 2014 Infrastructure Plan and will span over Highway 101 from south Palo Alto to the Baylands, providing a link for bike riders and pedestrians to access businesses and recreation trails on both sides of the highway. The Benjamin Lefkowitz Underpass is the current path across, but it is closed several months each year due to the Adobe Creek’s seasonal flooding.
Once the bridge is built, it will provide a new year-round option. Groundbreaking is expected in the Spring 2019. An estimated 74,000 trips will be made across the bridge annually once it is completed.

First Phase of Flood Protection Project Complete

More than 1,000 homes are now better protected from a major flood occurrence thanks to the completion of the first phase of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) flood protection plan. The SFCJPA, which is made up of members from Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, commemorated this accomplishment during a ceremony at Friendship Bridge in East Palo Alto on Friday, Dec. 14. This phase of the flood improvement project included widening the creek channel in East Palo Alto and at the newly renovated Baylands Golf Links, and building a horizontal levee that is adaptable to sea-level rise. Exploring how to best address the narrow Chaucer Bridge will be part of the next phase of the flood protection project.

Bring Your Ideas to Cubberley Co-Design Meeting

The third of four Cubberley Co-Design community meetings is coming up on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 7-9 p.m. in the Cubberley Pavilion. The City and the Palo Alto Unified School District, in partnership with Concordia engagement design firm, are holding these meetings to encourage the community’s ideas for the future of the site. Spanish and Mandarin interpreters will be on hand and translated activity materials will be provided. RSVP here.
Cool Block Palo Alto Looks for More Leaders

It's not too late to become a Cool Block leader. The next informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Midtown Room at the Mitchell Park Library. Cool Block Palo Alto engages teams of neighbors living on a block or in an apartment building to address climate change, disaster resilience and community connections. Since it first began in Palo Alto in 2016, more than 30 blocks have participated in two pilot programs, achieving a 30 percent carbon reduction per household on average, as well as getting residents on board to do emergency prep work in their own households and in their neighborhood block. RSVP and learn more about it [here](#).

Socials of the Month

Are you following us on social media? Connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

[Ultrahack](#) @UltrahackHQ Dec. 16

The final day of [EIT Digital](#) #deephack in [ProspectSV](#) with [MTCBATA](#) @cityofpaloalto, the teams are finalizing their pitches.. who will win? #hackathon #ultrahack #eitdigital #sanjose #hackbaycommute
crtaylor80 Dec. 18

I think this cookie drop-off at our local fire station officially launched Liam’s career of becoming a firefighter #obsessed#paloaltofirefighters #liamsocute

Marc Berman @AsmMarcBerman
Dec. 17

This morning we recognized a big step in @cityofpaloalto's infrastructure plan with the kick-off ceremony for the new 101 pedestrian & bike bridge that will be ADA compliant and open year-round, connecting people to the Baylands!

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