November 20, 2019

Here's the latest weekly edition of *All Things Palo Alto*, a brief digest of community interests and events taking place here in the heart of Silicon Valley.

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**Mourning the Loss of a City Employee**

The flags at Palo Alto City Hall and other municipal buildings in Palo Alto are being flown at half-staff following a work-site incident on Saturday, November 16, where employee, Donatus Okhomina, was injured before later passing away at the hospital. Okhomina, 42, was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a seasoned electrical lineman. He joined the City of Palo Alto as a new utility line person this month. Okhomina is survived by his wife and four daughters, ranging in age from six to 17 years old. A [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com) account to help support the family was established and can be found [here](https://www.gofundme.com). We appreciate the outpouring of support the community has expressed regarding this tragedy.
The City Council continued discussion and consideration of an urgency ordinance focused on renter protections to their next meeting on December 2. The ordinance would give renters protection from no-fault evictions until the state Tenant Protection Act (AB 1482) goes into effect on January 1. While this discussion continues, resources are available to tenants and landlords. Tenant-landlord mediation is available through the Project Sentinel Fair Housing Center. Should renters have any issues arise prior to the start of the new law in the new year, contact Project Sentinel here. For additional resources, click here.

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The upcoming holidays means your recycle, compost, and garbage collection
day could shift a day if your regular collection day falls on a holiday. So if your collection day is on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day, your pickup day will be postponed until the following day. Learn more here or call GreenWaste of Palo Alto at (650) 493-4894.

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**Deck the Halls at the Annual Tree Lighting this Friday**

9TH ANNUAL CITY OF PALO ALTO
LYTTON PLAZA TREE LIGHTING

GATHER UP YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND COME ENJOY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, HOT COCOA, AND COOKIES!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
5:30PM–7PM
LYTTON PLAZA
(CORNER OF EMERSON ST. & UNIVERSITY AVE.)

THIS EVENT IS FREE!

Thanksgiving is so late this year, that the annual Palo Alto tree lighting ceremony in Lytton Plaza will arrive before you can plan your turkey dinner with all the trimmings! Help us kick off the holiday season at the lighting ceremony this Friday, November 22 from 5:30-7 p.m. It will be a holly jolly good time. Look at the entertainment line-up: The Merrie Olde Christmas Carolers, the Keys School Choir, The Nueva School Beyond California Band and the Palo Alto Children's Theatre choir. If you go, cocoa and cookies will be served and the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation is asking attendees to bring new, white crew socks to the event. They will be donated to locals in need during the holidays.