January 9, 2020

Happy New Year! 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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**New Year, New Mayor and Vice Mayor**

Keeping with tradition, the new year brought new leadership to Palo Alto at the first City Council meeting of the year. On Monday, January 6, Vice Mayor Adrian Fine was chosen to serve as mayor in 2020 and Councilmember Tom DuBois to serve as vice mayor. Be sure to go online [here](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org) by Friday, January 31 to share the priorities you would like to see the Council adopt this year. Your feedback will be provided to the Council in preparation for their annual retreat that usually takes place in February.
At the stroke of midnight on January 1, Palo Alto became the first Bay Area city to ban plastic produce and meat bags from its stores. The new law includes the ban on plastic straws that Council approved last June. This spring, the sustainable efforts of the Energy Reach Code will begin. It advances an all-electric requirement for new residential and commercial construction. Then in July, a ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes/vaping products goes into effect at local stores. Finally, the minimum wage went up on January 1 from $15 to $15.40.

**Ross Road Update: Interim Modifications and Online Survey**

As you know traffic and transportation were among the Council’s priorities in 2019, and bike boulevards work to reduce vehicular traffic and increase safety for bicycles, vehicles and pedestrians. A new Palo Alto Connect blog article contains an update on the interim modifications planned for the Ross Road Bicycle Boulevard, plus you will find two online surveys toward the end of the blog to share your input. The community input and other outreach will inform a
Join the Conversations on Rail Crossings & Transportation Issues

We have many upcoming opportunities for the public to engage with us on the issue of rail and transportation issues such as parking and traffic calming measures. The first in a series of **Word on the Street** talks is coming up on Thursday, January 30, 6-8 p.m. at Ohlone Elementary Street on Amarillo Avenue. **Word on the Street** is a series of two-way, informal talks for the community to ask City staff questions and share feedback on transportation issues and initiatives.

**JOIN THE RAIL CONVERSATION TOWN HALLS THURSDAYS @ 6:00-8:00PM**

**FEBRUARY 20**
General presentation and topics, including update from the November 2019 community discussion.
Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

**FEBRUARY 27**
General presentation plus focus on Meadow/Charleston Rail Grade Separation Alternatives.
Palo Alto
Elks Lodge
4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

**MARCH 12**
General presentation plus focus on Churchill Rail Grade Separation Alternatives.
Palo Alto
High School
50 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto

Plus, we want you to stay on track of all things rail related with [Connecting Palo Alto](#). We have a series of rail town halls coming up starting with the first one on February 20, 6-8 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Community Center. Read our [latest rail blog](#) to learn more.
You are invited each Monday to the City Council meetings that start at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Some upcoming topics that may interest you are:

**January 13:**
- Accessory Dwelling Units Interim Urgency Ordinance
- Safe parking pilot (allowing religious institutions to host overnight guests in vehicles)

**January 21 (Tuesday, due to Monday's MLK Holiday):**
- Housing Work Plan
- Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- Rail Crossing Update

**February 3:**
- Long Range Financial Forecast

Can’t make the meeting? Tune in to watch it online [here](http://example.com) or listen to it live on the radio at: [kzsu.stanford.edu/live/](http://kzsu.stanford.edu/live/)

Find City Council Agendas and other meeting information [here](http://example.com).

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**Friday Night at the Movies**

Parents can take the "night off" on Friday, January 10 as the Palo Alto Art Center’s Teen Leadership group hosts a movie night in the Art Center Auditorium. The featured film is the 80s comedy classic Ferris Bueller’s
Day Off. The free, "teens only" event goes from 6-9 p.m. and there will be pizza and snacks, art activities and a photo booth with costume gear to try on.

Quick Links to help you navigate All Things Palo Alto:

View City Calendar
View City Council Meeting Information
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