

CITY

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

December 12, 2022

www.cityofpaloalto.org

FDA Expands Updated Bivalent Vaccine Authorization

- On December 8, the FDA amended its emergency use authorization of the Moderna and Pfizer updated bivalent vaccines for use in children down to 6 months old.
- As we continue to be in colder, wetter weather and are spending more time inside, it's important to maximize children's protection against COVID-19.
- Learn more about the FDA's Update at bit.ly/FDAauthorizesbivalent120822.

Be Safe this Season

- Last week, the County issued a news announcement sharing that there were high levels of COVID-19 in wastewater, which is a strong indication that COVID-19 levels are high in the community.
- County Public Health continues to recommend that community members get vaccinated against COVID-19 and get the updated bivalent booster shot.
- Stay home and test if you feel sick and wear a mask.
- Visit sccfreevax.org to find a vaccine appointment or talk with your doctor.

STORM RESPONSE

- Staff received relatively few calls during this weekend's storm.
- Pre-storm preparedness is completed all year long by staff teams which helps reduce issues during storm season.
- This work includes a variety of inspections, maintenance and repairs, rehabilitation, and capital improvements. It also includes street sweeping, tree work, filling and deploying sandbags and much more.



HIGH NATURAL GAS PRICES THIS WINTER

- Due to changes in market supply and demand, natural gas prices are expected to be much higher than usual this winter.
- The City purchases gas from the market on a monthly basis, so fluctuations in pricing can affect utilities customer bills and can change due to factors such as gas production, storage levels, as well as national and international trade and demand and other international conditions.
- Residents and businesses can keep utility bill costs by being energy efficient. Visit [cityofpaloalto.org/efficiencytips](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/efficiencytips) for no- and low-cost ways to save energy and money this winter.



For more, go to the home page and click “News”

COMMUNITY SURVEYS TO SHARE YOUR INPUT



- **National Community Survey Open Through December 19:** This critical community feedback tool helps the City Council and staff understand community perspectives on current services and programs, as well as unmet needs and priorities.
- **2023 Council Priorities:** Each year the City Council reviews its priorities for the year at its annual Retreat. An online survey is open now through January 9 to help inform the Council discussion. Visit bit.ly/2023CouncilPriorities to take the survey.
- **Car Free Streets-California Avenue and Ramona Street Visioning:** This survey is part of the first phase of outreach with more engagement planned in early 2023. Go to www.cityofpaloalto.org/carfreestreets
- **Gas Safety Awareness Telephone Surveys:** The City's Utilities Department began conducting a phone survey about gas safety. Those living near a gas pipeline will be randomly selected to receive a phone call with questions on this topic.

CALIFORNIA AVENUE HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP



- Join us for an afternoon of fun with family and friends on California Avenue by crafting your own ornament or decoration.
- Enjoy free hot cocoa, winter treats, and holiday music! Stop by anytime between **1 – 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 17.**
- In addition, when you visit California Avenue, you will see added festive decorations in vacant windows completed by a local artist and teens with the Teen Arts Council.



NOTABLE TENTATIVE UPCOMING COUNCIL ITEMS



December 19

- Fiber to the Premises Next Steps
- Council Procedures and Protocols Handbook

January and beyond

- January 9: Council Reorganization Meeting
- January 23: Long Range Financial Forecast
- January 28: City Council Retreat
- Buena Vista Mobile Home Park Study Session

No Council meeting on January 2 and January 16 in observance of holidays

STAY INFORMED

Read the City Manager Comments Blog Series at:
CityofPaloAlto.org/CityManagerBlogSeries



Gain Coronavirus Updates at:
CityofPaloAlto.org/Coronavirus

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City Calendar of Events and Meetings:
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