

Baumb, Nelly

From: Jeremy Erman <jeremy_erman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:51 PM
To: Council, City; Administrative Services
Cc: O'Kane, Kristen; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Why is the Finance Committee discussing Community Services, Libraries at 9 am?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Hall,

Why is the Finance Committee discussing the Community Services and Libraries budgets at 9 am Wednesday morning when children will be in school and many parents working? Not to mention that many other people will be working too? One brave teenager called in to Oral Communications at the end of today's meeting to speak to Teen Programs. How many more speakers will go unheard because of this schedule?

Did no one at City Hall consider that this is not optimal timing for community involvement?

-Jeremy Erman

Baumb, Nelly

From: Esther Wojcicki <ewojcicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:28 PM
To: Barbara Hibino
Cc: Council, City
Subject: Re: Please keep Fire Station 2 of Palo Alto OPEN - don't close this July

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

thanks for sending this. You are right. It should be kept. Hard to believe they are thinking of closing it!

On Tue, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM Barbara Page (Hibino) <barbara.hibino@gmail.com> wrote:

All,
I live a few blocks from Fire Station #2 of the City of Palo Alto, and received a flyer saying that you are considering closing the fire station on 2675 Hanover St, Palo Alto, CA 94304 by July 1st of this year. It asked us to write you. There are many reasons why we need **increased** service from firefighters rather than service decreases.

1. Rainfall this year has been sparse and people are expecting more fires. The conditions are so concerning that [Gov. Newsom has extended drought declarations to 41 counties](#).

We need MORE not less fire support.

2. Firefighters are emergency first-responders for COVID. We may have a second wave of COVID in the fall, and firefighters are on the front line response.

To all the people bcc'd, please also write if you care to retain rapid fire fighting and emergency first response capability in Palo Alto.

My husband and I would like to keep the high level of response. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Esther Wojcicki

Co-Founder, <http://tract.app>

Dean, [HarmonyPlus](#)

[Palo Alto High Journalism](#), Founder

[Creative Commons](#), Advisory Council

[How to Raise Successful People](#)

[ThriveGlobal Blogger](#)

[Moonshots in Education](#), author

Founder, <https://globalmoonshots.org/>

FOUNDER, [JournalisticLearningInitiative](#)



Baumb, Nelly

From: Nancy Wu <nancywu236@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:00 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Palo Alto Community Gardens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi Mr. Dubois, Mr. Burt, Ms. Cormack, Mr. Filseth, Ms. Kou, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Tanaka,

I recently learned that as part of the fiscal year 2022 budget proposal, all 5 of the Palo Alto community gardens will be significantly reduced or dissolved. This comes as a shock to me, and I'm disappointed that our city officials consider the arts, gardening, and cultural programs as non-essential! I am writing to express my strong support for the community garden program in our city.

I have been renting a 550-square foot plot in the Rinconada Community Garden for the past 5 years. It has been an extension to my small garden at home, and a sanctuary during the pandemic. With very limited sun in my own backyard, I have been able to keep a productive vegetable garden with lots of flowers for the pollinators and beneficial insects at the community garden. I greatly enjoy working in the community garden and just sitting there observing all the birds, insects, and nature surrounding me. I have also invested nearly \$5000 to improve the plot and to build six raised beds.

The community garden is a sanctuary for many of the elderly folks in our community. They spend hours working in their plots every week, and the garden is also a place where they can socialize with other gardeners. This is especially true for many of the elderly Asian gardeners; in other settings, language can pose a barrier to them, but this barrier doesn't exist when they're working with the soil and planting. They are also able to plant many of the Asian vegetables that are not readily available in the traditional supermarket, providing them with a stronger sense of home and comfort.

During non-COVID times, there are often many visitors to the community garden each and every day. They enjoy seeing what the gardeners are planting and picking up some extra produce at the stand next to the side entrance during harvest season.

The community gardens are also providing a key source of carbon reduction in our environment. Climate change is a major issue today that each of us has a responsibility to fight against. Reducing parks and community gardens is counterproductive to this goal, as the soil and plants serve as natural carbon sinks for our immediate surroundings and beyond.

Palo Alto has always prided itself on being a city that provides an unparalleled living environment with its multicultural, environmental and educational offerings. It's hard to believe that so many of these exceptional programs, including the community gardens, Children's Theatre and The Junior Museum, could be at risk of being either eliminated or drastically reduced. I believe it's imperative for the city officials to take a much closer look at the pension and benefits system for city employees to reduce costs instead of cutting benefits to the residents.

Please vote against closing or significantly reducing the community gardens in our city. If I can answer any questions for you, please feel free to contact me at nancywu236@gmail.com or (650) 462-5962.

Best,

Nancy Wu
Tennyson Ave.

Baumb, Nelly

From: Rebecca Goldsmith <rebeccagoldsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 6:37 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Writing in Support of Art Center

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

I read with dismay that you are planning to cut the art center's budget in half. I'm writing to urge you to reconsider this drastic proposal.

The center's classes and programs have been a critical source of support and healing to me and my family during the pandemic and beyond.

At a time when we have not been able to go to large city art museums or experience art in the world, the Palo Alto Art Center has played an essential role. While my daughter did not have the opportunity to study art in her remote classes at Menlo-Atherton High School, she was glad to take a ceramics class and a drawing class safely outdoors at the art center. My 5-year old nephew, who has been missing out on life experiences and socialization, was excited to take home ceramics projects with me that were offered by the center. And I was able to take 2 ceramics classes this year alone.

As non-resident students, my family members paid a surcharge to participate in these classes and programs, which I trust helps support the center.

Please remember your responsibility to the broader community. The art center is an essential resource not just for city residents, but to adults and children across the Peninsula.

Rebecca Goldsmith
1105 Hermosa Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 898-7735



Art during the pandemic has been a source of mental health and healing for my family.

Baumb, Nelly

From: nicki moffat <nicmof@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:39 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Palo Alto Art Center

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

My husband, Pete, and I are members of the Palo Alto Art Center, as well as being members of the Institute of Contemporary Art, San José, where I am a member of the board of directors. We also support SFMOMA, the DeYoung Museum, and the Cantor Museum and Anderson Collection, among other fine arts venues.

Clearly, we both believe that the arts are an essential part of our culture and community. Palo Alto has always been highly regarded as a university town, one steeped in the arts, whether they be the visual arts, music, or theater, and we have applauded Stanford's recent commitment to the arts in its curriculum, its campus, and its use of its financial resources. When I was an undergraduate at Stanford, the arts, the visual arts in particular, were not generally given the attention that they deserved, although I was privileged to study studio art under such luminaries as Nathan Olivera, and art history with inspiring professors such as Albert Elsen. However, now Stanford has fully embraced the importance of the arts, which is fitting for a university of its stature and, as an alumna, makes me very proud.

For Palo Alto not to continue to fund the Palo Alto Art Center would be a grievous mistake, a giant step backward, and a black mark on our community. The Palo Alto Art Center not only puts on thoughtful, cutting edge exhibitions but is also at the forefront of engaging members of our community, adults as well as children, in finding the joy in making and appreciating art. This is an invaluable addition to our community, and to lose it would be a major loss.

For this reason, as a resident of Palo Alto for over 50 years and as a committed patron of the arts, I implore you not to deny the Palo Alto Art Center the funding it deserves and by doing so effectively denying Palo Alto this long time institution in support of the arts that *it* deserves and which has served our community so well for so many years.

Sincerely,
Nicki Moffat

1518 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Juan Acosta Perez <ja43910@pausd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:41 PM
To: Cormack, Alison; Council, City
Cc: jimmy@youthcommunityservice.org
Subject: Renew funding for the Youth Connectedness Initiative

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City of Palo Alto,

My name is Juan Acosta a Freshman at Henry M. Gunn High School and I am a peer leader for the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative. Our goal at YCI is to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression, anxiety, and various other issues common students may face.

The YCI is a program that has impacted the lives of many Palo Alto residents. The YCI gives teens and adults alike a chance to help out our community and provides a safe space for anyone willing to open up. Most of my peers know how connected and useful this model really is. This work has helped me contact other members of Palo Alto and work on service projects regarding mental health, which in the last few years has been an increasingly large problem. The different posts, events, and videos this program has made help not only the recipient but other YCI peer leaders to connect to a deeper level with our city. This program is different from others since it offers the opportunity to work with everyone and anyone and gives me the freedom to participate in projects regarding topics that interest me. The topics we work on truly are the perfect combination of entertaining for me and helpful for our town. Last but certainly not least this program gives me the chance to work aside with adults. This helps with communication, and it also allows us to learn from them.

As a peer leader, I am helping to connect isolated students and share information about dealing with depression and anxiety. We have learned and shared information on various important topics amongst youth such as sexual assault and body image. We collaborate with other organizations within the community through our projects, such as the wellness centers featured at PALY and Gunn, Project Safety Net, Alcove, Stanford professors like Dr. Shashank Joshi, and more. At all of our events, we regularly saw students from different grades and schools.

Thank you for your time,

Juan Acosta Perez

Baumb, Nelly

From: Barbara Page (Hibino) <barbara.hibino@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please keep Fire Station 2 of Palo Alto OPEN - don't close this July

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

All,
I live a few blocks from Fire Station #2 of the City of Palo Alto, and received a flyer saying that you are considering closing the fire station on 2675 Hanover St, Palo Alto, CA 94304 by July 1st of this year. It asked us to write you. There are many reasons why we need **increased** service from firefighters rather than service decreases.

1. Rainfall this year has been sparse and people are expecting more fires. The conditions are so concerning that [Gov. Newsom has extended drought declarations to 41 counties](#).

We need MORE not less fire support.

2. Firefighters are emergency first-responders for COVID. We may have a second wave of COVID in the fall, and firefighters are on the front line response.

To all the people bcc'd, please also write if you care to retain rapid fire fighting and emergency first response capability in Palo Alto.

My husband and I would like to keep the high level of response. Thank you for your consideration.

Baumb, Nelly

From: KRISTINA P SMITH <jubilada@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Proposed Community Garden Program Elimination

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear members of the Palo Alto City Council,

I see that the Community Garden Program is basically “on the chopping block,” as regards the upcoming budget year. I hope you all will think long and hard about this, and reconsider.

I’ve had a plot in Eleanor Community Gardens for the past 33 years, and it’s been a joy, and inspiration, and saved me from going crazy I don’t know how many times ... especially in this past year. I’ve harvested many pounds of wonderful produce (you can’t buy vegetables this fresh or tasty anywhere ... seriously), kept my neighbors supplied with squash, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, and even carted pounds off to the local Food Banks. These Gardens are so beneficial, providing space to grow food, and habitat for bees and butterflies and birds, all so important to our environment. The gardens are a much needed refuge from the everyday grind. And they are enjoyed by not only we who tend the plots, but everyone who walks through or by them. So many times people have come through, asking about the gardens, and remarking over how productive and lovely they are, and the variety of things planted. Often asking, “How does one get a plot here?”

I want to advocate for keeping this garden program alive and thriving. And, while some facets of operating the Community Gardens could be handled by volunteers, many others, such as invoicing, rules & regulations enforcement, eviction, pipe/water maintenance, garbage/compost removal, etc., are really best done by the City of Palo Alto, in order to be accomplished in the most efficient and reliable manner. The current full-time position of Coordinator Recreation Programs, Open Space, Parks, Golf, and Animal Services, which oversees Community Garden Management, should not be eliminated.

Best regards,

Kristina P. Smith

Palo Alto, CA

Baumb, Nelly

From: mark allen priestley <markapriestley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Keep Community Garden Program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello City Council:

I know the city is struggling with current budget. An easy out is to eliminate a retiring community gardeners position. I suggest you do not let the city manger do this. I am a part of Eleanor Pardee Community garden and we have dozen of volunteers who are willing to work with the city to insure the gardens are not lost to our community. Please require the city manager to utilize process improvements by the city and volunteer contributors to keep these much appreciated services in our communities.

The community gardens provide wonderful benefits to the gardeners and to visitors, especially during the pandemic. The gardens provide important mental health refuges for families and seniors. The food is great for all of us, and really needed by low income gardeners. The gardens provide habitat and a pleasant peaceful place. Parks generally have trees and lawns only, no flowers. Every week, I see people who come to photograph and paint. People walk there while on business calls, they walk, jog, walk their dogs, and sit on the benches watching the birds and butterflies.

Total elimination would be a tragedy. It would be sad to see such a wonderful resource vanish. Please find a way to keep this important city program alive.

Thank you for your time, Mark Priestley

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kathleen Maxwell <kmaxwell@scu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Alison.CCormak@cityofpaloalto.org; Kou, Lydia; DuBois, Tom; Council, City
Subject: funding Palo Alto Arts Center
Attachments: Palo Alto Art Center advocacy 051021.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Please see the attached message:

Kathleen Maxwell
Professor
Department of Art and Art History
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0264
(415) 806-1002 cell

Dear City Council members,

Did you know that the Palo Alto Art Center celebrates its 50th anniversary this year?

Did you know that for 50 years, Palo Alto Art Center has pride itself in providing creative opportunities for **ALL AGES** to see and make art?

Did you know that the SEEING part—the part that makes the Art Center a **MUSEUM** and not simply a community center providing art classes and camps—has garnered national recognitions including federal grant supports from the very prestigious National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute for Museum and Library Services?

Did you know that the SEEING part—**our exhibitions**—also bring in works from **Picasso** (yes, Picasso), **MacArthur Foundation Genius Award** artists Titus Kaphar and Whitfield Lovell (both of them are in our current exhibition *The Black Index*), and many **widely-recognized contemporary artists** in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally, in addition to art works from PAUSD K-12 students?

Did you know that the SEEING part—**our exhibitions**—also form the basis of our school tour program Project Look where nearly **4,000 students**, teachers and chaperones participated in 176 tours during the 2019-20 school year? These students, teachers and chaperones came from 38 schools in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Belmont, Cupertino, Foster City, Fremont, Los Altos, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, Santa Clara, and Saratoga.

Did you know that Project Look support the development of 21st-century skills—critical to the overall development of these youngsters? If you have school-age children, chances are they have participated in at least one Project Look tour. **Teachers report their Art Center experience allowed their students to practice creativity (100%), communication (92%), critical thinking (96%), and collaboration (58%).**

Did you also know that the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation contributes more than **\$200,000 annually to supplement the city budget for all Art Center programs?**

Did you know that by **ELIMINATING** our exhibition program, Project Look, free Teen & Family programs, and Cultural Kaleidoscope, you take away the causes for support, **severely reducing the Foundation's ability to raise \$750,000** a year from institutional and individual donors?

We hope there's little need to continue listing the impact the proposed budget cuts will have on the viability of the Palo Alto Art Center—a gem in the City of Palo Alto. **What the City chooses to spend money on reflects its values.** Are we a city that think the arts are extra and expandable? Are we a city that believe “cost-recovery” trumps ensuring accessibility for all?

It is shocking that a community like Palo Alto that has so benefited from the wealth of Silicon Valley would make a decision like this.

Kathleen Maxwell
Professor
Department of Art and Art History
Santa Clara University

Baumb, Nelly

From: Heather L Hadlock <hhadlock@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Retain Fire Station #2!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

In this era of dry winters and yearly wildfires, we need more fire safety services, not fewer. I received a flier which says that "unallocated funding from the American Rescue Plan is available to keep Station 2 open". Please protect the College Terrace neighborhood, the Dish, and the Foothills with a nearby, fully equipped Fire Station #2

Heather Hadlock
44 Peter Coutts Circle
Stanford, CA 94305

Baumb, Nelly

From: Maria Meyer <maria_d_meyer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Fire Station Closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council, Although I do not officially live in Palo Alto, I am writing to beg you to reconsider the closing of the fire station on Hanover Street. I live at Peter Coutts (our 150 condos are a tinderbox of Redwood shingles). We are located on Stanford property on a hill overlooking Hanover Street and our residents worry a great deal about the long fire season. Our area is very windy and with the ever hotter climate we need that fire station. The neighboring Page Mill Road foothills also depend on having that same fire stations. Please do not make cuts in areas of safety for the residents of Palo Alto and your neighbors at Stanford.

Thank you for listening to my and my neighbor's concerns.

Yours, Maria Meyer, 100 Peter Coutts Circle, Stanford

Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Frederick R. Weldy <weldy@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Fire Station #2, Hanover Street

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

I am a resident of Peter Coutts Circle, and am very concerned about the possible closure of Fire Station # 2. Especially considering the very dry conditions already this year, having a fully operating nearby station seems extremely important. I understand that there are funds that can be used for this, and I sincerely hope that this station will not have to be closed.

Thank you very much,

Dr. Frederick Weldy

27 Peter Coutts Circle
Stanford, CA 94305

Baumb, Nelly

From: Linda Dairiki Shortliffe <lindashortliffe@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Palo Alto Art Center--a modest proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

May 9, 2021

PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

CITY.COUNCIL@CITYOFPALOALTO.ORG

RE: Palo Alto Art Center Program Budget Considerations

DEAR HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
(MAYOR DUBOIS, VICE MAYOR BURT, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
CORMACK, FILSETH, KOU, STONE, TANAKA)

I am a second generation 60-year resident of Palo Alto who attended El Carmelo, “Jordan” now Green, and Terman, and Palo Alto High School along with community summer school, swimming, and art classes. My parents chose to live in downtown Palo Alto for the schools and community as many nearby neighborhoods had restrictive housing covenants related to any nonwhite persons in the 1960’s. The Palo Alto schools, libraries, junior museums, and community center offered nondiscriminatory and more tolerant experiences. In light of these memories and values, I chose to return to downtown Palo Alto to raise two third generation Palo Altan children who attended and enjoyed local schools and visited community libraries, junior museums, and the “new” art center (after 1973). Both my children took pottery, Japanese brush painting in art center programs, and enjoyed immersion in art exhibits within the art center in “going and coming”—unusual for a “town” of Palo Alto’s size. As an adult in the last few years, I enjoy walking to the “open” figure drawing studio and opportunities to see the indoor and outdoor exhibits and glass pumpkin festival.

Sadly, in spite of a huge state budget surplus, the Palo Alto City Council proposes further 2021 budget cuts to the Palo Alto Art Center (PAAC)—past those of 2020. In just the past few months my 2 and 4 yo granddaughters made butterflies for the immigrant children display and told their parents about the immigrant children for whom they made the butterflies (after watching the PAAC video links). With the recent exhibits “Where the Heart is: Contemporary Art by Immigrant Artists” the PAAC had a multidimensional, multicultural educational exhibit and with the current exhibit “The Black Index” features work by artists unrepresented in this community. Both the exhibits reveal and expose cultures to which residents and Palo Altan children have limited exposure.

The proposed budget cuts will eliminate support for such exhibits and further insulate the community from culture unlike its own; eliminate project Look in which community children tour and experience these exhibits, eliminate the artist in schools program that links neighboring communities of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, and eliminate the teen and family Art Program. These programs can be eliminated in a day, but 50 years of effort will not be rebuilt in a day even with potential future funding. The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation will be extinct. This lack of investment in Palo Alto's future is a sign of the Council's priorities.

I believe our children and future community will rue the days in which the Palo Alto City Council lacked the strength of conviction to educate children without the means to escape to other sites throughout the world for cultural experiences (a child such as myself) and turn Palo Alto into a community similar to some of our neighbors. Others of us may need to decide whether we need to find other communities that demonstrate the foresight of Palo Alto 60 years ago.

SINCERELY,



LINDA M DAIRIKI SHORTLIFFE, MD
LINDASHORTLIFFE@STANFORD.EDU
PALO ALTO, CA 94301

Linda Shortliffe
lindas2@mac.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: Nate Saal <nate@saal.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Community Gardens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello City Council:

I'll keep it short since I know that you are probably getting a lot of email from different people with different priorities.

I wanted to advocate for maintaining the community gardens in Palo Alto during this next wave of budget cuts. The community gardens provide wonderful benefits to the gardeners and to visitors, especially during the pandemic. The gardens provide important mental health refuges for families and seniors. The food is great for all of us, and really needed by low income gardeners. The gardens provide habitat and a pleasant peaceful place. Parks generally have trees and lawns only, no flowers. Every week, I see people who come to photograph and paint. People walk there while on business calls, they walk, jog, walk their dogs, and sit on the benches watching the birds and butterflies.

Total elimination would be a tragedy. Certainly, some (or all) of the functions could be taken up by volunteers if needed. Some minimal help from the city to handle more difficult issues like terminations of gardener's contracts when they are not weeding or tending to their plots would be helpful.

I was born and raised in Palo Alto and gardening here for the last decade. It would be sad to see such a wonderful resource vanish. Please find a way to keep this important city program alive.

Thank you for your time,

Nate Saal

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kim Martin <kim_maas_martin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Weighing In Re: Rumors of Defunding Childrens' Programs

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello. My name is Kim Martin and I am a resident of Palo Alto (since 2002). I am writing to you to express my opinions regarding stories circulating about proposals to close or decrease funding to childrens programs in town, namely The Children's Library and the Children's Theater. To frame my points on that, I also include some generalizations.

I believe that Palo Alto is experiencing serious funding shortfalls and will continue to do so for quite some time, largely due to our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We can and should change that response. It seems rather clear to me that the answer to funding shortfalls from closing things is to reopen them as quickly and as fully as possible, and to encourage reopening, celebration, reconnection among residents. I think to wait for things to work themselves out or for some scientific expert to tell us that everything is ok now is missing an opportunity to lead through this time. Let's lead. Let's imagine Palo Alto as a model community for leading it's city through covid reopening. Let's take a hard look at everything we did and are still doing in the name of "protecting people from covid and protecting people from infecting people with covid." Enough time has passed, enough data has been amassed. The data is statistically significant - perhaps no other data sets ever recorded have been more statistically significant.

First point - looking critically at outdoor transmission of Covid, the data continues to hold that there is not a single worldwide confirmed case of truly and fully outdoor transmission from passing contact. This is really remarkable. Let's look deeply into this data and develop consensus on this. Let's admit that we were wrong to not accept it earlier, and that our fear about it's reliability had real hurtful consequences. On this data alone we can consider the reopening of the Children's Theater, Children's Library and so many other places of community engagement in Palo Alto. Let's fully reopen our wonderful outdoors to the extent allowed by law. No one-way trails, no closed bathrooms, no non-functional water faucets, no caution-taped wrapped benches - open everything outdoors. To my knowledge there were no laws requiring us to close all that in the first place. It was probably done on the basis of trying to find "even better and safer ways" to do things here. We were wrong to concoct harsher practices than were required in the first place. We should be brave and pivotal to admit that. It will enable so much more in our reopening. Let's open the outdoor space of the Children's Library and the outdoor shows at the Children's Theater. Bring back the Hot Dog Suppertime Shows! Let's allow and create as much roadside parking as possible at our open spaces to increase the utilization of them. These are the safe spaces. Let's encourage maximum use of them. There is plenty of room for people to use them 6 ft apart. Plenty of room. It's just that we have been passively discouraging their use for well over a year now. That needs immediate reconsideration.

Second point - Covid-19 is not a significant health threat to children and honestly never has been. We need no more data on this point. We should acknowledge that. We were wrong to impose additional restrictions and closures on children's programs above what was required by law, and we should prioritize the reopening and re-funding of them, not the de-funding of them. If a society ever has to truly choose between children's programs and programs that benefit other ages of the population, it should prioritize childrens programs every single time. Children are the future, and children's programs, including schools, are perhaps the strongest benchmarks of a robust community.

When the day comes that we believe the citizens of our community have had ample opportunity to get vaccinated, we need to act on that. In my opinion, this day has already passed. Legally permitted

reopening, including that of our cherished Children's programs, should not be deferred because of factors outside our city, including disease progression in other parts of the world.

Some people in our community will remain vulnerable to Covid-19, for a myriad of legitimate reasons that we will not be able to engineer a way out of. Let's think about how best to support them. Let's seek input from these people on how to do that rather than trying to think for them. We may find that some if not all of them are NOT looking for rmore restrictions in the interest of their safety, but rather just want to get back into the Children's Library and check out a book to read to their grandkids, or want to see a Hot Dog Suppertime Show and experience the contagious joy of children watching a production by and for other children.

Save the Children's Library!
Save the Children's Theater!
Bring back our community now!

Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.

Regards, Kim Martin

Baumb, Nelly

From: Ed Carryer <carryer@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: closure of fire station (# 2) at Hanover St

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello,

I recently became aware of the proposed plan to close our closest fire station (# 2 at Hanover St) and I wanted to write to express my opposition to such a closure. This seems short-sighted in light of the fire danger that exists in our area.

Thank you,

--

J. Edward Carryer, PhD
Professor
Design Group
Mechanical Engineering
Stanford University

Baumb, Nelly

From: Susan Paluzzi <svpaluzzi@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Re our library cuts

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my dismay at all the library budget cuts that have taken place in Palo Alto over the past year and a half. The community needs the library services and staff to provide them.

Not only do our children benefit from access to books and programs, but also we as adults profit. The book club I have been a member of through Palo Alto library system has been an excellent resource for learning and connection. I have made friends through the online meetings during CoVid and before with people I never would have otherwise met. I have read and been exposed to books through the book club that I might never had read prior. Since reading is my favorite pastime, this book club and access to the books has meant the world to me, especially since I am a senior.

The library staff member who facilitates the book club meeting does an exemplary job.

The book club met in person before CoVid and she created an atmosphere conducive to participation. She is always prepared with thought-provoking questions to stimulate discussion. During our current Zoom meetings, she has managed the difficult format to include everyone as well.

I humbly request that you reconsider any more budget cuts or closures. I, among many, will be at a loss if library services or staff are cut again.

Thank you,
Susan Paluzzi
Palo Alto Resident

Sent from my iPad

Baumb, Nelly

From: Geneva Briggs <genbriggs1@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Mark Nadim
Subject: Fwd: Re: Closing Station 2 Firehouse

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Members of the Council,

Anyone who has run a successful household, never mind a successful city, understands there can be horrible consequences if you do not handle the NECESSITIES first.

FIRE and POLICE protection are THE FIRST NECESSITIES for a CITY, to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

PLEASE: Use the funds available under AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (or other funds) to keep Fire Station 2 open.

YOU have invited throngs of outsiders to Foothills Park. THEREFORE; YOU ARE EXTREMELY RESPONSIBLE for keeping it and the surrounding city of Palo Alto homes DOUBLY safe.

As a citizen, I hold every member of city council, who does not uphold their duty, MORALLY responsible for my safety and that of my property. .. and that of all the other Palo Alto citizens, and their property . You are spending our tax money, so you are obligated to, and responsible for, our safety; BEFORE any other matter. And, before any other organization's interests are served!

To quote a message from the firefighters who said "Public Safety was polled as the #1 priority for citizens last year" .

Obviously, I am not alone. Please acknowledge the people's request. Do the right thing.

We should feel and be safe, we should feel and be protected, not in some speech, but in city action. It is way past time to put first things first. We await your action.

Sincerely,

Geneva Briggs
Palo Alto resident since 1980

Baumb, Nelly

From: Prof James S Harris <jharris@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Fire Station Closure and other budgetary issues

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council Members,

I received a flyer about proposed closure of the Mayfield Fire Station #2. While certainly not appraised of the facts on this proposal, I think in general a very poor idea. Think back to last year and the fires in the Santa Cruz mountains. While not exactly within the City, not far away and with the escalating threat of fires due to climate change that even under the best scenarios of fighting warming, fire threat will increase for at least the 30 years. I think reducing fire protection in the current environment a very poor idea. I can image this issue, among other budget issues facing the city, the underlying problem is the shortfall in income due to the pandemic. I would urge some thought as an alternative to consider sale of municipal bonds with maybe a 5 year life to cover ONLY maintaining of essential services and basically spread this pandemic created budget shortfall over a 5 year period, not a 1 year knee-jerk reaction to this problem. I can't imagine there are not a large number of civic minded and financially able citizens of Palo Alto who would purchase such bonds.

Thank you for your consideration,
James Harris

James S. Harris '64, '65, '69
E-Mail: [jharris \(@\) stanford.edu](mailto:jharris@stanford.edu)
James & Ellenor Chesebrough Professor, Emeritus
<http://ee.stanford.edu/~harris/>

Department of Electrical Engineering
Ph: (650)723-9775
PAUL ALLEN Bldg. Rm 328
330 Jane Stanford Way Adm. Asst.: Chet Frost
Stanford, CA 94305-4075 Ph: (650)723-0983
Member, National Academy of Engineering
E-Mail: [cffrost \(@\) stanford.edu](mailto:cffrost@stanford.edu)

Baumb, Nelly

From: Blackshire, Geoffrey
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Shikada, Ed
Subject: Palo Alto Fire Department Recruitment

Good morning Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers,

I wanted to take this time to advise the Council that the Palo Alto Fire Department (PAFD) has applied for the 2021 Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response ([SAFER](#)) grant. The SAFER grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help increase or maintain the number of firefighters available in their communities. We applied for the funding for five (5) firefighters, with the value of \$3.7M, for 3 years, or 36 months. During the 36 month period, we would plan to absorb the positions through attrition. This year, the grant is not asking for awarded agencies to match the grant with agency funding, which is typically in the neighborhood of a fifty-percent match.

Due to the reductions from last fiscal year, we believe that the PAFD is a good candidate to receive the grant. If we are selected to be a recipient of the SAFER grant, we should be notified around July 1, 2021. If we are selected, the grant requires that we expedite the hiring of new recruits within 180 days of receiving the grant award. The 36 month award period would begin on January 1, 2022 and we will miss out on funding if we do not hire by this date. Taking this into consideration, on Monday, May 10, the Palo Alto Fire Department initiated a recruitment process. The recruitment, hiring and on-boarding process for a new firefighter generally takes 18 months. Proactively establishing a list now will allow us to accommodate the expectations of the SAFER grant. If we are not awarded the grant, the eligibility list will ensure the Department can quickly hire when we are faced with unanticipated vacancies.

I appreciate the tough budget deliberations underway, and how this recruitment could be confusing to the community in light of the short-term budget impacts that the department and City is faced with. The Department is focused on seeking external funding to support City services. The SAFER grant is an immediate opportunity that could have long term benefits for us to provide uninterrupted fire and emergency medical services.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Best regards,



Geo Blackshire
Fire Chief
Palo Alto Fire Department
(650) 329-2424

CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**



Baumb, Nelly

From: Stephen Reller <sreller@randmproperties.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: JMZ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council,

PLEASE reconsider the \$18 fee being proposed for the Junior Museum and Zoo. The Friends of the JMZ have worked tirelessly over the last decade to bring this major improvement to the city, including conducting focus groups and hiring consultants to determine an appropriate fee. Going from zero to \$18 is both a slap in the face to the many citizen donors as well as well below market. \$10 is a far more appropriate number. If it's wildly successful at a lower number the price can always be raised. Starting at \$18 and failing to get the necessary visitors would be a disaster.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

Stephen Reller
former Friends of the JMZ board member

Baumb, Nelly

From: K.I. Fryklund <kif77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Fire Station #2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

To the City Council,

At the start of what may be the worst fire season ever, it is irresponsible to consider closing the fire station on Hannover street. The neighborhood it serves is in the Wildland-Urban Interface, the most vulnerable to fire of any area. It is reassuring to know that a fire station is nearby, capable of immediate response should fire occur.

Please do not close this station!

Yours,
Ingrid Fryklund
Peter Coutts Circle

Baumb, Nelly

From: Mark Edward Lewis <mel1000@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Fire Station #2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

I am writing in regard to the singularly ill-advised proposal to close Fire Station #2. We are now facing what will probably be the most dangerous fire season in California history. Peter Coutts Circle, where I live, is at the Wildland-Urban Interface, the most at-risk category of neighborhood. To have a fire station nearby would be crucial should a fire break out. This is *not* the time to be reducing our capacity to promptly cope with fires.

Please do not close this station!

Yours sincerely,
Mark Edward Lewis
77 Peter Coutts Circle

Baumb, Nelly

From: Lisbeth <lisbeth@winarsky.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Community gardens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Palo Alto's community gardens are an absolute treasure. I walk through, and enjoy, them as part of my walking routine. I consider that experience far better than walking in the city parks. The thought that anyone would consider closing them is shocking.

PLEASE keep our community gardens!

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Mora Oommen <mora@youthcommunityservice.org>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 7:20 PM
To: Cormack, Alison
Cc: Council, City
Subject: Response to Council member Cormack's question to YCS

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Finance Committee Chair Alison Cormack,

cc: Palo Alto City Council Members

Thank you for your email to YCS with the question: **Would you please let me know how many students participate in that program?**

The participants in the YCS Youth Connectedness Initiative (YCI) are 4,000 plus high school students in Palo Alto. Our participants also include the parents, guardians and caring adults of our high school students. At minimum the impact of our work is felt by nearly 10,000 residents yearly.

You might ask how we calculate this number?

YCI uses an evidence-based peer leader model as a youth development strategy involving youth in meaningful interactive, educational experiences focused on public health issues.

In this case, the issue is suicide prevention. I am sure you are aware that Palo Alto unfortunately has led the nation in this issue, with teen suicide rates [five times](#) the national average.

Three years ago, YCI was championed by the Palo Alto City Council, in partnership with the County, to provide upstream suicide prevention programs that are informed by youth lived-experiences. ([Link to 2017 Colleagues Memo from Council Members Fine, Holman, Kou, and Wolbach.](#)) YCI peer leaders across Palo Alto high schools (including Gunn, Palo Alto HS, Castilleja and others), apply and are selected to take on the additional task to be guardians for their fellow peers. Please see [this video](#) by YCI youth leaders and their recent [newsletter](#).

During the year-plus of COVID, our YCI leaders have continued to engage their peers through the virtual environment of Schoology and social media platforms, led conferences and virtual events to address known underlying causes for mental illness and suicide ideation.

Just this past quarter, our 4,000+ high school students were presented with topics and resources related to:

-
- Suicide
- Prevention (including reducing isolation)
-
-
- Mental
- Health and Wellness
-

-
- AAPI Social Justice
-
-
- Sexual Assault Awareness
-
-
- Body Image
-

And it's working. Teens are being helped by the ones who understand them best - other teens. If or when we might be faced by another youth death by suicide, the YCI peer leaders are trained and positioned to use the trusted mechanism they have put into place, along with the trainings, connections and programs they have created to be part of the response for our 4,000 plus students.

In fact, the YCI Peer leadership model created by Palo Alto youth is a foundational piece of the County's suicide prevention response, through the Suicide Prevention Department of Behavioral Health, Suicide Prevention Oversight Committee (SPOC), Schools for Suicide Prevention Partnership (S4SP) and Project Safety Net (PSN) among others.

YCI - and Palo Alto's - impact is being felt in the County and beyond.

Dr. Shashank Joshi of Stanford Medicine is one of many professionals who support and endorse the YCS programs:

"I'm writing to express my deep respect and strong support for the effectiveness of work by Youth Community Service staff with students in the [Palo Alto] district, work that serves to build up protective factors of connectedness and belonging, access to trusted adults, a sense of purpose, service and capacity, and efficacy in help-seeking behavior. Their approach is theoretically sound, evidence-based, and highly practical."

Shashank V. Joshi, MD, DFAACAP, FAAP
 Professor of Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Education
 Stanford University School of Medicine
 Distinguished Fellow and Co-chair, Schools Committee
 American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

The County has already extended the contract for YCI for 2021-22, the work of YCI is far from expired and the City of Palo Alto's support for youth suicide prevent remains essential.

Thank you and best wishes,
 Mora Oommen
 Executive Director

Mora Oommen
Executive Director
(pronouns: she/her)



[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

Registration Open!

2021 [Summer of Service Camps](#) for 3rd-10th Graders. Have fun, make a difference!

Youth Community Service
Mailing Address: PO Box 61000
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Office Location
780 Arastradero Rd., Room V-14
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Office: (650) 858-8061
Cell: (650) 644-5354
mora@youthcommunityservice.org