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October 23, 2019

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

## Red Flag Warning Could Result in Power Shutoffs



The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for parts of the Bay Area due to critical fire conditions beginning the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. through 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24. In response to the forecast,

PG&E could once again implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

The City of Palo Alto Utilities is also monitoring wind conditions to determine if a power shutoff will be required to reduce the potential for a wildfire in the Foothills. At this time, Santa Clara County is not in the projected impact zone, however parts of the Palo Alto Foothills closer to Portola Valley in San Mateo County may be affected. Click [here](#) to view the current map from PG&E of areas that could be impacted during this current Red Flag Warning. Read a [recent blog post](#) for ways to be prepared and stay informed as this issue develops further.

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## Palo Alto Fire Department on Alert in the Foothills



The Red Flag Warning has the Palo Alto Fire Department on alert, deploying Engine 365 to the Palo Alto Foothills during the duration of the extreme fire

conditions. Palo Alto's park rangers will also be doing more frequent patrols of our foothills nature preserves and they remind folks that charcoal barbecues and wood fires in the campground are prohibited during Red Flag Warnings conditions. Staff and any contractors working for the City will not be able to operate any equipment such as mowers that could pose an increased risk of fire during this period. Learn other ways to stay fire safe on our new [Palo Alto Connect blog here](#).

## Halloween Safety Tips



With Halloween quickly approaching next Thursday, this is a good time to share safety tips to keep you and your “boo” safe while trick-or-treating. Remember to

bring flashlights or glow sticks to see where you are going, and so drivers can see you as well. Tell children to stay away from jack-o-lanterns as they often have a candle inside which can be a fire hazard, and any treats already opened should be thrown away. To view the full list of trick-or-treating safety tips, click [here](#).

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## Art & JMZ Animals Mix It Up for Family Day



The Palo Alto Art Center is offering a free Family Day on Sunday, October 27, from 2-4:30 p.m. as part of its current exhibition, *Encounters: Honoring the Animal in Ourselves*. The event will feature animals from the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo, hands-on artmaking projects, lion dance performances, baby sign language story time, and a scavenger hunt. Get more info [here](#).

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## Palo Alto Departments Win Innovation Awards



The Palo Alto City Library has just been honored as one of the [Top Innovators of 2019](#) by the Urban Libraries Council for its out of the box thinking and creative use of robots as library resources. The library has taken a lead in exploring robotics technologies and developing a regular coding workshop and a regular robot show to expose kids, teens and adults to robotics. This comes on the heels of the [National Energy Innovator Award](#) that our Utilities department earned for its Home Efficiency Genie program. The program offers individually tailored energy efficiency information and recommendations by providing free advice over the phone to customers. It also offers a Genie House Call assessment, which provide on-the-spot estimates where applicable and pre-screened options for contractors.

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## Stay on Track with Connecting Palo Alto



Follow along in a new blog series to learn about the rail grade separation process, share your input and gain an understanding of the options currently being evaluated by a community-based panel. Our [first blog](#) answered questions such as what is a grade separation, why is this discussion important, how has the community been involved so far, and how can the community stay informed and provide input. In the [second blog](#) in our series, we discuss the current options being considered for Palo Alto's rail crossings.

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