

July 2020 Utilities and Community Announcements

Wildfire Season & Potential Public Safety Power Shutoffs – In recent years, wildfires have intensified in California, and utilities are taking action to reduce fire risks related to utility infrastructure. Under certain conditions, through a combination of strong winds and high temperatures, there may be a heightened risk of power lines possibly igniting or strengthening a wildfire unless they are de-energized. Last year, as a safety precaution, PG&E shut off power for large areas of California due to gusty wind conditions and high temperatures. While this ultimately did not impact Palo Alto, we are committed to communicating with you about anticipated impacts in Palo Alto and want to help you prepare for a potential power outage or other emergency. We recommend that people always be prepared for emergencies and read more about urban and wildland fires at cityofpaloalto.org/preparedness

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station has re-opened! We are happy to welcome you back with a few new guidelines to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Bring your unwanted hazardous household products such as paint, medications, fluorescent bulbs, and cleaners. The HHW Station is open every Saturday from 9 – 11 AM and the first Friday of each month from 3 – 5 PM. There are some holiday closures. For the new drop-off guidelines, visit cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste or call (650) 496-5910.

Need to drain your pool, spa or fountain? Discharge to your sanitary sewer cleanout instead. Learn how at cleanbay.org. Draining water from any of these sources to storm drain systems can pollute creeks with copper, chlorine, sediments and other contaminants.

Hold on to Those Balloons! Did you know that metallic foil, or Mylar, balloons are a major cause of power outages? From July 2017 – July 2018, Mylar balloons caused four large power outages in Palo Alto. Mylar balloons can explode and catch fire when coming in contact with power lines, creating a dangerous situation. Visit cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility for tips on balloon safety. In the event of a power outage, check cityofpaloalto.org/outagemap for immediate updates.