

July 2021 Utilities and Community Announcements

Natural Gas, Wastewater, and Stormwater Rates are rising due to rising costs of construction, safety, and system maintenance. These rates are proposed to increase this summer by 2-3%. Find ways to help lower your utility bill at cityofpaloalto.org/efficiencytips. For more information about Utilities rate changes, visit cityofpaloalto.org/ratesoverview

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.

Wonder what to do with unwanted hazardous household products such as paints, medications, fluorescent bulbs, or cleaners? Bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station. The HHW Station is open every Saturday from 9 – 11am and the first Friday of each month from 3 – 5pm. There are some holiday closures. For more information, visit cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste or call (650) 496-5910.

Hold on to those balloons! Did you know that metallic foil, or Mylar, balloons are a major cause of power outages? 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.

Looking for ways to conserve water at home? Some easy ways to save water indoors include turning off water while brushing teeth, checking for water leaks, installing efficient showerheads and aerators and only running full loads of laundry or dishes. You can also use a shower timer to help reduce shower length and use a bucket to catch water from your shower or bath before it warms. You can then use the water in the bucket for your trees and garden or to flush your toilets. Valley Water offers free water-savings devices that help conserve water in the shower, faucets and toilets. Visit watersavings.org to request these great tools - which are shipped directly to your home free of charge - or to learn more about the ways you can reduce water use indoors.