

## **September 2020 Utilities and Community Announcements**

**Make safety a top priority!** Please call 811 before digging to have us mark your utility lines and avoid a dangerous and costly accident. Read more safety tips at [cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafety](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafety) and contact us at [UtilitiesCommunications@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:UtilitiesCommunications@cityofpaloalto.org) to request printed copies of our gas safety awareness brochure. This information is also translated in Spanish at [cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafetySpanish](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafetySpanish) and Mandarin at [cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafetyMandarin](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/GasSafetyMandarin)

**Hold on to those balloons!** Did you know that metallic foil, or Mylar, balloons are a major cause of power outages? In recent years, Mylar balloons have caused several 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](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility) for tips on balloon safety. In the event of a power outage, check [cityofpaloalto.org/outagemap](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/outagemap) for immediate updates.

**September is Pollution Prevention Month!** Stop pollution by properly disposing of household hazardous waste and medications, or by picking up litter around your community. For more information, visit [cleanbay.org](https://www.cleanbay.org)

**Don't treat your soil like dirt!** Adding compost to your yard and garden will improve your soil's structure, helping to maintain a healthy soil ecosystem while reducing your water, fertilizer and pesticide use. Attend a compost workshop to learn how to make your own or pick up some that is garden-ready at our Compost Giveaway Station. For more information visit [cityofpaloalto.org/compost](https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost) or call (650) 496-5910.