



Magda's NOTES AND QUOTES

Office of the City Manager

July 3, 2014

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."
— Arthur Ashe, American Professional Tennis Player

And the winner is...

Last weekend, hundreds of EPA residents voted online and in person for one of three design options under consideration for the new Kaboom playground to be built at Bell Street Park in August.



The winning design is Option B, which received 224 votes (shown below). Residents liked the "active" nature of the design with its multiple climbing features and swings. And, community

members offered a number of great suggestions, including adding more color to the design, exploring options to improve visibility within the playground, and addressing the overall safety of the area. Those suggestions have been given to staff as they work to complete the final design.

With your help, the new playground at Bell Street Park is taking shape!

Special thanks goes out to the staff of the EPA library, Planning Team Volunteers Maribel Alonso, Ebonni Black and Vice Mayor Gauthier, City Hall Security Personnel Larry Morrow and Rich Catheart of Allied Barton Security, as well as city staff Ana Torres, Al Teo, Amir Malmoudi and Jay Farr for their help in organizing a great "Get Out the Vote" effort!



City Anniversary Celebration and Fireworks Show

The fields of Cesar Chavez Academy School came alive with the sounds of "Whoa!" "Ah!" and "Did you see that one?" at the June 28th Fireworks Spectacular.



The show capped off an evening of music, community-building and play as the City came together to celebrate its 31st Anniversary.

Ana Torres, our very own Accountant Technician, organized another successful community celebration with the support of the EPA Police and Community Development Departments, the EPA Cadet Program, the City Attorney's office, Three Brothers Restaurant and A-1 Auto Service which provided DJ and audio services. The non-profit group, Mural, Music and Arts Program (MMAP) provided on-site arts and craft activities and excited the crowd by raffling an assortment of prizes including three new bikes! Staff would like to thank Mayor Martinez and members of the City Council for their continued support of this hometown celebration.

Rent Stabilization Program Offices

Congratulations to our Rent Stabilization Program interim staff, Russell Brunson and Oscar Aviles, for renovating and restoring their office space. The new furniture and workable space has brought a great and welcoming environment to better serve the residents within our community. We look forward to seeing this program advance and move forward.



Trip to China

Vice Mayor Lisa Gauthier has recently returned from her trip to China with the *China Silicon Valley* group to meet with local government officials and with chief executive officers of high-tech companies. The objectives were to assist the communications between China and Silicon Valley, and to create investment and commercial opportunities. We thank China for opening their doors, and we look forward to building friendships and collaborations in the future.



Lisa Gauthier
Vice mayor of East Palo Alto



Grants Program Brown Bag Series

Our first Brown Bag was a great success. The topic was "Ask A Funder." More than 20 organizations turned out to network and get key information on how to improve their development strategies. A special thanks to our panelist Jose Santos of the Grove Foundation and Shawn Rosenmoss of SF Environment.



The purpose of this informative Brown Bag Series is to foster and strengthen our community-based organizational capacity by transferring knowledge, building trust, social learning, problem solving, establishing networking or brainstorming thereby strengthening the community as whole. The City of East Palo Alto Grants Program strives to engage, inspire, and celebrate positive social change. All are welcome.

Held monthly on the 4th Wednesday, our next session will be on July 23rd at noon at the East Palo Alto YMCA. The subject is "Defining Violence Prevention."

For more information please contact Emily Pharr, Measure C Program Coordinator at epharr@cityofepa.org

Building Division

The City of East Palo Alto Building Division just completed an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule and successfully achieved a #2 ranking, #1 ranking the highest achievable. EPA is now ranked in the upper 18 percentile of all jurisdictions evaluated.

Municipalities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes demonstrate better loss experience. Reducing catastrophe related damage and ultimately lowering insurance costs provide an incentive for communities to adopt the latest building codes and enforce them rigorously.

Many thanks to our building staff under the leadership of the Chief Building Official, Rick McManis.

"Face the facts of being who you are, for that is what changes what you are."
– Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher and writer