



Vacant City Council Seat



The City Council of East Palo Alto is inviting residents to apply to fill a vacant City Council position. Applications are due by April 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. to the City Clerk's Office.

This vacancy is to fill an unexpired term ending after certification of the November 2016 General Municipal Election, which is anticipated to be December 6, 2016.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the City of East Palo Alto. Individuals interested in being considered may obtain an application at City Hall. Applications are also available on the City's website at www.cityofepa.org/DocumentCenter/View/1869

The City Council has set May 5, 2015 to conduct interviews, and intends to make the appointment at this meeting, or at a subsequent meeting, if necessary. For more information, call Interim Deputy City Clerk Terrie Gillen at (650) 853-3127 or via email at: tgillen@cityofepa.org.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Save the date! The Cinco de Mayo International Parade In East Palo Alto is almost here. This is a cultural celebration in the Latino Community that is geared for the entire family.

This celebration is sponsored by Comité Latino, an all volunteer organization dedicated to promoting civic and cultural activities in the community.

The parade will be on Sunday May 3, 2015
From 11:00am—12:00pm,
Beginning at Brentwood School (Clarke and Donohoe)



Community Earth Day

Come and participate in this year's Community Earth Day, taking place on Saturday, April 25, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at Cesar Chavez School (2450 Ralmar Avenue). Activities include City Beautification, Tree Care/Tour, Creek Health Monitoring, Bike Repair, Family Arts and Crafts, Family Picnic, raffle, and much more for the whole family.



Ravenswood Health Clinic Grand Opening



Congresswoman Jackie Speier, along with Mayor Gauthier, and County Supervisor Slocum, did the ribbon cutting on March 28th for the Grand Opening of the Ravenswood Family Health Center. A big community celebration was hosted to the public, along with tours of the newly built facility at 1885 Bay Road. Congratulations to the Ravenswood Family Health Clinic on this greatly anticipated success that will enable them to better serve our community. Visit www.accessravenswoodhealth.org for more information about the Clinic.

Budget Study Sessions

The City will be hosting Budget Study Sessions on May 12th and May 13th in the Council Chambers. Start time will be in the evening. We invite you to come, hear, and comment on the Proposed City Budget to the Community, along with Departmental Presentations, and the Proposed Ten Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. The future of the City is very bright, and the City Budget is very important to the operation of the City as it sets the foundation of the City's Programs and Management. All are welcome to attend these Study Sessions.

City Council Priorities

At their latest City Council Retreat, the City Council affirmed its City-related priority areas. Each of these priorities have goal statements, specific outcomes, and action items. These six main priorities are:

1. Enhance Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
2. Enhance Economic Vitality
3. Increase Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency
4. Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
5. Improve Communication and Enhance Community Engagement
6. Create a Healthy and Safe Community

These priorities guide the City Manager and staff in developing the next Fiscal Year Work Programs, Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

Each year City Council Members develop a list of “Legislative” issues and a strategic advocacy plan to maximize the City’s potential to implement Council Priorities via legislation or grant funding. The Council adopted the following list of “Legislative” issues and will soon be traveling to Washington D.C. to advocate for programs, grants or legislation that can fund or advance these issues to implement the Council priorities.

1. Drinking Water Infrastructure
2. Bay Road Underground Stormwater Improvements
3. San Francisquito Creek Flooding
4. COPS Funding for additional police
5. FIT Zones
6. Cooley Landing
7. My Brother’s Keeper Program
8. White House Promise Zone Initiative
9. Repayment of City Loans to Redevelopment Agency
10. Other Funding Opportunities

Newly Painted Roads

The street lines on Bay Road have recently been repainted from Clarke Avenue to Pulgas Avenue. Thank you to all of our crew for their continued hard work on maintaining the roads within our community.



Dumbarton Rail Corridor

East Palo Alto will be hosting a Policy Advisory Committee meeting for the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project on Friday May 29th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm in the Council Chambers (2415 University Avenue). East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier is a member of the Project’s Policy Advisory Committee, and invites you to attend.

The Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project plan was to extend commuter rail service across the southern portion of the San Francisco Bay between the Peninsula and the East Bay. When the service eventually starts, the rail corridor would link Caltrain, the Altamont Express, Amtrak’s Capitol Corridor and BART, as well as East Bay bus systems, at a multi-modal transit center in Union City.

The reconstruction of the rail corridor plans to include track improvements, a new moveable rail bridge, four stations and a centralized traffic control system. Potentially, six round-trip trains will travel from Union City during peak commute hours. Three of these trains would travel to San Francisco and three to San Jose.

The project aims to repair the Dumbarton Rail Bridge between Redwood City and Fremont to establish a rush hour commuter rail service from the East Bay to both San Francisco and San Jose. However, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission reallocated money as a “loan” from Dumbarton Bridge to the BART extension to San Jose.

The failure to pass a transit sales tax for Alameda County in the November election of 2012 led to a number of decisions, including the re-distribution of Regional Measure 2 funds. Without sufficient funding, the project had less than half of the minimum \$700 million dollars needed for this project, and the project was placed on hold since it does not have a robust funding plan for inclusion on the NEPA document.

Although the Dumbarton Rail Bridge remains out of service, needing millions of dollars of work to be put back in service, it is still a valuable public asset as it already has the right of way, the connections to rail junctions, and the environmental clearances for the bridge.

Come to discuss the possibilities to rehabilitate the Dumbarton Rail Bridge, or other potential transit alternatives. This project would be a major connecting link between Capitol Corridor trains, BART, ACE and High Speed Rail to Caltrain and the cities on the Peninsula.

In addition, the Dumbarton Rail Bridge would provide a direct connection to Sacramento and the northern San Joaquin Valley to San Francisco. For more information about this project, visit www.smcta.com.

Water Rates

Water is a precious resource, and as a consequence of the drought, is becoming more scarce and expensive. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has scheduled a Public Hearing on May 12th to consider the adoption of Wholesale Water Rates, representing a 28.0% increase from the current rate for treated wholesale water, effective July 1, 2015. This meeting will take place at the San Francisco City Hall (1 Sr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400) at 1:30pm.

On May 19th in the Council Chambers, the City Council will be considering adopting this annual SFPUC water rate adjustment as a pass through for the City of East Palo Alto.

Additionally, on June 16th, the City Council will be having a Public Hearing to consider adopting a Water Capital Surcharge. This surcharge, will fund several of the highest-priority projects over the next several years, including:

- Establishing emergency water connections with Palo Alto and other water providers to create redundancy in the water system, improving supply reliability.
- Completing the Gloria Way and Pad D wells to provide additional, affordable water, to mitigate SFPUC water rate increases.
- Repairing our aged pipelines to reduce water loss, improve water quality, minimize pipeline failure, and improve water pressure to fight fires.

On May 1st a notice will be sent out to water customers in the City of East Palo Alto with more detailed information about these proposed water rate increases.

Silicon Valley Gives (SVG) “Pre-Event” and “Day-Of” Event In EPA



The City of East Palo Alto's Grants Program will be hosting a Silicon Valley Gives “Pre-Event” and “Day-Of” Event. If you are registered to participate in Silicon Valley Gives through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. There will be music, small activities, snacks. Please RSVP with Karla Prince-Cheng, Interim Measure C

Program Coordinator, at kprince@cityofepa.org for table space at the Pre and Day-Of Events in EPA.

Pre-Event: (10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Wednesday April 29th, in the City Hall Community Room, 2415 University Ave., first floor.

Day-Of Event: (9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Tuesday May 5, 2015 at the YMCA 550 Bell St. in EPA (The first room on the left when you enter the YMCA from the Bell St. entrance).

For more information about the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and/or Silicon Valley Gives, please visit their webpage at svgives.org or by phone at (650) 450-5400.

Peninsula SunShares

Just in time for Earth Day, East Palo Alto is partnering with neighboring communities throughout San Mateo County and local nonprofit, Vote Solar, to launch a discounted purchasing program for homeowners wanting to install solar.

The Peninsula SunShares program pools the buying power of individual participants to obtain more competitive pricing on solar PV array installations and lower cost for you!

Vote Solar and program partners have selected two qualified contractors for the program. Sunrun, Inc. and Skytech Solar as the sole service providers.

Enrollment in Peninsula SunShares has begun and is now available for a limited time only. Sign up soon to receive a no-cost, no-obligation site evaluation to learn how you can benefit from going solar.

Find out about upcoming workshops at:
www.mygroupenergy.com/group/peninsula

For more information about East Palo Alto's solar programs and initiatives, contact Michelle Daher at mdaher@cityofepa.org or call (65.0) 853-3197.



Disaster Preparedness Day

Save the date! San Mateo County's 11th Annual Disaster Preparedness Day will be Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the San Mateo County Event Center (1346 Saratoga Avenue, San Mateo). Arrive before 11:00am for free parking and free admission to the County Fair. Come and learn about First-Aid, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and equipment demonstrations, and learning how to put together a disaster plan and emergency kit. For more information on this event, call the Office of Emergency Services at (650) 363-4790.

