



State of the City

Mayor Laura Martinez has scheduled this year's State of the City Address for November 17th at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers. Please save the date on your calendars to celebrate the City's many accomplishments during Mayor Martinez' tenure.

Bethune-Height Recognition

On October 21, the City honored Mrs. Millicent Grant as the Humanitarian Recipient of the 40th Bethune-Height Recognition Program, a national, prestigious, award of the National Council of Negro Women. Thank you to Mrs. Grant for being a dedicated community activist, prominent EPA resident, and volunteer for organizations that have impacted the lives of seniors, women, and their families.

Projects Moving Forward

San Francisquito Creek Flood Project

The San Francisquito Creek project is an important \$37 million flood-control that will protect vulnerable areas downstream of the creek in the Gardens Neighborhood in East Palo Alto.

The project includes removing sediment from the creek, rebuilding and modifying levees around the Palo Alto Golf Course and the Gardens neighborhood, and installing new flood walls, to improve water flow. The project had slowed down while going through the Regional Water Quality Control Board permitting process; however, on October 31, at Stanford, the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe assured the Cities of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto that the project is close to getting a Water Board conditional permit. Thus, the project will continue moving forward. The project still has to receive the approval from several federal regulatory agencies, among them, Fish and Wildlife; however, the Water Board permit will clear the way for other agencies to issue their own permits. The Water Board certification may be issued soon after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases its project description, which is expected to happen in the coming weeks. For more information regarding this project, please visit the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority website at www.sfcjpa.org/.



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Runnymede Storm Drain Phase II Improvements Project

On September 2nd, the City Council awarded a construction contract for the Runnymede Storm Drain Phase II Project. This Project will alleviate residential and commercial flooding in the eastern portion of the City. The Runnymede drainage ditch receives approximately 40 percent of the existing storm drainage in the City and transports it south, to the detention basin at the O'Connor Pump Station where it is pumped into San Francisquito Creek. Deferred maintenance of the channel and basin for a number of years resulted in a build-up of sediment and vegetation, which has diminished the ditch's storm water conveyance capacity. As a result, the system provides inadequate flood protection for nearby residential streets, including the eastern terminus of Garden, Cypress and Beech Streets and the Ravenswood Industrial area to the North, which are perennially prone to flooding.



Phase II Improvements include:

- Completing the box culvert outfall, adding an outfall structure and bank protection materials, such as rip rap, to the northern end of the ditch, at the eastern end of O'Connor.
 - Excavating and widening the drainage ditch along the length of the Project Area as well as the detention basin at the southern end of the Project Area
 - Installing a small berm for flood protection west of the drainage ditch
 - Retrofitting an existing footpath over the drainage ditch located approximately 50 feet south of the terminus of Beech Street utilizing new corrugated metal culverts; and
 - A future project element to construct a new footpath at the eastern terminus of Cypress Street that crosses the Runnymede ditch and connects to the Bay Trail to the east.
- In conjunction with the Runnymede storm drain improvements, the City plans to the repair of the O'Connor Pump Station outfall structure.

The construction is currently underway; go and check it out! Completion of the project is anticipated by the end of January 2015.

Bay Road Improvement Phase II/III - Design 60% completed

Bay Road is envisioned to be the future “Heart of the City.” The Bay Road improvements Project aims to create a pedestrian and bicycle friendly street that will support a mix of land uses creating a vibrant urban environment with a wide variety of neighborhood serving retail goods, services and activities.

Phase I, the section from University Avenue to Illinois, was completed in 2008. Phase II will continue the existing theme of road, median, sidewalk, and lighting improvements, all the way to the eastern end of Bay Road. All roadway improvements will be within the existing public right-of-way, maintaining the same current number of vehicle travel lanes. In addition, new bike lanes and sidewalks, undergrounding overhead utilities, and new street lights for safety are included in the work scope.

The consultant has completed 60% of the design task, and is currently working on the environmental studies for the project. A final design is planned to be completed by early 2015.



Existing Conditions



Photo Simulation

New Groundwater Test Well at Pad “D” - Great Success!

The City of East Palo Alto receives most of its water through the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch-Hetchy system. It is projected that the City will need additional water sources to meet its future demand and envisioned growth. To increase its current water supply and system reliability, the City completed a groundwater test well at Pad “D”, at the corner of East Bayshore Rd. and Clarke Avenue. The report on the test well, was great in both fronts water quality and potential yield. Based on preliminary results, the water quality is good and would not need special treatment, and its yield may cover a good portion of the City’s future water needs. Before drilling a fully operational well, the



City will need to complete a Groundwater Management Plan, which was initiated in October 2014. The City hopes to complete the plan by the Spring of 2015.

Emergency Preparedness

Are you prepared in case of an emergency? Be sure to stay prepared before disaster hits with these helpful tips.

Flood Protection Information

Visit the City website at www.cityofepa.org/index.aspx?NID=517 for important flood protection information, and to learn more about the following.

- Sandbag pickup locations: Know where to go to pick up sandbags in case you need them.
- San Mateo County Alert (SMCAAlert) system: You can register to be notified of emergency situations. Is free!
- Creek Level Monitoring: Monitor San Francisquito Creek levels online.
- Flood safety tips: Valuable tips to protect your family and home before and after a flood
- Flood control projects: Learn about ongoing and long term flood management projects
- Flood Insurance Information: The city participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, which translates to a 15% discount o premiums.

Earthquakes

We live in earthquake country. Are you ready to rock and roll? A Handbook by US Geological Survey explains what all residents of Northern California need to know about Earthquakes and preparedness. This handbook provides information about the threat posed by earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay region and explains how you can prepare, survive, and recover from these inevitable events. Learn valuable earthquake tips to ensure that you and your loved ones will be prepared for an earthquake anytime.

pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/.

Crack Sealant Project

Recently, the Public Works Maintenance Division repaired several streets with crack sealant product as part of the Pavement Management Program’s best practices. This is an ongoing maintenance project from March to September of each year. The intent of this program is to develop a maintenance strategy that will improve the overall condition of the street network to an optimal Pavement Condition Index (PCI) in the low to mid 80’s and to also ensure it is maintained at that level. Thank you to our wonderful crew for all their hard work!



Coffee with Carlos

Please join me for a cup of coffee on November 22nd at 9:00am at the Starbucks in East Palo Alto (1745 E. Bayshore Blvd). I will be open to meet and chat with all community members to listen to any issues you may want to share, and informally answer any questions you may have.



Help Shape the Future of East Palo Alto

Please join us for the following workshops to be held as part of updating East Palo Alto's General Plan.

NEIGHBORHOODS - Saturday, November 8, 9:30am – 12:30pm. Residents are invited to attend the workshop closest to their specific neighborhood to explore pedestrian safety, neighborhood identity, traffic congestion, parking, and more. Childcare and Spanish translation will be available at these three workshops.

Location 1: Ravenswood Family Health Center Annex, 1842 Bay Road

Location 2: East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell St.

Location 3: East Palo Alto Education Center, 763 Green St.

YOUTH - Saturday, November 8, 9:30am – 12:30pm. This will be an informal workshop for teens and young adults to discuss the future of the City.

Location: East Palo Alto Academy, 1050 Myrtle St.

LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Monday, November 17, 2014, 6:30 – 9 pm. Explore potential land use changes in the City, and learn how new development can enhance City services and economic vitality.

Location: East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell Street

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING - Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6:30 – 9 pm. Discuss issues including traffic and parking congestion, biking, sidewalks, and transit.

Location: East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell Street

PUBLIC HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE - Thursday, January 8, 2015, 6:30 – 9 pm. Discuss a wide range of topics impacting public health and quality of life in the City, including parks and open space, public safety, trees and landscaping, and access to health care and healthy food.

Location: East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell St.



Java With Jerry

State Senator Jerry Hill will be hosting an event called “Java With Jerry” at Izzy’s Brooklyn Bagels on University Avenue on Friday, November 21st from 8:30am to 9:30am. This is an opportunity for people in the community to informally chat with the senator, ask about legislation or other state issues and have a cup of coffee and a bagel.



Welcome New Employees

The City has been actively recruiting for qualified candidates to better serve the community. Please help me welcome the following recent hires that we are fortunate to have on our team.

Chief Al Pardini is the new Police Chief to begin on November 12th. Pardini comes from the San Francisco Police Department, where he has served for 32 years. Throughout his career, he’s held a variety of critical leadership roles, including the commanding officer of the San Francisco International Airport Bureau, Patrol Division, and a number of other high-level and command assignments including San Francisco’s Bayview District patrol station, the Major Crimes-Investigations division, Narcotics & Vice Crimes Investigations division, Homeland Security division, Planning & Research division, and Administration Bureau Headquarters. Chief Pardini holds an associate degree in Administration of Justice from City College of San Francisco and a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services from Notre Dame De Namur University. He’s a graduate of two of California’s elite law enforcement training programs; the P.O.S.T. Supervisory Leadership Institute, and P.O.S.T. Command College.

Randy Craig is the Public Works Inspector, responsible for reviewing public construction projects, including the construction of streets, bridges, water systems and landscapes. Randy brings a wealth of experience from his time serving the cities of Brentwood, Menlo Park and Foster City. Randy has a Civil Engineering degree from San Jose State University Graduate and enjoys camping, fishing, the Raiders and the A’s. Randy joined the city in October 2014.

Captain Jim Granucci joined the Police Department in October 2014. Captain Granucci received an undergraduate degree from San Jose State University, and a graduate degree from Notre Dame de Namur University. He has served with Police Departments in Redwood City and San Carlos, where he served as Chief of Police for seven years. Captain Granucci has also served as the Director of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Laboratory and has worked with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), providing training to law enforcement in the area of domestic violence investigation.

Janet Nunez joined the Community and Economic Development Department as the Office Assistant in September 2014. Janet is a first generation college graduate, receiving her BA in Justice Studies from San Jose State University with a minor in Political Science. She has been living in the community of East Palo Alto for the last 17 years, and has volunteered for many East Palo Alto programs including Fit Zone, National Night Out, School Site Council at Costaño/49ers Academy and Jr. Giants. Janet is thrilled to be working for the community and is looking forward to this new chapter in her life.

Karla Prince-Cheng is the Interim Measure C Coordinator. She joined the city in January 2014 as a Recreation Leader II, offering day and afterschool programs for East Palo Alto youth. While with the city, Karla had been assisting the previous Measure C Program Coordinator managing the city's grants programs. A Central Valley native, Karla graduated from San Jose State University and California State University- East Bay, and lives in Fremont. Karla is committed to working with the community and the City of East Palo Alto.

Emily Pharr is the Community Programs Manager. She is a social justice advocate whose career goal is to increase stakeholder engagement in the public policy decision-making process. Her work has been decidedly focused in communities of color, including East and West Oakland and the Bayview-Hunters Point area of San Francisco. Emily has worked for dynamic policy leaders, including Oakland Councilwoman Desley Brooks, San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and former Assemblyman Elihu Harris. She has also served on the Oakland Beautification Taskforce under Mayor Ron Dellums and an environmental policy board headed by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. Emily earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State Hayward.

