April 2019

Happy Birthday Palo Alto!

Palo Alto turns 125 years old this month and we are kicking off the year-long celebration beginning with Palo Alto Day on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. in King Plaza. You are invited to join the party on the plaza and take a trip down memory lane as the contents of a steel time capsule will be revealed.

The 3x1 foot capsule, seen below, was filled with 50 items during our centennial anniversary in 1994. Since then, it has been kept in an unused elevator shaft in the basement of City Hall waiting for this day in 2019 to arrive.
The Palo Alto Story

Incorporated in 1894, Palo Alto grew out of Leland Stanford's desire to make Stanford University a dry college town. Stanford originally considered putting the university in the Mayfield neighborhood, which was an established township at the time. When Mayfield wouldn't remove its 13 saloons, Palo Alto was born in the area now known as College Terrace. Mayfield was finally annexed in 1925, but the fact that there were two separate towns all those years, resulted in the two downtown areas we still have today on University and California Avenues.

Palo Alto Historical Association photo of University Avenue at the Circle in 1894 with steam train seen in background to the left.

Be sure to "Save the Date" and enjoy some birthday cake as we sing Happy Birthday to Palo Alto. See you on the plaza on April 28!

View more historic Palo Alto photos
Message from the Mayor

Not only are we celebrating Palo Alto Day this month, but April 22 is Earth Day. Protecting the planet for future generations is a serious commitment here in Palo Alto, so much so, Climate Change is one of our priorities for 2019. At Council on April 15, the latest findings from our annual Earth Day Report were highlighted.

Earth Day Report

In 2018, Palo Alto reduced GHG emissions by an estimated 56.5 percent, reaching approximately two-thirds of its 2030 goal. The 2018 reduction of 13 percent is due mostly to reductions in natural gas emissions through the purchase of carbon offsets through PaloAltoGreenGas.

Some of the other highlights include:

- City Municipal Operations reduced GHG emissions 65.8 percent from 2005 levels.
- Single occupancy vehicle commute trips to downtown Palo Alto continued a downward trend, with drive alone trips reduced 8 percent, transit ridership increased 9 percent, and rideshares increased 4 percent from 2015.
- The City’s various electric vehicle (EV) adoption programs, strategies, and policies contributed to a steady increase in the number of EVs, with approximately 4,000 EVs (6 percent penetration) registered in Palo Alto.
Council adopted a draft Sea Level Rise Adaptation policy in March 2019.

See other areas of progress in the full Earth Day Report.

San Francisquito Creek Trails Reopen

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the 6th Annual Great Race for Saving Water and Earth Day Festival on April 13. It was not only a great day to celebrate all that we are doing to protect Mother Earth, but I was delighted to preside over the ribbon cutting ceremony to re-open the trails now that the first phase of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority Flood Protection Project is complete.

Phase 1 improvements included widening the creek channel in East Palo Alto and at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, which will help move water faster to
the bay and prevent backups. It also included building a horizontal levee that is adaptable to sea-level rise. This phase is designed to protect 1,000 homes from a 100-year flood event. When complete, the overall plan will provide more than 5,700 homes and businesses with creek flood protection.

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**All Things Palo Alto**

**Strike up the Band for May Fete**
Don’t just be a spectator, you can participate in the 97th Annual May Fete Parade coming up on Saturday, May 4 in downtown Palo Alto, but you better hurry... [more]

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**Final Cubberley Co-Design Meeting**
Help complete the Cubberley master planning process at the fourth and final Cubberley Co-Design meeting on Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m. at the Cubberley Pavilion... [more]
Gear Up for Bike to Work Day
Get your bike in gear for the 25th Annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 9. The City is hosting four Energizer volunteer stations positioned at key commute locations from 6:30-9 a.m... [more]

We are Social
If you mention @CityofPaloAlto or #PaloAlto in a social post, we might feature it here.
Be sure to LIKE, SHARE, RETWEET and FOLLOW us!

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On this date in 1894, Palo Alto was officially incorporated! Happy 125th Birthday, @cityofpaloalto!
Let’s keep working to build the history museum that this community deserves. Visit paloaltomuseum.org today to become a founding donor of the @PaloAltoMuseum!
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Newsletter Sign-Ups

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