

MIDTOWN NEWS – December 15, 2017

Editor: Annette Ashton for the Midtown Residents Association. See www.midtownresidents.org
LIST SERV at PaloAltoMidtown@yahoo.com. Great place to "chat"

1) MIDTOWN TIDBITS

Traffic Advisory : 200 block of Forest Avenue Closed for Next Three Weeks, while the city upgrades its communications center.

WOO HOO: **Midtown Teaspoons** Palo Alto will have its grand opening event next Saturday 12/16 from 12-10 PM. The first 100 customers will receive one free drink with our limited glass bamboo bottle. Also there will be BOGO buy 1 get 1 free drink for entire week from 12/16 - 12/24. See Facebook event post for more information - <https://www.facebook.com/events/152765435451144??ti=ia>. Please stop by and say Midtown Residents Association sent you!

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: ANNUAL **ROTARY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH CONTEST!**
Wednesday January 24, 7 PM, Palo Alto City Council Chambers. Prizes total \$1550. 2017-18 Speech topic theme: "Rotary Making a Difference". Each speech must be between 4-5 minutes, original student work, and incorporate the theme and one of the Rotary mantras: Is it the TRUTH?, Is it FAIR to all concerned?, Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?, Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? QUESTIONS AND REGISTRATION? Contact Annette_G@att.net

ZERO WASTE TIP: Got cardboard boxes? Here's how to properly prepare them for recycling. Flatten cardboard and place it inside your blue recycle cart with other recyclables or cut or fold into pieces no larger than 2 ft. x 3 ft., tie, and place next to your blue recycle cart. Cardboard boxes and packaging materials that are not properly prepared can cause litter that negatively impacts our streets and creeks, as well as costly inefficiencies in our waste collection system.

If you consistently have a lot of cardboard, you can get a larger or additional blue recycle cart by contacting GreenWaste of Palo Alto at pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com or 493-4894. For more information about What Goes Where, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/wgwttools, email zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org or call 496-5910.

Winter Solstice ... begins on December 21

2) CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL EVENTS

Gas Safety Awareness Phone Surveys: Palo Alto will participate in the federally-mandated Gas Overall Awareness Level (GOAL) survey, a nationwide program to assess public awareness about gas safety. This telephone survey is administered by the American Public Gas Association and is conducted every year to insure that people living near a gas pipeline have adequate information on safety protocols. Residents will be selected randomly for polling via an automated phone survey. The phone number displayed on caller IDs is (650) 328-1832. We appreciate your participation in this survey, as it is an important indicator of our efforts to spread awareness about gas safety. Safety is a top priority for the City of Palo Alto Utilities! Questions: UtilitiesCommunications@cityofpaloalto.org

The **Mitchell Park Community Center will be closed for the holidays** from Monday, December 25 through Tuesday, January 2.

What are the **priorities you would like to see the Palo Alto City Council adopt** in 2018? Each year, Palo Alto City Council reviews its priorities for the year at its Annual Council Retreat. A Council priority is defined as a topic that will receive particular, unusual and significant attention during the year. There is a goal of adopting no more than 4 to 5 priorities each year, and they generally have a three-year time limit. The priorities for 2017 included: Transportation, Infrastructure, Healthy City/Healthy Community, Budget and Finance, Housing. Share your thoughts at https://www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/5/forum_home?phase=open

PAPD Citizens Police Academy now accepting applications. Applications due January 4. Class runs from January to March 2018. Details at https://local.nixle.com/alert/6302649/?sub_id=1444824

Santa Clara Water District (SCWVD) - **Vacancy on Public Facilities Financing Corp.** If interested, notify the Clerk of the Board of Directors of the SCWV District in writing by 4:00 PM, Friday, Dec 15 with letter of interest which includes your name, contact numbers, address, email, occupation, summary of interest in the position, and qualifications and experience to 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118.

Position Available for a Funding Administrator for Minor Home Repair Program for Community Development Block Grant Program. To request an application or for more information, contact erum.maqbool@CityofPaloAlto.org. Apply by noon on Tues, January 9, 2018. www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pln/cdgb.asp

CITY COUNCIL Winter Closure is scheduled from December 18, 2018 -

January 7, 2018. Regular City Council & Standing Committee meetings are not scheduled during the Winter Closure.

UPCOMING COMMISSION & BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER

DECEMBER 21: **Architectural Review** Board at 8:30 AM council chambers. Topic: 380 Cambridge (3 story commercial, 8 feet over height limit), 2370 Watson Court sign, 4356 El Camino (hotel).

JANUARY 18: **Public Art** Commission, 7 PM in First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

JANUARY 25: Canopy annual **Mayor tree planting** and awards ceremony 5:15 - 7:30 PM, City Hall.

3) LOCAL EVENTS

Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), needs your generosity of the community to fulfill their holiday programs. For more on their holiday programs: 323-7781: christina@ehpcares.org: www.ehpcares.org/holiday-and-special-programs.

- Gift Cards: This year they are in special need of gift cards from TARGET, BEST BUY, and AMAZON. These gift cards are donated to local families in need to fulfill their gift requests, as well as supply them with essential food and personal care items to help them through the holidays.
- Teenager Gifts: Many gift cards are also given to teenagers, who often take on a caretaker role of their younger siblings leading them to be over-stressed, overworked, & unfortunately, overlook through other holiday programs. Teens appreciate electronics, movie passes, & fashion items.
- Family Sharing Program: More people are needed to shop for specific families with special needs and/or experiencing extreme hardship. Family Sharing donors are matched and provided with a wish list for a specific family with special needs and/or experiencing extreme hardships.
- Holiday Food Box: Please visit EHP website, www.ehpcares.org/holiday-and-special-programs. Consider donating items from EHP's holiday food collection list. Food boxes include everything that a family might need to make Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner with plenty of leftovers.
- AmazonSmile: Shop on Amazon and donate to EHP at no cost to you! through the EHP link of AmazonSmile. See <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2476942>.

Avenidas Activities at <http://www.avenidas.org/>. Samples of classes follow. Programs on the 2nd floor of Building I at Cubberley. New revised website at www.avenidas.org. EVENT REGISTRATION 289-5400.

- Closed: Thursday, Dec. 14 - closed at 3 PM; Monday, Dec. 25 - closed; Tuesday, Dec. 26 - closed; Monday, Jan. 1 - closed

- Dec 15/ 16 Dec 15 at 7Pm and Dec 16 at 2PM dramatic reading of George Orwell's Animal Farm at 2 PM. FEE:\$10/\$12
- Dec 21: HOLIDAY PARTY and Sing-a-long with informal Holiday Jam Session Refreshments will be provided. from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. FREE
- Dec 28 MOVIES at 1:30. FEE: \$0, \$2: "Loving"
- Jan 26: Cyber Security - Do's and Don'ts of Online Security at 10:30 AM in Room 2. Registration Required. FREE for Avenidas members, \$10 for non-members.
- Jan 27: Journey Card Collage Workshop: Creation and Reading from 9 AM to 2 PM. FEE: \$25 + \$5 material fee.

BIG CHANGES - DEBORAH'S PALM CLOSING FOR GOOD

See www.deborahspalm.org. 473-0664:

- Closed from Saturday, December 16, until Thursday, January 4, re-opening on Friday, January 5, 2018. We will remain open all of January, with **January 27 being our last day**.
- Fridays at Deborah's Palm: 10 AM - Knitting Group; 10 AM - Walking Group; 12 Noon;
- Caroling at the VA Hospital. Palo Alto Monday, December 25: For almost 50 years, people have gathered at the VA hospital on Christmas morning to sing for the hospitalized veterans. Won't you join us this year? To find out more and sign up, go to http://www.give4good.net/VA_Caroling.html
- Jan 5 & 19, 12 Noon to 1: 30 PM. Gail Grant will lead the Life Lessons Group, looking at Ruth Gendler's "Book of Qualities."
- Jan 27: Dreams! Goals! Keys to Success! Goal Setting Workshop. For more, barbara@dreamsngoals.com

Live holiday music at the Stanford Shopping Center- a variety of free musical performances during the holiday season, Afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas Eve.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE: What better way to get into the holiday spirit than by **donating toys** for local children in need? Toys need to be new and unwrapped. Gift cards and wrapping paper donations are also appreciated. You can stop by any of the Palo Alto community centers to drop off donations. Through December 15.

DECEMBER 16: **Winter Solstice Event** at Hidden Villa from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants will learn what solstice is through stories, games, music, and crafts, including a beeswax candle and a clove pomander and learn the science behind solstice (and why winter happens). FEE: \$20/adult and one child; \$8 for every additional person. Children 2 and younger are free. Register at www.hiddenvilla.org.

DECEMBER 19: Meet **Artist** for new **Downtown Parking Garage** public art project! Learn about her past work and contribute your input as she starts her design development process. From 3 PM at the First floor meeting room city hall.

JANUARY 12: More about **ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units)**. The panelists will discuss how and why to transform a portion of the back yard into a valuable house unit. This is a free public educational event. You can find more information here: www.adu_mtv.eventbrite.com from 5:30 - 9 PM at Techcode, 1172 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA.

OLD

DECEMBER 15/16: A Dramatic Reading of a Timely Fable - George Orwell's Animal Farm (ages 12+) at Avenidas, Cubberley, Suite #1-2. FEE: \$10/\$12. At 7 PM on 12/15; 2 PM on 12/16.

DECEMBER 16: Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Extravaganza at Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College at 3 PM. FEE: VIP \$150, preferred seats \$30, \$20.

DECEMBER 16: Choral Project annual holiday concert, "Winter's Gifts: Family," with the San José Chamber Orchestra. First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., at 8 PM. FEE: \$35; senior \$25; student/alumni: \$10.

DECEMBER 17: At Gamble Garden: Puppet Show The "Fratello Marionettes" at 10:30 AM. FEE: before show \$30 Child, \$25 adult.

DECEMBER 17: The Gryphon Carolers "Winters Gift" at Canada College Theatre. Doors open at 6PM, Concert at 6:30 PM. See www.gryphoncarolers.com

DECEMBER 19: At the JCC: Community Tuesday: Hanukkah Celebration with traditional food & entertainment from 11:30 Am to 1:30 PM. FEE: \$20. RSVP to Michelle Rosengaus, 223-8616, mrosengaus@palaltojcc.org.

DECEMBER 21: Avenidas Holiday Party & Sing Along. Seniors are encouraged to bring their voices, ukuleles, harmonicas or other acoustic instruments. From 2:30 PM, Cubberley Building I-2. FREE

DECEMBER 24: At the JCC: Chopshticks, Featuring Daniel Storrow and the Lantern Girls , 6:30-9 PM. FEE: \$70 Premium with pix with the Lantern Girls, \$50,\$400 Table of 8, \$200 Table of 4. Chinese food and gut-busting comedy.

DECEMBER 29: Avenidas sponsors "Breakfast at Mitchell's," featuring the 10th Avenue Band, Mitchell Park Community Ctr at 10AM. FEE: \$10.

JANUARY 13: Saint Michael Trio, Menlo-Atherton Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 PM. FEE: \$15. Dress up like it's the Oscars! Join in the fun at Saint Mike's annual gala - deepest classical to the zestiest jazz.