

CITY

# CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

February 13, 2023

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

# HIGH GAS UTILITY BILLS

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- A new article from Utilities Director Dean Batchelor answers four critical community questions on the recent spike in gas utility bills.
  - If you need help with your bill, please contact Utilities Customer service at (650) 329-2161.
- Of note, we've heard concern that the General Fund is receiving a windfall from these high costs. This is not the case, though more work is needed to confirm.
- There are two ways that gas revenues benefit the City's General Fund: an annual transfer (recently affirmed through 2022 Measure L) and a Utility Users Tax (UUT).
  - Staff is analyzing the effect of the current spike on likely future transfers, and developing a recommendation to be reviewed in March by the Utility Advisory Commission, City Council Finance Committee
  - Staff is also analyzing the likely effect on the UUT and City budget. This effect is uncertain, given unanticipated high utility costs at all City-operated facilities.

**Find more details on the City's home page, under "News"**



# UNIVERSITY AVE STREETSCAPE VISIONING



- The City is exploring options to transform University Avenue, providing a venue for people-centric activities that create a vibrant and inclusive space.
- Join an in-person meeting on **Wednesday, March 1 at 6 p.m.** in the Downtown Library El Camino Room to share input ahead of staff developing conceptual plan options for University Avenue.



Learn more and RSVP by going to the City's home page, under "Calendar"

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/UniversityAveStreetscape](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/UniversityAveStreetscape)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING



- Consider supporting your neighborhood and the community during emergencies through becoming a Block Preparedness Coordinator or completing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.
- These programs help prepare the community prior to a disaster and enhances community resilience during and after a disaster.
- Two upcoming trainings are available:
  - **Block Preparedness Coordinator Course: Saturday, February 18**
  - **CERT Spring Training: March 6 – 25**



Find more details and register by going to the City's home page, under "News"

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/BePrepared](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/BePrepared)

# WAYS TO LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

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- With Valentine's Day approaching, we are taking the day of love and Valentine's Month, as an opportunity to share and inspire fun, love, and connectedness.
- Come together at local events. Get outside with your family and friends. Visit a new restaurant or favorite retail shop. Volunteer.
- A new Palo Alto Connect article shares love-inspired ideas to show your love of our community and get so much back in return.
  - Local community events and classes
  - Outdoor and volunteer opportunities
  - Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo programs and Library services uplifting teens, families, and more!



**Find more details by going to the City's home page, under "News"**



# NOTABLE TENTATIVE UPCOMING COUNCIL ITEMS

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## February 27

- E-bikes in parks and open spaces
- Council Committee workplans (cont.)
- Discussion of Parklets

## March 6

- Comprehensive Status Update on the Palo Alto Airport Study Session
- Firearms in Sensitive Places

## March 13 & beyond

- Pets in Need Study Session
- Non-Profit Agreements Study Session
- Council Procedures and Protocols
- Automated License Plate Recognition Technology

The February 20 Council meeting is cancelled in observance of Presidents Day. An additional meeting will occur on February 27.

# STAY INFORMED

**Read the City Manager Comments Blog Series at:**  
[CityofPaloAlto.org/CityManagerBlogSeries](http://CityofPaloAlto.org/CityManagerBlogSeries)



**Gain Coronavirus Updates at:**  
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