CELEBRATE REDWOOD CITY’S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 rang in Redwood City’s Sesquicentennial, marking the 150th anniversary of the City’s incorporation! Celebrate all year by attending events, participating in a photo project, visiting our history website and more.

EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES
The 150th Anniversary Festival and Flower Extravaganza on May 20, 2017 will include an interactive truck event with trucks of all sizes for kids to discover, 1850’s Pioneer Camp, chicken wings contest, Flower Extravaganza, ART on the Square, historic fashion show, music and more!

NOW AND THEN PHOTO PROJECT
The Redwood City Public Library is conducting a photo sharing project through June 2017. Share historic photos and take modern ones of the selected sites each month, or just share favorite old shots of life in Redwood City. The project culminates in a public event recognizing some of the best photos of each site and a local historian sharing stories of Redwood City’s past on July 19 at 5 p.m. All community members are encouraged to participate in our photo sharing events and technology workshops where you can learn about Shutterfly, basic photo editing, Snapchat, how to use iMovie to make slide shows, and how to capture great landscape photographs.

HISTORY WEBSITE
Explore Redwood City’s Sesquicentennial events and learn about Redwood City’s history through photo galleries, blog posts, and much more by visiting www.redwoodcityhistory.org.

EVENTS

MAY 6
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF UNION CEMETERY

MAY 13
SPRING CLEAN-UP

MAY 20
150TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL AND FLOWER EXTRAVAGANZA
This signature Sesquicentennial event takes place in Courthouse Square and surrounding streets, featuring fun activities for the whole family including music, food and art!

MAY 27
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN

View more events at www.redwoodcity.org/calendar
The Downtown Precise Plan (DTPP), which was adopted by the City Council in January 2011, was created to orchestrate private and public investment in downtown Redwood City. It is also the primary means of regulating downtown development and business activity. As is usually the case during strong economic times, managing growth can be exciting and challenging at the same time.

Since 2011, the DTPP, along with the strong economy, has attracted a substantial number of new community events, businesses and developments in downtown Redwood City. A brand new downtown residential neighborhood has formed and become part of the vibrant downtown we enjoy today.

During a recent Study Session, the City Council listened to public input and gave guidance on the next steps for DTPP implementation, now that new development is hitting the Plan’s maximum allowable projects. After a lengthy discussion, the City Council directed staff to return and address the following issues for Council consideration:

• Now that the City has collected a substantial amount of park fees from new development, prioritize the creation of a new park and additional active public space throughout the downtown area.

• Prioritize pedestrian improvements, such as the permanent closure of Theatre Way.

• Revise specific architectural guidelines to require new buildings to have a more traditional form of architecture.

• Prioritize residential development that includes a substantial percentage of affordable housing.

• Focus on investment in the Main Street corridor.

• Create a community task force for future changes to the DTPP.

These discussion items will return to the City Council for community input and Council action within the next six months. To view the staff report, visit www.redwoodcity.org/preciseplan.
TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Developing a Citywide Transportation Plan

Worried about people speeding within your neighborhood or finding parking when you go out to dinner? Or perhaps you’re more concerned about getting your kids to school safely or how our streets will accommodate population growth? Help the City improve life in Redwood City by participating in the Citywide Transportation Plan.

Redwood City, like many Bay Area cities, has seen the economy rebound significantly over the past five years. Economic growth locally and regionally has contributed to increased traffic congestion. As part of ongoing efforts to manage growth as effectively as possible, the City Council chose transportation consulting firm Fehr & Peers to help tackle these challenging issues by creating a Citywide Transportation Plan.

The Plan will evaluate how our transportation system is currently working, invite our residents and businesses to identify concerns and solutions, and rank transportation projects based on community priorities. All forms of transportation will be considered (walking, biking, transit, and driving), keeping everyone’s needs in mind. The Plan will also take into account new travel patterns and technology, such as Uber, Lyft and autonomous vehicles, accommodating more people in safe and sustainable ways.

The Plan provides an important opportunity for community members to share what’s important to them. You can learn about and contribute to the Plan by participating in:

• Pop-up events at the Kiwanis Farmer’s Market and Fair Oaks Community Center.

• Workshops scheduled for the City Planning Commission this Spring and Summer and City Council meetings this Fall.

To receive regular updates on the Citywide Transportation Plan, please email the City at RWCmoves@redwoodcity.org.

For more details about this and other transportation related initiatives underway, visit http://www.redwoodcity.org/city-hall/current-projects.

CALIFORNIA VOTER PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT

State Law Requires Change to City Election Dates

Senate Bill 415, the California Voter Participation Rights Act, is a new State law that aims to improve voter turnout by combining local odd-year elections with even-year statewide elections, such as presidential races. This law requires that Redwood City move away from odd-year elections.

After comprehensive research and consideration of substantial public input over the past six months, the City Council voted to move the City’s next general municipal elections from its current odd-year November 2017/2019 cycle to even-year general elections taking place November 2018/2020. This change requires extending the City Council members’ terms by 12 months, which is allowed under the City’s Charter. This policy decision will enable the City to comply with new State laws, potentially increase voter turnout and share election costs with overlapping jurisdictions.

All registered voters will be notified of this change by mail later this year. For more details about this change to election dates as a result of new State laws, visit www.redwoodcity.org/elections.
LIBRARY FEES

No More Late Fees On Materials Checked Out to Children and Teens

To improve the library experience for families in San Mateo County, the Peninsula Library System, which includes Redwood City, eliminated late fees for materials checked out to children and teens.

By eliminating these fees, the Peninsula Library System aims to remove barriers to learning, especially for families with limited financial resources.

The goal is to ensure that every child and teenager in San Mateo County has every opportunity to benefit from their local library collections, services and events.

To further improve the library experience for Redwood City teachers, the Redwood City Public Library recently launched fine-free teacher cards. The cards allow teachers checking out items for the classroom to enhance the class experience without worrying about the personal cost of renewal or late fees if they need the materials longer. Teachers, home school educators, preschool, or day care providers who live in the City of Redwood City or North Fair Oaks are eligible for a teacher card.

For more details about the City of Redwood City Library, visit [www.redwoodcity.org/library](http://www.redwoodcity.org/library).

PHOTO CONTEST

Redwood City Through Your Lens

Take part in our Redwood City Through Your Lens photo contest! Grab your camera (or phone), snap some photos and share them with us. We want to see what you love about Redwood City!

- **WHAT**: Snap up to 10 photos per month and share them on social media for a chance to win prizes.
- **WHERE**: Anywhere you love in Redwood City.
- **WHEN**: Year-round now through Dec. 17 at 11:59 p.m.
- **WHO**: Anyone who lives, works or plays in Redwood City.

Share your captured moments with us by using #ThroughMyLens, tagging the City of Redwood City in your photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, and following us. Make sure your photos are public so we can see them! Winners will receive a prize, be recognized online and at a City Council meeting and their photo will be displayed at City Hall.

Go to [www.redwoodcity.org/photocontest](http://www.redwoodcity.org/photocontest) for more information on how to enter and our official rules.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Give Back and Build Community

If you’re looking to learn new skills and get to know your neighbors, the City of Redwood City has an opportunity for you. Thousands of volunteers have contributed over 200,000 hours of service, enabling the City and its partners to extend community services. Whatever your talent or passion is, we invite you to get involved. You can serve as a tutor, help plant trees and beautify our community, or help your neighborhood prepare for an emergency. We also offer special leadership and volunteer opportunities for teens! Learn more about these programs and other ways to volunteer by visiting [www.redwoodcity.org/volunteer](http://www.redwoodcity.org/volunteer).
Mayor Seybert and the City Council hosted the State of the City Address on March 6 at City Hall, sharing a video of 2016 accomplishments and 2017 goals, from expanding affordable housing to creating a Citywide Transportation Plan. Reflecting the evening’s theme, “People: Our Community’s Greatest Asset,” each member of the City Council also shared stories about people and organizations that give life to the City’s strategic initiatives:

- Community Building & Communication
- Community for All Ages
- Economic Development
- Government Operations
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Transportation

Some of the accomplishments in 2016 included:

- Approved the first projects with the new Affordable Housing Fee, raising $2 million to date for affordable housing. There are currently 200+ affordable housing units under consideration.
- Improved downtown parking signage and launched a Citywide Transportation Plan.
- Increased transparency for development projects with a new development webpage and digital newsletter.
- Improved sidewalks and streets through the 50/50 Sidewalk Repair Program, LED streetlights, and street sweeping expansion.
- Continued sustainability efforts conserving 670 million gallons of water communitywide.
- Reached the master planning phase for the new Veterans Memorial Senior Center and new YMCA, which is intended to create more multi-generational programs.
- Launched the Fire Safety First Pilot Program, offering reduced-rate loans for participating apartment building owners who comply early with the new fire safety requirements.
- Reduced overall crime by 16 percent.

Some of the goals for 2017 are:

- Work with the community to expand affordable housing options.
- Complete the Citywide Transportation Plan and El Camino Real Corridor Plan.
- Expand biking and pedestrian safety programs.
- Develop a five-year Capital Improvement Program.
- Begin construction of the Magical Bridge Playground at Red Morton Park.
- Maintain safety standards with the Fire & Life Safety Inspection Program.
- Expand connectivity with new library home checkout programs, such as portable Wi-Fi hot spots and iPads.
- Revitalize neighborhood associations and launch a new neighborhood watch model.
- Expand Police Department community engagement programs, such as the Loving Solutions Parent Project (Spanish and English) and Coffee with the Cops.

Go to www.redwoodcity.org/SOC to view the videos from the event and learn about last year’s accomplishments and this year’s goals.
FIRE SAFETY FIRST PROGRAM

New Program Provides Incentives for Fire Sprinkler Installation While Avoiding Tenant Displacement and Limiting Rent Increases

The City’s recently launched Fire Safety First Program is gaining momentum across the community! The program is designed to help retrofit all multi-unit residential buildings with life safety fire sprinklers within Redwood City.

Property owners who voluntarily retrofit their buildings ahead of new fire safety standards in July 2022 can receive a low-interest loan to fund these important safety modifications in their buildings. In order to participate, the property owners must agree not to raise rents more than five percent a year for at least five years.

To date, 14 properties have become involved in the program. The Fire Department’s project management team guides sprinkler contractors and property owners on the installation requirements of these unique systems, to ensure the highest safety standards and improve program efficiency. The program is specifically designed to avoid displacement of tenants while fire sprinklers are being installed.

For more information on this program, go to www.redwoodcity.org/firesafety.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Redwood City Conversations Provide Valuable Input

Nearly 300 residents and business owners recently took part in one of eight community-led Redwood City Conversations events across the city, sharing their “likes,” hopes and concerns about the City’s future. Feedback from these events will help shape City decision-making. The recurring themes heard were:

Participants Like Redwood City’s
• Socio-economic and cultural diversity.
• Small town flavor.
• Thriving arts, culture, and entertainment.

Participants Were Concerned About Redwood City’s
• Lack of affordable housing.
• Potential loss of small town charm and historic architecture.
• Traffic congestion and parking challenges.

Participants Hope Redwood City Will
• Keep addressing affordable housing, traffic and parking issues.
• Manage growth and maintain small town feeling.
• Build more community connections and local partnerships.

Learn more about these conversations at www.redwoodcity.org/redwoodcityconversations. For additional ways to shape the City’s future, go to www.redwoodcity.org/jointheconversation.

MAGICAL BRIDGE

Inclusive Playground Coming to Redwood City

In September 2016, the City Council approved a partnership with the Magical Bridge Foundation to raise money to build an innovative and inclusive playground at Red Morton Park. Planning and public engagement efforts are currently underway for the project, which is expected to break ground later this year and open for the whole community to enjoy in 2018.

The Magical Bridge Playground was developed first in Palo Alto and has gained international attention for its innovative design. Designed to be inclusive for children and adults of varying physical and cognitive abilities, Magical Bridge Redwood City aims to go beyond typical playground designs, which often inadvertently overlook members of the community with autism, cognitive challenges, hearing and vision impairments, and other physical limitations.

The City of Redwood City contributed $1.5 million to this $3.3 million project. Now the Magical Bridge Foundation needs help raising the remaining $1.8 million to make Magical Bridge Redwood City a reality.

Community donations will give countless families a place to play together—some, for the very first time. No amount is too small and everyone is welcome to join the effort.

To learn more about this project or to purchase a tile for the community donor wall, sponsor a play zone, or donate in the amount of your choice, visit www.redwoodcity.org/magicalbridge.
MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

FROM PAGE 2

our community. There are also opportunities for you to have an impact in your own back yard — literally! If you own your home, you might consider participating in the home sharing program (www.hiphousing.org) or constructing a rental unit on your property. Learn more about these and other ideas at the Home for All website www.homeforallsmc.org. For more on the City’s affordable housing efforts visit www.redwoodcity.org/affordablehousing.

Making sure people can get around easily in Redwood City — whether by foot, bike, transit or car — will also take a community effort. The Citywide Transportation Study offers a great opportunity to share your concerns and ideas. Read the article on page 3 of this newsletter for ways to get involved and provide input.

Redwood City is a special place, and I am proud to be part of a community that values diversity of all kinds. Earlier this year Redwood City joined the national Welcoming Cities Initiative, which aims to help everyone feel included in civic life. Over the years, many people have done great work to build connections in our community, and this work is more important than ever. As a City, we strive to provide opportunities to help residents get to know each other, and to work and celebrate together.

I hope you will join us in building a great community together!

Melissa Stevenson Diaz
City Manager

WELCOMING CITY

Redwood City is a Welcoming City

The City Council recently adopted a resolution designating Redwood City as a Welcoming City. Welcoming America is a national program which supports communities in their efforts to promote inclusiveness, mutual respect and cooperation throughout the community. With this designation Redwood City has joined the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, a network of over 58 communities across the U.S.

The Welcoming City initiative does not address immigration status but rather celebrates the City’s dedication to support and engage everyone in the community. For more information, visit www.redwoodcity.org/welcomingcity.

NEW WEB PAGE

Stay Updated On Development Projects

Wondering about development projects in Redwood City? Check out the City’s Current Development Projects webpage, where you can find information about major development projects under review or construction. It’s a great way to learn about infrastructure, commercial, housing and mixed-use development projects within Redwood City.

The page is easy to navigate with a sorting function, images with addresses and an interactive map. Feedback is welcome too!

To use this new resource, go to www.redwoodcity.org/developmentprojects.
Redwood City is excited to offer the Water and Sewer Rate Assistance Program (WSRAP) to qualifying utility rate payers. Eligibility is based on household income level and qualifying applicants will receive a credit of around $20 on their utility bill.

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1: Complete the application form online.

STEP 2: Provide copies of all requested documents. Please blackout Social Security and bank account numbers.

STEP 3: Mail or deliver all items to:
Redwood City Public Works Services
Attn: WSRAP
1400 Broadway Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
Or, email wsrap@redwoodcity.org

Redwood City Public Works Services Department | (650) 780-7464 | www.redwoodcity.org/wsrap

Ways To Connect With Us

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