In an effort to support the City’s mission of ‘Building A Great Community Together’ the City is expanding its community engagement efforts. The vision of these efforts is to connect with residents and work together towards resolving issues facing the City. Looking for ways to engage with your neighbors? The City of Redwood City offers various programs to do just that!

During the Redwood City Conversations engagement process last year, many community members expressed a desire to keep Redwood City’s “neighborhood feeling” alive. To address this, the City is working with our neighborhood associations to enhance community building activities. This work has started with a recent update to the City’s Neighborhood Association map and the addition of six new neighborhood associations to Redwood City. The new Neighborhood Association map aligns with natural community boundaries and neighborhood

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BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Ways to get engaged

FROM PAGE 1

characteristics and incorporates several existing maps, including the General Plan neighborhood map, the previous Neighborhood Association map, and the Nextdoor neighborhood map. This new map and corresponding new neighborhood association webpages can be viewed at www.redwoodcity.org/neighborhoodassociations.

Did you know there is a City grant process to assist with neighborhood projects, events and celebrations? These grants typically serve as seed money (up to $300) to help jumpstart neighborhood engagement activities. To see if your event or activity qualifies, go to the Community Improvement Grant Program webpage here, www.redwoodcity.org/communitygrantprogram.

In addition, City staff partnered with neighborhood association leaders to increase neighborhood participation in this year’s National Night Out on August 1, resulting in six neighborhoods hosting block parties with over 500 residents attending. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes public safety-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. We hope you can join us next year!

An engaged community is also an inclusive one. That is why the City joined the Welcoming City’s national network and created an immigrant resources guide. To learn more about these efforts go visit www.redwoodcity.org/immigrantresources. In addition, the City is focused on reinforcing neighborhood pride through offering a new neighborhood resource guide. Ever wonder what to do about a loud party, off-leash dog rules, street sweeping or neighborhood parking challenges? This guide provides a list of frequently asked questions about a variety of topics to share important community details. Find the resource guide online at www.redwoodcity.org/neighborhoodresourceguide.

PROPOSED MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Outreach to begin soon

The City Council is considering increasing the local minimum wage to $15 per hour faster than the State of California’s scheduled increase in 2022, when the State minimum wage becomes $15 per hour.

The City Council discussed increasing Redwood City’s minimum wage at a City Council meeting on September 25 and agreed to begin community outreach to businesses and community members to seek input about this policy decision. As part of the outreach, the City will release an online survey and host meetings to gain input. Once community input is gained, City staff will return to the City Council in March 2018 to review community feedback and bring back a proposed minimum wage ordinance for the City Council’s consideration. To learn more about the City’s discussion on a local minimum wage or to provide input, go to www.redwoodcity.org/minimumwage.

POLICE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Cabin Road Foundation donation

The Police Department has received a $100,000 donation from the Cabin Road Foundation to implement a new wellness program. This grant was given in memory of Officer Gerardo Silva, the veteran Redwood City police officer who was lost to a sudden medical event while on duty in January. The wellness program will assist officers by providing proactive medical screenings designed to detect underlying medical conditions that could be exacerbated by stress and shift work that officers routinely face. The program is now in the early stages of development and may include partnerships with local medical providers.
As we wrap up Redwood City’s 150th anniversary year, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the many community members who make Redwood City a great place to live, work, and play! Whether you are involved with local non-profit groups, volunteering in schools or organizing events in your neighborhood you are making a difference! Over the last year, the City has worked to increase community collaboration and engagement. I am proud of the many ways we have made it easier for residents to be engaged and a part of the solution. We have strengthened our Neighborhood Associations and engaged new and existing association leadership. We completed engagement workshops to assist neighborhoods with community building activities such as hosting events and block parties. We also asked for feedback through face-to-face meetings and a variety of online surveys. These efforts are all focused on building a great community together and forging connections between the community and City Hall.

Later this month, we will be releasing a draft Citywide Transportation Plan for community input. After extensive community engagement, this plan outlines priority transportation projects to support a variety of goals including traffic calming and increased mobility. Feedback from other transportation projects helped to inform this plan as well, including the Farm Hill Boulevard restructuring and the Hudson Street Pedestrian and Bike Improvement Project. Thank you for your involvement and input as we try new approaches to support mobility and reduce traffic.

We will continue to seek input to help solve the critical issues facing our community. Upcoming issues the City Council will consider include renter assistance and protections, community input around the proposed Harbor View project, and a plan to support flooding protections along the Bayfront Canal. Recently, the City Council approved a ban on smoking in multifamily dwellings that will be implemented over time. In addition, the City is seeking input on the recruitment for the next Police Chief. For details about upcoming community meetings, go to www.redwoodcity.org. I encourage you to stay engaged to become part of the solution. Thank you for working to build a great community together.

The City of Redwood City developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County of San Mateo, City of Menlo Park and Town of Atherton to plan, design, and permit flood protection measures within the Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Watershed. Due to capacity constraints in the Bayfront Canal, this area frequently floods into the mobile home parks on East Bayshore Road. On October 2, the City Council gave the City Manager the authority to move forward with the flood protection project which will seek to protect our residents from flooding in the future. Atherton and Menlo Park also approved the MOU shortly thereafter. The County is expected to approve the MOU on October 17. The County has also authorized design work to begin on this project. This project is a priority for the City of Redwood City to better protect residents from the frequent flooding events that occur in the Bayfront Canal area. For more details on this project, go here: www.redwoodcity.org/bayfrontcanal.
In light of recent national disasters it’s even more pertinent to plan before a disaster strikes. There are many ways to plan ahead and to get involved to support your neighborhood and family before a disaster occurs. The City encourages every community member to be prepared and follow these tips:

• Make a plan today. Know how you’ll contact family and reconnect if separated. Establish a meeting place that’s familiar and easy to find.

• Create survival kits for your home and car.

• Talk to your neighbors and join local programs to be involved and prepared like Redwood City’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and sign-up to receive emergency alerts. The City offers a free emergency alert system so that you can be notified when a disaster strikes to help keep you and your family informed.

To learn more about disaster preparedness, go here: www.redwoodcity.org/disasterpreparation.
On November 8, 2016, the state of California passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). Under this act, the state approved recreational marijuana use for persons 21 years or older and the establishment of certain sales and cultivation taxes. These approved uses go into effect on January 2, 2018.

In response to the new state laws, the City of Redwood City is evaluating City regulations regarding the cultivation, storage, distribution, delivery, sale, taxation, and smoking of recreational and medical cannabis. After extensive research, and substantial community and business input, City staff will seek City Council consideration allowing cannabis sales in Redwood City through a phased approach at their October 23 meeting. These recommendations are a result of City Council feedback following a study session in June. For more information go to www.redwoodcity.org/cannabis.

The City of Redwood City recognizes that the lack of affordable child care services impacts the quality of life in the City. Last year, the City commissioned a child care needs assessment to better understand the child care needs of the community. The assessment findings included that there was a shortage of 225 infant spaces and 522 preschool spaces. To help begin to increase the child care supply, the City Council recently waived permitting fees for in-home care providers to help reduce start-up costs. Additionally, the City is partnering with our school districts and community groups, like Redwood City 2020, to increase child care locations.

The City is also encouraging large employers to provide child care facilities for their employees and community residents, and identifying innovations and partnership opportunities.

Redwood City 2020 will convene more than fifty cross-sector community leaders to work together to create child care solutions on October 25 during their Child Care Solutions Hackathon.

Child care is a critical necessity for Redwood City to achieve our goal to be a community for all ages. To learn more about child care in Redwood City visit www.redwoodcity.org/childcare.

In June, the City of Redwood City welcomed Pamela Aguilar as our new City Clerk! Aguilar brings more than ten years of experience as a municipal clerk for cities within San Mateo County. Prior to working at the City of Redwood City, Pamela served as the City Clerk at the City of Menlo Park. She has also served as Deputy City Clerk for the City of Menlo Park and the City of Belmont. Aguilar is a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC), Notary Public, and a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the City Clerk’s Association of California. Please join us in welcoming Pamela!
TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

City seeks to expand transportation improvement programs

An important area that the City is committing significant resources to is the expansion of transportation options within the community. The Citywide Transportation Plan recommends investments in various transportation projects. Here are a few transportation updates to learn more about the ways the City is investing in the community's future transportation infrastructure.

CITYWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - Recently over 800 participants took a Citywide Transportation Plan community survey to provide feedback on congestion and mobility concerns. It is anticipated that the City will release the Draft Citywide Transportation Plan later in October. Community workshops and an online survey will be planned to gain community input later this fall. For more information about the Citywide Transportation Plan visit www.redwoodcity.org/rwcmoves.

There will also be opportunities at the Citywide Transportation Plan workshops to discuss other transportation related initiatives including the El Camino Real Corridor Plan and the Broadway Streetcar Study. The El Camino Real Corridor Plan seeks to imagine El Camino Real's potential for small business and housing, while balancing the need for cars and parking with viable options for transit, walking, and biking. The El Camino Real Corridor Plan will incorporate community benefits, design guidelines, and streetscape improvements. Following these community outreach meetings, the draft El Camino Real Corridor Plan will be presented this winter to the Planning Commission and City Council for input and consideration. For more information go to www.redwoodcity.org/elcaminoplan. Another study underway is the Broadway Streetcar Study which explores the use of streetcars to improve mobility and connect outlying areas to the downtown, extending along Broadway and Marshall from the Downtown transit center to the Stanford in Redwood City Precise Plan area. Learn more at www.redwoodcity.org/streetcarplan.

HOPKINS AVENUE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROJECT - The primary goal of this project is to increase safety for people walking, riding bikes, and driving and encourage more people to walk and ride their bikes in the neighborhood and to access Stafford Park. This project was developed in response to concerns about the speed and volume of traffic on Hopkins. The City is using a community engagement process to define the preferred design. An initial community survey was completed and two community meetings were used to refine the preferred design concept for the street. A new community survey scheduled to be released later this fall will gauge community support for the design. More information can be found at www.redwoodcity.org/hopkins.

HUDSON STREET PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – This project’s goal is to increase safety for all road users by reducing vehicle speeds and shortening crossing distances for pedestrians. The project benefits people walking along and across Hudson Street and those going to nearby schools. North of Jefferson Avenue, there is now dedicated space for people riding bikes during the morning and afternoon commutes. The project includes new bulb-outs and curb ramps, raised crosswalks on Hudson, at Harrison and Palm avenues, upgraded traffic signals at Jefferson and Hudson, Woodside and Hudson, and Woodside and Hess, and enhanced crosswalk markings and signage. City staff is currently waiting for the delivery of the traffic signal poles and associated equipment for the traffic signals at Hudson/Jefferson and Hudson/Woodside, and anticipates this aspect of the project work to begin in November. For more details about this project, go to www.redwoodcity.org/hudsonstreet.

MIDDLEFIELD ROAD/WOODSIDE ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - This project was identified as the top priority in the Hoover Area Community Mobility Plan and will remove the existing pedestrian barricades on Middlefield and Woodside roads, and construct new, continuous sidewalks leading up to the intersection, and provide new crosswalks through the intersection. The traffic signal and lighting systems will be replaced with new, upgraded equipment. Construction is planned to start this fall.

CITY BUDGET

By the numbers

$267.2M Revenue All Funds
$272.7M Expenditures *some expenditures funded by prior year revenues
$131.6M General Fund Revenues
3% Increase in General Fund Revenues Over 2016-2017
15% General Fund Reserve
59 Capital Improvement Projects
$38.3M Capital Improvement Program
36.7% of Budget Revenues in the General Fund come from Property Taxes
570 Full-Time City Employees
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY CENTER INVESTMENTS

Parks and community centers receive upgrades

One of the City’s strategic goals is to create a community for all ages and the City’s parks, community centers and sports fields help us accomplish just that! There are a number of capital improvements underway or planned in the coming months. Here are a few updates to keep you informed. Hope to see you outside and at a number of these facilities soon!

MAGICAL BRIDGE
The Magical Bridge Playground is a world-renowned playground concept that will soon debut in Redwood City at Red Morton Park. Designed to be inclusive for children and adults of varying physical and cognitive abilities, Magical Bridge Redwood City is scheduled to break ground November 3 and open to the public in late fall or winter 2018. Visit www.redwoodcity.org/magicalbridge for more information and upcoming announcements.

LINDEN PARK
Linden Park reopened at the end of June and is being enjoyed by the community! This park created a unique circumstance for our designers because it is located on a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) easement. The final park design inspires creative play and encourages kids to balance, jump, hop, and race each other, and use their imaginations. Check out the new Linden Park soon!

DOWNTOWN PARK SITE ASSESSMENT
The City is preparing to contract with SERA Architects to conduct a downtown parks feasibility and assessment. Staff will be assessing a number of City owned parcels in the Downtown Precise Plan area for a park site and will begin a number of engagement opportunities to gain input from the community. Look out for more details in the coming months.

MARLIN PARK & SANDPIPER PARK TURF FIELDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
The City is replacing the turf fields at Marlin Park and Sandpiper Park due to significant wear. The infill for the new synthetic turf fields will not be crumb rubber. The City understands there is concern about this type of material and has decided not to use crumb rubber infill in any turf renovation projects. Work is expected to take place from November 2017 to January 2018 on both fields.

VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER (VMSC)/YMCA PROJECT
The VMSC/YMCA proposed project is a long-planned project intended to enhance the community’s fitness, wellness, and recreational resources. Redwood City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has completed studies that show the buildings are at maximum capacity and in need of major repairs and accessibility upgrades. The project includes a campus of buildings and spaces including the Veterans Memorial Building, Herkner Pool, Wellness Center (Old 49er Building), Resource Building (City Administration and Senior Center Gift Shop), and the NFL Alumni Building. The improvements will enable Redwood City to evolve and meet the growing needs of current and future residents. This project is currently in the master-planning phase. Once an architectural agreement is considered by the City Council this fall, community input will be gathered on the potential design of the proposed project.

For more information on these and other Parks, Recreation, and Community Services projects visit www.redwoodcity.org/parkprojects

MORE PARKING FREED UP AT DOWNTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

City vehicles to move to Box, Inc. parking garage

The City Council recently approved an agreement to partner with Box, Inc. and Kilroy (building owners) to provide 75 spaces in the Crossing 900 parking garage for City vehicles and City employee vehicles. As a result, more parking will be available to the public during the day at the Downtown Library and the parking lot behind City Hall, where City vehicles and City employee vehicles had previously parked.

This partnership is possible because a substantial amount of Crossing 900 parking spaces are unused on the average weekday. Box’s location near Caltrain and its successful Transportation Demand Management programs, which are programs to encourage employees to rideshare, take public transportation and other options to reduce traffic are reasons why there are unused Box employee parking spaces. As always, the public may continue to use all 900 parking spaces in the garage on nights and weekends. The move of City cars and City employee parking to the Box parking lot has already begun.

Go to www.redwoodcity.org/parking for more information about Downtown Redwood City parking.
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Revenue Services 780-7210
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