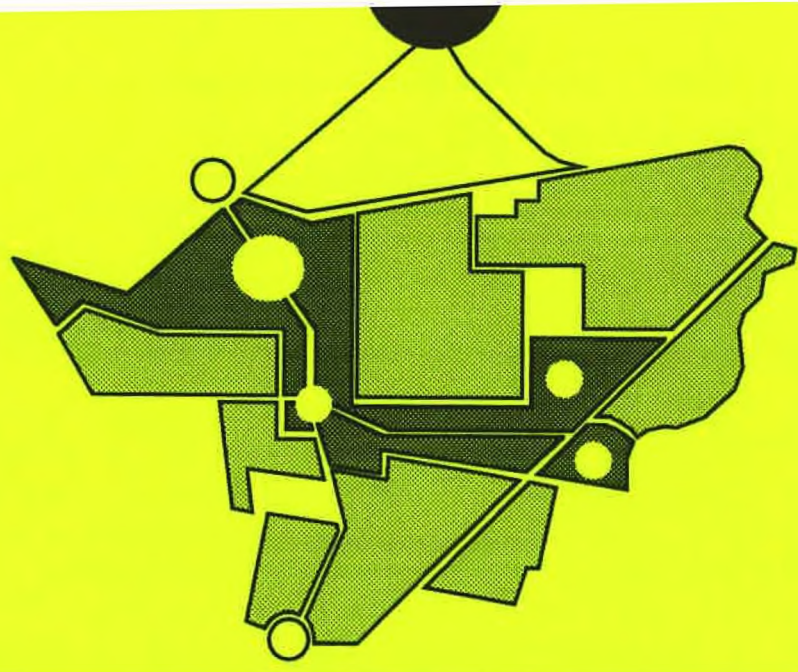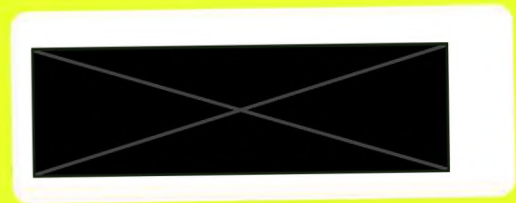Your Opinion Counts!
in
EAST PALO ALTO

Responsible economic development serves current residents first, and preserves & strengthens neighborhoods.

Councilmember Duane Bay
810 Green Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

July 22: Home Depot Opening

Aug 5:
~~July 28~~: Help *Visualize* & *Shape* New Development

August 3: My Next "First Tuesday"

Duane Bay's
First Tuesday Drop-By
6:30 1st Tuesday

City Council
7:30 1st & 3rd Monday

Redevelopment Agency
7:30 3rd Tuesday

Community Service Commission
7:00 3rd Thursday

Human Resources Commission
6:30 1st Thursday

Planning Commission
7:30 2nd & 4th Monday

Public Safety Commission
7:00 1st & 3rd Tuesday

Public Works Commission
7:30 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Rent Stabilization Board
7:00 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Youth Commission
6:30 2nd & 4th Tuesday

Drew Medical Center Board
6:30 2nd Wednesday

EPA Council of Tenants
7:00 2nd Friday

EPA Historical & Ag. Society
6:00 Last Wednesday

EPA Merchants Association
9:00 am 2nd Tuesday

EPA Sanitary District Board
7:00 1st Thursday

EPACANDO Board
6:00 3rd Thursday

EPACANDO Housing
7:00 2nd Thursday

Kiwanis
12:00 2nd & 4th Wednesday

NAACP
7:00 2nd Tuesday

Ravenswood School Board
7:30 2nd & 4th Thursday

United Homeowners
10:00 am 1st Saturday

- **Missed First Tuesdays.** Sorry, but sometimes council meetings get scheduled on top of First Tuesdays, usually due to holidays. When this happens, or any time for that matter, just call. *Aug 5TH*

- **Where is Downtown? What is Downtown?** Put ~~July 28th~~ on your calendar for a workshop where you can influence the ultimate look and feel of our town "spine," running from University Circle and Ravenswood Shopping Center along Donohoe, up University to Four Corners, out Bay Road to Ravenswood Business Park, and finally to Cooley Landing. Where is downtown? Where do the small businesses and non-profits from Whiskey Gulch go? And a big grocery store? Point to what you like and don't like from a set of *pictures* of other towns.

- **Go Buy Something!** You must have heard by now that Office Depot is open and Home Depot is hiring. You may not have heard that Office Depot has a full-service copy center in it. Home Depot opens July 22nd.

- **Communicating with "City Hall".** The complaints I hear most are "We don't know what's going on" and "The Council is out of touch." The City's 1999/2000 budget includes a community relations position and a quarterly newsletter, for the first time in many years. This is progress.

- **Concrete Batch Plant.** The decision to allow a concrete batch plant in the industrial area temporarily during redevelopment construction was the most controversial vote the Council has taken lately. After studying all the information I had, my best judgement was that there will be no significant health risks and that other feared impacts, such as traffic, will be small. Some thoughtful people honestly reached a different conclusion. To do the topic justice and to clarify my own thinking, I wrote up a set of notes. I'd like to share them with you if you are interested. Just leave a message on my voicemail.

- **Please Return Survey.** Politics is rough sometimes, but I was deeply troubled by two aspects of the concrete batch mixing plant controversy. Some opponents of the project intentionally spread fear in the community by calling it a "cement plant" (a noisy, dangerous manufacturing process) when they knew it was not. Some opponents suggested anyone who supported the project didn't care about the health and welfare of the community and/or was on the take. This sad and obvious cynicism prompted me to mail out the enclosed "Civic Index." It was developed by the National Civic League as a community self-check-up. I hope you will take ten minutes right now to fill it out. I'll tally up all the responses and put a summary in the next newsletter. Please don't waste the stamp I already put on it!

Please take ten minutes to answer this survey and mail it back to me.

I will tally the results and send a summary with the next newsletter.

The survey is anonymous so you are more likely to "speak freely."

If there is anyone that you would like to receive this survey, please put their name and address here:

Some Demographics (Anonymously, of course!)

For each of the questions below, please circle any answers that apply to you:

- I am a resident of East Palo Alto.   Yes | No

- I consider myself: AFR-AM | HSP-AM | EUR-AM | PI-AM | Other

- In the non-profit organization sector of East Palo Alto (including churches), I am an:
  employee | board member | volunteer contributor | not actively involved

- In the public sector of East Palo Alto (city, county, schools, etc.), I am an:
  employee | elected official | volunteer contributor | not actively involved

- In the private sector of East Palo Alto (business), I am an:
  employee | owner | volunteer (such as Chamber or Rotary) | not actively involved

National Civic League's Civic Index

Every community has a civic infrastructure—the complex interaction of people and groups through which decisions are made and problems are resolved. The quality of this interaction determines a community's economic, civic and social health. The National Civic League developed the Civic Index a decade ago to help communities evaluate and improve their civic infrastructure.

Please mark each of the questions below to show whether you Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD) or are not sure (?). There are sixty questions.

Community Vision and Pride

1. There is a shared sense of a desired future for the community.   SA A ? D SD

2. The community has completed a broad strategic plan.   SA A ? D SD

3. The community has a positive self-image.   SA A ? D SD

4. The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique.   SA A ? D SD

5. The community proactively monitors critical issues.   SA A ? D SD

6. The community deals with problems before they become crises.   SA A ? D SD

Community Member Participation

1. Community members volunteer to serve on local boards.   SA A ? D SD

2. Local civic groups are visible and active.   SA A ? D SD

3. Community members know how local government works.   SA A ? D SD

4. Civic participation is proactive rather than reactive.   SA A ? D SD

5. Community members are actively involved in major projects.   SA A ? D SD

Community Leadership

SA A ? D SD

1. There is active leadership from all three sectors (private, public, and non-profits).   SA A ? D SD

2. Government is willing to share the leadership turf.   SA A ? D SD

3. There are training programs to nurture new leaders.   SA A ? D SD

4. Leadership is results-oriented.   SA A ? D SD

5. Leadership is risk-taking.   SA A ? D SD

6. Leaders take the long-term view.   SA A ? D SD

7. Leaders for the three sectors work well together.   SA A ? D SD

Government Performance

1. City government is free of corruption. SA A ? D SD
2. City government addresses concerns about the quality of services. SA A ? D SD
3. City government is professional and entrepreneurial. SA A ? D SD
4. City government is responsive and accountable. SA A ? D SD
5. City government services are provided equitably. SA A ? D SD
6. City government considers and utilizes alternative methods of service delivery. SA A ? D SD
7. City government is a positive force in addressing community concerns. SA A ? D SD
8. Elected city officials try to do what's best for the community at large rather than for themselves personally or for their special interests. SA A ? D SD

Volunteerism and Philanthropy

1. Philanthropic foundations actively support the community. SA A ? D SD
2. Local corporations have active giving programs. SA A ? D SD
3. The Philanthropic community supports long-term community goals. SA A ? D SD
4. Local programs encourage and honor volunteers and philanthropists. SA A ? D SD
5. Government and business work closely with the non-profit sector. SA A ? D SD

Intergroup Relations

1. The community is dealing effectively with ethnic and racial diversity. SA A ? D SD
2. The community promotes communication among diverse populations. SA A ? D SD
3. All ethnic groups have the skills to become actively involved in the community. SA A ? D SD
4. All ethnic groups participate and cooperate in resolving broad disputes. SA A ? D SD
5. Small, specific conflicts do not escalate into larger issues. SA A ? D SD
6. The community is not dominated by narrow special-interest groups. SA A ? D SD

Civic Education

1. Schools promote or require community involvement. SA A ? D SD
2. Schools, churches, and youth agencies offer civic education. SA A ? D SD
3. Civic education efforts involve the entire community. SA A ? D SD
4. Youth have ample opportunity to engage in community service. SA A ? D SD
5. Schools teach citizenship and civic responsibility. SA A ? D SD

Community Information Sharing

1. Community members have the information they need to make good decisions. SA A ? D SD
2. Government plays an effective role in making information available. SA A ? D SD
3. Schools and libraries play an effective role in informing the public. SA A ? D SD
4. There are civic organizations designed to inform their members or the public about community affairs. SA A ? D SD
5. The media cover community issues fairly. SA A ? D SD
6. The media play an active and supportive role in the community. SA A ? D SD

Capacity for Cooperation and Consensus Building

1. There are neutral forums and processes where all opinions are heard. SA A ? D SD
2. There are informal dispute resolution processes. SA A ? D SD
3. Community leaders have regular opportunities to share ideas with each other and the community. SA A ? D SD
4. All major interests are represented in collaborative processes. SA A ? D SD
5. All three sectors work together to set common goals. SA A ? D SD
6. Leaders reach collective decisions and implement them. SA A ? D SD

Inter-Community Cooperation

1. Local governments work well together. SA A ? D SD
2. Region-wide policy challenges get addressed and resolved cooperatively. SA A ? D SD
3. Economic development is addressed on a region-wide basis. SA A ? D SD
4. Leaders in the region have a common forum to discuss issues. SA A ? D SD
5. Many services are provided on a regional basis. SA A ? D SD
6. Regional planning activities are carried out on a regular basis. SA A ? D SD