

God has again blessed you and me to be here, alive, able to witness this glorious Spring. I think this is my favorite season of the year. As always, I give honor and glory to God. I will continue to praise His holy name because I realize that you, me, and our beautiful City would not exist but for His love and blessings. We are but sounding brass if we do not recognize from whence we come; I do this in spite of some criticism I've received for daring to mix church and state.

By the time you read this, a new City Council will have already been chosen and the fate of Measure A decided. Because of the large number of candidates, it's impossible to try and predict which five will catch the golden ring on the carousel; however, with Measure A predicting the outcome is much easier; this is due to the fact that this is the third time in two years that a rent control referendum has been on the ballot. In 1984, a rent control ordinance was supported by 56% of the voters; in 1985, 61% of the voters favored rent control. I am proud to be part of a community in which even though homeowners outnumber renters by approximately 9% those homeowners vote their conscience rather than their pocketbook. (A significant number of these homeowners are also landlords!)

There will be a special meeting sometime between the 9th and the 18th of April to certify election results. This meeting will also mark the end of the first Council in East Palo Alto's history. In retrospect, I call to mind some of the major accomplishments of this first Council:

In comparing this Council with some in the surrounding area, it has operated as a unified body; not always agreeing unanimously on things but making important decisions in the best interest of our community. I'm satisfied that during these past 33 months each councilperson was always accorded due respect and deserved recognition; additionally, the Council was open and accessible to the community.

During the first hours of birth, the Council quickly enacted all of the ordinances and resolutions essential for a functioning, viable municipality.

We enacted a rent control ordinance that prevented displacement of people by keeping rents affordable; that prevented unconscionable rent increases and unjust evictions while providing a fair investment return to landlords.

We brought into being a professional, competent police department under the direction of Chief Tecumseh Nelson. During the past nine months we have witnessed an increase of safety on our streets and have felt more secure in our homes. The Council recently approved a grant to the Community Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention and Eradication (COPE). Although the City is still battling drug use and abuse, we are going to win that war; it means all of us must join in this effort to reclaim our youth and our neighborhoods.

Our Public Works Department has cleaned up our streets and vacant parcels of land; it has also been filling potholes and resurfacing some of our streets. It will take much longer than the time we've had to rectify

the County's neglect in failing to maintain our infrastructures in a responsible manner. A street sweeping schedule is almost finalized; residents will then know when to expect this service.

As you already know, we allocated one million dollars of our CDBG monies as a down payment on the old Ravenswood High School site. Public Works has repaired some of the units there and the community should have access sometime around in the early summer.

With the adoption of our Neighborhood Standards ordinance, we will see more attractive neighborhoods; property values will be enhanced.

I end, thanking you for the support you have given the Council in the past, for being patient with us - understanding that everything could not be done at once, and finally for your love. As we begin another Council term, life looks good. Continue to keep track of our deliberations, and please don't accept any rhetoric. Action is the word of the hour! I pray that God will continue to bless our community.

I end,

the past, for being patient with us - understanding that everything could not be done at once, and finally for your love. As we begin another Council term, life looks good. Continue to keep track of our deliberations, and please don't accept any rhetoric. Action is the word of the hour! I pray that God will continue to bless our community.