

East Palo Alto seminars couldn't be more timely

Shifting into high gear for a long-sought incorporation election next year, East Palo Alto will be the site of a four-part public seminar series on citizen involvement in the governmental process starting Saturday.

"People, Participation and Effective Local Government in East Palo Alto" is the title of the free seminars, scheduled at the East Palo Alto Municipal Center, 2415 University Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. The panel discussions are co-sponsored by the East Palo Alto Citizens Committee on Incorporation, the Palo Alto League of Women Voters, the South

San Mateo County League of Women Voters, the Forum on Community and Environment and the Institute for the Study of Community Economic Development, headed by Frank Omowale Satterwhite. The Packard Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation have provided grants for the non-partisan, public information series.

The panelists slated to offer their expertise represent a cross-section of Peninsula city and county officials, community activist organizations and business sector specialists. The speakers will range from San Mateo County Manager David Nichols and San Francisco Supervisor Doris Ward to

San Jose Vice Mayor Iola Williams and San Jose Police Chief Gerald McNamara.

The discussion topics amount to a how-to manual for running a city, and should be invaluable training for anyone thinking of seeking a city council post in the future. If East Palo Alto does become a city, graduates of this seminar should have a special feather in their caps as council contenders.

Besides benefitting East Palo Altans eager for cityhood, the subject matter should be of considerable regional interest as well. We commend the series sponsors and hope that attendance will be high.

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How government works

EAST PALO ALTO — A series of seminars on citizen involvement in local government, "People, Participation and Effective Government in East Palo Alto," will be held beginning Saturday at the East Palo Alto Municipal Center, 2415 University Ave.

The seminars will be sponsored by the East Palo Alto Citizen's Committee on Incorporation (EPACCI), the Palo Alto and South San Mateo County Chapters of the League of Women Voters, the Forum on Community and the Environment and the Institute for the Study of Community Economic Development (ISCED).

The seminars will focus on providing citizens with information on the fundamentals of city government, including municipal services, planning, finance and citizen participation.

"Our aim is to create a more informed local constituency of resident voters," said Frank Omowale Satterwhite of the programs.

"How Local Government Really Works" will begin Oct. 31 at 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Seminars will follow Nov. 14, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Participation is free.