



SHARED VISIONS

SPRING 2017

IT IS FINALLY HERE! VISTA CENTER PALO ALTO'S MOVE DATE IS SET!

In September, 2014, Vista Center Palo Alto moved to our temporary location at 3200 Hillview Avenue in Palo Alto. This allowed for the demolition of our previous building at 2470 El Camino Real and the building of our new location at 2500 El Camino Real. We have enjoyed our time at 3200 Hillview and we are all excited to be moving back to our permanent new home. Vista Center will be the ground floor tenant in this state of the art below-market-rate housing community. We have worked with our architect and contractors to create an accessible ground floor space that will meet the needs of our clients, volunteers, staff and community. In this issue, you will learn about dates our office will be closed for the move, transportation options for getting to 2500 El Camino Real and other details.

Move Dates and Office Closures

Our Palo Alto office will be closed Wednesday, May 17th through Monday, May 22nd for packing and unpacking. We will be up and running at 2500 El Camino Real as of Tuesday, May 23rd.

Telephone Numbers

Our telephone number will remain the same, (650) 858-0202, and toll-free, 800-660-2009. Fax number remains (650) 858-0214.

Transportation

2500 El Camino Real is located between Page Mill Road and California Avenue. The location is served by public transportation, including the California Avenue CalTrain stop and VTA bus lines 22, 522 and 89. Please contact CalTrain at 800-660-4287 or their web site www.caltrain.com and VTA at 408 321-2300 or their web site www.vta.org, respectively for transit information.

Para-Transit

Both VTA Access for Santa Clara eligible residents and Redi-Wheels for San Mateo eligible residents will pick up and drop off clients at our new office as of Tuesday, May 23. The drivers will walk clients to the front or rear entrances to our suite. When scheduling a trip as of May 23, please verify with the scheduler that you are going to the 2500 El Camino Real location.

Driving Directions

from Hwy. 101

Exit at Oregon Expressway and continue west until you reach El Camino Real (about 2 miles). Make a right onto El Camino Real. Vista Center is located on your left next to the Wells Fargo Bank. To access parking, make a left at the next stoplight, California Avenue. Then make a left into the Wells Fargo parking lot and follow the pathway to the next parking lot behind the three story building. Vista Center is located at

2500 Suite 100. Parking spaces are marked for Vista Center. Follow the instructions posted on the main entrance gate adjacent to the parking lot.

from Hwy. 280

Exit at Page Mill Road and continue east, crossing Junipero Serra Boulevard/Foothill Expressway. Make a left onto El Camino Real. Vista Center is located on your left next to the Wells Fargo Bank. To access parking, make a left at the next stoplight California Avenue. Then make a left into the Wells Fargo parking lot and follow the pathway to the next parking lot behind the three story building. Vista Center is located at 2500 Suite 100. Parking spaces are marked for Vista Center. Follow the instructions posted on the main entrance gate adjacent to the parking lot.

Look to our web site www.vistacenter.org for additional updates about our move and opening celebrations. If you have any questions, please call 650 858-0202.

ACCESS TECH UPDATE FROM SANTA CRUZ

Attention all current and future Access Technology Users! The Tech Team at Vista Center Santa Cruz will be holding Tech Lab Days at our new location, 3315 Mission Drive, Suite B, Santa Cruz, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, between the hours of 12 PM and 3 PM. At these scheduled one hour sessions, people can work on a variety of devices with our tech volunteers and specialists on a one to one basis. Just let us know, when you make your appointment, what you are interested in exploring and we will do our best to help.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a one hour appointment, please contact Stacie Grijalva by email at sgrijalva.vistacenter@gmail.com or call (831) 458-9766. We are looking forward to helping make technology work for you!

GREETINGS ALL BOOK LOVERS

Do you love books? Do you love discussing different points of view? Then you are invited to join Vista Center's Talking Book Club! This lively group tackles a wide variety of genres from mystery to humor and from biography to social justice. We meet in Vista Center's conference room at 1:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month (except adjustments for Thanksgiving and Christmas). Recent titles discussed include: *The Nine* - Inside the secret world of the Supreme Court; *Big Little Lies*; *The 13th Juror* - a Dismas Hardy Mystery; *LA Noir* - The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City; *The Cadillac Desert*; *For Whom the Bell Tolls*; and *The Martian*. If you are interested in joining us or if you have any questions, please call Florence LaRiviere at (650) 493-5540 or Ronald Schwartz at (408) 379-8920.

SHARED PATHS TO FUN AND ADVENTURE

Vista Center is on the move. Our two year old social-recreation group is growing and taking a new name – Shared Paths. Begun as a fitness program to encourage exercise and an active life style, plans are now under way to include yoga and theatrical and musical events in addition to our regular hikes. For more information about upcoming events, call Vista Center's Shared Paths phone number: (650) 858-0202, ext. 184.

UPDATE FROM THE HEALTH LIBRARY

The Health Library is busy updating our Pacs. Each year we update these informative sets of material about eye conditions which include; Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Glaucoma, Diabetic Eye Conditions, Retinitis Pigmentosa, and Corneal Transplants. These are available in English (some in Spanish) in large print or by email. There is always room for new people on our free email monthly Research Updates. Hadley School for the Blind, which offers free correspondence courses, recently sent us a number of their current catalogs. Just contact us at thl@vistacenter.org or by phone at 650 858-0202 ext.132.

THANK YOU TO FORD MOTOR COMPANY

For the past two and a half years, Vista Center Palo Alto has been in transition, providing services to our clients from our temporary home in the Stanford Research Park. During this time, we shared building space with Ford Motor Company's Research & Innovation Center Palo Alto. We could not have been more fortunate. Ford's company culture is one that values and promotes community involvement and volunteerism. During our second year in the research park, the volunteer coordinators from Ford and Vista Center began a new collaboration. Daniel Boucuccia from Ford met with Alice Turner from Vista Center to discuss how Ford might support Vista Center's mission and the clients whom we serve. Starting in the Spring of 2016, Ford volunteers began providing transportation and support for Vista Center's monthly hiking excursions into the regional parks of our area. Our clients routinely report that the volunteers from Ford are very special, caring people. Here are a few

comments from our clients:

‘My walks with Ford volunteers were wonderful! I got to meet talented and caring people who helped me feel safe and expanded my world. I'm grateful to Ford for providing their volunteers this opportunity and thank the volunteers for walking along side us!’ Perla Kohs

“I love walking with the people from Ford. Not only are they interested in learning how to be amazing sighted guides, everyone I have met is excited about their work at Ford and with what is yet to be discovered. We have had many fascinating conversations which left me full of hope for the future. Such fun, intelligent, caring people!” Maria Shipley

“As for our terrific volunteers from Ford, our October 2016 hike stands out clearly for me. An Englishman named Stuart and a Scotsman named Jonas participated as drivers, sighted guides, and great conversational buddies. I had the pleasure of walking with both Stuart and Jonas, and it turned out that we all three shared a love of birds and of hiking. Jonas described the Scottish landscape for me in vivid detail. Stuart explained the differences between rooks, jackdaws, crows and ravens, as well as how English blackbirds differ from North American blackbirds. We chatted about all manner of other things too, and the day was absolutely delightful! I hope that the Ford volunteers will continue to accompany us, as we are all enriched by our experience.” Susan Glass

We look forward to continuing this collaborative relationship with the employees of Ford when we move to our permanent home at 2500 El Camino Real.

THE STORE AT VISTA CENTER

Come visit The Store at Vista Center in both Palo Alto and Santa Cruz to learn about and try a wide variety of products for low vision and blind consumers. Just to name a few, we have talking keychains, talking clocks, dome magnifiers, hand held magnifiers, pocket lighted magnifiers, kitchen aids, mobility aids and organizational aids, which are all very useful in your daily life.

If you are into technology, our Stores in Palo Alto, and also now in Santa Cruz, have a wide range of portable video magnifiers to choose from that have a variety of screen sizes and magnification levels. They are light weight and easy to take with you wherever you go. Come in and try them for yourself!

The Store in our Palo Alto office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information call 650-858-0202 ext. 135. The Store in our Santa Cruz office is open Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information call 831-458-9766.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VISTA CENTER STAFF MEMBERS

Since last summer, Vista Center is very fortunate to have added seven new staff members. They are: Shelley Frisbee, Director of Finance; Kristin Green LCSW, Social Services Supervisor; Stacie Grijalva, Access Technology Specialist; Julie Morris, Receptionist; Denisa Oprea, Clinic Services Coordinator; Christy Tall, Santa Cruz Branch Manager and returning staff member Puao Teo, Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Welcome to all of you and we are very excited to have you join our Vista Center team!



for the blind and visually impaired

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED**

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Palo Alto, CA 94306
www.vistacenter.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

How to Contact Us

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