

**From:** [Alice Forsyth](#)  
**To:** [-- City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please Make the Petaluma Museum a Priority in 2025!  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:17:48 PM

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Dear Councilmember, The City of Petaluma owns a gem: the former Carnegie Library, now the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum. However, the Museum is a neglected part of Petaluma's infrastructure. Built in 1906, the Museum is in critical need of a seismic retrofit. Many former Carnegie Libraries in California have been lost to earthquakes, and I do not want this to be the fate of this jewel of our historic downtown. The Museum protects and shares the artifacts and stories that bind our community to Petaluma's unique history. If it were lost, so too would be a big part of Petaluma's vibrant spirit. It is imperative that initial steps toward funding and scheduling of the retrofit construction be completed this year, 2025. I understand that current City resources do not include funding for this project and that the City will pursue grant opportunities to fund the construction. We ask that the City prepare sufficient documentation to apply for said grants in 2025. By making the Museum a high priority within the City's Capital Project Budget, this heirloom property will stay strong for generations to come. Thank you,

**From:** [The Cold](#)  
**To:** [-- City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please Make the Petaluma Museum a Priority in 2025!  
**Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2025 4:29:48 PM

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Dear Council members,

The City of Petaluma owns a gem: the former Carnegie Library, now the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum. However, the Museum is a neglected part of Petaluma's infrastructure. Built in 1906, the Museum is in critical need of a seismic retrofit. Many former Carnegie Libraries in California have been lost to earthquakes, and I do not want this to be the fate of this jewel of our historic downtown.

The Museum protects and shares the artifacts and stories that bind our community to Petaluma's unique history. If it were lost, so too would be a big part of Petaluma's vibrant spirit. It is imperative that initial steps toward funding and scheduling of the retrofit construction be completed this year, 2025.

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Thank you,  
Barry C Lawrence,  
Airport commissioner emeritus

**From:** [Cathleen Springer](#)  
**To:** [-- City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please distribute to City Council members re: PLAZA NORTH  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:04:24 AM

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I am writing on behalf of the senior residents at Vintage Chateau Senior Apartments. While K-Mart occupied the large retail space at the north end of the subject shopping plaza, there were two benches: one located at the north and one at the south sides of their entrance doors/windows. Once K-Mart vacated the space, they took the benches with them.

These benches had served as a stopping and resting point for the many infirm and/or disabled individuals who get out for some exercise and a bit of shopping by walking over to the shopping center. The placement of the benches allowed for a catch-your-breath, rest-your-legs point along the way. Their absence has been sadly noted.

We are requesting that as a part of any lease agreements going forward for new businesses at this tri-portioned space, benches are to be provided for Petaluma's seniors who live next door, as well as for the convenience of the customers who will frequent these retailers new to Plaza North.

Thank you,  
Cathleen Springer  
Resident  
Vintage Chateau

**From:** [Cathleen Springer](#)  
**To:** [-- City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize our Museum!  
**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2025 12:05:05 PM

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Dear Caitlin,

Please pass along my heartfelt request that our beautiful Historic Library & Museum building receives the long-overdue seismic retrofit it certainly deserves.

Tearing down our stately, original City Hall building was bad enough. Let's not lose another gem, this Museum, to (the next) earthquake damage.

Please, City Council, move this project FORWARD in 2025.

With appreciation,  
Cathleen Springer

**From:** [Constance Bay](#)  
**To:** -- City Clerk; -- City Council  
**Subject:** Synthetic grass  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:43:46 AM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

To Petaluma City Council Members and City Clerk:

It was with extreme disappointment that I recently heard the City Council approved synthetic turf at Lucchesi. Apparently signs will be posted about the health risks to users of the field. Is this correct information?

Perhaps you did not have all of the information to make this decision. Is there any way you could change this decision before lawsuits are filed. I thought Petaluma would follow along with Sebastopol and start replacing synthetic fields with natural grass. Petaluma could have set a great example to other cities and join Millbrae and San Marino who banned synthetic grass to protect the health and environment in their towns?

What happened to Petaluma's plan to be carbon neutral? This decision shows a lack of commitment to obtaining a carbon neutral status. It also shows significant disregard for the health of our children, the environment, safe water and wildlife. According to recent research, there

is no synthetic grass made that does not contain PFAS. I'm sure you know these are considered forever chemicals. Use of the synthetic grass fields not only exposes our children and anyone else using the fields to exposure to these chemicals through skin and respiratory Inhalation. Did you know there is actually increased injury to athletes using synthetic fields: turf burns, meniscus tears, MSRA infections to name a few?

What about the inability to recycle the synthetic grass when it wears out in 8 to 10 years?

What about the chemicals that leach into water systems and storm drains in addition to contaminating our soil from the synthetic fields.

The City Council had an opportunity to protect our environment, our children, and help to mitigate climate change. You did exactly the opposite.

Please help me to understand why this decision was made. I hope it was not just financial.

Respectfully,

Constance Bay

**From:** [Constance](#)  
**To:** [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); -- City Clerk; -- City Council  
**Subject:** Re: Synthetic grass  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 1:27:58 PM

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Janice,

Thanks for responding. I wonder how much the health over the last 25 years has been impacted in a negative manner with the synthetic turf. Can you guarantee there are no chemicals in the synthetic turf Petaluma will be installing?

Please see the following information that I quote:

"Think about the wisdom of putting down acres of plastic in the year 2024... and then allowing athletes to go play on that for hours a week," Dr. Kyla Bennett, director of science policy for advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), told ABC News.

In a [June 2023](#) letter, Synthetic Turf Council president and CEO Melanie Taylor said the industry needed until 2026 – "in line with other PFAS legislation currently pending" to "develop viable alternatives for the marketplace" without PFAS chemicals. "We are concerned that trace quantities of a chemical may be present in natural or synthetic ingredients, recycled content, manufacturing processes or equipment," Taylor said. Some manufacturers are currently using alternative materials like sand and cork.

but as noted in the above information have not been able to completely remove pollutants from the rubber base, according to a report by CalMatters.

Even though the newer materials have been improved they are still a health and environmental risk. Besides that they do not sequester carbon.

The negative effects of synthetic grass has received further research and attention by many cities, including Santa Rosa. You could be a City council member who honors the science and wants to protect the health of the people of Petaluma. Instead, you decided to continue to expose us to carcinogens and forever chemicals. Just because something has been done for 25 years does not mean it's the best way to do things even if there has been some improvement when a much safer alternative exists.

I'm asking you to go back to the city council and look at this a second time. Petaluma could be a leader in carbon neutrality starting with natural turf fields. I'm beginning to think that the goal of carbon neutrality is all talk but

when it gets down to it, our city council does not take the actions necessary to achieve this goal.

Respectfully,

Constance Bay

On Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 12:31 PM Janice Cader-Thompson

<[jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org)> wrote:

The Lucchessi site has been a turf filled for 25 years. Fortunately, the newer materials have improved. No more ground up tires as a base.

Janice

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Constance Bay [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:43:27 AM

**To:** -- City Clerk <[cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org)>; -- City Council <[citycouncil@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:citycouncil@cityofpetaluma.org)>

**Subject:** Synthetic grass

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What about the inability to recycle the synthetic grass when it wears out in 8 to 10 years?

What about the chemicals that leach into water systems and storm drains in addition to contaminating our soil from the synthetic fields.

The City Council had an opportunity to protect our environment, our children, and help to mitigate climate change. You did exactly the opposite.

Please help me to understand why this decision was made. I hope it was not just financial.

Respectfully,

Constance Bay



**From:** [Constance B](#)  
**To:** -- City Clerk; -- City Council  
**Subject:** Any chance the city of Petaluma could avoid a lawsuit?  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 3:38:44 PM

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Hi All,

<https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/blog/2024/05/artificial-turf-wars-people-fighting-protect-their-communities#:~:text=After%20the%20Rye%20city%20council,100%25%20of%20artificial%20turf%20products.>

Please read the above regarding lawsuits against communities who have installed artificial turf. When the city council voted to Install new synthetic turf were you aware of the legal implications of this decision? This is of course, in addition to the negative health and environmental impacts. I'm really trying to understand why our city council would approve this?

I've been trying to find a lot of information about the positives of installing synthetic turf. So far my research has not turned up anything to mitigate the numerous negative impacts. Even the possible financial benefits are questionable.

I'm extremely interested in your thoughts regarding this urgent matter. The health of our community members is in your hands. I would like to think that the health of your constituents and their children would take precedence over anything else. Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Constance

**From:** [Marly Ortega](#)  
**To:** -- City Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: Downtown Petaluma Safety  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:45:25 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** marlyuriza [REDACTED]  
**Date:** February 20, 2025 at 4:12:18 PM PST  
**To:** bos@sonomacounty.org  
**Subject:** Downtown Petaluma Safety

To Whom It May Concern:

My son and small grandson were visiting us from Omaha this past week. On Saturday after dinner, we thought it would be nice to stroll down B Street and walk Downtown. The first thing we saw when we turned onto Kentucky Street, was a man lying in a doorway of a shop in a sleeping bag. We proceeded to walk by McNear's Restaurant, when a young woman approached us and started asking us for money; she was very persistent and would not go away. We walked towards Della Fattoria and turned up towards the stairs next to Copperfield's Bookstore, where a man sitting by the stairs was also asking for money. As we walked on the sidewalk, we had to jump out of the way because a hooded man on a bicycle was coming right at us, on the sidewalk at a very fast speed!

The previous week, my husband and I had gone shopping to Nordstrom's at the Village Corte Madera Shopping Center. The mall was clean; I did not feel harassed nor in any danger. They even have a delightful play area for small children. I feel this is where we will do our shopping and browsing.

I am deeply embarrassed about what my son and grandson experienced on our walk in Downtown Petaluma. My children all grew-up here in Petaluma, and it is disappointing to see such a dramatic change from what our town used to be. You can put all the bicycle lanes you want, and put in weird turn-arounds on street corners (which by the way feel very unsafe for us pedestrians), but I would appreciate more attention and focus to our safety and well-being in the Downtown area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Marly Ortega

**From:** [Mary Anne Pedroni](#)  
**To:** -- City Clerk  
**Subject:** Petaluma Museum Retrofit  
**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025 9:28:38 AM

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We are adding our voices to those asking the City to make the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum a high priority within the City's Capital Project Budget.

We spent many hours in the former library using reference materials for school papers and selecting books for summer reading. Almost fifty years later, we share the same enjoyment as our late parents in visiting the Museum's collection and changing exhibits. We are proud to bring out-of-town guests to our beautiful and historic Carnegie building.

We understand the Museum is in critical need of a seismic retrofit and that current City resources do not include funding for this project. We ask that in **2025**, the City prepare sufficient documentation to apply for grant opportunities to fund the construction.

Thank you,

Mary Anne Pedroni  
Kathy Pedroni Chambers

**From:** [Nathan Spindel](#)  
**To:** -- City Council; [Peggy Flynn](#)  
**Subject:** Missed safety opportunity on Round Ct at Westridge Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:07:34 AM

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Dear Council Members and City Manager,

I was disappointed to see this brand-new sidewalk/curb project at Round Ct lacked a curb ramp. Please see the attached photo below. This is in D5 where Round Ct meets Westridge Park ([map link](#)).

Westridge Park is visited by pedestrians with mobility issues and rollers of all ages (bikes, scooters, strollers, wheelchairs). A ramp would have been a big safety and accessibility improvement for everyone. I highlight this because it was a missed opportunity when pouring new concrete. I'd like to see Public Works opportunistically add ramps in similar future projects — especially at our parks.

Thank you for listening,  
Nathan Spindel

**From:** [Getting it Right from the Start](#)  
**To:** [Peggy Flynn](#); -- City Clerk; [Ingrid Alverde](#)  
**Cc:** [Alisa Padon](#); [Jason Soroosh](#)  
**Subject:** Reminder: Provide Information on Cannabis Policies, Regulations and/or Processes by 2/24  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 12:25:25 PM

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Dear City/County Officials,

We are contacting you on behalf of the [Getting it Right from the Start](#) team, a project of the Public Health Institute. Since 2019, we have collected data on the local cannabis laws passed by each of California's 540 jurisdictions.

We are reaching out for your help in identifying **any changes made** to your cannabis-related policies, regulations, or processes **during 2024**. We are also interested in your current cannabis tax rate(s) if you have passed a local tax. If you have already submitted information to our team, please disregard this request.

Any details you can provide will help ensure that your jurisdiction is accurately represented in our work. Please address your response and any questions or feedback to Jason Soroosh, at [jsoroosh@phi.org](mailto:jsoroosh@phi.org). **Please respond by February 24th, 2025.** If there is someone more suitable to assist with this request, we would greatly appreciate it if you could forward this message to them.

With the help of feedback from cities and counties, we strive to continually improve our methods to reflect local policies more accurately and comprehensively.

Using this data, we have published numerous scientific studies on California's local cannabis laws, and we annually publicly release a series of "[scorecards](#)" for every California jurisdiction that allows cannabis storefront or delivery-only retail sales. The scores are based on six public health and equity-focused categories that capture recommended policies to protect youth, reduce problem cannabis use, and promote social equity.

If you are a jurisdiction that allows cannabis storefront or delivery-only retail sales, we will reach out to you again to review our draft 2025 Scorecard for your jurisdiction before the public release of the final 2025 Scorecard.

You can learn more about our work, [best practices](#) by California jurisdictions, and access specific language to incorporate recommended practices into your local law from our [model local ordinances for retailing, marketing and taxation](#) by visiting our [webpage](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance to your jurisdiction.

*The Getting it Right from the Start team:*

Alisa A. Padon, PhD  
Research Director

Aurash J. Soroosh, RD, MSPH  
Policy Associate

Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Director

Kiara Gonzalez Garcia  
Health Equity Program Manager

Ryan Whitacre, PhD  
Research Scientist

Getting it Right from the Start  
Public Health Institute  
2000 Center Street, #308  
Berkeley, CA 94607  
<https://gettingitrightfromthestart.org/>

**From:** [Peggy Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Hinda](#); -- City Clerk; -- City Council  
**Cc:** -- Executive Team  
**Subject:** RE: "M-Group Controlled City" Planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:49:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [emailsig\\_citylogo\\_d1\(2\)\\_a1e70f08-7592-4fe0-bb56-cb14bfb4a22e.png](#)  
[emailsig\\_climateready\\_d1\(2\)\\_addfb829-1a44-40dd-ba3f-f09d3f479a15.png](#)  
[emailsig\\_fb\\_d1\(2\)\\_92e49e2e-a826-4a29-ae0-0ec831f7a21a.png](#)  
[emailsig\\_insta\\_d1\(2\)\\_5fefcc68-2526-4f07-987b-719a90258760.png](#)

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Hinda—to be clear, no one is “taking over” the City. We have a City Council that sets policy—including land use policy—and staff implement that policy. Our staff manage all consultants and contractors and their work on behalf of the City. No one on staff nor our contractors and consultants set policy. If you are unhappy with current City policies, please let Council know what policies and decisions you are concerned with and am certain you will receive a response.

For your information, below are two places on our website that describe how our City’s planning process works:

<https://cityofpetaluma.org/our-planning-process/>

<https://cityofpetaluma.org/our-staffing-model-for-planning/>

Sincerely,

Peggy

**Peggy Flynn**

City Manager  
City of Petaluma | City Manager's  
Office  
Phone. (707) 778-4345 |  
[PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org)  
11 English St, Petaluma, CA 94952



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**From:** Hinda <[hblaswilson@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:hblaswilson@cityofpetaluma.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2025 8:02 PM  
**To:** -- City Clerk <[cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org)>; -- City Council <[citycouncil@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:citycouncil@cityofpetaluma.org)>  
**Subject:** "M-Group Controlled City" Planning

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[important](#)

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Quotations are necessary as I am seeing my City being taken over by a Group that has no business here. Better would be Santa Rosa, San Rafael, Hayward, Fremont but not here in Petaluma.

I am sure this will not get read or addressed. Just like writing to Congressman Huffman who does not address what is concerning to WE THE PEOPLE/Citizens but to what his "party" wants. Gone is integrity and honesty to be replaced by a "Tammany Hall" likeness. Is that what we have here in Petaluma now?

I came from a colonial town of over 300+ years old. In the 1960s my hometown decided to be like others and went for "Urban Renewal".

Beautiful houses, victorian structures would be torn down and glass / ugly square menageries would be put up in it's place. The moniker, Kingston, NY a Colonial City would be a joke as most of the colonial structures were torn or "reshaped" to fit the minds of those who came from NYC. Today, it is now a bedroom community of the City even though it is just less than 100 miles away. Roads are unkept, reservoir has been polluted, taxes are being raised but if you are known to the Mayor and his select circle, then you have no problems. Just like here it seems. If one is not for the M-Group, then one has no say.

WE SAID NO to the massive buildings. We the People WANT to keep Downtown as it is. Enough of the once beautiful buildings have been destroyed only to be replaced by ugly rectangle/square buildings w/o any characterizations. There are massive issues with our streets, our sidewalks, the fairgrounds, and now CRIME!! We have spoken via our votes and at the City Hall meetings but no one is hearing us. We know money talks but you are supposed to be working for us! You are not in Sacramento YET! No need to practice the betrayal of the citizens on us!

Sincerely,

H. Blas-Wilson  
Petaluma, CA

***If one believes in BREAKING is possible,  
Then believe in FIXING is even more Possible!***