

December 7, 2007
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Project LOOK! Open House December 13

Love kids? Love art? Join us at the Palo Alto Art Center on Thursday, December 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m. and discover what being a Project LOOK! Docent is all about. During the evening you will tour the current exhibits, learn about the program, and explore Project LOOK! hands-on activities. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP and for questions, please call (650) 329-2176.



Project LOOK! is a museum education program for kindergarten students through 8th graders. The mission of the program is to encourage appreciation and involvement in the visual arts. Docents lead 35-minute tours in the Art Center galleries and assist with activities in the Project LOOK! studio.

Project LOOK! is supported by the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation in a public/private partnership.

4 Crushed! Recycled Concrete Seeks a Second Chance

City-contracted FERMA Corporation has recently completed the crushing of 18.6 million pounds of concrete. The City had been stockpiling the concrete, delivered to the Landfill from local construction projects and City crews, until there was enough to bring in the equipment to crush it.

The recycled concrete can now be used as base rock for projects like driveways, walkways and patios, and wherever Sub class 2 base rock is specified. This Sub class base rock has been tested and meets Caltrans specifications. The base



4 Designates an item related to one of the City Council's "Top 4" Priorities.

rock is for sale, while supplies last, at \$6 per 1.25 tons. This is a real bargain compared to \$7 per ton at other construction material suppliers. For sales information, contact the Palo Alto Landfill at (650) 329-2113.

Fire Department Promotions Ceremony January 10, 2008

The Palo Alto Fire Department recently announced four promotions to the rank of Fire Captain, effective November 24, 2007. An official promotional and badge pinning ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, January 10 at 4 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

Captain Catherine Capriles began her career with the Palo Alto Fire Department in 1994. Catherine held the rank of Apparatus Operator prior to her appointment to Captain. She has been involved in recruitment outreach, serves on the Department's Human Relations Committee and is one of the lead persons in establishing the implementation of an automated computer staffing system. Captain Charles Stewart began his career with Palo Alto Fire in 1990 and has served as a Paramedic, Apparatus Operator, Paramedic preceptor training new paramedics, was involved in recruitment outreach, and various Fire Department internal committees. Captain William Crump began his career with the Palo Alto Fire Department in 1997. He was an Apparatus Operator and worked as a department Training Coordinator for six years. In addition, he is the department's hose and small equipment coordinator. Captain Bill Dale began his Palo Alto career in 1997. He was an Apparatus Operator prior to his appointment and has been very involved in the department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program, serves as a paramedic preceptor, medical equipment coordinator and on various internal EMS committees.

Registration Open Now for Winter Classes

The Recreation Division of the City of Palo Alto Community Services Department is offering several new and exciting classes this winter. You may also visit the City web site at www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy or call (650) 463-4900 for more information.

Introduction to Piano

- Classes for **4–5 year olds** held 1/10/08 through 2/14/08, 4 – 4:50 p.m. and 1/12/08 through 3/1/08, 3 - 3:50 p.m.
- Classes for **5–6 year olds** held 1/10/08 through 2/14/08, 5 – 5:50 p.m. and 1/12/08 through 3/1/08, 4 - 4:50 p.m.

Group Violin Lessons

- Classes for **6–10 year olds** held 1/12/08 through 3/1/08, 3 – 3:50 p.m.



Designates an item related to one of the City Council's "Top 4" Priorities.

Location for above listed music classes is Global Fluency, 4151 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call (408) 861-1298 for more information. Please note that parents are required to attend music classes with children.

My First Culinary Class

•Classes for **5–7 year olds** held 2/6/08 through 2/27/08, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center Kitchen. Please note that a \$15 materials fee, which includes non-food items, apron and coloring book, is due to the instructor at the first class.

Professional Baking Essentials for Teens

•Classes for **12–16 year olds** held 1/2/08 through 2/2/08, 9 a.m. – Noon at the Lucie Stern Community Center Kitchen.

Mitchell Park Youth & Teen Center Update

The month of November at the Teen Center included a special “Girls Night Out.” Girls in Middle School arrived to the center at 6 p.m. in their PJs, ready to meet new people and have some fun. They enjoyed a spaghetti feed, gave each other facials and pedicures, and learned how to make their own facial masks out of common household items; blueberry and oatmeal were favorites. Conversations continued about what makes girls special, and the night was topped off with yummy ice cream sundaes. A “Boys Night Out” is in the works.

Some great after-school activities are planned for December at the Drop. If your Middle School student is not a member yet, stop by and check us out. Decorating and cooking projects adorn the activity calendar this month and homework help is offered each afternoon. We will wrap up with a Winter Formal for 6-8 grade students on December 21. Pick up a winter Enjoy! catalog, visit our web site at www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy or call (650) 329-2487 for more information.

4 City Leads Nation with PaloAltoGreen Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized Palo Alto as the first city in California to be named a “Green Power Community.” At the time of the EPA designation in 2006, green power program participation around the country averaged two percent. City of Palo Alto’s remarkable achievement was an unprecedented 15 percent, due to the success of PaloAltoGreen (PAG), a voluntary customer participation program providing



clean, renewable wind and solar power that moved PAG to the number one green power program in the nation.



Since that distinction, this community was challenged to do even better with 20 percent customer participation by the end of 2007. There are only two other electric utility programs in America that are above 10 percent.

PAG currently has an outstanding participation rate of nearly 20.5 percent, far above any other utility in the country. Congratulations Palo Alto!

4 Photovoltaic (PV) Workshop Educates Building Officials

City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) collaborated with Silicon Valley Power (SVP) to host a seven-hour class for building officials, electrical inspectors and system designers to understand the latest changes to the National Electric Code.

The class was prompted by the overwhelming response from utility customers who have installed photovoltaic (PV) systems in their homes and businesses, along with the higher levels of rebates developed by CPAU. Because so many systems are coming on line, it is important that building officials are aware of the issues that arise during installations as well as safety and reliability. Last year, the State of California passed a new law (SB1) designed to increase the number of photovoltaic (PV) systems on homes and businesses.

There were 50 attendees representing more than 17 Northern California building departments, including the City of Palo Alto. Also at the training were representatives from 12 inspection services companies and 4 PV industry firms. Participants received the Inspector Guidelines for PV Systems handbook and qualified for continuing education credits.

Alma Street Substation Decommissioned After 54 Years

After 54 years of successful operation, the Alma Substation, located at Alma and Homer Streets, was decommissioned on December 4, 2007, during a ceremony noting the historic moment. An affordable housing project is being planned to replace the substation at the site.



Designates an item related to one of the City Council's "Top 4" Priorities.



The Alma Substation served customers with electric power to the downtown and surrounding areas, and was the second electric substation to be commissioned by the City of Palo Alto Utilities Department in October 1953. All electric loads have been transferred to

substations located at Quarry Road and Park Boulevard. Along with the Utilities Department, other City departments worked on the project, which took over 18 months to complete.

4 Inventory Certification Process Successfully Completed



Palo Alto received notification that the City successfully completed all the steps in the California Climate Action Registry greenhouse gas inventory certification process for 2006, earning the Registry's "Climate Action Leader" status for the second year in a row.

The emissions inventory is for all municipal government operations, and available to the general public at the Climate Action Registry web site, <http://www.climateregistry.org/CARROT/public/reports.aspx>

4 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest a Great Success

The City of Palo Alto Fire Department recently completed its 16th Annual Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest. The contest is focused on engaging children in fire awareness, and prizes have been awarded to kindergarten through fifth graders from elementary schools throughout the city. The winning posters will be hung in the hall between the Council Conference Room and the Council Chambers at the Civic Center.

The contest is held each year in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Agency Fire Prevention Week to increase fire safety awareness in our community and was established to commemorate the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 that destroyed more than 17,000 buildings. The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week and the Poster Contest was "Practice Your Escape Plan."

There was a great response to this year's contest, with student entries submitted from Fairmeadow, Palo Verde, Hoover, Walter Hays, Ohlone, Escondido, Barron Park, El Carmelo and Addison elementary schools. Students created excellent posters at all levels, which made choosing winners very difficult for the Fire Department judges. Gift certificates are being awarded to first, second and third place posters for each grade from kindergarten through fifth, thanks to a generous donation from University Arts.



Designates an item related to one of the City Council's "Top 4" Priorities.