

*December 21, 2007
Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Avoid the 13 – Don't Drink and Drive

The Police Department wants to remind everyone not to drink and drive. During last year's Avoid the 13 Holiday Campaign, four people lost their lives in alcohol related accidents. Officers throughout Santa Clara County are attempting to reduce that number to zero with very active enforcement efforts. In Palo Alto alone, five to ten extra officers will be on patrol every night through January 1, 2008, looking for drunk drivers.

Since the campaign kick off December 14, Palo Alto officers have arrested 25 people for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) violations.

Management Talent Exchange Program Graduation

The City of Palo Alto hosted the graduating class from this year's Management Talent Exchange Program (MTEP) in early December. MTEP is a professional development opportunity, featuring three-month assignments in agencies across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Managers work in new assignments at sister agencies, returning to their "home" agencies with enhanced skills and insights into public service. This year Palo Alto had seven managers participate in MTEP, with placements in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Palo Alto and San José. In addition, Palo Alto received



MTEP participants in the departments of Public Works, Administrative Services, Police and the City Manager's Office.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Palo Alto Golf Course. The event included city managers, supervisors and participants from 16 agencies. The 2007 MTEP graduates were enthusiastic about their experience, and grateful for the opportunity to grow professionally. Palo Alto has hosted MTEP since 2004.



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

Be Safe This Holiday with These Fire Safety Tips

At this time of year with Christmas trees and lights, indoor and outdoor decorations, candles and fireplaces, parties and, of course, presents wrapped in decorative paper, it is particularly important to be aware of fire safety. Here are some suggestions to reduce the risk of fire:

- Choose a safe location for your Christmas tree. Don't block hallways or doors that might serve as escape exits in the case of an emergency.
- Make sure your tree is not thirsty.
- Have a fire extinguisher near your tree.
- DO NOT burn your tree in the fireplace. Dry Christmas trees burn very hot and extremely fast. Also, do not burn wrapping paper or tissue paper in the fire place. Recycling is much better and safer. And, you wouldn't want Santa to come down the chimney and step in hot coals!
- Never use electric lights on a metallic or metal-framed tree. Faulty lights can charge the tree with electricity, possibly resulting in electrocution.
- Only decorate your tree with low energy lights (miniature lights) that are CSA and UL approved. Double check the condition of your lights - throw away lights with cracked or frayed cords.
- Prevent overloading the electrical outlets by not using more than three strings of lights on one circuit. Do not run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or near heaters.
- Unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Make sure you are able to turn off the lights without having to crawl under the tree.
- NEVER use candles on your tree, regardless if it is living or artificial.
- ALWAYS keep lighters, matches and all other smoking materials out of the reach of children.

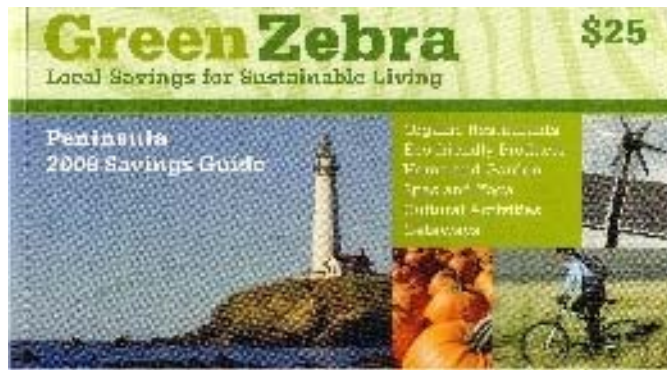
Have a happy and safe holiday season! Visit the City web site at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/fir/community.asp>, the Staying Alive web site at <http://www.stayingalive.ca> and the National Fire Protection Association web site at <http://www.nfpa.org> for more information.

Shoppers Change Their Stripes Through City Partnership

Green Zebra has arrived on the Peninsula! The savings guidebook is a directory and educational resource that helps shoppers save money and make choices for sustainable living. The coupons feature exclusive offers from eco-friendly retailers, organic restaurants and markets, Yoga and Pilates studios, independent bookstores, bike shops, museums and more.



The City of Palo Alto partnered with Green Zebra, which offered businesses the opportunity to be listed at no charge. City departments provided educational messages for avoiding pesticides to help protect the Bay, money-saving programs for energy and water efficiencies, and actions to help Palo Alto reach its Zero



Waste goal. The book also features a 2-for-1 coupon offer for our locally “grown” compost (up to ten bags free!) at the Organics yard located at the City of Palo Alto Landfill.

Palo Alto businesses interested in being included in future editions of Green Zebra or school organizations and community groups interested in using the Green Zebra coupon book as a fundraiser can contact Green Zebra. Coupon books are available on line at www.thegreenzebra.org and can be purchased from the following Palo Alto retailers: Andronico's Market, 500 Stanford Shopping Center; Common Ground Organic Garden Supply, 559 College Avenue; The Playstore, 508 University Avenue; and Sigona's Market, 399 Stanford Shopping Center.

4 City Joins Others to Form Stewardship Council

City of Palo Alto Public Works staff is working locally and statewide to advance Producer Responsibility for products destined for landfills. Producer Responsibility means whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product, takes responsibility for minimizing its environmental impact through all stages of the product's life cycle. In 2006, staff from the Public Works Environmental Compliance and Refuse Divisions joined other jurisdictions to form the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC).

The mission of the CPSC, of which Palo Alto was a founding member, is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer-financed to one that relies on producer responsibility and to minimize public costs and drive improvements in product design which will promote environmental sustainability.

Action is needed at the state level for products to be designed in a less-toxic manner. That design includes easier access for the public to conveniently dispose of products at the end of their useful life. Local governments face escalating costs to properly manage products that cannot be reused or recycled, or that should not be disposed of in landfills or down sanitary

sewers due to their toxicity. Because producers of these products have taken little or no responsibility for their products, the costs are passed on to you. The producer, having the greatest ability to minimize the impact, has the most responsibility. City representatives and CPSC Executive Director Heidi Sanborn met with Assemblyman Ira Ruskin and his staff, delivered presentations at conferences and other groups, and will meet with Senator Joe Simitian in 2008 to discuss this issue and work together to advance Producer Responsibility in California.

As a result of the formation of the CPSC, more than 73 counties, cities and government associations are working together to advance Producer Responsibility in California. Visit <http://caproductstewardship.org/> for information on the California Product Stewardship Council.

Palo Alto Financial Report Available on City Web Site

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2006-2007 has been added to the City web site. Go to www.cityofpaloalto.org, select City Departments on the home page, then Administrative Services, then Financial Reporting. Within Financial Reporting there are links to reports by title and reporting date.



Annual Winter Preparedness Update

Public Works, Fire and Police Department staff met with Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) representatives to discuss preparation for the upcoming rainy season and to exchange information that will ensure effective coordination during future emergencies.

In the late summer and early fall, the District removed accumulated sediment and overgrown vegetation from the lower reaches of San Francisquito, Matadero and Adobe Creeks in Palo Alto. City Public Works Operations crews removed debris from storm drain inlets throughout the City, continued the storm drain pipe hydroflushing program, readied for operation each of the City's seven storm water pump stations, and participated in the annual inspection of San Francisquito Creek coordinated by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

For protection of property against flooding, the District provides filled sandbags at the Palo Alto Airport, at the end of Embarcadero Road. The City also stocks sand and unfilled bags at Greer Park on Colorado Avenue at West Bayshore Road. A video on sandbagging techniques will be broadcast during



the winter months on Cable TV Channels 28 and 30. Sandbag information:
<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=10159>

Residents are encouraged to prevent street flooding by keeping leaves and debris out of streets and gutters and to report storm drain blockages at (650) 496-6974; nights and weekends at (650) 329-2413. Winter preparedness information was included with the utility bills during October and is available on the web:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=10160>

The City monitors real-time creek level and rainfall data and provides the information on the City web site as a public service. To view the status of creek water levels and rainfall during storm events, visit the on line creek monitor: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/earlywarning/creekmonitor.html>

Frank's Weekly Memo Takes a Holiday

We will return on January 11, 2008. Happy New Year!

