

*January 11, 2008
Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Students Safety a Priority with "Operation Safe Passage"

The Palo Alto Police Department will be participating in "Operation Safe Passage" during the week of January 14-18, 2008, sponsored by the California Highway Patrol. The enforcement-orientated program is aimed at ensuring that students have safe passage to and from schools.

The Palo Alto Police Department Traffic Team, as well as representatives from the Patrol Division, will enforce vehicle code violations around our local schools, especially during morning and afternoon commute times, including bicycle and pedestrian infractions.


King Plaza Dedication Ceremony January 21

At 2 p.m. on Monday, January 21, the City will celebrate with the dedication of City Hall Plaza as the "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Plaza." Please join the City Council, representatives from the King Institute at Stanford and distinguished guests for this historic event. The program will include musical pieces performed by the Eastside Prep High School choir and the Stanford Gospel choir, as well as comments by Clarence Jones, former Counsel and draft speechwriter for Dr. King, Reverend Robert Olmstead, a Palo Alto minister who marched with Dr. King in Selma, former Palo Alto Councilmember Roy Clay, former Palo Alto Councilmember LaDoris Cordell, current Palo Alto Mayor Larry Klein and Vice Mayor Peter Drekmeier. Following the program, the City will unveil the dedication plaque. For more information, e-mail kelly.morariu@cityofpaloalto.org or call the City Manager's Office at (650) 329-2452.

City Staff Responds to Severe Winter Storm

A fierce winter storm struck Palo Alto and the Bay Area on Friday, January 4, producing heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds. Rainfall ranged from two inches in the Baylands to over five inches in Foothills Park, and winds topped 50 miles per hour. The storm caused localized street flooding, rising creeks, downed trees and branches, and power outages at various locations.

On Friday, the City opened its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to monitor weather conditions, creek water levels and coordinate staff response

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

to storm-related incidents until the rain diminished and the creeks began to recede. Power outages in Palo Alto were relatively minimal considering the high winds and dramatic weather conditions. The largest outage affected roughly 1,400 customers. Crews from the Public Works and Utilities Departments worked diligently and power was restored by Friday evening.

Palo Alto field crews are prepared to handle weather-related problems for the remainder of the winter storm season. Residents and businesses are encouraged to contact the appropriate City department to report storm damage in their neighborhood. Department phone numbers and winter preparedness tips are available at

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

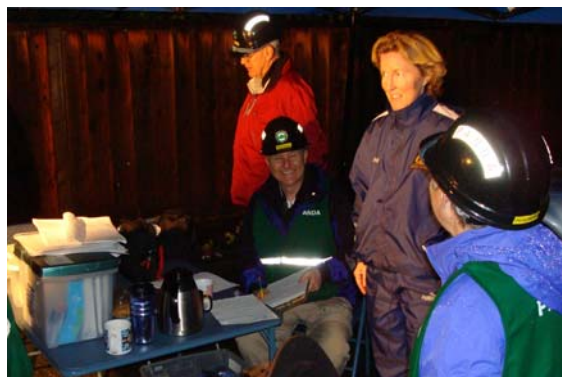
4 PANDA/CERT Activated Due to Heavy Rains



The City of Palo Alto activated Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster (PANDA) volunteer first responders Friday, January 4, to monitor its two sandbagging sites in reaction to recent severe winter storm activity.

Thirteen members of the PANDA team of specially trained volunteers responded Friday afternoon at the request of the City's

Emergency Operations Center (EOC), who established an Incident Command post at the PANDA trailer located at Fire Station 3. The Incident Commander quickly dispatched two 3-person teams to the Greer Park and Airport sandbag locations. Once on site, each team began directing traffic and deployed special signs requesting proof of Palo Alto residency and reminding people to limit themselves to ten sandbags per trip. Each team included a PANDA volunteer who was also an amateur radio operator. The activation was completed Friday evening.



Winter Storm Activation is a special capability of PANDA District 3, which encompasses the Crescent Park and Duveneck/St. Francis neighborhoods as well a part of Midtown and includes both Palo Alto sandbag distribution locations.

PANDA is Palo Alto's implementation of the federal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. PANDA/CERT believes that through

training and the proper equipment, citizen volunteers can become effective disaster first responders when professional staff will be overwhelmed.

Seniors Usher in 2008 at New Year's Eve Day Bash

Over 250 seniors, a 12% increase from last year, gathered at Cubberley Community Center for Palo Alto Recreation's annual Senior New Year's Eve Day Bash on Monday, December 31. For the bargain price of \$10, thanks to financial contributions from Mid-Peninsula Bank, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and La Comida, attendees enjoyed a generous buffet lunch, danced to a live band and got a chance to win prizes from a wide assortment donated by local businesses. The New Year was ushered in with champagne and cider toasts symbolically at 1 p.m. The event has been a tradition for over 20 years and many attendees have been coming for years.

The event is made possible with the help of staff and volunteers from Albert L. Schultz Jewish Community Center, Avenidas, Senior Friendship Day, Chinese Community Center and the Teen Advisory Board.

This Year's Holiday Toy Drive a Huge Success!

The 25th Annual Toys for Kids drive was a big success this year. Community members and City staff generously donated over 2300 toys, books and stocking stuffers. Also received was over \$1900 in gift cards and \$300 in cash. The 11 local organizations in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties which received assistance express their deepest appreciation for everyone's generosity. Without it, many children would not have had toys. A thank you also goes to all of the fire stations, libraries and community centers for the use of their facilities as drop-off sites.

"Avoid the 13" Holiday DUI Campaign Concludes

The "Avoid the 13" Holiday DUI campaign concluded on January 1, 2008, with 860 drunk driving arrests throughout Santa Clara County and one alcohol-related accident resulting in a fatality. Our Police Department made 103 arrests in Palo Alto, second only to San Jose Police and the San Jose CHP. This was a significant increase over the 35 arrests made by Palo Alto Police during last year's campaign.

Officer Brad Kilpatrick and Agent Dan Ryan each made over 20 arrests during this 18 day campaign. Thanks to the efforts of these officers and the other Strike Team members, the Police Department accomplished their goal of making the streets of Palo Alto safer for all of us.



4 FY 2006-07 City Auditor's Report Released

The City Auditor's Office released the sixth annual Service Efforts and Accomplishments report for FY 2006-07. It provides a broad range of data on City services and performance, with comparisons to other jurisdictions and five-year trends, and includes the fifth annual National Citizen Survey™ of Palo Alto residents which asks opinions of City services and residents' experiences dealing with the City. Overall, 86% of Palo Alto residents rated City services good or excellent. More than half of the respondents reported having contact with a City employee last year; 79% rated that contact good or excellent.

Over the last five years, General Fund spending increased 11%, from \$119 million to \$132 million; given an estimated population increase and inflation, the General Fund spending power was less. Enterprise Fund expense increased from \$152 million to \$190 million, primarily due to increased costs to purchase electricity, gas and water.

The net General Fund cost per resident was \$1,518 including:

- \$335 for police services
- \$207 for community services
- \$186 for fire and emergency medical services
- \$152 for public works
- \$136 for administrative, legislative, and support services
- \$90 for library services
- \$45 for planning, building, code enforcement
- \$136 for non-departmental expenses (\$99 to school district)
- \$231 in operating transfers out (\$140 for capital projects).

Asked whether they receive good value for the taxes they pay, 67% agreed, placing Palo Alto in the 91st percentile compared to other jurisdictions. Down from 62% last year, 57% were pleased with the overall direction of the City.

Infrastructure remains a City priority. Capital spending last year totaled \$46.4 million, including \$17.5 million in the general governmental funds and \$28.9 million in the enterprise funds.

Community Services: 92% of residents reported they visited a Palo Alto park last year. 82% of residents rated the range and variety of recreation classes as good or excellent, and 91% rated the quality of City parks good or excellent. Last year, 42% of class registrations were on line, compared to 11% five years ago.

Fire: In FY 2006-07, the department responded to about 7,200 calls for service, or 20 calls per day. This included almost 4,000 medical/rescue calls and 221 fire calls. Average response times were slightly higher last year—

5:48 minutes for fire calls and 5:17 minutes for medical/rescue calls. 98% of residents rated fire services good or excellent.

Library: 79% of residents said they used Palo Alto library services during the year. Palo Alto has a higher circulation per capita than many other local libraries – total circulation topped 1.4 million last year. The number of reference questions was down 35%, while the number of on-line database searches was up 192%. There were more than 900,000 self-checkouts last year, compared to about 45,000 five years ago. 81% of residents rated library services good or excellent.

Planning and Community Environment: Planning applications completed in FY 2006-07 numbered 299; the average time to complete them was 13.4 weeks. 76% of building permits were issued over the counter; for those not issued over the counter, the average time to issue a building permit was 102 days. The department reports that 99% of building permit inspection requests were responded to within one working day.

Police: The department handled more than 60,000 calls for service in FY 2006-07, or about 165 calls per day. The average response time for emergency calls was up slightly to 5:08 minutes. The percent of residents feeling very or somewhat safe from crime went up last year, recovering from a one-year decline in perceptions of safety, with 98% of residents reporting they felt safe in their neighborhood during the day (Palo Alto ranked #1 in this category compared to other jurisdictions). 91% of residents rated police services good or excellent.

Public Works: Palo Alto's recycling program ranked in the top 3 in customer satisfaction compared to other jurisdictions, with 93% rating the service good or excellent. 67% of residents rated street tree maintenance good or excellent; 56% rated sidewalk maintenance good or excellent; but only 47% of residents rated street repair good or excellent.

Utilities: The electric utility delivered 977,000 megawatt hours of electricity in FY 2006-07, with 86% of residents rating service good or excellent. The gas utility delivered over 31 million therms of natural gas, with 85% of residents rating service good or excellent. And, the water utility delivered over 5.4 million cubic feet of water, with 79% of residents rating service good or excellent.

The City Auditor report will be presented to the City Council on Monday, January 14. You may pick up a copy at the Auditor's Office on the 7th floor of City Hall. To view the entire report, visit http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/aud/service_efforts_and_accomplishments.aspl

