

January 25, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Road Closure Information for February 16-17, 2008 Tour of California Prologue

The 2008 Amgen Tour of California, an eight-day professional cycling event similar to the Tour de France, will be in Palo Alto for one day on February 17, 2008. The local portion of the eight-day race, Palo Alto-Stanford University Prologue, is being hosted by the City of Palo Alto, Stanford University and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the race.

The race begins at City Hall (250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301), goes east on Hamilton Avenue to Cowper Street, turns left at Cowper Street and then left onto University Avenue to ride the length of University Avenue and Palm Drive. The race will finish at Museum Way after an amazing 360 degree loop around the Oval.

For over 24 hours, portions of Hamilton Avenue and University Avenue in Palo Alto and Palm Drive on the Stanford University campus will be closed for the event during the weekend of February 16 – 17. For the map, go to <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=10568> to see the downtown Palo Alto road closures.

- Hamilton Avenue from Bryant St. to Ramona St. – Saturday, February 16 at 3 p.m. through Sunday, February 17 at 7 p.m.
- Palm Drive from Campus Drive to the Oval – Saturday, February 16 at 8 a.m., through Sunday, February 17 at 10 p.m.
- Remainder of Race Route including University Ave. – Sunday, February 17 from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more race information, visit www.paloaltostanfordprologue.com

4 Recent 9-1-1 Center Phone Upgrade Complies with State Requirements

California's 9-1-1 Program requires that local agencies upgrade their telephone equipment every five years to ensure each 9-1-1 center remains in tip-top condition and have the latest phone system features and functionality. Palo Alto's last upgrade was in 2001; however, now 9-1-1

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

Center is ready after more than a year of preparation to implement the major technology upgrade. The Department received approval from the State to bank some of the funds available for equipment to help defray costs for the center in a new public safety building. The upgrade posed special challenges, a lot of ingenuity on the part of the vendors and patience on the part of the public safety dispatchers. The Center was fully operational while the changes were made in the last few weeks. With space at a premium, Communications Manager Charles Cullen opted for a live-cutover to the new systems, while 9-1-1 services continued uninterrupted.



Despite the enhanced 9-1-1 central phone equipment, ergonomic workstations, computers and monitors, the dispatch center remains at risk because it does not meet required 'essential facility standards' that can withstand a major earthquake.

The project took the cooperation and coordination of many City departments and the Police Department is especially grateful for the outstanding efforts of the staff in Purchasing and Information Technology. Major kudos' go to the entire team and the dispatchers for their great work. With this upgrade, 9-1-1 remains in business and continues to provide outstanding customer service.

Information You Can Use at the Library

January 9, 2008 marked the beginning of a series of free presentations offered every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Main Library, located at 1213 Newell Road.

Reference librarians Kathy Shields and Deborah Anthonyson presented "What Shall I Read? Using NoveList to Find Books that Suit You." NoveList is a searchable online fiction resource, abundant with reviews, annotations and other content of interest to fiction readers. One delighted reader described the presentation as "Terrific!"

The series continues on February 13, 2008 with a presentation on "How to Help Your Child Succeed in School Using Library Tools."

NoveList is funded by a Cable Co-Op Legacy Grant under the Friends of the Palo Alto Library "9 Libraries" project. For more information on upcoming



presentations or to see a list of other online resources available from the Library, go to www.cityofpaloalto.org/library or call the Reference Desk at (650) 329-2436.

Children’s Library Storytelling Festival is Back!

From folk tales to tall tales, from long ago to just last week – stories are funny, poignant and mysterious. Now that the newly-renovated Palo Alto Children’s Library has reopened, the Annual Storytelling Festival is back. On Sunday, January 27, sixteen storytellers will delight families with four hours of uninterrupted stories from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Storytelling Festival is open to children of all ages but recommended for those who are four years old and up. Join the festivities for the entire day or stay for a few stories. Explore the beautiful Children’s Library, located at 1276 Harriet Street, and learn about other programs and services they have to offer.

For more information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/library or contact the Children’s Library directly at (650) 329-2436.

The Red Panda Acrobats Are Coming!

Join the Palo Alto City Library for another in a series of free events celebrating Silicon Valley Reads: *The Distant Land of My Father*, by Bo Caldwell. Bring the whole family to see a spectacular performance of exceptional acrobatic skills performed in colorful costumes to traditional Chinese music. This fast-paced show is guaranteed to amaze you.

This event will take place on Friday, February 1, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Community Center, which is located at 3800 Middlefield Road.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. For information about other events celebrating Silicon Valley Reads, see the Library’s web site at www.cityofpaloalto.org/library. Visit www.siliconvalleyreads.org for more information regarding this program.

“King Plaza” Dedication Ceremony a Tremendous Success

On January 21, the City held the dedication ceremony for King Plaza. The event was outstanding and well-attended in spite of the rain.

The Council Chambers was overflowing with attendees (estimates at 300-400) who enjoyed listening to the Stanford Gospel Choir, Eastside Prep High



School Choir and several outstanding speakers, including Clarence Jones, Dr. King's attorney; Reverend Robert Olmstead, who marched with Dr. King in Selma; and former Palo Alto Council Member Roy Clay.

State Assembly Member Ira Ruskin also expressed his support for the dedication of the plaza, while Vice Mayor Peter Drekmeier and former Council Member LaDoris Cordell participated in the journey that led to the plaza dedication. Following the ceremony inside, the crowd convened on the plaza for the unveiling of the dedication plaque while singing "We Shall Overcome."

Mitchell Park Youth and Teens Festival

Last Wednesday the Mitchell Park Youth and Teen Center held its second annual New Years Festival. The festival allows teens of the community to interact with Teen Center staff, meet new friends and play some exciting games. Football toss, trivia challenge and karaoke were just a few of the games teens could choose from. The day ended with a raffle, where every teen who attended had a chance to win donated prizes such as an I-pod, concert tickets, drop T-shirts and more. Members and non-members alike enjoyed the event and we had a great turn out.

With the success of the New Years Festival and the anticipation of Palo Alto hosting the prologue of the Tour of California, the Mitchell Park staff is looking forward to the upcoming Bike Week. Bike Week will start on February 11th and run through February 14th. Bike Week will give community teens the opportunity to participate in bike sculpture competitions, ride their bikes through obstacle courses and watch high flying bike demonstrations. Be sure to check it out!

