

February 8, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **Bike Week Starts February 11 at Mitchell Park Teen Center**

The City of Palo Alto Mitchell Park Youth and Teen Center will host Bike Week as part of the lead up to the 2008 Tour of California Prologue race in Palo Alto (on February 17). Middle and high school students are invited to participate in these exciting **free** events from February 11 through February 14, at Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

- February 11, 3:30–5 p.m.** Bike safety scavenger hunt  
Bike-themed movies
- February 12, 3:30-5 p.m.** Bike parts sculpture competition
- February 13, 2-5 p.m.** BMX demo by Chris Duncan  
Visit from a professional cyclist  
Bike obstacle course  
Drawing at 4 p.m. for a new bike,  
helmets and shirts  
Light refreshments
- February 14, 3:30-5 p.m.** End of the week Bike Cake!

We encourage students to ride their bikes to the center. Our aim is to increase bike awareness, promote fitness, engage students in fun activities and foster overall appreciation for the sport of cycling. Join us at Mitchell Park Community Center for any or all Bike Week activities.

For more information, contact Recreation Coordinator Adam Howard at (650) 329-2192.

### **An Evening with AMGEN Tour Professional Cyclists**

As a lead up to the 2008 AMGEN Tour of California (February 17), come join Peninsula Trek Dealers as they present "An Evening with Levi and Friends" on Thursday, February 14, 2008, 5-7:30 p.m., in the Mediterranean Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Palo Alto.

In the first part of the program, from 5-6 p.m., professional cyclists Levi Leipheimer, Chris Horner and Viatcheslav Ekimov will be on hand. There will be a short presentation as well as an audience Question & Answer session. Then, from 6-7:30 p.m., the Local Organizing Committee for the AMGEN



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

Tour of California will present celebrity riders from the 2008 AMGEN Tour. Also, there will be an autograph signing at which you may bring your own item and a camera. Professional photography will be available for an additional fee.

Tickets are \$25, include light refreshments and are available at the following sponsor shops: Palo Alto Bicycles, Summit Bicycles, Chain Reaction and Bicycle Outfitter. Charitable proceeds benefit the League of American Cyclists and the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee of the 2008 AMGEN Tour of California.

For more information, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/living/> on the City web site and click on "2008 Amgen Tour of California" in the news listing. For other events and activities leading up to race day on February 17, 2008, visit <http://www.paloaltostanfordprologue.com/calendar.html>

### **Palo Alto City Hall Blood Drive February 14**

Once again, the City will sponsor a Blood Drive in the Council Chambers at Palo Alto City Hall. The Stanford University Blood Center will staff the donation site from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, Valentine's Day. The Blood Drive is open to the public.

Some of the requirements when donating blood include being at least 17 years of age, weighing at least 110 pounds and having no cold or flu symptoms. You must bring a photo ID. It is recommended that you eat before donating and drink plenty of fluids. Delicious sandwiches will be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Prize drawings will be held and six lucky donors will win a movie package with two AMC GOLD movie passes, popcorn, drinks and candy.

For a complete list of eligibility requirements and to make an appointment, please contact the Stanford Blood Center at (650) 725-9968 or visit their web site at <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu>

### **Celebration of Life Ceremony to Remember Michael Litfin**

A gathering of friends and a celebration to remember the life of Michael Litfin, Assistant Director of the City's Children's Theatre, is planned for 11 a.m., Sunday, February 17, 2008, at the Children's Theatre Auditorium, 1305 Middlefield Road. Michael passed away on February 1, 2008, after a brief illness.



Michael served as the Children's Theatre Assistant Director since 1976. He had the responsibility of managing the Outreach Program, planning and teaching in the Summer Conservatory program, was in charge of the High School Company Program and managed the theatre's volunteer program. Over the span of his 32-year career with the City, Michael directed over 160 productions in the regular, Wingspread and outreach seasons. He designed sets and costumes for over 34 productions and wrote more than seventeen scripts for productions.

Memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, can be made to the Michael Litfin Memorial Fund, c/o of the Friends of the Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

### **Three More Palo Alto Businesses Go Green**

Whole Travel, Cartridge World, and Stern Mortgage are the latest Palo Alto Businesses to become certified "green." Each of these businesses took measures in energy efficiency, water conservation, preventing pollution, waste reduction and recycling to become certified. Being a certified Green Business can provide a marketing edge, provide a healthier work environment for employees, make a business a better community partner, and improve the bottom line. These businesses bring the total number of certified Palo Alto Green Businesses to 28.

Please join the City in congratulating these businesses and thanking them for protecting your environment by giving them your business.

- Whole Travel at [www.wholetravel.com](http://www.wholetravel.com) provides on-line travel services including a sustainability assessment tool that ranks hotels, resorts, tour operators and other travel providers on their operations;
- Cartridge World of Palo Alto at [www.cwpagreen.com](http://www.cwpagreen.com) provides printer cartridge refills, fax and copier cartridges, and remanufactures laser toner cartridges for copiers and printers; and,
- Stern Mortgage at [www.sternmortgage.com](http://www.sternmortgage.com) provides mortgage brokerage services.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) coordinates the program, which is implemented by Green Business Coordinators in the nine Bay Area counties. The City of Palo Alto partners with Santa Clara County to provide funding, technical assistance and programs to Palo Alto businesses in support of the program. Businesses in over 20 different industries, including auto repair shops, printers, hotels, restaurants, landscapers, wineries, janitorial and laundry services, grocery and retail stores, home remodelers,



attorneys, architects, engineers and not-for-profit organizations are eligible for the program and there is no cost for certification.

For additional information or to enroll, visit [www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov](http://www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov) or call (408) 282-3180.

#### **4** Palo Alto Receives EPA Water Efficiency Leader Award

The City of Palo Alto water utility, as a retail partner to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), earned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2007 Water Efficiency Leader Award. The award was received for the efforts the District and its partners have made to display leadership, innovation and promote water conservation.

Along with Palo Alto, the national winners include Intel Corporation, Frito-Lay, Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, and Allan Dietemann of Seattle Public Utilities.

To promote water efficiency and conservation, the District and its retailers, including the City of Palo Alto, run about 20 customer programs. The programs pay rebates and give incentives, install water saving devices such as shower heads, provide home and business site visits with individualized saving recommendations, and deliver educational workshops with information on the best ways to use water efficiently. In addition, the City and District retailers are enhancing the use of recycled water for landscaping and avoiding wasting water, our precious resource.

#### **4** City Hall Exhibit Features Downtown Streets Team

A new display at Palo Alto City Hall outside the Council Chambers features the Downtown Streets Team (DST), a transition program directed by Eileen Richardson, which teaches participants successful work habits, including getting to work on time, completing tasks and communicating effectively with management and co-workers. The nearly three-year-old DST program has helped find jobs for 42 participants and housing for at least 20 individuals.

The current exhibit focuses on 16 DST members and their stories, individuals in Palo Alto who are currently unhoused, residing in permanent subsidized housing or in homeless shelters. DST began with six participants and has expanded to include 18 workers as well as several people on the waiting list. While keeping our city streets clean and orderly, team leaders aid the

Palo Alto Police Department by contacting them if they witness situations affecting public safety.

The DST program has been a great success. In addition Ms. Richardson was recently recognized by the Midpeninsula Community Center in its Local Heroes Awards program. The display was designed by Carroll Harrington of Harrington Design and the various elements were printed by Jungle Digital. Visit [www.downtownstreetsteam.com](http://www.downtownstreetsteam.com) for more information on the program.

### **Palo Alto Library's *Silicon Valley Reads* a Success**

City Library events, celebrating Silicon Valley Reads: *The Distant Land of My Father* by Bo Caldwell, are drawing hundreds of enthusiastic audience members. Nearly 170 people came to the Main Library to hear Meimei Pan and Connie Young Yu share *Memories of Wartime Shanghai*, and over 350 marveled at the showmanship and skill of the *Red Panda Acrobats* when they visited the Mitchell Park Community Center last week.

Positive comments from the audience included, "I am a visitor and am thrilled I was able to attend this program. Thank you." "Wonderful, fascinating program! Thank you. A very extraordinary, positive experience."

Don't miss the next exciting program in the series, the *Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra*, Sunday, February 17, 2008, at 3 p.m., Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library) for information about other Library events. The Friends of the Palo Alto Library have generously provided funding for the programs.

