

February 29, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Palo Alto Utilities Helps Low Income Apartment Dwellers

City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) staff has been working with Webster Woods apartment complex to make the units more comfortable and energy efficient. Each of the 70 units will get lighting, weather stripping, and water saving devices repaired, replaced, or installed. In addition, lights will be replaced in common areas including walkways, carports, garbage, and mail box locations. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of February. The total project is estimated to save about 3,000 therms of natural gas and 50,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, which translates to an annual reduction on utility bills of at least \$120 per tenant.

The replacement project is part of the CPAU Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP). REAP provides a variety of services to low-income Palo Alto residents including energy efficiency education, home weatherization, diagnostic energy efficiency testing, minor plumbing and electrical repairs, weather stripping, caulking, insulation and other energy efficiency improvements. REAP also includes installation of ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostats, furnaces, refrigerators, water heaters, compact fluorescent lighting, and high efficiency plumbing devices. Since its implementation in January 2006, REAP has assisted more than 120 Palo Alto families. The program to date has saved residents over 200,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, 18,000 therms of natural gas and eliminated 450,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions.

The cost of utilities can increase the hardship on low-income residents. In addition to the REAP program, CPAU offers a Rate Assistance Program discount on utility bills for financial or medical hardship and collects voluntary donations from Palo Altans through Project PLEDGE which are used to pay the bills of those in need.

Palo Alto Fire Captain Selected for 2007 Lions Club Service Award

Captain Ken Cardinale from the City of Palo Alto Fire Department has been selected as a recipient of the 2007 Peninsula Council of Lions Community Service award. Ken will receive his award at the 43rd Lions Club Police and Fire Awards banquet to be held on Friday, March 28, in Foster City.



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

The district that Captain Cardinale serves includes the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, one of the largest VA Hospitals in the State and one of only four poly-trauma centers in the nation. During the course of fire responses to the VA Hospital, Captain Cardinale and his crew observed veterans and wanted to do something to show appreciation for the personal sacrifices these young men and women have made for our country. Ken made contact with the VA Volunteer Services Coordinator and together they determined what items and activities were needed and desired by these veterans; many who will spend extended periods of time in rehabilitation.

On November 16, after engaging in a department-wide effort to garner donations, Captain Cardinale and other Palo Alto Firefighters delivered \$1,200 worth of gift cards and an American Flag sheet cake to the VA Volunteer Services Coordinator to be given to the veterans and their families. An additional \$480 will be given to the local volunteer neighborhood group that is providing everyday items to the veterans during their stay.

Author Explores What Teens and Tweens Are Really Doing Online



The Palo Alto City Library proudly presents Anastasia Goodstein, author of ***Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens Are Really Doing Online***. This **free** presentation promises to be a lively and important event for parents, educators and interested adults. From cyber bullying to social networking and blogging, teens and tweens are immersed in technology as never before. Learn about on-line worlds that engage so many teens and tweens every day. Join us at the

Palo Alto High School Haymarket Theater, 50 Embarcadero Road, on Wednesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.

The event is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto PTA Council and the Palo Alto Drug Alcohol Community Collaborative, with generous funding by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library>, or contact Maya Spector, Coordinator of Library Programs at (650) 463-4963.

