

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

4 Report on Nation's Water Supply Underscores Importance of City's Safe Medicine Disposal Program

Recent press reports have described a study conducted on drinking water samples from cities around the nation that found trace amounts of a variety of pharmaceutical compounds in the water. The San Francisco water system, which supplies Palo Alto's drinking water, was one of those tested; none of the compounds tested for were detected in the San Francisco system.

Pharmaceuticals can enter water bodies like San Francisco Bay when they are disposed down toilets or sinks that drain to wastewater treatment plants. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove all of these compounds, and some are released to the environment. In addition to the concerns raised by the presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water, nationwide studies have also found that these compounds harm fish.

Residents can help protect San Francisco Bay by disposing of unneeded and expired medications through the City's Safe Medicine Disposal Program. The City's medicine drop-off site is at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant, located at 2501 Embarcadero Way in Palo Alto. The drop-off site is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to serving Palo Alto residents and employees, residents from East Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Stanford are encouraged to use the medicine drop-off site. Call (650) 329-2598 or e-mail cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org for more information.

4 Rate Increase Proposals to be Considered on March 18

On March 18, the Council Finance Committee will consider proposed rate increases for electricity, natural gas, water and refuse services. The proposed rate increases are 14% for electric, 7.1% for gas, 8% for water, and 10% for refuse services. In addition, storm drain fees will increase by the Consumer Price Index, which is projected to be 3.8%. The Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC) discussed the proposed rate increases for water, gas, and electricity and its March 5 meeting and unanimously supported the proposals. If approved by the City Council in June, the average Palo Alto residential customer will experience a total utility bill increase of 8.7% beginning in July.

The proposed rate increases are necessary due to many factors. Electricity costs went up due to a shortfall in hydroelectric power generation that resulted from drought conditions, forcing the City to purchase higher-priced energy from the market. Water supply costs are increasing as the City's wholesale supplier, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, proceeds on the massive capital program to improve the seismic reliability of the regional water system. Higher energy prices also increased the cost of supplying natural gas. In addition to higher supply costs, funding is also needed for planned capital improvement projects to upgrade, replace and repair the City's utility infrastructure.

Refuse costs are increasing in order to begin implementation of the zero waste programs approved by City Council in 2007, relocation of landfill facilities; continuation of compost operations; development of the former Los Altos Treatment Plant site for future use, and for increased costs related to waste collection and transfer.

The City offers many programs to assist customers in saving energy and water. For information on ways to keep utility costs down, call (650) 329-2241 or visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/utilities

600+ Athletes to Compete in Bay Area Senior Games

The third annual Bay Area Senior Games will be held March 15-16, 2008. The Games will be held at the world-class athletic facilities at Stanford University and feature competitions in Swimming, Track & Field, Tennis, Table Tennis, 3x3 Basketball, Cycling and Race Walking. The Bay Area Senior Games are a precursor to the 2009 Summer National Senior Games, the largest participatory multi-sport event in the U.S., which will bring an estimated 12,750 athletes to the Bay Area in August 2009. For athletes 50 and older, these men and women are shining examples of the benefits of an active, competitive lifestyle that embraces vitality as stated in the official slogan, "Long Live the Challenge." Volunteers are welcome; please sign up at www.2009seniorgames.org/2007_web/volunteer.html



4 2008 Ambassador Program Graduates Honored

Mayor Klein honored the 2008 graduating Ambassadors of the Family Resources Program with congratulatory remarks and individual certificates presented on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at the Cubberley Community Center. Graduates completed 6 development meetings, each highlighting one or more of



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Family Resources' 8 categories (Emergency / Crisis, Basic Needs, Child Care, Community Services, Disability Resources, Education, Health Care, Mental Health & Counseling). Providers in each category explained their services, eligibility requirements, fees and made themselves available for questions and personal connections. Ambassadors commit to share their increased information and connections whenever the need arises.

In the words of the Ambassadors:

- *"This is a wonderful program. If you truly want to know what our community has to offer, you need to attend this training."*
- *"I now have the information and confidence to assist members of the community with their needs."*
- *"You will never be the same after you become an Ambassador. My connections have increased in an enormous way."*
- *"Thank you for setting an inspiring example with the culture of gratitude that you created and cultivated throughout the program. In going forth with the knowledge and experience gained through the ambassador training program, we will honor that legacy and continue to spread the light, one candle at a time."*
- *"The Ambassador Program is an incredibly valuable part of the Palo Alto community - and beyond!"*

The next Ambassador Development Program begins in October 2008, meeting monthly on the first Thursday for 6 months. Call (65) 329-2221 to reserve your place.

For resource information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/familyresources or call (650) 329-2221. Or, pick up a copy at more than 80 locations in town at www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=9352

Palo Alto to Sponsor the Fall 2008 Build It Green Home Tour in South Bay

The City of Palo Alto Utilities and Public Works Departments have combined resources to help Build It Green showcase innovative new and remodeled green homes in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The goals of the Green Home Tour are to:

- ◆ Enable homeowners and/or developers the opportunity to share their green building experiences with the community
- ◆ Educate tour attendees on the variety of green building materials and methods currently being used locally
- ◆ Showcase green building features which are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly



- ◆ Demonstrate that homes can incorporate green features on any budget

Anyone who has participated in the construction or retrofit of a green residence in San Mateo or Santa Clara Counties is encouraged to submit an application and be a part of the tour. Applications are on-line at www.builditgreen.org/green-home-tours/place-home

Statewide Library Survey Wants to Know How You Search For Information

The Palo Alto Library is assisting the California State Library in surveying how Californians find and use information. Your help is needed in shaping the future of how reference service is delivered by libraries across the state. Library users are encouraged to take a simple anonymous on-line survey. The link to the "Statewide Survey on Information Finding" will be available through March 2008 on the Library's website, www.cityofpaloalto.org/library All survey responses go directly to Zogby International, a leading public opinion research firm, who is conducting the survey and evaluating the results for the State Library.

Youth Commission Leadership Conference was a Success

Youth and Teen Recreation Services (YTRS) hosted the 12th annual Youth Commission/Council Leadership Conference titled, "The Great Gathering" on March 8. The conference was designed by Youth Commissioners for Youth Commissioners and offered educational sessions, quality networking and a positive experience for everyone involved.

This educational day featured group ice breakers, keynote speaker Ian Hill, along with approximately thirty workshops, roundtable discussions, debates and entertainment. The conference goals included providing Youth Commissioners with the opportunity to interact with leaders from other communities as well as learn from one another in sessions.

The Palo Alto Youth Council and Teen Advisory Board attended and presented at this year's conference. Both groups attracted nearly 50 students to their sessions and received numerous compliments for their work. Palo Alto Youth Council presented on "Sleep Deprivation," focusing on its negative effects and natural ways to correct the problem. The presentation ended with a small gift bag that included items to help obtain a full night of sleep such as ear plugs and non-caffeinated teas. The Teen Advisory Board presented on "How to Ask Someone to Prom." Although the



subject matter was on the lighter side, the group focused on increasing confidence and teaching respect and social etiquette. Both groups put a lot of hard work and time into the presentations and represented the City of Palo Alto in a very positive light.

Palo Alto Fire Join Blood Donation Effort

The first part of the New Year marks a critical need for blood donations in the local area. The motto of "Giving Blood is the Gift of Life" rings truer immediately following the holiday season. The Palo Alto Fire Department was contacted by the Stanford Blood Center and asked to engage firefighters in donating blood during the month of February. As a result, many off-duty fire personnel made their donations at the Center's Hillview Avenue site on their own time. The Fire Department logged a total of 27 blood donations for the center over a three day period. Stanford Blood Center Director John Williams stated "We are very grateful to the members of the Palo Alto Fire Department for their willingness and participation for a much needed cause". The Stanford Blood Center is also planning to approach some of the other local fire agencies in Menlo Park, Los Altos and Mountain View and challenge them to meet or exceed Palo Alto Fire's enviable numbers.

4 Children Help Parents "Break the Bag Habit" at Upcoming Art Camp

Young artists, in grades 1-8, will create works of usable art during the Spring Break Art Studio Camp from March 24 to March 28. The children will screen, paint, draw, marble— whatever they dream up— to create unique designs for reusable shopping bags. Now in addition to Palo Alto parents donning a bumper sticker on their car touting their child's achievements, they can proudly tote their child's work of art to the store every time they shop. Show the community that you are not only a proud parent but are actively protecting the environment for your child too. A reusable shopping bag replaces thousands of disposable bags eliminating litter and waste in the community.

The art camp will also feature trash-to-treasure art projects using discarded materials from the Palo Alto Recycling Center as the basic ingredients. Young artists will be challenged to create works of art from paper, cardboard, wire, bottles, small appliances and more. Working artists serve as art teachers for the Camp.

Spring Break Art Studios Camp, held at Barron Park Elementary School, is collaboration between the City of Palo Alto Public Works Recycling Program

and Palo Alto Parents and Professionals for Art (PAPPA). It is co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Council of PTAs. The Camp starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m., March 24-28, 2008. For more information or to register for the Camp, contact PAPPA at (650) 493-7282.



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