

*March 21, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA*

## **FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO**

### **Annual Dads & Donuts Event, April 6, from 9 a.m. - noon**

The Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo is sponsoring its annual members-only Dads & Donuts event on Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. – noon. This event is a fun morning for the whole family with a special performance by "Dan Chan The Magic Man." Join us for Krispy Kreme donuts, coffee and juice at the Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information, visit [www.friendsjmz.org](http://www.friendsjmz.org) or call (650) 326-6338.

### **4 Building Division Hosts PV "Summit" to Explore Internal Process Improvements**

The Building Division hosted a PV (Photovoltaic) "Summit" recently at City Hall to explore opportunities for improving its plan review, permitting and inspection processes, which will benefit PV designers and installers. The Summit, organized by Chief Building Official Larry Perlin, drew 38 participants, which included representatives from 11 different PV design and installation firms that frequently operate in Palo Alto, as well as staff from the City's Building, Planning, Public Works, Utilities and Fire Departments. The forum offered a valuable opportunity for the public and private sectors involved in PV projects to come together and exchange ideas about mutual issues of concern. Additionally, it allowed participants to better understand the various roles and responsibilities that all parties play to ensure safe and reliable PV installations in the City.

After a brief discussion about some of the unique context associated with PV projects in Palo Alto, such as the existence of the City's own municipal utility system that offers direct rebates and net metering of PV, Summit participants were guided through an interest-based exercise to identify specific challenges to securing permits and passing inspections and offer suggestions for process improvements. The list of suggestions ranged from simple, such as allowing PV plans to be submitted on smaller 11" x 17" sheets, to the more complex, such as the City adopting a standardized permit application form and checklist developed by a regional PV industry-sponsored working group. All of the suggestions were captured in writing and staff committed to evaluate each one and then notify the participants of its decision on whether and how they will be implemented. The Chief



Building Official agreed to designate at least one staff member to liaison with the industry working group, dubbed SolarTech, in order to maintain open lines of communication. Depending on the perceived need, a follow-up PV Summit may be organized in the fall.

#### **4 TEFRA Hearing Request**

The City of Palo Alto has received a TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1983) hearing request from the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School (GHJDS) and California Municipal Finance Authority (CMFA). GHJDS has submitted an application to CMFA to issue \$25 million in tax-exempt bonds to finance or refinance capital improvements related to the School's educational facilities located on San Antonio Road in Palo Alto. Section 147(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 requires that, in order for the interest on such debt to be exempt from income tax for investors, the "applicable elected representatives" of the host governmental unit must approve the issuance of the debt. Such approval must follow a public hearing that has been preceded by reasonable public notice. As with last July's TEFRA hearing and approval for tax-exempt financing for the Albert L. Schultz Jewish Community Center, the City of Palo Alto bears no financial or legal obligation for the debt being issued. The City will receive reimbursement for the administrative costs associated with holding the public hearing and the process for passing the required resolutions. The public hearing is scheduled for April 14, 2007.

#### **Palo Alto Projects Receive 2008 Site Design Awards**

Two Palo Alto projects have received 2008 Site Design Awards from the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program for their innovative storm water designs. The awards are presented to Santa Clara Valley's public agency and private development community leaders who successfully meet the challenge of reducing storm water pollution and runoff quantity.

#### **Stanford/Palo Alto Community Playing Fields**

The new soccer fields at El Camino Real and Page Mill Road, developed jointly by the City of Palo Alto and Stanford University, are being recognized for the unique under-drain system under the synthetic turf playing fields that collects runoff and infiltrates it into the underlying soils, the vegetated bioswales along the site perimeter that treat the parking lot runoff, and the use of permeable unit pavers around the facility's clubhouse. The use of synthetic turf in combination with storm water treatment controls on the project provides for a durable year-round, all-weather field, potable water savings, and effective storm water pollution prevention. City of Palo Alto



and Stanford University staff collaborated with The Guzzardo Partnership, Bellinger-Foster-Steinmetz, BKF Engineers, and Vance Brown Builders to design and construct the project.

### **361-369 California Avenue**

This private commercial project housing Starbucks Coffee, Tandoori Oven, and The Counter in the California Avenue Business District is being recognized for its innovative use of permeable unit pavers in the plaza and table seating area in front of the restaurants. Building roof drains are routed directly into the base of the pavers to allow for further infiltration of site runoff. This design approach accomplishes effective runoff reduction and storm water treatment at a small, urban site that is mostly covered with buildings and pavement. This project was designed and constructed by the team of Premier Properties, The Hagman Group, Luzuriaga Taylor, Inc., and Cody-Brock.

Congratulations to these project designers and builders for their award-winning efforts to reduce storm water runoff and promote improved water quality.



### **Finishing Touches on the Renovation of Hoover Park**

Over the past four months extensive work has been accomplished at Hoover Park in re-building the turf irrigation system, installing new perimeter pathways, replacing picnic tables and waste receptacles, expanding the dog run and replacing sections of uplifted concrete. In anticipation of this Saturday's re-opening of the park, Park Rangers Joe Collie, Daren Anderson and Park Assistants Dave Scott and Oliver Contreras pitched in to replace old boards on the park benches around the children's play area and in the promenade. "We know that the neighbors have been anxious to see the park open again, we want to make sure that everything is just perfect for the kids and neighbors." Since merging the Divisions of Parks and Open Space last year, the two sections have been working closely together on sharing resources and in helping out on joint projects.

A community celebration of the Hoover Park renovation is planned for April.



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

## Downtown Parking Lot Gets a Make-Over

Thanks to the initiative and creativity of Park Irrigation Specialist Roberto Marquez, the entire landscaping and irrigation system at Public Parking Lot T at the corner of Kipling Street and Lytton Avenue has been completely restored. Working with the help of park maintenance staff in between other assignments, Roberto was able to re-plumb six circuits of the original irrigation system in order to support new plantings of colorful annuals and perennial shrubs around the perimeter of the lot.

Parking Lot T is one of 165 separate sites, including medians, parks, plazas, sound walls, parking lots and tree wells that the Parks staff is responsible for maintaining throughout the City. Through Roberto's resourcefulness, the total cost for supplies and materials for the Lot T renovation was \$580.



## **4** City of Palo Alto Receives Award for PaloAltoGreen

The City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) has won an award from the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) for its PaloAlto**Green** renewable energy program. There are six CMUA award winners this year, two (one small utility and one large utility) in each of three categories. The PaloAlto**Green** award was made in the category of Community Service/Resource Efficiency for small utilities. This award category recognizes innovative and comprehensive approaches to serving local community needs in energy resource efficiency.

PaloAlto**Green** is a voluntary electric customer program providing clean, renewable wind and solar power to residents and businesses in Palo Alto. This program gives customers the option of supporting 100% renewable energy from the wind at some of the lowest rates in the nation. Green power program participation levels around the country average 2%. PaloAlto**Green** is the number one Green Power program in America with a customer participation rate 20.2%, measured in November 2007. With new citywide climate protection goals to achieve, the Utilities Department has raised its annual PaloAlto**Green** customer participation goal to 25%!

By participating in PaloAlto**Green**, customers support renewable energy from a California blend of 97.5% wind and 2.5% solar generators. This program has contributed to the explosive growth of renewable energy in California and continues to set the bar for renewable energy programs. In addition, the program offers these benefits:

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- Energy Diversification—This and similar programs help to build America’s long-term sustainable energy infrastructure, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and further national energy independence.
- Farming—Wind farms are located on land primarily used for dry land wheat farming and cattle grazing. Agricultural activities take place by the wind turbines, and farmers who host wind energy facilities generate annual land leases of approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 per turbine. Farmers call wind farming "a new cash crop."
- Jobs—Renewable energy programs stimulate the creation of jobs supporting wind and solar energy construction and operation.

Residents and businesses in Palo Alto can be proud of their efforts to improve the environment through PaloAlto**Green**. Anyone not already in the program can sign up by logging on to [www.cityofpaloalto.org/pagreen](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/pagreen)

## **The Color of Palo Alto to Wrap the Façade of the Civic Center**

On Thursday, March 20, 2008, the second phase of "The Color of Palo Alto" project by artist Samuel Yates, sponsored by the City of Palo Alto Public Art Commission and substantially funded by the Hewlett-Packard Company, begins with the wrapping of the front of City Hall with 22,339 photographs of all 17,729 ground parcels in Palo Alto.

The photographs are printed on a perforated adhesive vinyl through which employees inside the building can see out. From the outside, the public will see the photographs organized by street from A to Z and, simultaneously, January to December. Winter is at the top, spring and summer are in the middle, and fall and winter (again) are at the bottom.

The photographs are each 4 inches by 6 inches, with six photos horizontally aligned in each window. The material is not meant for close viewing. The optimal viewing distance is approximately 10 to 15 feet away. The best time to view the photos is between 2 and 5 p.m., when the sun is hitting the face of the building, minimizing the appearance of the small holes.

All of the photos were taken by hand with a HP digital camera, sorted on an HP laptop, and printed on an HP printer. Additionally, the project was powered with solar and wind energy from the "portable solar garage" installation in front of City Hall, turning the colors into symbols of sustainability.

The wrap will be on display for six months until September 20, 2008. The actual colors of the city will be discovered on April 25, 2008, which is Arbor



Day. The final color palettes for each parcel, street, neighborhood, season, month, day and hour will be made public on August 5, 2008, the seven year anniversary of the project.

## **Computer and Technology Books That Come to You**

You can have over 1,100 technology books at your disposal with a Palo Alto City Library card. The Library now offers *Safari Books Online*, where you can find titles on everything from managing a technology firm to A+ certification and advanced programming. Among the titles are full text books from publishers such as O'Reilly, Cisco and Peachpit Press.

To view a listing of the Safari titles the Library offers, search the Library catalog at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library) with the words "Safari Books Online." Find a title you like, open it and click on the link in the record. You will need to provide a library card number to access it remotely.

*Safari Books Online* is provided through the collection enrichment partnership between the Friends of the Palo Alto Library and the City of Palo Alto.

For further information, visit the Palo Alto City Library homepage at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library), or call the Reference Desk at 329-2436.

## **Summer Camp Registration Has Started**

Summer Camp Registration has begun. The Draw which occurred on March 14, 2008, was a success. Community Services staff processed 3,635 registrations which was the result of 881 entries, 892 families, and 1570 participants; \$569,913 was received in revenue. The success of the day was due to the planning and hard work of 28 staff members. Residents will be able to register again on Thursday March 20, and non-residents on March 27. Courses can be viewed on our website at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy) For questions, please call (650)463-4900.

