

April 18, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

4 Earth Month Week 5, April 20-26 – Cool Your Commute

Consumption of fossil fuels for transportation accounts for approximately 45% of our community's greenhouse gas emissions. Taking the pledge for a greener Palo Alto suggests those who live or work in this city to reduce their contribution to these emissions by choosing to walk, bike, take public transit or carpool more often. Each driver who reduces the number of miles driven by ten miles a week also avoids generating 450 lbs per year of greenhouse gasses (assuming 25 mpg). For more information on calculating CO2 emissions from auto travel, go to www.cool-it.us To find out more about transit options, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/visiting for city shuttle routes and schedules and try the Take Transit Trip Planner at www.511.org

4 Cool School Commutes

Next week at PAUSD elementary and middle schools, Earth Day celebrations will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the number of vehicles used to drive students to and from school each day. Students and families will have the opportunity to pledge to choose alternative modes of transportation like walking, biking, riding the bus or carpooling for their school commute at least once a week. At many schools, large black balloons will illustrate the volume of greenhouse gases emitted in a typical daily roundtrip school commute. The purpose is to encourage creative family and school community discussions about how to leave the car at home or share the ride more often.

For more Earth Month activities and ideas for helping the environment, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/earthday

4 Utilities Conducts Its Annual Gas Leak Detection Survey

From April 28 through September 30, the City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) will be conducting its annual gas leak detection survey in specific Palo Alto business and residential areas. The goal is to detect and repair leaks at City gas mains as part of a proactive approach to gas line safety. Inspectors will canvas properties on foot, using a natural gas detector gauge. This gas safety survey is performed annually in rotating sectors of one-fifth of the

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

City, usually during the summer. The inspectors conducting the 2008 survey will be outside contractors who will have appropriate identification with them at all times. You are encouraged to request proof of identification if you have any concerns about allowing anyone on your property. For more information, contact (650) 496-5944 or cpau@cityofpaloalto.org For a map of the neighborhoods being surveyed in this year's survey, please visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/

4 Community Presentations Scheduled on the Libraries and Mitchell Park Community Center Projects

The City of Palo Alto will hold three community meetings to discuss the widely recognized need to upgrade existing library and Mitchell Park Community Center facilities and to present schematic designs to address that need. Proposed improvements include replacing the existing Mitchell Park Library and Community Center buildings with a single building on the same site, and remodeling and updating the Main and Downtown libraries. Addressing the longstanding library facilities issue is one of the City Council's Top 4 priorities for this year.

The presentations will be held:

- Tuesday, April 29 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Main Library at 1213 Newell Road
- Wednesday, April 30 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Mitchell Park Community Center at 3800 Middlefield Road
- Saturday, May 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Mitchell Park Community Center at 3800 Middlefield Road

Participation and feedback from the public is encouraged. City staff and Group 4 architects will be available to answer questions about the projects.

Further information about these projects will be posted on the City web site at www.cityofpaloalto.org

Mayor's Tri-City Youth Summit on April 30

The 3rd Annual Mayor's Tri-City Youth Summit will occur on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the Menlo Park Senior Center (100 Terminal Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025). The event will bring together businesses and youth from East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto. The goal is to provide a forum for



students who live in our communities to interact with employers and find a summer job. We believe that it is time again for cities to take the lead in encouraging those in the business community to offer summer employment opportunities to students.

As LaDoris Cordell stated last year, the benefits of such a summit are many: dividing stereotypes and barriers can be eliminated, young people will earn money and be engaged in productive activities during the summer, and our business community will have a major role in preparing the next generation to participate in the business world, both as consumers and as future business leaders.

To register for the event please contact Khashayar “Cash” Alaei at (650) 463-4910 or at khashayar.alaei@cityofpaloalto.org by April 28, 2008.

4 What are you Free2 Do at the Library?

The Palo Alto City Library has joined with other Bay Area libraries in launching an unprecedented campaign to reintroduce communities to their local libraries. The **Free2 Campaign** is designed to raise awareness of the central role libraries play in people’s lives and how libraries are meeting an increased demand for a new host of services, from Internet access and video games to health care information and dance classes.



Implicit in the campaign’s core concept, Free2 is a question for library customers and supporters: What are you free to do — or be — thanks to your local library?

The campaign is launching with the **Free2Contest**, an invitation to describe, in 25 words or less, how they are “Free2.” Ten grand-prize winners will be chosen and announced in mid-May, plus attain eligibility to be featured in future campaign ads. Entries can be made online at www.WeAreFree2.org through May 15, 2008.

The **Free2 Campaign** will be an 18-month effort involving interactive and traditional advertising, sponsored initiatives, special events and promotional activities at 165 library locations in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

4 Baby Boomers – Our Library Wants to Hear From You!

Calling ALL Baby Boomers born 1946-1964! Whether or not you live in Palo Alto or use Palo Alto City Libraries, the Library wants to hear from you! According to Paul D. Nussbaum, Clinical Neuropsychologist at the University

of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, “Library systems represent a major vehicle for learning and brain health, particularly for Boomers.” The California State Library is helping public libraries define, create and deliver new and innovative services to older adults – a population expected to grow more than twice as fast as California’s total population.

Palo Alto City Library, one of 45 library systems participating in this initiative, wants to promote productive aging for active older adults through learning and civic engagement opportunities. If you would like to help the Library plan new services and programs for Boomers, please visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/library and click on the Boomers link under “News and Info” to participate in a short survey. For more information, call Cornelia van Aken, Assistant Library Director, at (650) 329-2322.

4 Goats are back in Open Space

If you visited Open Space last week you probably saw herds of goats grazing in selective areas. Goats are back in the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve for the second year in an area just off Arastradero Road. The site has been carefully selected to reduce non-native or exotic weeds on the preserve and allow the native plants to thrive.



In Foothills Park, the goats are being used for the first time to reduce the fire danger in the park’s Towle Campground and in two hillside picnic areas. By allowing the goats to concentrate in these areas, they eat a lot of vegetation and reduce “ladder fuels” or lower branches on brush and trees that surround these popular areas of the park, which will ultimately ease the fire danger this summer. The goats accomplish in hours what would take days for staff to do by hand or with weed whips.

Palo Alto Fire Introduces “Remembering When” Program

“Remembering When” is a program focused on the elderly that provides for fire safety and fall/accident prevention in the home. It is a nationwide program established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The idea for this program in Palo Alto was originated by community senior resident and Palo Alto Fire Department volunteer Bob Paugh. Along with interested Firefighter Suzan Minshall, they applied for and were awarded a

scholarship to attend the training in Boston, Massachusetts. Palo Alto was only one of 40 communities awarded scholarships. The program was introduced to the City's Executive Staff last week and garnered support to move forward.

The program works by presenting special messages of safety and home preparation for increased safety of senior adults by tying those messages to music and songs that are familiar to adults and which have a topical link to related activities. It also provides for in-home assessment, installation of smoke detectors, safety equipment (such as bath bars, etc.) and will be coordinated and facilitated initially by community volunteers from the Fire Department and Avenidas Senior Center.

Efforts will be made to include participation from local civic organizations, businesses, neighborhood associations, the faith-based community and the City of Palo Alto to build a sustainable and broad-based program. Public/community outreach and awareness education will be occurring in a variety of venues and forums over the next six months to bring attention to "Remembering When" and to orient interested members of the community and provide training for volunteers.

4 Palo Alto Residents Interested in Reducing Water Thirsty Lawns!

On Saturday, April 12, the City of Palo Alto Utilities partnered with Common Ground Education Center and the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to offer a water-wise landscaping class entitled "Alternatives to Lawn." Landscape designer Deva Luna offered helpful ideas on how reducing the amount of lawn can create a lovely yard that does not waste water. By removing unused lawn and replacing it with beautiful drought tolerant plants, you reduce your water bill in the summer and save on annual maintenance costs.

This workshop was held in celebration of the City's Earth Month campaign, focusing on water week. The class was very successful – over 80 people attended the class. So many people took interest in the topic that the City looks forward to partnering with BAWSCA again in the fall to offer this class.

If you are considering a re-landscaping project this spring or summer, the City of Palo Alto Utilities would like to help you get started on your new water-efficient garden. Residents can receive a rebate of \$1.50 per square foot, up to \$2,000, for removing high water using plants like lawn and planting drought tolerant and native plants! Call Utility Marketing Services at (650) 329-2241 for more information.