

May 30, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

4 What Do a Video Series, a Wiki Web Site and Senator Simitian Have in Common?

They are all going to be discussed at the next Community Environmental Action Partnership (CEAP) meeting on June 4. The CEAP is a partnership created to bring the whole community together to discuss environmental issues, share knowledge and create solutions. Everyone is welcome to attend a CEAP meeting. If you can't make a meeting, you can still participate! Contact a segment liaison if you would like to help formulate or implement one of their actions.

Next CEAP meeting:

June 4, from 4 – 6 p.m.

Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

At that meeting, we will discuss a pilot video series offered by the Media Center to highlight CEAP accomplishments. We will also have a 'how to' explanation to navigate the web site, learn how to actively participate, listen to liaison reports, learn what has been happening in the segments since our last meeting and have a discussion with Brock Winstead, Senator Simitian's staff person for environmental issues. For a full agenda and more information about CEAP, visit www.pa-ceap.org

Palo Alto Fire Engine Sent to the Summit Fire

On Thursday, May 22, Palo Alto Fire Engine 6 (E6) was deployed as part of a Santa Clara County Strike Team force to the Summit Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A total of four strike teams from Santa Clara County from various fire agencies responded to this incident. E6 was assigned to initial fire attack and structural protection and was actively involved in fire suppression efforts for the first two days of the event. They were released from the incident on Monday, May 27, and returned to Palo Alto early in the afternoon. There were no injuries to Palo Alto Fire personnel. Members of the E6 crew were Captain Barry Marchisio, Acting Apparatus Operator Manuel Macias, Firefighter Paramedic Jesse Aguilar and Firefighter Norman Park.



Bay-To-Ridge Trail Wins State Award

The City of Palo Alto Bay-to-Ridge Trail has been recognized by the State of California Trail and Greenways Association as the top award winner for Best Trail Project. The award will be presented to Supervising Ranger Lester Hodgins at the Association's annual meeting in San Diego on May 30.

The regional trail was first conceived in the early 1970s and linked the San Francisco Bay Trail at the Palo Alto Baylands, with the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Now, the 16-mile trail links four open space preserves and provides important access for hikers, bikers and equestrians from Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Los Altos Hills, Stanford, Menlo Park and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. Connecting parks and open space areas with urban neighborhoods, the trail also passes from tidal marshlands to redwood forests, with four nature interpretive centers along the trail route that allow travelers to learn about the ecology of the different plant communities.

From the edge of San Francisco Bay, the trail winds its way through Palo Alto neighborhoods along beautiful tree-lined streets, under safe and convenient railroad and highway under-crossings, into the foothill countryside passing three lakes on the way to an elevation of 1,400-feet in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Annually, 25,000 hikers and bikers enjoy unparalleled access to some of the most breathtaking vistas and scenery in the Bay Area!

The City of Palo Alto worked closely with the California Coastal Conservancy, Santa Clara County and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to provide significant funding for acquisition of a key parcel of land connecting the foothills of the peninsula with Palo Alto neighborhoods. The funding agencies recognized that a bay-to-foothills trail route (and eventually a bay-to-ocean trail route) would help achieve important goals of providing access to the coastline and protecting natural resources.

Auditor's Office Wins Award

Congratulations are in order to the City of Palo Alto Office of the City Auditor who won the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) 2007 Silver Knighton Award for Excellence for the Audit of Library Operations (see www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/aud/awards.asp). Last year, the City won the Bronze ALGA Knighton award for 2006 and previously a Silver ALGA Knighton award for 2005. The current honor was presented at the Annual Conference on May 19, 2008, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

