

June 13, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **4** Get Involved: Apply for a City Commission Opening

Are you interested in getting involved in the local community? If so, consider serving on a board or commission. The City of Palo Alto is currently looking for motivated individuals to fill several openings on the Planning & Transportation Commission (PTC) and Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC).

An appointment to a Board or Commission gives citizens of Palo Alto an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the governance of the city. Board members help shape the future of Palo Alto by applying their knowledge, experience, judgment and expertise to the Board or Commission they serve on.

Basic qualifications for appointment to a Board or Commission are: an individual must be a resident of the City of Palo Alto, have a willingness to give a four-year commitment to PTC and three-year commitment to UAC, have a public interview by the Council, and attend regular meetings for PTC which are held twice a month at 7:00 p.m. while UAC meetings are held once a month at 7:00 p.m. Most boards have more specific requirements, which may be obtained from the City of Palo Alto's web page. Deadline application is June 26, 2008.

To be considered for an appointment to either of these Commissions an application must be submitted along with the supplemental questions. You can apply online at the City of Palo Alto's web page <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=8386> or you can contact the City Clerk's Office at (650) 329-2571 to have information and/or the application mailed to you.

### **Resource Information Making a Difference**

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs sponsors the placement of **Family Resources Desktop Kiosks of Information** at all the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) school sites. The story below illustrates just how much the availability of resource information can help PAUSD staff and Palo Alto families.



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

*"The circumstance of this family is not wonderful but I felt so empowered because of this Kiosk information [in our office]. We had a family come to us asking if we could help with any information for helping them in their dire situation. The family is made up of a mother and four children, three of them in PAUSD schools. The mother lost her work, and her son (20 yrs old) has two jobs working at \$8.50/hr. Their rent for a one-bedroom is \$900.00, which was not furnished and they were sleeping on the floor. They were in trouble. They were trying to hold on through June because their son of 18 is graduating from PALY. They were really on the edge and falling. By using the Kiosk, we were able to help them contact the PA utilities to lower their monthly utility bill. We helped them fill out applications for low income housing and with the Kiosk information we were able to give them names to talk to. We gave them the addresses of places that would help them with groceries. We really helped this family get connected to programs and people who can help them help themselves. What a great feeling of satisfaction for both us." – Bella Almanzan, Secretary, Escondido Elementary School*

### **"School's Over" Party Hosted by Mitchell Park Library and Teen Center**

On Monday, June 9, at 3:30 p.m., the Mitchell Park Library and Mitchell Park Teen Center celebrated the end of the 2008 school year with a party for all entering 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Held in the courtyard between the library and teen center, this event allowed students to take pride in finishing another school year and an opportunity to have fun with friends. Teen staff led outdoor water games and the library provided free popcorn and popsicles, and also promoted the teen summer reading program. In addition, there was a free drawing for various prizes. Both the library and teen center staff enjoyed working together to put on this exciting event for youth and teens.

### **4 Community Outreach Program for Foothills Residents**

On Wednesday, May 28, the City of Palo Alto sponsored a community outreach and public education meeting in the evening at the Foothills Park Interpretive Center. The audience group included Palo Alto Foothills residents as well as neighboring stakeholder groups. The purpose of the gathering was to update the audience on the status of the Foothills Management Plan study and to introduce the consultants from Wildland Resource Management who is undertaking the study. There were two presentations at the meeting, one by Carol Rice and Cheryl Miller on the scope of service of the plan, timelines and service study deliverables and another by Fire Chief Nick Marinaro and Office of Emergency Services



Coordinator Barbara Cimino on fire behavior, fire prevention, citizen safety and fire mitigation practices in the wild land/ urban interface. Approximately 50 members of the community were in attendance.

## **16 Softball Teams Competed in Senior Tournament**

In collaboration with the City of Palo Alto Recreation Division, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern California Senior Softball Association (NCSSA) Palo Alto Tournament was a great success on June 7-8. The tournament redefined what it means to be a senior to anyone in attendance. Home runs, line drives and competitive spirits mixed easily with laughter and playful banter among the teams. After a recent and important tournament in Reno that served as a qualifier for Nationals earlier that week, the Palo Alto tournament hosted 16 teams competing in three different divisions. Playing in a younger bracket, the San Francisco Seals, ranked in the top 70 teams in the country, went undefeated, winning their division easily with a 6-0 record. The Sonoma Fog won their division with a 4-2 record and the RC Cardinals came away with an important 19-12 victory in their last game to edge out Physiotion in the highly competitive Green Division. Palo Alto Recreation is especially thankful for Jack Hoover's participation; Jack is a Palo Alto resident and has helped coordinate the event since its inception.

## **Palo Alto Fire Department Professional Firefighters Award Scholarships to Local High School Seniors**

For the fifth consecutive year, the Palo Alto Professional Firefighters scholarship fund has awarded college scholarships to qualifying high school seniors from Palo Alto and Gunn High Schools. Four seniors from Palo Alto and four from Gunn received scholarships of \$1,000 each at the graduation ceremonies held on June 5 and June 9. In 2008, the scholarship amount doubled from previous years largely due to the successful sale of the Palo Alto Firefighters special "Hot Sauce." Since the program began in 2004, nearly \$24,000 has been awarded in scholarships to 40 students. The Palo Alto Professional Firefighters are honored to contribute to the scholastic future of these deserving high school seniors.

