

*July 11, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA*

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **4** Update on Library/Community Center Project

At its July 7 meeting, the City Council was presented with the results of the recent telephone survey of 600 Palo Altans regarding the Library/Community Center projects. After a presentation by the City's outside polling firm, Council directed staff to move forward with a potential bond measure on the November 2008 ballot to finance the planned renovations. We will build the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center to meet the gold standard of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. This standard was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. On July 21, the City Council will review a resolution that establishes the justification for a Library/Community Center bond measure and have the first reading of the ordinance to place the bond measure on the ballot. The adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for the August 4 Council meeting. For more information on this project, visit [http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/city\\_projects/city\\_facilities/library\\_projects.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/city_projects/city_facilities/library_projects.asp)

### **Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival**

Join us Saturday through Sunday, July 12-13, 2008, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., for the 16th Annual Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival at the Palo Alto Art Center.

The largest festival of its kind in the United States, the festival is sponsored by the Palo Alto Art Center and KFOG radio in collaboration with the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California. The public is invited to shop for the finest glass and ceramic objects for home and garden created by more than 180 clay and glass artists. Ceramic workshops for all ages will also be available, as well as lunch and refreshments. Proceeds benefit the Association of Clay and Glass Artists and the Palo Alto Art Center. Admission is FREE.

For more information, visit <http://www.acga.net> or call (650) 329-2366.



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

## **4** Town Hall Meeting on Cubberley Football Field Renovation Project

The Community Services Department will host a town hall meeting Tuesday night, July 15th, to present information and gather ideas for the renovation of the football field at the Cubberley Community Center. The meeting will be held in Room H1 at Cubberley beginning at 7 p.m.

The City is embarking on a capital improvement project to replace the existing turf at the Cubberley Community Center football field with an all-weather synthetic turf similar to the playing surface installed at the Stanford/Palo Alto Community Playing Fields (El Camino at Page Mill Road) and planned for Palo Alto High School and Gunn High School.

The new playing surface is optimal for soccer, lacrosse, rugby and other field sports and has the advantages of not having to mow, aerate, fertilize and water, such as of a sod turf. Not only is there a significant reduction in maintenance and water costs, the field will not need to be closed to the public for three months of each year for renovation.

The City of Palo Alto Community Services Department is working closely with landscape architects who specialize in field design to create a field that will provide the community with the safest and best playing surface possible. As we begin the design process we have already met with a small group of neighborhood association representatives, neighbors adjoining the fields, community center patrons, and field users to listen to ideas and concerns about keeping the fields as a real community asset. This town hall meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project and have an opportunity to ask questions about the benefits of synthetic turf fields.

If you would like to learn more about this upcoming project, please join us for an informal town hall meeting on July 15th. If you are unable to attend, and have questions or concerns about the project, please call Greg Betts at (650) 463-4951.

## **4** Dartmouth's "Big Green Bus" to Visit Palo Alto July 17

Turning the All-American notion of the great summer road-trip on its head, twelve college students are crisscrossing the country from June through August in order to change the world – one vegetable oil-powered bus at a time. The project's goal has been to spread the green revolution, educating the public through hands-on demonstrations about ways that all Americans can adjust their lifestyles to minimize their ecological footprints. Join us at

the Junior Museum and Zoo on Thursday, July 17, to learn about green living, visit the newest kid's exhibit "Clean Green Energy Machines" and hear about the connection between bats, bio-fuels and rainforests. Come to City Hall to get a tour of the bus, learn new ideas and join in a community dialogue about sustainability.

- 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road
- 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., at King Plaza in front of City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue




















Follow the bus journey at <http://www.thebiggreenbus.org>

## 2008 Lead Academy Graduation

On July 7, the City of Palo Alto hosted a graduation ceremony for 19 Palo Alto employees who participated in the City's 2008 Lead Academy. Frank Benest and Russ Carlsen, the Director of Human Resources, congratulated staff from departments including Administrative Services, Planning, Police, Public Works and Utilities on their completion of the program.


Lead academy participants were selected based on their individual application plus nomination by their supervisor. The Academy entailed eight classes over as many weeks, on topics such as supervisory preparation; building teamwork; delegation; writing e-mails; violence & harassment; policies & procedures; communication, and employee relations.

### 2008 Lead Academy participants are:

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|---|--|
|  Chris Boesswetter |  Rui Pereira        |
|  Doug Bohna        |  Ben Perez          |
|  Michael Blodgett  |  Russ Reich         |
|  Dave Cordova      |  Brian Reynolds     |
|  Reggie Gonzales   |  Roger Silva        |
|  Ryan Johnson      |  George Wilson      |
|  Pete Kosiak       |  Roland Wilson      |
|  Allen Krever      |  Michael VanSambeek |
|  Anthony Meneses   |  Andrew Zlatunich   |
|  Anthony Mouton    |  |

## Non-Carbon Retro-technology at Twilight Concerts

The City of Palo Alto Utilities staff provided free solar clothes dryers (clothes drying hangers) to about 30 audience members at Tuesday's Twilight Concert Series held at Rinconada Park Bowl. Electric and natural gas

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powered clothes dryers use significant amounts of energy, creating greenhouse gas emissions and adding substantially to your monthly utility bill, all while heating up your laundry room and home during hot summer days. Drying clothes naturally outside is good for the environment and your budget, with the added benefit of making your laundry smell fresh and clean.

Residents were provided free solar clothes drying hangers with individually hand-drawn labels. The labels were drawn by City of Palo Alto Utilities employee Shiva Swaminathan's seven-year old daughter, Shaini. Shaini and her five-year old brother Abi helped to pass out the solar drying hangers at the Twilight Concert.

The Twilight Concert Series is brought to you by the City of Palo Alto's Arts and Sciences Division and the Palo Alto Weekly, with generous support from the City of Palo Alto Utilities Department and the "Palo Alto Green" Program. All concerts are held on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at various parks in the Palo Alto area. All concerts are free to the public. Special thanks to our in-kind sponsor, Piazza's Fine Foods.

More information about upcoming concerts can be found at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/living/news/details.asp?NewsID=481&TargetID=4>

### **Utility Customer Satisfaction Survey Planned**

The City of Palo Alto's electric utility completes an annual survey of its customers on satisfaction and other issues, alternating between residential and commercial customers each year. This year's survey will be of residential customers and next year's will be of commercial customers. In the upcoming week, about 150 residents will be telephoned by a research firm (RKS Research & Consulting) and queried on a range of subjects, including electric utility performance, customer satisfaction, energy efficiency and global warming. The results of the survey are reported in aggregated fashion, so all responses are anonymous. We encourage our customers to answer openly and honestly. The survey results are used to improve the programs, procedures and services offered by the Utilities department.

### **New Leadership for the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo**

On June 23, John Aikin assumed the position of Director of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo. John comes to Palo Alto with vast experience in wildlife education, zoo management and wildlife conservation.



John Aikin has made a career of wildlife conservation at the San Francisco Zoo. For the first 18 years, he built and managed a breeding and release program for rare birds of prey at the Zoo and a facility to house the program. He has found time between caring for eagles and falcons to give numerous presentations on wildlife conservation.

For the eight years he served as Curator of Planning and Design and worked with teams of staff and designers toward the construction of over \$92 million in animal exhibitory and facilities.

As the Director of Conservation since July of 2006, John worked to enact policy and implement programs focused on wildlife conservation. Having traveled extensively throughout the world, he believes that the survival of wildlife and wild places rests in the collective hands of us all.

"As a boy, the local junior museum had a profound influence on me," said John Aikin. "The people in these institutions inspire and mentor the community in an exploration of science. Many children have their first experience with wildlife in this museum and I believe it is important that we frame these experiences in the context of nature. So I am thrilled to come to the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo at a time when it is upgrading its animal facilities to become more like natural habitats, beginning with the bobcats." John will be working closely with the Friends of the Junior Museum and Zoo to create the new bobcat facility.

John's dream is to create an urban oasis that inspires a love of wildlife and a commitment to conservation.

