

*July 18, 2008
Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Mountain Lion Attack "Unsubstantiated"

On Sunday, July 13, a hiker contacted Foothills Park staff to inform them that he had been attacked by a mountain lion on the previous day. Park rangers immediately activated the procedure for notifying City staff, Palo Alto Police Department, California Fish and Game and neighboring agencies. A Community Alert and Notification System (CANS) message was sent out to residents living near the park and, as a public safety precaution, Foothills Park and Pearson-Arastradero Preserve were closed for the investigation.

After extensive searching on Sunday and Monday by park rangers, wardens and the tracker, no conclusive evidence was found of an attack or of recent mountain lion activity. Forensic tests on the hiker's clothing also found no conclusive evidence of mountain lion contact. Because of those factors, Fish & Game declared that this was an unsubstantiated attack and Foothills Park and Pearson Arastradero Preserve were reopened on Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

This event is a good reminder that we share Foothills Park and Pearson Arastradero Preserve with mountain lions. Mountain Lion precautions and notices are posted at the preserves authorized entrance points. State Fish & Game recommends the following precautions when you are in mountain lion habitat:

- Do not hike alone.
- Keep small children and animals close to you.
- If you encounter a lion, make yourself look bigger and make noise.
- If attacked, fight back.
- Report all sightings to Palo Alto Police Communications 24 hours a day at (650) 329-2413.

Appreciation is extended to the assisting agencies and various City departments that had to quickly adapt to the park closings. Four summer camps managed by the Recreation Division had to be relocated to other sites and Utilities and Public Works staff held off on working in the park.



4 Palo Alto Signs Up Its Largest Solar Power Installation

The City of Palo Alto Utilities announced that Roche Palo Alto has applied for the largest solar power system ever to be installed within city limits. The 112,000 square foot photovoltaic system will be mounted on the rooftops of several buildings on the Roche Palo Alto campus and will generate an estimated 1,398,194 kilowatt hours in electricity each year.

The system at Roche will be one of the largest privately owned commercial solar systems to be installed in California. When operating at peak capacity, the system will generate enough electricity to power approximately 172 Palo Alto homes. The clean energy that the system is expected to deliver will help avoid of up to 700 metric tons of CO₂ emissions each year.

The Roche Palo Alto project was launched through the combined effort of three partners: the City of Palo Alto, Solar Power Partners, Inc., and Cupertino Electric. The City of Palo Alto will provide an estimated \$2,240,000 performance-based rebate with payments made over five years. These incentive payments will be based on the actual production of the facility. The City will purchase Renewable Energy Credits from the system's electrical output to contribute locally generated solar power to be added to the supply mix for the PaloAltoGreen program. The system is scheduled to be up and running by the end of 2008.

Work Delays in Peers Park Means Later Opening

Peers Park is currently in the midst of a \$450,000 upgrade that will include a brand new children's play area as well as a new picnic area and new fencing. The construction work, which began in April and was progressing on schedule, has now slowed due to design issues. The large, custom built climbing rock that will serve as the centerpiece of the children's play area cannot be installed as planned. The original design called for the rock to straddle the poured-in-place safety surfacing and the sand; however, the installation details failed to address that situation, which now turns out to be untenable for constructability and safety reasons.

Efforts were made to inform members of the neighborhood associations about the delays. A meeting was held at the park last week, and the design consultant, the play equipment designer, the contractor and City staff arrived at a viable solution to the problem. The design consultant is in the process of revising the installation details and work is expected to resume at the site this week.

The reopening of the children's play area is now expected to be in September 2008.

For more information, contact the project manager, Public Works Engineering Architect/Park Planner, chris.rafferty@cityofpaloalto.org or call (650) 329-2475.

The Palo Alto Kiwanis Club does it Again



On a bright, sunny Saturday, the Kiwanis Club worked with City staff on July 12, to install a fun and interactive new playground structure at the Mitchell Park Pine Grove Picnic Area. Volunteer projects such as this invite the community to become involved in providing services with many benefits. By utilizing volunteers for the assembly of the play structure instead of using a contractor,

the City was able to save \$15,000 in construction costs.

The Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto offers hands-on support to many agencies and community service organizations in Palo Alto. The range of projects has included planting trees and taking street tree inventories, handling logistics at a children's arts festival, packing and wrapping toys for the holiday Giving Tree Program, and park clean up days. Club members have also been involved in building playgrounds, such as at Heritage Park last year.



The project was a success and everyone had a great time working with the Kiwanis Club and look forward to working with them on future projects.

4 Comprehensive Plan Study Session

On July 28, 2008, at 6 p.m., the City Council and the Planning and Transportation Commission will conduct a joint study session to kick off the Comprehensive Plan amendment. Staff expects that the study session will focus on the process staff will use to implement the work program that was approved by Council in 2006 and reaffirmed by Council in April. For the study session, staff will explain the proposed process to develop growth projections and the housing inventory and to evaluate relevance of existing

policies and programs, and will solicit ideas on how to share information with, and actively engage, the community in the planning process. The work program for the Housing Element update will also be presented to align with the scope of the Comprehensive Plan effort.

For the first year of the Comprehensive Plan amendment process, staff envisions developing a draft sustainability chapter, reviewing the existing Comprehensive Plan goals, policies and programs for relevancy, and beginning work on area planning efforts for the area around the Fry's site and the East Meadow Circle/West Bayshore area. The public is welcome to attend and provide input at the study session.

4 Friend's Group Grants \$95,400 to the Library

Last week, the Board of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library approved a total of \$95,400 in grants to support library collections and programs. The grants include funds for the purchase of books, DVDs, and online resources. In combination with the organization's support of a two-year partnership with the City, the Friends of the Library will be contributing over \$250,000 in 2007-09 to improve the collections at all five Palo Alto libraries.

The grants for this year include \$33,900 to support a wide variety of programs for children, teens and adult. Among the popular programs made possible each year with funding from the Friends of the Library are the summer reading programs, special performances for kids and the annual community-wide reading program.

This incredible support is the direct result of the thousands of hours the Friends' volunteers contribute to our community each year by conducting the monthly book sales at Cubberley Community Center. For more information about the Friends of the Library, visit their website at:

<http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org>

Palo Alto Library Enthusiasts are Winners of Free2 Contest

Congratulations to Sarit Elata and Dale Wolfe, two of the ten winners in the recent Bay Area Free2 contest that invited entrants to describe, in 25 words or less, what they are "Free2" to do or be thanks to their libraries.

The winning entries from Sarit and Dale, both users of the Main Library, reflect the broad appeal of public libraries and the variety of services offered.

Sarit wrote: "Free2 read all the great books I've been craving to read and have alternative life experiences and unexpected learning while sitting in my favorite armchair."

Dale said: "Free2 to define, design and develop new languages, theories, methodologies, personal technologies and personal traditions, unencumbered by irrelevant exogenous cultural and institutional influences. Online libraries can help."

The Free2 contest was one of the first activities in a multi-month campaign launched last April that involves interactive and traditional advertising, sponsored initiatives, special events and promotional activities at 165 library locations in Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of the central role libraries play in people's lives and how libraries are meeting increased demand for services.

Upcoming events, activities, and special features will be highlighted on the campaign's web site at <http://www.wearefree2.org>

