

July 25, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Last Twilight Concert

The finale of the Twilight Concert Series will be held on Tuesday, August 5, at California Avenue between Ash and Birch Streets. This is the fourth year that the series has taken place in this location. We are proud to present The Tommy Castro Band, high energy straight-ahead blues and Memphis style soul. The concert is FREE and will be from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Bring a low back chair since no seating will be available. Call Suzanne Warren at (650) 463-4940, if you have any specific questions. The web site for all concert information is <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/concerts>

4 Wildlands Fire Plan Meetings

On August 3, the City of Palo Alto has scheduled the second of three community meetings to get input from residents on updating the Foothills Fire Management Plan. The meeting is from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club, 3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto. The City has chosen this location for its convenience and relevance to the project. **Attendees must abide by the Club's no denim/jeans policy and requirement to disable wireless device ringers while within the Club's premises.** Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.

The goal of the meeting is to discuss the project status and receive input on potential fuel management and response to wildland fires. There will be another community meeting, currently being planned for sometime in September.

For more information, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/info/default.asp> and click on "Community Meetings" in the Emergency Information section.

4 Utilities Department Works to Reduce Electricity Costs

Dry conditions and very high energy costs have driven up the costs of Palo Alto's electricity supplies. These costs must be passed on to the residents and businesses in Palo Alto and a 14% rate increase effective July 1, 2008 was implemented to partially address the rising costs. At the same time, the

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

City is always looking for ways to cut costs so that future rate increases can be avoided or at least lessened.

Earlier this year, the Utilities Department re-assessed elements of the electric supply portfolio to continue providing ratepayers' electric needs at the lowest possible cost. In May, the City divested its interest in the Seattle-City Light Energy Exchange Agreement saving approximately \$200,000 per year for next seven years for electric customers. A second initiative to reduce costs is to assign the City's rights to the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) to other municipal electric utilities in Northern



California. This initiative is projected to save electric customers approximately \$1 million per year over the next 15 years. On July 15, the Council Finance Committee unanimously recommended the first in a series of agreements to implement this initiative that will help lower City's cost

associated with the COTP transmission. The Finance Committee recognized the importance of this initiative to lower the cost to customers, to the extent possible, in today's environment of very high energy prices.

4 Palo Alto Earns Award for its Climate Protection Plan

The City has received the Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award for the Palo Alto Climate Protection Plan from the Alliance for Innovation. The Climate Protection Plan (CPP), approved by City Council in December 2007, includes an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from the City's municipal operations as well as from the activities of the entire community and proposes specific target dates and reduction goals for both.

The award was presented at the July 14 City Council to the City's Sustainability Team Nancy Nagel, Karl Van Orsdol, Wendy Hediger (Julie Weiss is missing). Mayor Larry Klein, community members Walt Hays and Carol Harrington, former Mayor Judy Kleinberg and City Manager Frank Benest.

The CPP expands on the Green Ribbon Task Force (GRTF) recommendations to reduce significantly greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through a joint effort between City government and the community. The CPP provides a comprehensive inventory of City government-generated and community-

generated emissions and proposes reduction targets with practical steps to reach those targets.

To learn more about the Palo Alto Climate Protection Plan, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/environment/news/details.asp?NewsID=861&TargetID=59>

Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival

The 16th Annual Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival was held on July 12-13 at the Palo Alto Art Center. Attendance was higher than ever, and many attribute this to the excellent coverage provided this year by our local papers, the *Palo Alto Weekly* and *Palo Alto Daily*. Over 160 artists participated, providing high-quality work that ranged from functional to sculptural for both home and garden. Special exhibits included an Ikebana flower arranging demonstration using bowls selected from the participating artists and wheel-throwing demonstrations in the clay studios at the Center. The most popular booth was the Clay-for-All experience, where children of all ages (including adults) were given the opportunity to work with clay. Throughout the day, there were lines of people waiting to take their turn.

Food vendors included Oaxacan Kitchen serving Mexican food, Kicks serving ice cream creations, and Caffe Carrello serving coffee and lemonade drinks. Plans for next year's Festival are already in the works.

4 Summer Workshop Series another Great Success

The City of Palo Alto Utilities Department recently wrapped up its summer workshop series for Palo Alto residents. This year's free workshops focused on building a "green" home, making homes more energy efficient and installing solar water heating. The Saturday classes were held from June through mid-July with over 250 residents attending. Residents learned about ways to integrate green building concepts into new construction or remodeling projects; perform energy audits on their homes to discover ways to save; and obtain the benefits of installing a solar water heating system that utilizes the sun's thermal energy to heat water, as opposed to a traditional water heater.

Based on workshop surveys, 98% of residents gave the instructors and class content favorable reviews. Next year's free summer workshop series will be advertised in utility bill inserts as the summer approaches. For more information on ways to save energy and water, call Utility Marketing Services at (650) 329-2241 or visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/utilities>



Opportunity Knocks for Prospective Child Care Providers

Palo Alto will likely face a shortage of After-School Childcare as of the 08-09 school year. There are significantly more parents requesting after-school care than there are spaces to accommodate. If you have been thinking of starting a Family Home Child Care business, this could be an ideal time to act. It is not difficult to obtain a small Family Home Child Care license, and processing time to receive the license is approximately three months.

For further information and assistance, refer to:

- **The City of Palo Alto Child Care Planning Guide** at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=12817>
The guide will help you understand the process for opening a licensed family child care home or as child care center in the City of Palo Alto
- **The Provider Connection** at <http://www.paccc.com/pc/> or (650) 493-3100
This offers many professional growth opportunities, including permit and licensing assistance
- **Community Care Licensing Division/Day Care** at <http://www.cclcd.ca.gov> or (408) 324-2148
This agency licenses family day care homes for children and child day care centers. Orientation and information meetings for persons wanting a day care home license are held in various areas. Provides information on facilities and regulations on request

Call City of Palo Alto, Child & Family Resources at (650) 329-2221 if you would like additional information.

