

*August 1, 2008
Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

"The Color of Palo Alto" to be Revealed

"The Color of Palo Alto" will be unveiled on Tuesday, August 5, at 7 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers. The presentation by Samuel Yates will feature the project's Chief Software Architect, Eli Schleifer, and it will be introduced by Glen Helfand, art critic for Artforum and San Francisco Bay Guardian, and faculty at California College of Art and San Francisco Art Institute. The evening will include special guests Mayor Larry Klein, Council Member Sid Espinosa who is also Director of Philanthropy at Hewlett-Packard Company, and David Levin, Public Art Commission Chair (2000-2002).

Join us in celebration as the chromatic discoveries of this seven-year research project are revealed for the first time. Seating is limited; RSVP to (650) 329-2227. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8di9Vpr6C-w&fmt=18>

4 Field Use Policy - Draft Available for Review

The City of Palo Alto is in the process of creating a formal Field Use Policy to establish procedures and set clear policies governing the use of City of Palo Alto playing fields. The policy draft will be available to the public for review on the City website beginning July 31, 2008. To review the draft, please visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/csd/news/details.asp?NewsID=1103&TargetID=13,141> and provide your comments by August 18. Your feedback can be e-mailed to playingfields@cityofpaloalto.org

Update on Open Space Fires in Palo Alto

Last week there were two fires at the opposite ends of Palo Alto's Open Space. On Wednesday evening July 23, the Fire Department responded to a fire at the compost facility within the landfill at the Palo Alto Baylands. Smoke could be seen for miles around as more than a dozen fire apparatus work to extinguish the two acre fire. In addition to Palo Alto Fire engines, Cal Fire, Mountain View Fire, Woodside Fire and Park Rangers provided equipment and personnel to assist in extinguishing the fire. The cause was not determined but is likely due to either natural heat or hot material dumped with the vegetation at the compost piles.

On Thursday afternoon July 24, Palo Alto Rangers were at Foothills Park completing the last written exercise for a firefighter course when a call came in for a brush fire in the upper section of the park. Three Fire Department engines, all four Palo Alto Ranger patrols and a Mid Peninsula Ranger Patrol quickly extinguished the half acre fire which was located next to a fire break near the top of Foothills Park. Credit is given to a park neighbor who first saw the smoke, called 911, and ran a garden hose over his fence to help contain the fire. The cause of the fire was not determined.

These fires are a reminder that we still have up to three months of fire season left and to be very careful with fire. Always dispose of charcoal properly, never place in the trash unless absolutely cold and completely wet. When visiting Open Space please remember:

- All fires are prohibited in the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve
- Barbecue only in the parks' grills using charcoal, never burn wood.
- Smoke only in designated areas (the picnic areas and on the green lawns)
- And never smoke on Foothills Parks' trails.

4 Palo Alto's Solar Electric Program Ranks in Top 10

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) announced its Top Ten rankings of utilities in the United States with the most solar electricity (PV) integrated into their energy mix as of the end of 2007. In addition to overall rankings for both public power and investor owned utilities, additional Top Ten categories were released based on the amount of solar electricity interconnected to the utility on the customer side of the meter and on the utility side of the meter. The Utilities and Building Departments worked together to promote and approve the installation of 275 systems over the past eight years, resulting in one megawatt (MW) of customer-owned photovoltaic systems that save over 800 metric tons of CO₂ each year.

The City of Palo Alto placed in the Top Ten lists in a number of categories:

- #2, Ranked by Total Solar Electric Capacity per Customer (MW/Customer) – Public Power Utilities, 2C in report
- #2, Ranked by Solar Electric Capacity per Customer on the Customer Side of the Meter (MW/Customer) – Public Power Utilities, 4C in report
- #3, Ranked by Solar Electric Capacity per Customer on the Customer Side of the Meter (MW/Customer) – All Utilities, 4A in report
- #5, Ranked by Total Solar Electric Capacity per Customer (MW/Customer) – All Utilities, 2A in report

- #7, Ranked by Total Solar Electric Capacity (MW) – Public Power Utilities, 1C in report
- #7, Ranked by Solar Electric Capacity on the Customer Side of the Meter (MW) – Public Power Utilities, 3C in report

To read the full report about solar electric programs in utilities nationwide, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=13003>

Library Checkouts Reach All-Time High

Palo Alto City Library customers checked out over 1.5 million items in 2007-08, a 9% increase over last year. Circulation increases were recorded across the board for materials for children, teens and adults. Children’s book circulation rose at 16%, due in part to the reopening of the fully renovated Children’s Library in September.

A partnership between the City and the Friends of the Palo Alto Library targeted at enriching the library collection is a contributing factor to the rise in circulation. Over a two-year period, beginning in 2007-08, an additional \$334,000 is being used to enhance the collection with new materials ranging from traditional books to on-line materials such as e-books and subscription databases.

The increased circulation workload has been handled by the successful introduction of self-service checkout technology. System-wide, 89% of all first time checkouts are completed by customers at self-service machines.

For information about the Library, phone (650) 329-2436 for a recorded message of locations and hours, or visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library>

Summer Teen Leadership - Recreation

Two terrific programs with the City’s Recreation Division focus on building leadership skills for teens this summer.

The **Counselor in Training (CIT) Program** allows teens to earn community service hours while working outdoors and doing camp projects. The 14 and 15 year olds assist camp counselors to gain experience to become future counselors. These trainings focus on leadership, management, city policies and skills needed to be a successful CIT. After a week of training CITs are placed at a camp where they work for a week or more with the counselors and campers. CITs can choose to work at more than one camp during different weeks. Approximately 45 CITs signed up for



the program this summer and are working at the following camps: Camp Storybook, Hi-Five Camp, Foothills Fun Camp, Foothills Day Camp, Bay Camp or Wildlife Camp. CITs are part of the summer camp leadership team and are a wonderful addition to the summer camp program.

The **Junior Lifeguard Camp** teaches 13 and 14 year olds the necessary skills to become a member of the aquatics team and future lifeguards. This fun and exciting program provides quality water safety education for teens. With 30 Junior Lifeguards in our program this summer, focus is given to personal safety, rescue techniques, water safety instruction, and fun. Junior Lifeguards sign up for a week long training session and then are placed at either Rinconada or JLS pool for a two week assignment. As with the CIT program the Junior Lifeguards are very valuable members of the summer aquatics program.

Summer Camp Talent Show a Big Success

What other way to end a fun-filled summer camp than with a Talent Show? Sarrie Paguirigan, Summers Excellent Adventure Camp's Director, directed and hosted the event. According to the audience, made up of parents of camp participants and Recreation staff, the talent show was a big success! All eleven campers that participated showed a great deal of talent, including dancing, music and downright kooky comedy. Summers Excellent Adventure Camp caters to kids with special needs. For four weeks, campers enjoy crafts, games, playing in the park, fitness, music and cooking. For more information on this camp, please visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.enjoy>

4 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Kick Off

The City Council and Planning and Transportation Commission held a joint study session to kick off the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process on Monday, July 28, 2008. The amendment process intends to update and extend the existing Comprehensive Plan to serve as the primary tool for guiding the future development of the City through the year 2020. The focus of the amendment is to continue the direction and underscore the major themes of the 1998 Comprehensive Plan while ensuring that sufficient public services are available to serve new housing development, that sufficient land for neighborhood-serving retail uses is retained, that impacts of increased housing on public services such as parks, libraries and schools are mitigated, and that the City's commitment to reduce global warming is addressed. The joint study session outlined the scope, schedule and budget of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and the expected approach to each of the

key work plan components. The Council has allocated \$850,000 for this work effort over a three years period.

A substantial number of public workshops, meetings and hearings will be scheduled to engage the community, beginning in October with a review of existing Comprehensive Plan policies with the Planning and Transportation Commission. Next steps in the amendment process include:

- Completion of Background Studies – through December 2008
- Review of Comprehensive Plan policies/programs – October 2008 to March 2009
- Area Concept plan preparation – January 2009 to May 2009
- Draft Housing Element preparation – August 2008 to July 2009
- Comprehensive Plan EIR Preparation – July 2009 to May 2010
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Review and Adoption – June 2010 to December 2010.

