

August 8, 2008  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **4** City Seeks Members for Web Site Review Committee

As part of its ongoing effort to enhance the City of Palo Alto web site and meet the City Council's civic engagement priority, the City is looking for people interested in serving on a volunteer committee to evaluate the City's web site. The committee will convene this fall and meet regularly for several months to review the City's web site and develop recommendations for improvements and future enhancements. The list of recommendations, along with an implementation plan, will be presented to the City Council as the committee's final work product.

If you are a resident or local business person from the Palo Alto community who represents a broad base of viewpoints and would like to apply to be a member of the web site review committee, contact Lalo Perez, Director of Administrative Services at [lalo.perez@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:lalo.perez@cityofpaloalto.org) or (650) 329-2675. Apply by August 29, 2008, and tell us about your interest in and qualifications for, serving on the committee.

Visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/press/display.asp?layout=1&Entry=317> for more details.

### **Citywide Ultra-High-Speed Broadband Project**

At the July 14 City Council meeting, staff presented a report on the progress of the Citywide Ultra-High-Speed Broadband System negotiations and requested Council direction on two options for moving forward. In a detailed motion, the Council directed staff to expedite negotiations with the Broadband consortium by developing a Letter of Intent (LOI) containing the essential terms and conditions of contracts. The LOI will be presented to the Council for its review in September and the contracts are expected to be presented in October. To facilitate the process, the Mayor has appointed a three member, ad-hoc Council subcommittee to provide feedback to staff and advise the Council its g with previously appointed community advisors.

Since July 14, staff has met frequently with the Axia/PacketFront/180 Connect consortium to discuss the essential terms and conditions of the LOI. After two full days of negotiations, staff and consortium members have made substantive progress on those terms and conditions. Although there are numerous and complex details to be worked through with the consortium

and City departments, staff is moving forward expeditiously toward meeting the Council's goals and objectives in a timely manner.

## **4** Baylands Master Plan 2008

The Department of Planning and Community Environment is pleased to announce the release of the draft *Baylands Master Plan 2008* for public review.

In 1978, the City Council adopted the original *Baylands Master Plan and EIR*, followed in 1979 by the *Baylands Master Plan Summary Report*, which synthesized the final Council adopted policy recommendations and the original Plan. In 1988, the City published an *Amended Baylands Master Plan Summary Report* to describe policy implementation and City Council actions between 1979 and 1988.

This fourth edition *Baylands Master Plan 2008* is one document that includes the history, environmental setting, and adopted planning goals and policies for the Baylands area. Policy implementation and City Council actions from 1988 through 2007 are also described. This plan replaces all earlier plans and reports.

The following public hearings for the *Baylands Master Plan 2008* are tentatively scheduled:

- **August 13, 2008 - Planning and Transportation Commission**
- **August 19, 2008 - Parks and Recreation Commission**
- **September 22, 2008 - City Council**

The Baylands Master Plan 2008 is available for review on the City's website at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pln/news/details.asp?NewsID=1098&TargetID=85> and at City libraries.

## **National Night Out, August 5, 2008**

Over 35 million people nationwide participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> National Night Out by organizing block parties between 6 – 9 p.m. in an effort to raise awareness about crime prevention and strengthen neighborhood spirit.

In Palo Alto, about 35 City employees from the Police, Fire, Utilities, Public Works and Community Services Departments along with staff from the City Manager's Office visited nine neighborhood block parties to share in the spirit of community engagement. Neighborhood gatherings were held in

closed off streets and City parks where residents set up barbecues, tables and fun activities for the kids. One of the block parties had a jazz band playing and has already made reservations for next year's National Night Out event!

It is estimated that over 500 residents participated in National Night Out in Palo Alto. Many residents renewed their neighborly friendships or met new ones. Most expressed how much they enjoyed the get-togethers. It was a wonderful evening of great conversations between City staff and residents on conserving energy, emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and other topics. A fitting end to the evening's festivities was a beautiful double rainbow over the City.

#### **4** City Announces Innovative Stormwater Measures Rebate Program

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and "green" building techniques, the City's Storm Drain Utility has developed an Innovative Stormwater Measures Rebate Program. One important aspect of "green" building projects is the inclusion of site design measures that reduce



stormwater runoff and pollution. In order to provide incentives for such measures, the Storm Drain Utility is offering rebates to Palo Alto residents and businesses for the installation of rain barrels, permeable pavement, rainwater cisterns, and green roofs. Rebates of up to \$1,000 for single-family homes and up to \$10,000 for commercial properties are available for eligible

stormwater reduction measures. In accordance with the ballot measure approved by a majority of Palo Alto property owners in 2005, the rebate program is funded with revenue from monthly storm drainage fees, at a rate of \$125,000 per year. Rebate applications and further information regarding the Innovative Stormwater Measures Rebate Program are available on the web at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/stormwater> or by calling Public Works Engineering at (650) 329-2151.

#### **Highlights of Children Fine Arts Summer Studio Camps**

The Palo Alto Art Center has Children's Fine Art (CFA) summer studio camps that are in full swing right now. So far this summer, campers have done digital video and photography, created life-sized clay self portrait busts, invented airplanes and harmless mouse traps, painted, drawn, sculpted and otherwise had a great, colorful creative time.



Two studio camps were especially exciting this year: *Mural Painting* with local painter Greg Brown, and *Art Car Studio* with Seattle-based art car artist Kelly Lyles. Greg's class created a stunning new mural for Rinconada pool, depicting what *might* be happening just below the surface. Kelly's group painted and

decorated a real, street-legal art car, which is a car that is also a work of art. Art cars often turn up at parades and festivals, and we're eager to see where CFA's car turns up next.

CFA kids range in age from 18 months to 18 years. The program has been providing quality art experiences to the children of Palo Alto and surrounding communities since 1940. We serve



around 2,000 children annually. Classes are held at the Junior Museum and Zoo, the Palo Alto Art Center, and Mitchell Park Teen Center. We offer after-school classes, special workshops, and week-long summer studios.

Watch for Children's Fine Art Fall classes in the Enjoy Catalogue available August 25.

## **Arastradero Road, College Terrace and California Avenue Wastewater and Gas Project Updates**

Several new services, laterals and mains installed by the Utilities Department will provide improved gas and sanitary service in the College Terrace and California business areas for many years.

Recently completed Wastewater Collection (WWC) Project 19A in College Terrace replaced all non-plastic sewer laterals in the public right of way in addition to the previous work to rehabilitate the sewer mains over the last few years.



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

Gas Main Replacement (GMR) Project 16 replaced ABS gas mains and services from Amherst Street to Princeton Street and is near completion. WWCGMR 17 will start construction October 2008 to replace ABS gas mains and services from Princeton Street to El Camino Real and on California Avenue from El Camino Real to Park Boulevard.

WWC Infrastructure maintenance continues with the approval of the contract with D'Arcy and Harty Construction, Inc. for the replacement of sewer mains, manholes, and laterals on Arastradero Road and adjacent side streets, as well as the replacement of sewer laterals on California Avenue from El Camino Real to Park Boulevard. Soon work for Project 19B will begin along Arastradero Road between King Arthur's Court and El Camino Real and on California Avenue between El Camino Real and Park Boulevard. The contractor will start construction work on Arastradero Road on August 12, through mid-September with the work on California Avenue starting two weeks later. The California Avenue work will be completed in time for the scheduled September 21, event at the Jewish Community Center. Project 19B work includes replacement of approximately 8,100 linear feet of sanitary sewer mains of various sizes, 30 sewer manholes, and 200 sewer service laterals.

These Gas and WWC projects are critical components of the City's overall infrastructure maintenance goals. Staff wishes to avoid any delay in completing the projects and will work with residents, businesses and contractors to minimize inconveniences. The Utilities Department continues to coordinate all construction projects with the Public Works street paving activities to avoid any conflicts in paving schedules.

For more information regarding Utility Capital Improvement Projects, visit [http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/utl/utilities\\_engineering/major\\_utility\\_projects.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/utl/utilities_engineering/major_utility_projects.asp)

