

August 15, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Tree Removal to Close College Terrace Library and Child Care Center on August 21 – 22

A large, diseased eucalyptus tree at the College Terrace Library has been declared unsafe by the City Arborist and is scheduled for removal. For safety reasons, the building must remain vacant Thursday, August 21, and Friday, August 22, and there will be no access to the site. If the work is not completed on Friday, the library will remain closed on Saturday, August 23.

During the closure dates no library items will be due. Due dates for checked out materials and pick up dates for items on hold will be extended. There will no access to College Terrace book drops, so items should be returned to other branches. In addition, there will be no access to Wi-Fi at College Terrace Library during the closure.

The arborist reports recommending removal of the tree are available at the College Terrace, Main, and Downtown libraries.

For additional information, contact Rose Sebastian at (650) 329-2478 or rose.sebastian@cityofpaloalto.org To renew or reserve books online, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/lib/default.asp> and click "Log in."

4 Re-Opening of Cameron and Weisshaar Parks

In conjunction with the College Terrace Residents Association's National Night Out event, the reopening of two neighborhood parks was celebrated by a large number of neighbors. In addition to the National Night Out and park re-opening event, the neighborhood was also celebrating the 60th anniversary of J. J. & F. Market.



The renovation of Cameron and Weisshaar Parks was part of the Community Services and Public Works Engineering Capital Improvement Program to provide accessibility and replace irrigation, drainage,

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

landscaping and park furniture. The plant selection features flowering shrubs that attract hummingbirds and butterflies, as requested by the participants in the public meetings. The irrigation system includes a water-conserving centralized irrigation program that calculates the water needs of the plants based on the daily weather conditions.



Former Mayor and Council Member Yoriko Kishimoto assisted by Greg Betts, Director of Community Services, and Greg Tenaka, President of the College Terrace Residents Association cut the ceremonial ribbon.

A third College Terrace Park, Mayfield Park located at the College Terrace Library, will also be renovated as part of the seismic upgrade and renovation of the library. For further information,

please contact Kate Rooney, Project Manager, at (650) 617-3127.

Abilities United Community Connections

Beginning in September 2007, the Abilities United Community Connections program began offering valuable ways for people with developmental disabilities to interact with those who do not have a disability and to give back to their community. Each Tuesday, the participants of Abilities United work with the City park maintenance staff Gustavo Ibarra and Ignacio Zazueta at Mitchell Park. They assist with park cleanliness by assisting in the cleaning of park tennis courts, pathways and the skate rink. This has been of great benefit to the tennis and skating community, while also being an enlightening experience for our staff and the participants of Abilities United. The Parks staff supplies the tools and equipment, offers some guidance, while the participants of Abilities United do the rest.

Abilities United also volunteers their time at the Palo Alto Red Cross, Clara-Mateo Shelter, Marine Science Institute and the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy. For more information regarding the work of Community Connections, contact Andrea Thronson (650) 862-4810.

Palo Alto Veterans Administration Facility Improvements

The Veterans Administration (VA) is planning to replace and build additions to several of its 50+ year old buildings and modular structures at its Palo Alto site (near Arastradero Road and Foothill Expressway) with state-of-the-



art facilities to meet today's treatment needs and practices. The VA is moving more to outpatient treatment and to shorter periods of in-patient therapy and care.

Staff at the VA indicates that approximately 550,000 gross square feet of new buildings are planned over the next 10 years, subject to funding from Congress. Six existing buildings encompassing 300,000 square feet will be demolished in order to build the new facilities, so that the net increase in facility space would be roughly 250,000 square feet. A 600-space parking garage would also be provided with the elimination of 400 existing surface parking spaces.

Since the projects are proposed by the Federal government, they are not subject to any City review and approval processes. Design and environmental review are generally conducted on a project-by-project basis. An 80,000 square foot, 80-bed psychiatric inpatient building was approved in 2005 to replace a seismically-unsafe 77,000 square foot building, but none of the other buildings have reached final design stage. Staff at the VA notes that a 20-year Facility Master Plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2008, and that an architect will be on board by that time to prepare final designs for a 300,000 square foot ambulatory care center outpatient clinic. City staff expects to meet with VA staff to outline an approach to inform the community about the projects and will then report back to the City Council.

Palo Alto Kids and Teens Caught the Library Reading Bug

Over 2,950 kids and teens caught the reading bug at the Palo Alto City Library this summer. This set a new record for the participation in the annual summer reading program and is an increase of more than 22% from last year. The Library also had record-breaking turnouts for its Wacky Wednesday and Morphing Monday summer programs with over 2,000 attendees.

The summer reading program encourages kids and teens to maintain and improve their literacy skills by reading during the summer break. Melinda Wing, Supervising Librarian for Youth Services, says "The summer reading program was a huge success. We are thrilled that kids and teens are excited about reading and coming to the Library."

Many participants have already reached their goals and claimed their prizes: a new paperback book, a Round Table Pizza gift certificate and a \$5 coupon towards any purchase at the Friends of the Palo Alto Library book sale. The last day to pick up summer reading prizes is Tuesday, August 26.



Thank you to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library for their ongoing financial support for the programs and prizes. Visit the Library's website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/library for a complete listing of our great programs scheduled for this fall.

Summer Camps for Teens a Big Success

Teen Camps run by Community Services, Recreation Division are coming to a close after another successful summer. Overall, summer camps continue to evolve and develop, reflecting the City's commitment to providing high quality teen recreation services.

Camp JIVE provided recreational activity for Middle School students after summer school. Dodge ball and swim days were just a couple of the campers' favorite sports. Coastal Adventures Camp went on exciting trips to Monterey Bay Academy, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and the Baylands, as well as other interesting places.

Summer adventures continue through August at camp Teen Xtreme where campers are pushed to the limit as they experience the great outdoors while taking part in "Extreme" hiking, canoeing and camping. Once again, here's to a wonderful summer for Teen camps.

****Frank's Weekly Memo will be on vacation next week. The final issue of this memo will be distributed on August 29, due to the retirement of Frank Benest.****

