

August 29, 2008
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

My Last "Frank's Weekly Memo"

This is my last "Frank's Weekly Memo" to the community. I have enjoyed communicating with you and keeping you up to date on City activities.

I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve the Palo Alto community. Because Palo Alto has always been challenging, I have continued to grow and learn. It has been a grand adventure.

Please support Jim Keene, our new City Manager, as he starts his leadership journey on September 2.

All my best,



Employees Give Frank a Warm Send Off

On July 30, City employees hosted a surprise party for Frank at Mitchell Park to thank him for all that he has done for them and wish him well in his "next phase" of life, post-retirement from the City. The afternoon cake and ice cream social was ostensibly an all-hands meeting for the Utilities Department for which Frank had prepared his final words of wisdom for the group. As he walked up to join the large gathering, everyone yelled "surprise," which rendered Frank temporarily speechless.



For nearly 45 minutes, employees and former employees described how they had been impacted by Frank in both their personal and professional lives. Ruben Grijalva, former Palo Alto Fire Chief and currently Director of CalFire, made the trek from Sacramento specifically to thank Frank for his support and encouragement in taking the job with CalFire. Former Police Chief, Pat Dwyer, also returned to



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express his appreciation to Frank. In addition to former employees, various City department heads and current employees shared stories about how they personally had appreciated Frank's guidance and benefited from his passion for succession planning, preparing the next generation of public employees, and mentoring.



This event, filled with funny stories and poignant memories, was a great opportunity for City employees to thank Frank personally and give him a warm send off. Frank, we'll miss you!

4 Gas Leak Surveyors Check Gas Mains and Service Points Now Through December

To ensure the safety of all who live and work in Palo Alto, a citywide review of natural gas service points and mains is being conducted now through December 2008. This is the annual and routine City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) safety check. A contractor, Manesco Corporation, has been hired to conduct the review.

The City's nine business districts will be canvassed on foot by gas leak experts checking customer service points. A mobile leak search in residential areas will include tests of the atmosphere near gas mains; in gas, electric, telephone, sewer and water system manholes; at cracks in the pavement and sidewalks; and at other locations offering an opportunity to find gas leaks. Over 200 miles of gas main will be checked in this thorough review.

If leaks are found, they are documented and repaired according to CPAU policies conforming to Department of Transportation (DOT) pipeline safety requirements. If you have any questions about this safety survey, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/utl/> or call Water/Gas/Wastewater Operations at (650) 496-5944 for more information.

UPDATE: Arastradero Road and California Avenue Wastewater Collection Construction Project

Construction work for Wastewater Collection Project 19B (WWC Project 19B) on Arastradero Road began on August 11 and will continue into November

2008. Construction on California Avenue started during the week of August 25 with expected completion before the Jewish Community Center "To Life! Festival" scheduled for September 21.

WWC Project 19B includes replacement of approximately 8,100 linear feet of sanitary sewer mains, 30 sewer manholes, and 200 sewer service laterals. The work area includes Arastradero Road (between King Arthur's Court and El Camino Real) and side-streets off Arastradero Road, as well as California Avenue (between El Camino Real and Park Boulevard).

Construction Notifications were mailed to residents in the Arastradero neighborhood and all property occupants on California Avenue during the week of July 28, 2008. Staff also informed all CAADA (California Avenue Area Development Association) members because most merchants belong to this association.

Staff will continue to work with residents, businesses and the contractor to minimize inconvenience to the greatest extent possible. The anticipated cooperation and understanding of the residents along Arastradero Road and businesses in the California Avenue area are greatly appreciated. The Utilities Department continues to coordinate all construction projects with the Public Works street paving activities to avoid any conflicts in paving schedules. Staff is targeting areas such as Arastradero Road and California Avenue to coordinate underground infrastructure replacements with future street maintenance project planning. The Utility project streets are planned to be resurfaced as part of future Public Works' paving projects thus avoiding trenching in newly repaved streets.

For more information regarding Utility Capital Improvement Projects, visit http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/utl/utilities_engineering/major_utility_projects.asp

4 Coming soon - Appointments for Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Program

Palo Alto will be introducing a new appointment-based household hazardous waste drop-off program for residents in September. This program will supplement the popular monthly drop-off events held the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 noon. The new drop-off program will accept household hazardous waste at scheduled events during the month and will be more convenient for residents who find it difficult to attend the monthly events. Please call (650) 496-5904 to schedule an appointment.

The City continues to encourage residents to reduce their dependence on toxic/hazardous products and use them only when necessary, in an appropriate manner and to completion. If you have leftover or outdated toxic/hazardous products, please bring them to the City's Household Hazardous Waste Program for safe disposal.

4 Become an Ambassador: Palo Alto Resources 101

Join the ranks of more than 200 community-minded residents who have become Family Resources Ambassadors: folks who share information about the many resources available to our community, helping families find services they need every day in these categories: *emergency / crisis, basic needs, child care, community resources, disability resources, health care, mental health & counseling.*



The Ambassador Development Program offers information about resources, and tools for finding information more effectively. Ambassadors meet and learn from service providers and community leaders. Participants represent a cross section of the community's diverse constituency, creating opportunities for appreciation, understanding, and learning from one another as well. *"This is a great program. It has been tremendous. I know so much more about this city and its services!"* – Graduate Ambassador

If you are interested in sharing information and connections that can address the daily needs of others, join the Ambassador Development Program '08-'09. Participants meet once a month for six months, October thru March. Meetings will be the 1st Thursdays from 8:40 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at the Cubberley Community Center.

To reserve your place, call Erwin Gonzales at (650) 329-2221 or e-mail erwin.gonzales@cityofpaloalto.org

Library Offers New Online Events Calendar Service

The Palo Alto City Library is rolling out a new web-based service that will help customers locate the perfect library event to attend. Searching by location, audience or date range is easy, with two views available - as a list or as a calendar. With this new tool, it is easy to enjoy what the library offers!

Features include:

- Receipt of e-mail reminder a few days before the event

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- Having the event added to your Outlook calendar
- E-mailing the event information to a friend
- On-line registration for programs when required
- Automatic notifications about events by type of program

"Library customers, especially families with young children, are frequently looking for information on story times and other fun activities for their kids. Now these customers can more easily locate the information and even have it delivered to them on-line with e-mail notifications and RSS feeds." says Cornelia Van Aken, Assistant Library Director. "Using technology to enhance service to the community is a goal of the Library."

For more information about this new service, visit:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library> and look for the link to "Library Calendar of Events." You can also access this service through the "Calendar of Events" tab on the web catalog: <http://webcat.cityofpaloalto.org/>

4 Children Remind Parents: Use Reusable Shopping Bags

The City Recycling Program and Palo Alto Parents and Professionals for the Arts (PAPPA) are partnering to assist children in helping their parents "break the bag habit." PAPPA art camps and recent art activity area at the Festival of the Arts featured an activity where children decorated reusable shopping bags to create one-of-a-kind works of bag art their parents could proudly take to the store every time they shop. The art activities to decorate the bags included paint marbling techniques, cartooning and drawing.



The Recycling Program's Bag Monster, a character made of hundreds of paper and plastic single-use bags, also made an appearance at the Festival of the Arts as a visual reminder to bring your own bag when you shop. The Bag Monster was a hit with both adults and children, posed for many photo opportunities and even "grooved" to the live music.

Since the April launch of the Bring Your Own Bag campaign in April to encourage shoppers to bring their own bag when they shop, the Recycling Program staff has observed increased use of reusable bags. Keep up the good work!

For more information about the Bring Your Own Bag campaign visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/byobag.

City Receives \$1,007,120 Grant for 2008 Street Maintenance Program

On November 7, 2006, California Voters approved Proposition 1B on, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security, which secured \$19.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund state and local transportation improvement projects to relieve congestion, improve movement of goods, improve air quality, and enhance safety and security of the transportation system. Funding from the proposition is allocated on a per capita basis; the Palo Alto share is \$1,007,120.

This additional funding will allow staff to increase the annual funding to \$3.1 million to address the backlog for the planned Crescent Park Target Work Zone, the College Terrace Work Zone area streets, and needed maintenance work on other priority streets.

Businesses and residents affected by these projects will continue to be notified by notices describing the work on their streets. Staff hand delivers notices to affected residents two weeks prior to construction start up. "No Parking – Tow Away" signs are posted on affected streets three days prior to construction. If the street will be closed during the construction, the contractor hand delivers notices seven days and 24 hours in advance of the construction work on each street. For specific information, visit the website <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pwd/news/details.asp?NewsID=1070&TargetID=145> or contact Public Works Engineering at (650) 329-2151.

On May 5, 2008, the Palo Alto City Council approved a contract with Valley Slurry Seal Company in the amount of \$740,000 for the **Street Maintenance Program Phase 1 (Preventive Maintenance)**. The Phase 1 Street Maintenance Project will slurry seal 10.6 lane miles and cape seal 6.3 lane miles of City streets as a preventive maintenance treatment. On Monday June 16, 2008, Valley Slurry Seal Company started working on the project. As of August 27, 2008, they have completed the slurry and cape seal work. Valley Slurry Seal Company is in the process of installing the permanent striping on of the slurry and cape seal streets. This is the last major work item for the project. The City is expecting Valley Slurry Seal



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Company to complete the project on or prior to the project completion date of September 23, 2008.

On July 28, 2008, the Palo Alto City Council approved a contract with O'Grady Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$1,402,000 for the **Street Maintenance Program Phase 2**. The Street Maintenance Program Phase 2 will overlay six (6) lane miles of streets. On Tuesday August 12, 2008, O'Grady Paving, Inc. started working on the project. They are in the process of repairing concrete curb & gutter, sidewalks, driveway approaches, and curb ramps. For the next couple of months, O'Grady Paving will continue prepping the streets for the overlaying process. The concrete is expecting to last into early October 2008. For the next couple of months, O'Grady Paving will continue prepping the streets for the overlaying process. The project durations is 120 days and expected to complete by December 9, 2008. Approximately \$900,000 remains after the Phase 1 & 2 projects of which \$400,000 will be used to repair concrete curb and gutter, sidewalks, driveways, curb ramps and install concrete median curb in San Antonio Road Street Tree Replacement, Median, and Road Improvements Project, CIP# PE-00104 and \$500,000 will be used for repairing the concrete work on Lytton Avenue from Alma Street to Middlefield in preparation for the 2009 summer overlay project. Staff will send out the Invitation for Bid for the concrete project for Lytton Avenue in November 2008.

Frank's Weekly Memo will no longer be published after August 29, due to the retirement of Dr. Frank Benest.

