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Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Library Expands Loaner Laptop Program

The Palo Alto City Library's Loaner Laptop Program, which allows customers to borrow laptop computers to use in the library for up to two hours per day, has been expanded to the Downtown and College Terrace branches. This popular program has been in operation at the Main and Mitchell Park libraries since 2005.

Loaning laptops is a space-efficient way to increase the number of computers available in the libraries. It also addresses the way people use computers and access the Internet.

"Customers enjoy the freedom of using laptops with the library's wireless network to go online from anywhere in the building," says Circulation Supervisor Rose Sebastian.

The laptops have Microsoft Office Suite and include printing capability to printers in the library. To borrow a laptop, customers must be at least 10 years old and have a valid library card.

Summer's Excellent Adventure

Many favorite childhood memories are formed at summer camp such as seeing old friends or making new ones, creating wacky craft projects and having a favorite counselor. These typical summer camp experiences are not always available for children with special needs. That's why the Recreation Division offers Summer's Excellent Adventure, a month long camp for children ages 5-15 with special needs.

This camp offering was a great success again this year. Campers enjoyed crafts, games, playing outside, and music. Each day, they teamed up with a youth volunteer who was their special buddy to assist them, whether that included playing a game, helping with a craft project or pushing a wheelchair. This collaboration between camper and volunteer is one of the more unique elements of the camp. It is not only great for the campers, but a tremendous learning experience of compassion, empathy and understanding for the volunteers. A highlight of the camp this year was the



creation of four quilts decorated by the campers and quilted by Sarrie Paguirigan, Camp Director. The finished quilts were donated to the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto, which offers permanent housing to the homeless -- along with comprehensive services such as healthcare, food, clothing, showers, case management and more.

Summer's Excellent Adventure is definitely filling a crucial need in the community. For more information about the camp, please call Minka van der Zwaag, Recreation Supervisor, at (650) 463-4910.

