

August 24, 2007  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **4** Utilities Expands Solar Energy Rebate Program

In response to solar legislation passed last year, City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) has enhanced the PV Partners Rebate Program to encourage Palo Alto residents and businesses to install solar electric systems. The revised program provides larger rebates for qualifying photovoltaic (PV) systems. During the first six weeks, 37 residents and businesses applied for rebates (compared to 42 applications for the previous twelve months)! Palo Alto made the NorCal Solar top ten list of number of PV installations in Bay Area for cities with populations greater than 50,000. To learn more about the PV Partners Program, visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/utilities>

CPAU is a sponsor of Acterra's Palo Alto Solar Homes Tour on Sat. October 6. Visit <http://www.acterra.org/> for details.

### **4** Public Safety Building Project FAQs on Web Site

A Council-appointed Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) evaluated the City's existing public safety facilities and recommended options for improvements. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about public safety needs and the building project have been posted to the City website at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=8874>

Contact Police Chief Lynne Johnson at (650) 329-2115 or email [lynne.johnson@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:lynne.johnson@cityofpaloalto.org) to find out more about the public safety facility needs in our community. For more information about the BRTF, visit [http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/public\\_safety\\_building.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/public_safety_building.asp)

### **Safe Streets for Students - Police Department Priority**

Providing safe streets for students on their way to and from school remains one of the Police Department's top priorities. Join us in ensuring a safe school commute for your child as well as for all students in our community, and encourage safe alternatives to driving to school.

During the first weeks of school, the Police Department will emphasize enforcement around schools. We will also take part in "Operation Safe Passage," a coordinated county-wide campaign to crack down on school zone traffic violations. Speeding, red light running, failure to yield at stop signs and crosswalks and other safety violations will be targeted by our regular traffic team and additional patrol officers.

During the week of October 1-5, 2007, look for "Walk and Roll to School" and "Way2Go" events at Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) schools. Throughout the year, we will participate in the work of the City/School Traffic Safety Committee, in partnership with the City's Transportation Division, the Palo Alto Unified School District, and the PTA.

Choose an alternative to driving solo to school whenever possible. If walking, biking and taking the bus are not options for your children, we urge you to consider carpooling, especially on rainy days. Always use extra caution and try to arrive early to avoid the last minute rush. Always share the road safely with other students and parents to and from school. Remember that the speed limit in a school zone is 25 miles per hour.

For a list of Safety Tips for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, contact Barbara Teixeira at (650) 329-2556 or e-mail [barbara.teixeira@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:barbara.teixeira@cityofpaloalto.org). For traffic questions or concerns, contact Sergeant Steve Herrera at (650) 329-2683. Let's work together for a safe school commute in Palo Alto in 2007-08.

#### **The PANDA Program Goes Green**

Because disaster preparedness and response includes protecting our environment, the Palo Alto Fire Department has upgraded the equipment it uses for Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster Assistance (PANDA), our community emergency response team.

The fire suppression training component previously used a common burn pan with a diesel fuel and gasoline mix, which adds pollutants to the environment. The new equipment will use propane gas and a system that is much cleaner burning and eliminates the need for hazardous materials clean up.

Visit the Fire Department at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org> for more information on PANDA.

## Major Projects Update

- Stanford Medical Center and Shopping Center Expansions: Applications for the Medical Center and Shopping Center projects were submitted to the City this past week. On July 23, 2007, the City Council considered and accepted the draft Area Plan Update for the Stanford Medical Center, which will form the policy framework for review of the Medical Center project entitlements. The Area Plan will remain a draft pending the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and a scoping session will be conducted by the City Council on September 24, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Alma Substation Site Housing: On August 6, 2007, the City Council approved an Acquisition and Development agreement with Eden Housing and the Community Housing Alliance to proceed with development of affordable housing at the Alma Street Substation site. The Council discussed two options for the site, an affordable housing project or a mixed use concept with affordable housing and commercial development. Subsequent to approval of the agreement, the non-profits will submit a Planned Community Zoning application for development of the site and associated design review. The site includes Ole's Auto Repair lot and an expanded version would also include the Palo Alto Hardware store.
- Zoning Ordinance Update: On July 30, 2007, City Council approved updated zoning provisions for multi-family districts, for parking regulations, for open space zoning, and a variety of miscellaneous provisions. The Council action culminated six years of revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to provide consistency with the policies and programs of the Comprehensive Plan and to provide a more readable, usable format. Copies of the new Zoning Ordinance will be available in November 2007.
- Green Building Study Session and Ordinance Revisions: On August 6, 2007, the Council held a study session to hear a presentation from staff and a representative of Build It Green (a non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources to support and encourage residential green building efforts). The session focused on Build It Green's checklist and rating system for green homes and policy implications for the City in implementation of its green building objectives. The Council approved ordinance amendments that require green building checklists for most projects providing the Architectural Review Board with the discretion to review projects with regard to sustainable building criteria.



- Charleston-Arastradero Corridor Improvements: The Charleston-Arastradero Corridor Phase 1 Trial Improvements along Charleston Road and at the Gunn High School/Arastradero intersection were completed. Staff is currently working with the Charleston/Arastradero Corridor stakeholder group and the City's traffic engineering consultant to evaluate a number of operational issues, including ingress to Hoover School, a striping plan for Phase 2 on Arastradero Road, location and design of an enhanced pedestrian crosswalk to Briones Park, and implementation of traffic adaptive signal timing and technology on the corridor. Staff provided a project schedule update to the City Council in April.
- El Camino Real/Ventura Avenue Traffic Signal: Caltrans will proceed with the long-awaited installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of El Camino Real and Ventura Avenue. On May 21, 2007, the City Council approved the cost-sharing cooperative agreement between the City and Caltrans. Construction will commence by the end of the year.
- Architectural Review Board (ARB): The following key projects were reviewed by the ARB or are scheduled for review in August or September:
  - a) Elks Lodge – On August 2, 2007, the ARB conducted a preliminary review of the Elks Lodge project on a 2.8 acre site at 4249 El Camino Real. The project would comprise 63,250 square feet of meeting and recreational facilities in a two-story structure, to replace the existing lodge.
  - b) Summerhill Homes – On August 16, 2007, the ARB reviewed a plan for development of 46 detached homes on a 3.9 acre site behind the Elks Lodge at 4251 El Camino Real. The project includes dedication of a 0.5 acre public park. The ARB will continue its review on September 20, 2007.
  - c) 135 Hamilton Ave. – On August 16, 2007, the ARB reviewed a proposed 7,645 square foot, one-story, retail building on a vacant lot at the corner of Hamilton and High Streets in downtown. The ARB will continue its review on September 6, 2007.
  - d) Public Safety Building/Mitchell Park Library Plans – On August 23, 2007, preliminary project plans for the proposed Public Safety Building were reviewed by the ARB in a study session, along with preliminary project plans for the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center and Main Library.

