

*August 31, 2007  
Palo Alto, CA*

## **FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO**

### **Children's Library Construction Nears Completion**

The Children's Library, which closed in December 2005 for extensive renovation and expansion, will reopen September 29, 2007. Library customers will be delighted to discover that this treasured city facility has been upgraded to better serve the children of Palo Alto while its historic integrity has been preserved.

The \$3.7 million construction project includes many infrastructure improvements - seismic retrofitting, new plumbing, and electrical updating - a new roof reusing the original handmade tiles, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance renovations. Included as a green building feature is the installation of an innovative heating and cooling system using ground source heat pump technology.

The expansion adds 2,660 square feet in two new wings to the original building, increasing its size to 6,043 square feet. The largest wing, with the "Tree Top Room," houses the collections and programs geared to the youngest children, and contains a wall with folding doors that open into the restored Secret Garden, creating a wonderful synergy between the inside and outside spaces. Another special feature of this room is a large whimsical mural by artist Jeff Petersen – a commission of the City's Art in Public Places Program. A smaller wing houses the staff operations, freeing up most of the original library for public use.

The City's Infrastructure Program funded half of the construction cost. The Palo Alto Library Foundation and the Friends of the Palo Alto Library partnered with the City to raise 30% of the total needed, with donations from hundreds of individuals and companies. Other major funding sources include HUD grants obtained by U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo and the sale of Transferable Development Rights.

New shelving, furniture and equipment have been purchased with an additional \$402,000 raised in a separate successful campaign spearheaded by the Library Foundation. The expanded library provides more computers for the public, three self-service checkout machines, and new child-sized chairs and tables. Additional art pieces commissioned by the Foundation include colorful signage and a ceramic fountain in the garden.



The Library will host a grand re-opening on Saturday, September 29. The day's festivities begin at 10 a.m. at the Main Library with a parade returning books to Children's Library from their temporary home. At 10:30 a.m., Mayor Kishimoto will cut the ribbon and welcome all to the new Children's Library. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

#### **4** Public Safety Agencies Selected for Case Study

The coalition of Santa Clara County public safety agencies – through the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP) – has been selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a case study for its Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) data interoperability project. Palo Alto has a leadership role on this project with Police Technical Services Coordinator Sheryl Contois serving as Project Director and liaison with DHS, and Communications Manager Charles Cullen serving as Chair of the Operations Committee.

The project focuses on the problem that many of today's CAD systems are not able to communicate with dispatch systems in neighboring jurisdictions which results in longer response times to get emergency personnel to the scene of an emergency. CAD system operability will ensure that police, fire personnel and resources are rapidly dispatched to an emergency resulting in a reduction of response times and an increase in saving lives.

The SVRIP pilot project was funded with \$2.5 million in Homeland Security funding and has linked CAD systems with the cities of Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara County Communications. Although testing is currently underway to refine the system, preliminary testing has shown a reduction in response times of up to three minutes. DHS will spend approximately \$1 million to study this pilot project and develop a "tool-kit" of resources that can be used by agencies across the country who desire to implement this technology. There are several jurisdictions in California exploring this solution.

The SVRIP has received a tremendous amount of support from congressional delegates. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee and a long-time advocate for solving interoperability, said, "SVRIP is an innovative and effective way to improve emergency preparedness and response. The project seamlessly integrates voice and data communications among first responder agencies, including local, state and federal partners. I'm delighted to see the Silicon Valley once again leading the way for our nation."



## **Middle School Athletics Registration Underway**

Registration is currently underway for all Jordan, JLS, and Terman students. The last day for guaranteed registration is August 31. Fall sports include Cross Country, Flag Football and Girls Volleyball. The season runs from the middle of September to the end of October. This is an excellent opportunity for Middle School students to develop skills, friendships and self-esteem with an emphasis on enjoyment, participation, school spirit and teamwork. Please visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/> for more information. If you would like to coach a team or have any questions, please call Lisa Goncalo at (650) 463-4926.

## **Another Successful Summer for Junior Museum Camps**

The Junior Museum and Zoo is wrapping up another successful summer of science camps. Over 800 campers enjoyed constructing mini-submarines, modeling volcanoes, investigating plants, exploring solar energy, building bridges and meeting zoo animals. Families said the camps were “excellent,” and the instructors were “energetic.” “My daughter came home with a desire to invent things!” and “My son loved this camp; he couldn’t stop talking about it at home and telling me what he had learned.” Campers said, “Awesome!”

## **City Teen Leadership Groups Kickoff New School Year**

The City of Palo Alto has two high school leadership groups. Each group consists of representatives from our public and private high schools in Palo Alto. The Teen Advisory Board is charged with the responsibility of identifying and hosting High School activities for Palo Alto youth. Last year they co-hosted a dance with the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos, held a food and toy drive during the holiday season, and volunteered at several city events throughout the year. The Palo Alto Youth Council works on teen social and policy issues while trying to find solutions to each. Last year they hosted a parent–student dialogue on teen stress and worked with the larger community to identify solutions to teen drinking.

The two groups enthusiastically kicked off their year with an overnight retreat at Foothills Park on August 23. They are learning their new roles as leaders and beginning to lay out their chart of work for the year, and are bound to make a name for themselves over the school year. Stay tuned. If you have questions, please contact the Mitchell Park Youth & Teen Center at (650) 329-2487.

