

*September 21, 2007
Palo Alto, CA*

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

New Children's Playground at Heritage Park

After months of thoughtful designing, neighborhood collaboration, fundraising and construction, the new children's playground at Heritage Park will be ceremoniously opened to the public on Sunday, September 23, at 1 p.m. Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto will assist members of the Friends of Heritage Park-- who have made this \$300,000 park improvement project a reality – in cutting the ribbon for the opening. Heritage Park is located on Homer Avenue, between Waverley & Bryant Streets.



The innovative playground incorporates specially designed play areas for younger and older children, a climbing rock structure, swings, picnic areas and a bronze sculpture of a playful dolphin. The playground has been a dream of neighbors of the park for the past three years since the park was initially developed with only large turf areas and a few benches. Guests will see how the park has been transformed with ingenuity and artful craftsmanship!

Come join us at the park for an afternoon celebration, bring a picnic, some refreshments and listen to the live music provided by neighborhood band "Grounds for Dismissal." Park rangers will be on hand, too, with activities for the kids and light refreshments.

For more information, please call Open Space & Parks Division Manager Greg Betts at (650) 463-4906.

Police Department Launches "Operation Safe Passage"

The Police Department will conduct "Operation Safe Passage" again this year. The first phase will start the week of September 24. The goal is to provide safe passage for children traveling to and from school. Police Officers



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

will spend extra time during the morning and afternoon commute times in the school zones for enforcement of speeding, stop sign, red light, bike helmet, pedestrian and other safety regulations. The Police Department encourages everyone, especially parents who are dropping off and picking up their children, to drive extra safely in school zones.

Utilities Sponsors Solar Homes Tour on October 6

In collaboration with Acterra of Palo Alto, City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) is sponsoring a tour of some of the Peninsula's most interesting solar homes on Saturday, October 6, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Following is the schedule of events.

- **10 a.m. - Noon: FREE Workshop on Solar Energy Basics**
Experts will provide an overview of how photovoltaic (PV) and solar hot water systems work and the economics of home installation.
- **11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Vendor Fair**
Local solar energy providers will be available to help you determine what system is right for your home or business.
- **1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Palo Alto Solar Homes Tour**
This self-guided tour offers a variety of PV and solar hot water systems and will provide an opportunity to talk with residents about their switch to solar energy.

Pre-registration is required as workshop and tour space is limited. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance and \$15 on the day of the Tour. Please pre-register online at www.acterra.org or call (650) 962-9876 x 316 by October 1, 2007.

Moonlight Run/Walk to Kickoff "Palo Alto Walks & Rolls"

Join County Supervisor Liz Kniss and Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto at 6:45 p.m., Friday September 28, at the Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center to kickoff the first "Palo Alto Walks and Rolls" week. After this official kickoff, enjoy your walk or run through the Palo Alto Baylands under the light of the moon as part of the Annual Palo Alto Moonlight Run/Walk. To register, visit www.paloaltoonline.com

When you return home after a nice evening at the baylands, mark your calendar for the weeklong "Palo Alto Walks & Rolls" events.



Mark Your Calendars for “Palo Alto Walks & Rolls” Week

Lace up your shoes, hop on your bike or choose another healthy (for you and the environment) transportation alternative. Be a part of making our first Palo Alto Walks and Rolls week a success by joining in these activities starting **October 1 through October 6:**

- **Palo Alto Walks and Rolls to School**
Students and parents are encouraged to Walk and Roll to school during the week through events sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Palo Alto Unified School District and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs.
- **Walk and Roll to Lunch on California Avenue**
Walk, bike or take public transportation to get to lunch on California Avenue anytime during the week of October 1. Enter the California Avenue Area Development Association (CAADA) drawing at participating restaurants for a chance to win great prizes.
- **Bike Boulevard Community Walk and Roll**
Join the foot-powered parade along Bryant Street on Saturday, October 6. Walk, bike, skate or pedal the Buscycle along the Ellen Fletcher Bicycle Boulevard on Bryant Street. Gather at Palo Alto’s City Hall Plaza at 10 a.m.

In addition to the City of Palo Alto and the County of Santa Clara, a big thank you goes to the other organizations supporting this effort: Palo Alto Weekly, Valley Transportation Agency and the California Avenue Area Development Association. For more information about these events, contact Paul Garcia at (650) 965-8737.

Youth and Teen Center Opens for School Year

The Mitchell Park Youth and Teen Center opened its doors again for the new school year and is more popular than ever. Daily attendance has increased and both teens and parents have expressed how happy they are with the Center. The computer lab is full on a daily basis with kids playing games and receiving homework help, the Main Hall comes alive with games of dodge ball and indoor soccer, and the cooking club fills the center with delightful aromas.

If daily attendance is not indicator enough of the increased excitement surrounding the Center, the dance certainly is. The first dance of the year was held on Friday, September 14, and it was the biggest dance in recent history. Over 400 kids attended for the Mitchell Park grades 6 through 8



“Back to School Bash,” including a group that showed up in a limo, celebrating one 7th grade girl’s birthday. The birthday girl said that there was no better place to celebrate her special day.

Residents and Businesses Save with *new* Rebate Program

It’s never too late to remove your high water-using turf and replace it with beautiful water-efficient plants or permeable hardscape. The City of Palo Alto Utilities has partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to double the rebate available to Palo Alto customers who participate in the new Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program (WELRP).

By replacing the turf in your yard or business with drought tolerant plants and/or permeable hardscape, residents can receive rebates up to \$2,000 and businesses can receive rebates up to \$20,000.

Rebates are available until funds are depleted. For more information, visit http://www.valleywater.org/Water/Water_conservation/Landscaping/_Water_Efficient_Landscape_Rebate.shtm or call Utility Marketing Services at (650) 329-2241.

Summer Aquatics Program a Big Success

The final weekend of the City of Palo Alto Aquatics summer program on September 16 marked the end of a fantastic season. The aquatics staff offered several programs over the course of the summer, which included Recreation Swim, Lap Swim, Beginning and Intermediate Diving Classes, Level 1-6 Swim Classes, Pre-competitive Swim Camp, Water Polo Camp, and Parent and Me Swim Classes. We are pleased to report that more than 1700 students benefited from our swim lessons and more than 46,000 people visited Rinconada Pool alone since the start of the season. Wow!

Our fall schedule began on Monday, September 17. For more information, please call the program hotline at (650) 463-4914.

