

October 12, 2007  
Palo Alto, CA

## FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

### **A Haunted Time for All This Season**

Don't know what to do for Halloween this year? The Palo Alto Community Services Department is offering a couple of options for you and your family.

The Haunted Lake, in Foothills Park at Lake Boronda, takes place on the nights of Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27. Have a spooky grand time with nocturnal animals, creepy crawlies and fun for the whole family. Bring your neighbors, load up the family and come to the Foothills Park Interpretive Center. Pre-registration is required. For more information, check out the Enjoy Catalog on page five, or call (650) 463-4900.

For older youth ready to be spooked, join us at the Mitchell Park Community Center on Halloween Day, October 31, from 3 – 5 p.m., where The Drop is transformed into a Haunted House. Games, music, food and prizes are held in the main hall. Please keep the age range to fourth grade and up. Admission is \$2 at the door. For more information, call (650) 329-2487.

### **Join Palo Alto's Biggest Book Club**

What if everyone in Palo Alto read the same book, at the same time and then discussed it? The Palo Alto City Library will join *Silicon Valley Reads - 2008* in reading *The Distant Land of My Father*, by Cupertino author Bo Caldwell. The novel, set in Shanghai on the eve of WWII, chronicles the moving experiences of an expatriate American couple and their young daughter, with a story of betrayal and reconciliation.

This is the first year Palo Alto has participated in *Silicon Valley Reads*, which is in its sixth year, and we are delighted to be a part of this successful county-wide reading program. The Library has many copies of the book to loan, and there are events planned for January and February around the themes and settings of the novel, such as performances by the Red Panda Acrobats, and the Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra. In addition to a program with the author, there are book discussions scheduled in the libraries. The Palo Alto Friends of the Library has generously provided funding for the programs.

### **Firefighter Honored at Memorial Ceremony**

On Saturday, September 29, the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony was held on the Capitol grounds in Sacramento. The event was attended by



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

hundreds of uniformed firefighters of all ranks from around the State as well as Senator Barbara Boxer and Governor Schwarzenegger. Palo Alto Battalion Chief Mick McDonald was honored and his name placed on the memorial wall along with 28 other firefighters from other fire agencies in Santa Clara County. The family members of those being honored were presented with an American Flag in the traditional triangular case with the honoree's name engraved on it.

The McDonald family gave the flag to Fire Chief Nick Marinaro and asked that it be displayed in the Fire Department Administration office on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Civic Center for an indefinite period of time. Friends, colleagues and others who knew Mick McDonald are invited to visit the display during business hours.

#### Utilities Holds Building Efficiency Classes

The City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) presented two classes on "Retrocommissioning" for businesses that are the largest energy consumers in the City. Retrocommissioning is the term used for the systematic investigative process of improving or optimizing a building's operation and maintenance systems.

The first class, co-sponsored with Santa Clara public power utility, Silicon Valley Power (SVC), was on the basics of Retrocommissioning for customers from the cities of Palo Alto and Santa Clara. The second class was hands-on and included 15 Palo Alto companies. To save resources, the large number of PowerPoint slides was placed on flash drives that were given to the attendees. The effort not only saved paper, but was much less expensive than printing the slides.

