

October 26, 2007
Palo Alto, CA

FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO

Vote in November 6, 2007 Election

Visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/clk for information about the upcoming election.

- **City Council Seats** - Vote to fill four full-term (4 years) Council seats.
- **Advisory Measure on Reservoir Under El Camino Park** - Voice your opinion on an advisory measure regarding whether an area under El Camino Park should be used for an underground water storage reservoir and well to supply the City of Palo Alto with water during an emergency. The existing pump station will be replaced with modern equipment in the same location, and all existing park facilities will be fully restored upon completion of construction. This advisory measure allows voters to indicate their approval or disapproval of the ballot measure. Visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/city_projects/utility/water.asp for more information.
- **Transient Occupancy Tax Measure** - Vote on a ballot measure that proposes a change in the Palo Alto Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate, generally referred to as the "hotel tax." This tax is levied on the room rent paid by guests occupying hotels located in Palo Alto. The ballot measure will give registered voters in Palo Alto an opportunity to approve or disapprove a proposed two percent TOT tax rate increase. Approval requires a simple majority vote. For more information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/news/details.asp?NewsID=716&TargetID=58

Police Officer Recognized For Good Works

Police Officer Marianna Villaescusa was recognized along with 25 others across the State by the Governor's California Volunteers Organization for her volunteer work in their "Find It, Do It, Share It" contest.

For the last five years, Officer Villaescusa has coordinated the City's participation and many of the ancillary events which support the Special Olympics. For example, she has encouraged officers and personnel to wait tables in local restaurants with the agreement that all tips are forwarded to the Special Olympics, resulting in additional donations and great public relations. This fun event is frequently covered by the press.



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

Officer Villaescusa also helps coordinate the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Participants carry the Special Olympic Torch through Palo Alto along El Camino Real and hand it off to runners in jurisdictions from San Jose to San Francisco.

Congratulations to Officer Villaescusa, whose efforts have gone a long way towards improving community relations, publicizing volunteer opportunities and encouraging participation in a meaningful way with very special people!

Comcast Responds to FCC Mandate

The City has received inquiries from Comcast customers about the movement of television channels to the digital tier of service. According to Comcast, this migration was driven by an FCC mandate that all channels be carried in a digital format by February 17, 2009, as well as increasing demand for HDTV channels, On-Demand programming and faster Internet speed. In order to free up the bandwidth necessary to meet customer demands and to comply with the FCC digital transmission mandate, Comcast is migrating its channels from an analog to a digital format. Inquiries concerning the migration can be addressed to Comcast on its web site at www.Comcast.com

Since all channels will be transmitted digitally after February 17, 2009, viewers will need a television with a built-in digital tuner or obtain an analog to digital set-top converter box. The converter box can be leased from Comcast or purchased from an electronics store. The web site www.dtv.gov explains the digital transition and provides information about rebate programs available to consumers for the necessary equipment.

Comcast is not violating its Franchise Agreement with the City by removing channels or by moving its channels from the expanded basic to the digital tier of service. Federal law prohibits local jurisdictions from regulating a cable operator's program service offerings, including specifying which commercial channels are on which tier of service. As such, there is no language in the City's Franchise Agreement with Comcast that specifies commercial channel carriage requirements, other than our public, education and government channel numbers 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 75 and 76.

4 City Launches Green Building "Ask an Expert" Service

Have questions about a green building project? "Ask an Expert." This free hotline service provides customized responses to green



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building questions from building professionals and the general public. Ask about insulation, deconstruction, healthier paints and more. “Ask an Expert” can help you, your architect, designer or contractor with information to make your home healthier and very high performing.

Submit your questions at <http://www.builditgreen.org/> or call 888-40-GREEN (888-404-7336) and you’ll get unbiased, quality green building info in return. “Ask an Expert” is made possible by the City of Palo Alto Departments of Public Works, Utilities, and Planning and Community Environment.

4 Green Building Incentives Help Palo Alto Homeowners

Take advantage of incentives available to build a new home or remodel your existing home to be higher performing, aka “green.” The City, in conjunction with Build It Green, has created an at-a-glance matrix of rebates, tax credits and services to help you. Incentives range from free compost and mulch to duct sealing rebates and tax credits for deconstruction. Incentives are grouped in categories corresponding to the Build It Green Guidelines for new and remodeled homes and are available for:

- Site and Landscape
- Building Envelope
- HVAC and Plumbing
- Appliances and Lighting
- Renewable Energy
- Tools and Financing

High performing homes assist the community in its Zero Waste and Climate Protection efforts. Both the incentives matrix and the guidelines for new home construction and remodeling are available online at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pln/sustainability.asp> (under Green Building Links and Downloads). Or, visit the Green Building kiosk located in the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue.

