

*September 7, 2007  
Palo Alto, CA*

## **FRANK'S WEEKLY MEMO**

### **Commemoration of September 11 World Trade Center**

City flags will be at half-staff in memory of the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

### **VTA Comprehensive Operations Study**

The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) conducted a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) that would apply changes to bus service in Palo Alto. The COA plan includes rerouting and reduced service to Palo Alto on Line 88. Limited service would be provided to Gunn High School and to the Meadow/Fabian area, but service to Midtown, Channing Avenue and Palo Alto CalTrain stations would be eliminated.

Although on August 6, the City Council voted to oppose the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) changes until a full community bus plan could be developed, the VTA Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the COA Plan including all of the changes proposed in Palo Alto. Furthermore, on August 30, the VTA Board held a public hearing on the COA plan, and Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto, Council Member Dena Mossar, Director of Planning and Community Environment Steve Emslie and several members of the public provided testimony on Palo Alto's concerns.

The bus route changes will be implemented in January 2008. However, the Board also directed VTA staff to work with Palo Alto staff, policy makers and community representatives to develop a Community Bus Plan for Palo Alto and to report back by January 2008. The kick-off meeting for this study will be held later this month.

### **4 Stanford Projects Scoping Session**

On September 24, 2007, at 6 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, the City Council will sponsor a session to accept public and Council input regarding the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for two Stanford projects. The EIR is a joint document covering the Medical Center Facilities Renewal and Replacement Project, and the Stanford Shopping Center Expansion Project. The impact for each project will be assessed separately along with evaluation of the total impact associated with construction of both projects. The scoping session will allow the public to indicate environmental issues of concern that



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should be addressed in the EIR, as well project alternatives that might be considered to minimize impacts. The scoping session is not intended to provide for comments regarding the merits of the project and no action will be taken by the Council.

Written comments may be provided in lieu of, or in addition to, appearing at the scoping session. Such comments must be provided in writing prior to October 1, 2007, and should be directed to the attention of Steven Turner, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Community Environment, City of Palo Alto, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301. E-mail correspondence may be directed to [steven.turner@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:steven.turner@cityofpaloalto.org)

### **City Recognizes Creek Steward Volunteers**

Since April 2003, volunteers and Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) staff have monitored 21 sites twice a month on Adobe, Barron, and Matadero creeks as well as the flood basin for temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and total dissolved solids. The volunteer program now has a five-year data set that illustrates trends in water quality in the creeks and the flood basin. Recently, City staff presented each volunteer with a plaque of appreciation for creek stewardship.

The volunteer creek monitoring program was developed after a large fish die-off that occurred in November 2002 within the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin. The data will guide policy decisions regarding management of the Flood Basin to prevent another fish die-off.

Contact the RWQCP at (650) 329-2598 for more information.

### **City Web site Continues to Evolve**

Since the launch of the City web site redesign last month, staff has concentrated on refining search capability, adding new content, posting news releases and uploading reports for upcoming meetings. The site continues to take on new shape as this new information is posted, special events are highlighted in the calendar section, and photos highlighting Palo Alto's many attractions are added to the web site. Staff will transfer dated content pertaining to Council, Boards, and Commissions. All content from 2007 is currently available on the site. In addition, staff is making modifications to the many on-line forms to provide greater ease of use, and this remains our highest priority. The next initiative will be to train key staff members from each department to handle routine updates and develop new



content for their sections. The web site continues to evolve and we look forward to its growth.

## **Heritage Park Playground Takes Shape**

One of the City's public/private partnerships for park improvement is taking shape at Heritage Park. The Friends of Heritage Park, together with twenty members of the Palo Alto Kiwanis Club, City staff members, and employees of The Village Gardener worked together on August 18 to assemble pieces of new playground equipment at Heritage Park.

Professional landscapers, hired by the Friends of Heritage Park, have installed the infrastructure for the walkways, drainage, irrigation system, and entrance walls. With the heavy construction work nearing completion, volunteers concentrated on assembling pieces of the tiny-tot railroad train, older-kids slide and climbing structure, and swing sets.

The Kiwanis Club has a long history of supporting community events, such as the May Fete Parade, and taking care of maintenance at the Palo Alto Duck Pond. Their energetic volunteers, paired with technical specialists from the playground equipment manufacturer, assembled the nearly 300 individual pieces of metal and plastic comprising the play structures. City Playground Inspector Tony Petithomme was on hand to ensure that every nut, bolt and component was properly installed and tightened.

Workers from The Village Gardener will next install the special features of the playground, including the picnic tables and arbor, columns for a beautiful new central shade arbor, wooden upper beams to complete the pergola and soft, cushioning bark material to provide safe fall zones around all of the play structures. And, Canopy volunteers are involved in planting a set of eight crape myrtle trees along the berm on the edge of the playground.

The public is invited to attend the grand opening of the playground on **Sunday, September 23, at 1 p.m., at Heritage Park**. Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto will officially cut the ribbon to the playground and invite the kids of the community to come aboard the 'Leland Stanford' play train!

For more information about the heritage Park playground, please contact Park & Open Space Manager Greg Betts at (650) 463-4906.

## **Annual Firefighters Burn Relay September 7**

The annual Peninsula Firefighters Burn Relay will take place on Friday, September 7. Firefighters and apparatus from the Peninsula will begin the



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relay at Moffett Field at 7:30 a.m., and end in San Francisco. Stops will be made at fire stations in each jurisdiction along the route to accept donations from the firefighter groups. The relay will stop in Palo Alto at the Civic Center from approximately 9:45 - 10 a.m. and proceed to Menlo Park. Donations go to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, a state-wide nonprofit begun by firefighters which assists children and young adults who have sustained burn injuries and also their families.

## **Palo Alto Resources 101**

Join the ranks of more than 200 community-minded residents who have become Family Resources Ambassadors. Learn about local resources in the categories of *emergency and crisis, basic needs, child care, community resources, disability resources, education, health care, mental health and counseling*. You will meet service providers, community leaders, and participants interested in helping others by sharing what you've learned. Ambassadors are the personal link between valuable resource knowledge, connections and individual communities (neighborhood, workplace, social groups, etc.). You are guaranteed a good time learning more than you'd imagine. *"This is a great program. It has been tremendous! I know so much more about this city and its services!"* – Graduate Ambassador

Participants meet six times: once a month from October thru March on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays from 8:40 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., at Cubberley Community Center. To reserve your place, call Erwin Gonzales at (650) 329-2619 or email him at [erwin.gonzales@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:erwin.gonzales@cityofpaloalto.org)

