



# CITY CONNECTION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

VOL. 4, NO. 5

JUNE 1987

## LETTER FROM MAYOR BLAKEY

In my new role as Mayor of East Palo Alto, I would like to thank the community for the support it has given me in the past. I look forward to new opportunities to serve all residents.

There are many crucial issues in the City and I would like to mention them. First, however, I would like to stress how important it is that community members have accessibility to express their concerns, not only to me but to Staff and other Council members. I will continue to have office hours on Monday at City Hall and will be happy to return your calls at other times.

Looking to some of my concerns for the City, I find the following to be of major importance:

1. The issue of community economic development has picked up its pace since a letter of intent was signed with DeMonet Enterprises concerning development of University Circle. The City is working hard to ensure that any final agreement would be concerned with the existing small business community and with the development of good jobs for City residents. Development that benefits everyone in the City is my goal.
2. Traffic within the City has reached unacceptable proportions, particularly at peak hours when commuters are passing through City streets to reach Dumbarton Bridge. The City must use its own regulatory powers to develop efficient traffic flow, such as the use of one way streets. Additionally, however, we must put increased pressure at the regional and state level to find a more satisfactory solution.
3. The City has at this time key Staff positions that are vacant. Acting Staff has kept the City functioning well, however, and by the time of this newsletter, a Community Development Director should be hired. By July 1, a City Manager will be chosen. A Public Works director is being recruited and a certified engineer will be on Staff soon.
4. Cooperation, both within the Council, as well as within



the community, is a high priority for me. We must find ways to involve new people in solving the issues of the City. We have untapped resources in the community, ready to add a broader base to our already rich community involvement.

5. I intend to work vigorously with the Commissions

*Continued on back page*

## CITY'S ANNIVERSARY "In Celebration of Ourselves"

The City will celebrate the fourth Anniversary of Incorporation with a multicultural festival on Saturday, July 11, 1987 at the Bell Street Recreation Park from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. The event is planned to reflect the many cultures of people who are "at home" in East Palo Alto. Highlighting the event will be music, dances, stories, games, and foods from many cultures.

For more information call the City Offices at 853-3100.

Beginning June 17, Anniversary T-Shirts, Tank Tops and Muscle Shirts printed with the City's Fourth Anniversary theme, "In Celebration of Ourselves," will be available in sizes small, medium and large, in lilac or royal blue. To purchase this attractive \$8.00 shirt, stop by the City Offices between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

## Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Home fires are a serious threat to safety of your family. According to Fire Marshall Gene Sullivan, the number of fires have decreased significantly since the adoption of three ordinances; (1) Smoke Detector Ordinance; (2) Sprinkler Ordinance; and (3) Banning of the Use of Fireworks.

However, there are still many fires and losses of lives that could be prevented. Every home and apartment should have a smoke detector. For persons who are unable to install or purchase a smoke detector, the District is willing to assist you. Call 323-7232 for more information. A representative will be happy to meet with you and advise you on fire prevention and safety.

## CITY COUNCIL RECAP

### May 4, 1987

- Elected James E. Blakey, Jr. for position of mayor
- Elected Ruben Abrica for the position of Vice Mayor
- Adopted Resolution No. 384 appointing Onyango Bashir, John Chavez and Melvin Harris to the Planning Commission
- Selected Creative Adventures to operate a Child Care Center within Facilities to be provided by the City.
- Adopted Resolution No. 385 authorizing Public Works Director to execute Building Construction Contract
- Adopted Resolution No. 386 approving memorandum of understanding reached between South Bay Transfer Station Authority--JPA and BFI

### May 11, 1987--Special Meeting

- Held Budget Hearings for Clerical Support Department

## Schedule for Budget Hearings

Residents are encouraged to attend budget hearings and participate in the budgetary process.

The following is a tentative schedule for the Budget Hearings:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
June 1	7:30 p.m.
June 8	6:30 p.m.
June 15	7:30 p.m.

## BUILDING DIVISION OFFICE HOURS

The Building Official, Ron Scott, is available to review plans, issue permits and discuss your projects daily from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Scott can also be reached during those hours at 853-3113.

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

#### *Mayor:*

James E. Blakey, Jr.

#### *Vice-Mayor:*

Ruben Abrica

#### *Council Members:*

John B. Bostic, Warnell Coats, Barbara A. Mouton

#### *Acting City Manager:*

James E. White

#### **"CityConnection"**

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415/853-3100

Editor: Patricia Perkins

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CITY PLANNER

**Minimum Qualifications:** Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major work in Urban Planning, Architecture, Public Administration, or closely related field. A Masters Degree in any one of the above fields may be substituted for one year of the required experience. Five years of progressively responsible professional City Planning, County Planning and/or Urban Regional Planning experience.

### SENIOR PLANNER

**Minimum Qualifications:** Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major work in Urban Planning, Architecture, Public Administration, or closely related field. A Masters Degree in any one of the above fields may be substituted for one year of the required experience. Three years of progressively responsible professional City Planning, County Planning and/or Urban Regional Planning experience.

Call the City Offices at 853-3100 for more information.

### SUMMER RECREATION DIVISION

#### **Part-Time Positions for Summer Aquatics Program**

**July 1, 1987 through September 7, 1987  
(10 weeks)**

#### **AQUATICS MANAGER (\$7.25/hour)**

#### **ASST. AQUATICS MANAGER (\$7.00/hour)**

**Description & Qualifications:** Responsible for operation of municipal swimming pool used for public recreation and classes. Supervises cashiers, lifeguards, and water safety instructors. Requires possession of current Red Cross W.S.I., CPR, First Aid and Life Saving Certificates, knowledge of recreation programs, and ability to plan, organize, and lead others in implementing the aquatics program.

#### **WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTORS/ LIFEGUARDS (\$6.00-\$6.25/hr.)**

**Requirements:** Possession of current Red Cross W.S.I., CPR, First Aid and Life Saving Certificates.

#### **CASHIER CLERKS (\$4.00-\$4.25/hour)**

Must be able to read, write, and do basic computations.

## Summer Adventures for Children

Parents, shorten your child's hours in front of the TV. Register her/him in the City's Summer Recreation Program. Call Judy Stone at 853-3139 today. Come July, you'll be glad you did.



## CHIEF'S CORNER

Over the past several months we have received complaints from citizens who call the police on the 9-1-1 line. The 9-1-1 line was designed to make it easier and faster to call for Police, Fire, or Medics. If you wish to report a non-emergency activity or to request information do not use 9-1-1. When you call for service on 9-1-1 or 321-1112 the dispatcher will ask you a series of questions. The questions they ask are necessary in order to give the proper priority to your call and assignment of the proper response.

Please cooperate with the dispatchers, they are giving the information from you to the responding units. People become excited, confused, and anxious during an emergency. Our dispatchers must be able to make sense out of what you tell them. The questions they ask are essential. The more information you give us, the better we can serve you.

The dispatchers do not wait until they have completed their conversation with you to dispatch units. In an emergency the units are dispatched as the dispatcher is talking to you. Assist us in helping you, do not use the 9-1-1 emergency line for non-emergency problems. Do answer the questions that are asked of you, cooperate with your dispatchers.

For emergencies, dial 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, dial 321-1112. For business/information dial 853-3160.

Lastly, any organized groups, block clubs, or any gathering of people with a common interest who may wish to have a member of this Department speak or consult with them, please let us know. We are ready and available, so please call (415)853-3160.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The City Council developed Boards and Commissions as one of the many ways to receive community input. Community participation is essential to the functioning of local government. Without it, councilmembers operate in a vacuum. With it, they function more responsively.

The following are some of the many ways you can participate in your City government.

- Attend City Council Meetings and share your comments, compliments, criticisms and suggestions.
- Attend the Boards and Commissions meeting. The Board members will welcome your input.
- Become a Commissioner.
- Invite your Council representatives to speak at organized group, block, church meetings, etc.

## Vacancies on Boards and Commissions

Applications are currently being accepted from local residents interested in serving on City Boards and Commissions. If you are interested call the office of Community Relations at 853-3100 for more information.

## Rent Stabilization Program

**REGISTRATION:** Landlords are required to register all rental units that are covered by the Rent Stabilization Ordinance by July 1, 1987. Registration packets will be mailed to East Palo Alto Landlords by the end of May. If you have not received your packet by June 1, please contact us. Applications for Certificates of Exemption must be filed for rental units that are exempt from the Ordinance, for example, units leased by the San Mateo County Housing Authority Section 8 program, or units owned by Landlords who own a maximum of four rental units in the City of East Palo Alto.

The Registration fee has been increased to \$38.00 per unit for the 1987-88 registration period. Fifty percent of this fee may be passed through to tenants at the rate of \$1.58 per month (after the Landlord has given a thirty days notice and the notice period has expired). The registration fee may not be collected from the tenant in advance. A Registration seminar will be held on June 8th.

**ANNUAL GENERAL ADJUSTMENTS:** The 1987 annual general adjustment will be announced at the end of May. Landlords will be notified of the adjustment by mail. Please note however, that an upward general adjustment does not automatically provide for an increase in rent. An increase shall only become effective if the Landlord is in compliance with the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

- The property must be properly registered.
- The Landlord must give proper notice.
- Security deposit interest shall have been refunded.
- The rental unit must not have health/safety code violations.
- Tenant overcharges shall have been refunded.

**RENT CERTIFICATIONS:** By now some of you will have received your maximum legal rent certificates. Please review it carefully, as you will have 120 days to challenge the certified rent. After this time period, the certified rent can only be challenged if fraud or misrepresentation can be proven. Our office hours will be extended to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the certification process. A Rent Certification Seminar will be held on July 6. Please plan to attend.

The Proposed regulations (with the exception of the proposed capital improvements regulations) were adopted by the Rent Stabilization Board on May 14. A seminar covering changes to the Capital Improvement regulations will be held on June 22.

All of the above-mentioned seminars will be held at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto in Conference Room 2B at 7:00 p.m.

There is currently an Alternate Landlord vacancy on the Rent Stabilization Board. Resident Managers are encouraged to apply.

Please contact Sharon Wallace, Community Housing Specialist at 853-3100 for more information.

## Summer Jobs for Youth

The 1987 Summer Jobs for Youth Program is once again underway. The program, under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors and the Private Industry Council, is designed to help place county residents aged 14 to 21. Interested persons should call the numbers below after May 18, 1987 for the clearinghouses serving East Palo Alto.

<b>Mid-Peninsula Youth &amp; Community Services, Inc.</b> 2400 Ralmar Court East Palo Alto, CA 94303 325-3276	<b>Fair Oaks Community Center</b> 2600 Middlefield Road Redwood City, CA 94063 363-4551
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### Attention Business Owners:

If you operate a business, and could offer summer employment to youths, please call 363-HIRE. The receptionist will be glad to take your job order, and we will do our best to help you fill it.

## Responsible Babysitting

This Red Cross Babysitting Preparedness Class teaches the care of infants and toddlers, from feeding to changing. You'll learn first aid awareness, how to prevent accidents and how to handle emergencies.

The class will be held on June 27, 1987 at 2415 University Avenue, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$5.00 for residents and \$10.00 for non-residents.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN DRAMA COMPANY'S PRODUCTION

On June 24, San Francisco's African American Drama Company will present its heralded production *Can I Speak For You Brother?* at the East Palo Alto Library at 1:30 p.m. The African American Drama Company is America's most extensively toured Black owned theater company.

*Can I Speak For You Brother?* is performed by Phillip E. Walker. It highlights Black leaders such as Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The play was featured on the "Arts Alive" series on public television. Mr. Walker has played in an NBC-TV series, "The Duke," and a CBS-TV film, "Flesh and

Blood," and numerous plays throughout the country.

The play is part of a series of nine children's summer programs at the East Palo Alto Library from June 17 through August 12. It is for children (ages 5 and above) but adults are also welcome. East Palo Alto Library is located at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto. It can be reached via SamTrans route 50. For further information, please call 321-7712.



Phillip E. Walker

**Letter from Mayor Blakey...continued from page 1**  
within the City. Their desires must be heard by the Council and their requests acted on in a timely manner.

6. Crime continues to be a major concern, and drug related crime in particular. Many good things are happening within the City, such as Cope. The Unhooked Generation, the Youth Task Force, and the Teen Club, as well as the work of the ministers in the community. We must make sure that police activity is a balance between strict enforcement and respect for the rights of individuals.

7. I am very concerned about the timely response to complaints by the citizenry, both by City Staff and by the Council. Two new people have been hired as code enforcers within the City and accessibility to all Staff is being stressed.

8. Finally, communication between institutions within the community as well as outside is a crucial issue. The City must communicate regularly, and well with the School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP, OICW and the many other organizations working within the City. County institutions must be made aware of and responsive to the needs of the community.

By addressing these issues, and by the Grace of God, we shall continue our growth as a City.

2415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303  
TELEPHONE: 415/853-3100

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