

city connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the
CITY of EAST PALO ALTO, CA

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7

OCTOBER 1984

LETTER FROM MAYOR MOUTON

Once again, blessed with the precious gift of life this day, I give honor and glory to God, our Father. On August 29, 1984, the City received word of the decision of the Court of Appeals in the lawsuit brought against the City by Councilperson Gertrude Wilks et. al. The Appeals Court remanded the lawsuit back to the trial court for a determination of 106 'tainted' votes. The decision will have no immediate effect on the City. The City is alive and functioning. If the point is ever reached where the lawsuit actually returns to the trial court, many people believe that the majority of the 'tainted' ballots will be found to be anti-incorporation votes; therefore, the City will continue to exist. It is important to note here that all four judges, three from the Court of Appeals and one from the Superior Court, declared unanimously that they found **NO EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD!!!** It is sad that the City is forced to spend thousands of dollars to prove that the allegation on which the lawsuit was based was both fallacious and malicious.

Over the past months, many residents have become alarmed over the rumored vulnerability of the community caused by a cutback in law enforcement personnel. On June 29, 1984, the City Council adopted a budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year. Among the items approved was a \$1,550,344 appropriation to the Sheriff of San Mateo County to provide law enforcement services. This \$1,550,344 representing a 27.5 percent increase amounting to \$400,000, actually resulted in a decrease of 3 positions from the previous year. The Sheriff is now providing 29.03 full-time equivalent positions to the City. Although the California Highway Patrol did not provide continuous patrol services in each 24-hour period, it did account for 6 positions of traffic-related service. On July 1, 1984, this service was discontinued because we are now an incorporated city. An additional \$500,000 in the adopted budget is appropriated for the formation of the City's police department. With the immediate hiring of a Chief of Police and the hiring of 12 academy trained City police personnel as soon after that as is possible, there will be a greater number of law enforcement personnel than has ever been in this community previously. We must realize, of course, that it is quality not quantity that counts. 'Police must be properly deployed; citizens must be provided the protection needed for a safe and secure environment, free from harrassment. In order to bring this about, we must all be involved: first, by not being part of the drug scene either as a buyer, seller, or user; secondly, by not buying "hot items," however much you justify the transaction to yourself; and lastly, by being continually vigilant' — identifying and reporting negative activities wherever you observe them, including your own neighborhood, of course. Through God's Grace we can do it. Are you willing to do your part?

There was a fantastic response to the Job Opportunities Conference held in the City on September 15, 1984. Over 500 community residents participated and heard the thrilling address by Congressman Mervyn Dymally. Nine corporations from Silicon Valley conducted interviews. At the present time, we do not have the statistics on how many of the participants were actually hired. This is the first in a series of these events. You will be notified as soon as the next one is scheduled.

Many citizens in the community were treated to a first-class performance by the actors in "A Soldier's Play" by playwright Charles Fuller. The play was superbly produced by Douglas Turner Ward. The Negro Ensemble of New York was the vehicle which provided this long-to-be-remembered entertainment. With the acquisition of the Ravenswood High School site, the community will be able to showcase many of the poets, artists, and talented persons residing in our community and those who come from afar.

The City is looking excitedly ahead to the hiring of an Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, Community Services Director, Community Development Director, Clerical Support Services Manager, and, of course, the Chief of Police. They should be aboard before the first of November 1984. Then, we can really get on with the City's business.

Do not despair. If the burden seems a little heavy at the moment, believe and have faith. God would not have brought us this far to deny us now. Peace.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

On August 31, 1984, the City of East Palo Alto installed a new telephone system with a single number for all City operations.

THE NEW NUMBER IS (415) 853-3100

The system is no longer connected with the County of San Mateo and the City now owns all of the telephone equipment in the City offices. The microwave line for emergency operations services is the only remaining connection with the County system.

The acquisition and installation of the City's new phone system was coordinated by Henry Thomson of 3TC Company, a minority communications contractor. In addition, the City has installed answering machines to accommodate calls outside of regular business hours.

According to City Manager Howell, the new system will provide substantial cost savings to the City and provide greater centralized control over this vital function.

Once again, the new number for all City of East Palo Alto business is 853-3100.

LOCAL PROPERTY ADDED TO FED'S HAZARDOUS SITE LIST

On Tuesday, October 2, 1984, the Environmental Protection Agency added the property of an East Palo Alto chemical company to its toxic-waste cleanup priority list, making it eligible for the \$1.6 billion Superfund cleanup program. The property, located at 1990 Bay Road, is owned by the Zoecon Corporation which purchased it in 1972 from Phone Poulene, Inc.

"This is a significant breakthrough," said City Manager Howell, "because it is another important step toward making our City a safe and healthful environment. The basic solution to cleaning up this site has been money and it now appears that some will be available. Another City priority is being addressed and we are certainly very excited by the announcement."

Cityconnection will keep its readers informed as cleanup operations for the Zoecon site are planned and get underway.

CITY COUNCIL RECAP

August 15, 1984

—Issued proclamation for South Palo Alto Optimists Club.

—Changed time of regular City Council meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and established regular Council meeting preparation at 6:45 p.m.

August 20, 1984

—Approved agreement with San Mateo County for Animal Control Services and Shelter Facilities.

—Approved agreement with San Mateo County for the collection of parking tickets.

—Accepted resignations from Rent Stabilization Board of Cox, Blakey, McElveen, and Reynolds.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 040, re Redevelopment Agency.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 041, re Public Safety Commission.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 042, re Arts and Culture Commission.

—Approved City Co-sponsorship of Job Opportunities Conference scheduled for September 15, 1984.

—Registered opposition to proposed Countywide Park Land Moratorium.

—Proclaimed Wolfgang K.H. Panofsky an Honorary Citizen of East Palo Alto for outstanding community service.

—Authorized work on Redevelopment Notes Program.

—Accepted report on expenditures for April 10, 1984 General Municipal Election (\$16,402.54).

—Approved concept of allowing bicycle and pedestrian access along service road from O'Connor Street to pump station.

September 4, 1984

—Proclaimed Ravenswood/East Palo Alto Little League Team as Baseball Team of the Year in East Palo Alto for calendar year 1984.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 043, re Rent Stabilization.

—Approved staff recommendations re University Avenue and Dumbarton Bridge report.

—Approved agreement with San Mateo County for participation in CDBG Program.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 044, an urgency measure re traffic and pedestrian control devices at University Avenue and Bay Road.

—Approved staff-recommended performance standards for BFI contract modification.

—Authorized demolition of 958 Myrtle Street.

—Adopted City employment policy.

—Approved City Holiday Schedule for FY 84-85.

—Authorized staff to pursue the appeal process re incorporation litigation with Adams, Broadwell, and Russell.

September 17, 1984

—Approved Resolution No. 00133 supporting Arts Against Apartheid.

—Approved Resolution No. 00134 re General Revenue Sharing.

—Issued proclamation re Stanford Theatre.

September 1, 1984

—Issued proclamation re Negro Ensemble Company.

—Reviewed Technical Assistance Work Plan and Agreement with Golden State Business League.

—Requested site and student data from Sequoia Union High School District.

—Adopted Ordinance No. 045, re Human Services Commission.

—Approved Resolution No. 00135, re Criminal Justice Council agreement.

—Approved Guest Artists policy.

—Set January 8, 1985 as the date for a Special Election re property owners' initiative.

—Approved plans for Bell Street Gymnasium renovation.

—Authorized Mayor to sign Services Agreement with San Mateo County.

—Approved Resolution No. 136, re employee benefits package.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The City of East Palo Alto has immediate openings in the following fulltime position classifications:

| Position | Number | Salary Range |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Police Commander | (1) | \$29,700 to \$36,300 |
| Police Lieutenant | (2) | 26,100 to 31,900 |
| Police Sergeant | (2) | 24,750 to 30,250 |
| Police Officer | (6) | 22,050 to 26,950 |
| Police Services Officer | (10) | 17,100 to 20,950 |
| Community Serv. Officer | (7) | 14,400 to 17,600 |
| Police Clerk | (1) | 11,700 to 14,300 |
| Administrative Assistant | (1) | 19,800 to 24,200 |
| Clerk | (1) | 10,800 to 13,200 |

Also, the filing date for the part time position of Community Services Specialist has been extended and there is no current deadline. Applications and position specifications can be obtained from the Council Offices during regular business hours.

RANDALL MEMORIAL PLANNED

A Memorial gathering is scheduled for Sunday, November 18, 1984, at 3:00 p.m. in the Municipal Services Building for former long-time resident of East Palo Alto, Dolores Randall who died suddenly last month in Atlanta, Georgia. Many of us remember Dolores simply as the caring, energetic, and loving person that she was. Others will remember her services to the San Mateo County Economic Opportunity Commission and the Nairobi Village Food Cooperative. All who knew her loved her and all of us will miss her. Details of the Memorial will be available in the very near future.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City is now accepting applications for appointment to the Human Services Commission. Applications can be obtained from the Council offices during regular business hours and the filing deadline is October 31, 1984.

In the August issue of Cityconnection, completed appointments for two other bodies were inadvertently omitted. These are shown below.

Economic Development Technical Advisory Committee

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Silvia Perez | Elna R. Tymes | Dyanne Ladine |
| Eddie Adams | Robert A. Mang | Bob Martin |
| Charles W. Dixon | | |

Economic Development Task Force

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Hal Anjo | J. Refugio Guzman | Lonnie B. Bogan |
| DeAnna Lynn Jernigan | James Chilton | Erma J. Moore |
| Roosevelt Cox, Jr. | Dorothy M. Romes | Judith Drew |

MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|
| City Council | 1st and 3rd Mondays | 7:30 p.m. |
| Planning Commission | 2nd and 4th Mondays | 8:00 p.m. |
| Parks and Recreation Com. | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 p.m. |
| Public Safety Commission | 3rd Wed. & 4th Thurs. | 7:00 p.m. |
| Economic Development Task Force & Technical Advisory Committee | Alternating Wednesdays | 7:30 p.m. |
| Rent Stabilization Program | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 7:00 p.m. |

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers or as posted and are open to the public. Come and participate in your local government.

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2415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303

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