

Wilson helping to change E. Palo Alto's image

EAST PALO ALTO

GOOD NEWS: Just two years ago it was making headlines as the homicide capital of the nation. Now East Palo Alto is getting *good* national publicity.

Check out the new Time-Life Books' publication, "African Americans Voices of Triumph," and you'll find a section on black mayors. It features David Dinkins of New York City, Coleman Young of



CITY SCENES

Detroit and none other than Sharifa Wilson of East Palo Alto.

"I'm actually very flattered and honored to be included in the book . . . especially with David Dinkins, and Coleman Young," Wilson said.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS: Looks like the Palo Alto Park neighborhood will get a face-lift soon — and not soon enough.

For years, residents have complained about roads that resembled bumpy motor cross courses and cut-through traffic between the Bayshore Highway and the Dumbarton Bridge kicking up dust and gravel. Last week, the city council recommended that sidewalks be included in the design and upgrade of streets in the neighborhood.

The action follows a community meeting on March 17 in which residents complained about road conditions and listened to city officials discuss potential funding sources for street and storm drainage improvements.

Carrie Robinson, a longtime Oakwood Drive resident, says she can't remember anyone trying to fix the roads since 1962. That means the area was neglected by San Mateo County, which governed what is now East Palo Alto until 1983, and the city itself during its first decade of incorporation.

ABOUT THOSE VACANCIES: If you're an East Palo Alto resident, there's still time to sign up for any of the city's seven public commissions. The deadline has been extended to May 6, and that includes applicants for the new Public Works and Transportation Commission.

The positions are typically unpaid, but they afford residents a chance to have some say in the way their city is run. Interested parties should call Salani Wendt, city clerk, at (415)853-3100 or Councilwoman Rose Jacobs-Gibson at (415)322-9384.



MERCURY NEWS FILE PHOTOGRAPH

East Palo Alto Mayor Sharifa Wilson is profiled with other black mayors in a new

Battered Women; the War Memorial at City Hall Plaza, given to the American Legion, Leon Robart Post No. 248 and the Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Society; Gemello Park, given to Lechner Associates Landscape Architects; and Ginzton Terrace Senior Housing, given to the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, Columbus Architects and Cottong & Taniguchi Landscape Architects.

LOS ALTOS

SCOOPY DOO?: At the request of several residents, an exercise area just for canines is being studied by the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission. The idea is to provide a fenced area for dogs to exercise freely without a leash.

But before starting to develop an experimental dog run facility, commissioners would like to hear from townsfolk about suggestions. Please write to Civic Soapbox, City of Los Altos, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos 94022.

Commissioners want to know your thoughts about a location and other factors, such as parking, fencing, maintenance and trash pickup.

So far, city officials are already warning you to prepare to use a "poop scoop" and clean up after your pet's do-do. You wouldn't want the pooper-scooper vigilantes coming after you and your four-legged loved one and ruining everybody's fun in the park.

MENLO PARK

CASH FOR GUNS: Shortly after 15-year-old Edwin Sims was shot to death

Time-Life Books' publication called "African Americans Voices of Triumph."

an equal share of funds. Soon, Miller said, gun owners will be paid \$50 for each weapon.

And what about those six gun owners who turned in their weapons and received no money in exchange? "I want to go back and pay those people," Miller said.

NEW COMMANDER: Steven G. Lewis, formerly of the Tiburon Police Department, has been appointed commander of Menlo Park's police force.

You'll read his name often. Lewis is the department's new public information officer, a duty he was handed by Cmdr. Dominick Peloso, who now has other responsibilities.

Born in Puyallup, Wash., Lewis graduated from the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, and also attended law school. He lives in Rohnert Park with his wife, Darlene, son Nicholas, 9, and daughter Samantha, 7.

PALO ALTO

TAKE HEED, SCOFFLAWS: Palo Alto has gotten so many complaints about deteriorating traffic safety — particularly problems with speeders and red-light runners — that the city council has decided to study the situation.

They'll deal with questions like: Just how bad is the speeding problem? And are more people running red lights these days?

The staff will study it, then the council will talk about it sometime in September.

SHOO FLY: Some normally patient city officials have become less tolerant of multi-faceted City Hall gadfly Jim Lewis lately.

man Ron Andersen.

It happened when Lewis invoked the image of Martin Luther King Jr. and words, "I Have a Dream," in his speech supporting the purchase of monitoring equipment to keep tab on wayward noise from Shoreline Ar theatre.

Anderson said bringing Martin Luther King into a discussion about Shoreline noise made him "a little ill."

Later, Lewis reasoned, "He's entitled to his opinion. . . . I felt I did it in taste."

SUPERHIGHWAY TOUR: As part of its 100th birthday celebration, Palo Alto will demonstrate how to find information about the city on the Internet. Check out between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday in the City Hall lobby, 250 Hamilton Street.

Palo Alto went on the Internet in February. Currently, the city offers information about city officials and department phone directories, schools and business. Eventually, the system could allow residents to apply for permits and pay bills from their home or work computer.

REDWOOD CITY

DEDICATED: Gerry Letzring loved the Little League and Redwood City. During his 23 years before his death last year from cancer, Letzring coached at least 10 boys on one of the city's Little League teams, acting as both a team and booster.

On Saturday, both the teams and the town he loved will honor him at the Little League opening day ceremonies by dedicating two ball fields in his memory.

A red granite dedication stone recognizing the Gerry Letzring Little League complex will be unveiled at ceremonies beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Kiwanis field on Myrtle Street and Madison Avenue.

"It's fitting to recognize Gerry in this way because he was always there for the kids and for Little League," said Ed Edness, a Redwood City Park and Recreation commissioner.

All costs of the site dedication, memorial stone and sign changes have been covered through private donations, Norcross said.

LOS ALTOS HILLS

THE PRICE OF AFFLUENCE: Some may sound tempting to live in Los Altos Hills in a home tucked a quarter mile down a private street. You're living in a home that's hidden at the end of a winding driveway, nestled among trees and nature.

But for all this privacy, there could be a price to pay if an address is not clearly marked to allow emergency personnel