



# HEADS UP

## A Palo Alto Community Newsletter



Vol. 04 No. 01

Spring 2009



Welcome to the **HEADS UP**

newsletter, a collaborative resource from police, fire prevention, and disaster

preparedness and response. This newsletter reflects community-based issues. Articles for submission are welcome. **HEADS UP** is a newsletter, available through e-mail distribution and online at: [www.papd.org](http://www.papd.org)

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### 2009 - NEW LAWS

#### From our Palo Alto Traffic Team:

It's that time of year where new vehicle code laws take affect. If you haven't already done so, please familiarize yourself with them.

**26708 (a) GPS mounting.** GPS units can only be mounted in the following locations. In a 7 " square on the lower right side (passenger side) of the windshield or a 5' square in the lower left (driver's) side of the windshield. No longer can they be mounted in the center. If the GPS is not in use at the time, you can still cite for this section as no object can be placed where it interferes with vision.

**23154 (a)** Persons on probation for 23152 or 23153 of the vehicle code cannot drive with a blood alcohol level of .01 or greater. They **must** submit to a PAS or other breath test and **cannot** refuse. Refusal will result in a license suspension of 1-3 years. I will check to see what paperwork is involved.

**23123.5 (a) Texting** is no longer allowed while operating a motor vehicle. This does not apply to dialing a number or receiving a call which is then transferred to a hands free device.

### RAY BACCHETTI, A PALO ALTO POLICE VOLUNTEER, RECEIVED THE AVENIDAS "LIFETIMES OF ACHIEVEMENT" AND THE PALO ALTO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

For the past 20 years, Avenidas has honored persons over 65 who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. On May 17, Avenidas hosted a party to honor Ray and six other local residents for their years of outstanding achievement in the areas of community leadership, business, volunteering, environment, philanthropy, government, education and medicine.

On May 27, 2009, the Police Department held their annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon honoring 24 of their volunteers, who have donated over 2,400 hours over the past year. Ray was nominated by his supervisor for the Volunteer of the Year award

for his incredible ability to tackle any challenge among his array of duties.

**Ray** began work as a volunteer for the Palo Alto Police Department in 2006, after he attended the Citizens Police Academy. It was undeniably the beginning of a wonderful relationship. His versatility has provided his skills in grant writing, stocking patrol cars with forms and safety equipment, picking up canine food. We are fortunate to have **Ray** as a member of the PAPD family!

### **NEW SCAM PHONE CALL**

Several Palo Alto residents received a phone call from “a relative” asking for help by wiring money immediately. It went something like this: I’m traveling and got in trouble and need money wired to me.

*Go to the xxxx store and get a wire transfer for \$4000. Call me back with the number. Do it today so I can get out of trouble*

As it turns out, the relative isn’t really any relation to the victim. He did have the right name which may convince the victim to help. Luckily the victim called the relative’s to question the request “out of the blue.”

### **“SHELTER IN PLACE”**

Do you know what to do when you are requested to “Shelter in Place?”

While it doesn’t happen often, there are times that you may be requested to “shelter in place.” There can be a number of reasons for this request. Some examples are a release of hazardous materials, bad air conditions because of heavy smoke, or a terrorism attack.

What this means is that emergency officials are requesting you to turn off all air conditioning or heating systems. Close all doors, windows, and your chimney flue. Your home/building’s thermostats or air-handling cutoff switches should be labeled, and family members or employees should be trained where they are located and how they work. Ceiling fans or portable fans can be used inside to keep cool while the ventilation system is shut down.

Turn on your AM radio to KZSU (90.1fm) or KCBS (7.40am.)

Emergency officials will be providing the news media with updated information on the locations that should continue to Shelter-in-Place. If you have a television available, Bay Area television stations will also provide news reports, and should scroll information during the event.

The City of Palo Alto will be using the Community Alert & Notification System (CANS) that will begin calling numbers in the impacted area during a Shelter-in-Place emergency. Avoid using the phone so it is available to receive the informational call. Do not call 9-1-1 to get more information. Only call 9-1-1 if you need immediate assistance with a life-threatening emergency. Overloaded telephone circuits (including cellular phone calls) can prevent actual emergency calls from getting through.

Please visit the following link to set up additional contact information in the City’s Community Alert and Notification System (CANS):

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/info/news/details.asp?NewsID=797&TargetID=60>

You can find very helpful guidelines on supplies and preparation for shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency at the following web sites:

[http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/cdc\\_english/Sheltering.asp](http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/cdc_english/Sheltering.asp)

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/shelterinplace/>

For more specific approaches to the openings in your home:

<http://www.epa.gov/nhsr/news/news010606.html>

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER PROGRAM, POST 61**

The Palo Alto Police Department invites our local youth to learn about the objectives and roles of the police in our community and to gain knowledge in the law enforcement field through our Law Enforcement Explorer program.

Post 61 was originally started several decades ago and is the oldest explorer post in the Pacific Skyline Council. The Post suspended its operations in the mid 1990s and was just rechartered in 2008. We presently have approximately 10 members, but we are continuously recruiting. We meet regularly on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Our details, activities, and events are scheduled as they arise.

Our Explorers participate in a variety of department activities. They are used for traffic and crowd control at community events such as our street faires and the Stanford Football games. We may also call upon them to assist with major crime scene perimeter security (such as the homicide investigation on Bryant St this past summer), search and rescue operations (we've gone out on several missing person searches in the last year), and natural disaster responses. Explorers also assist with officer training exercises by being role players.

We highly encourage our Explorers to attend the regional Explorer Academy. The Academy gives Explorers from the area (primarily departments on the peninsula and generally San Mateo County) a chance to learn the fundamentals of police work and criminal law in a structured para-military environment similar to the actual police academy. The Explorer Academy runs twice a year, once in fall, and once in winter, for 9 weeks per session.

Our Post also participates in regional competitions. Explorers from all over the state compete against each other in different law enforcement activities, such as building searches, hostage negotiations, traffic stops, etc.

Explorers are able to go on regular ride-alongs with patrol officers to get a first-hand experience of police work. While on ride-alongs, Explorers will see how officers operate in the field and may have opportunities to assist with non-dangerous tasks in the process.

Eligibility requirements and an application can be found on the PAPD Explorer web page, which can be found by going to [www.papd.org](http://www.papd.org) and clicking on the article on the right side of the page labeled "Explorer Post 61".

**Contact information:**

Agent Dan Ryan: [dan.ryan@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:dan.ryan@cityofpaloalto.org)  
Officer Michael Kan: [michael.kan@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:michael.kan@cityofpaloalto.org)

**DID YOU KNOW???**

1. Palo Alto Police has an Online Reporting system on the police webpage. Go to [www.papd.org](http://www.papd.org) and click on the header, "Online Reporting". It will give instructions on the different types of crimes you can report using this format.
2. There is a Noise Ordinance specifically for Leaf Blowers, Municipal Code section 9.10.060(f). You can report it on the **HOTLINE**: 650-329-

2210 or on our website for Online Reporting. The following information is required to file a complaint:

- a. Location – where it happened, day, time and the vehicle plate associated with the person using the blower. Your name, address and phone number.
  - b. Details will be reviewed with you by an interview to validate the complaint.
3. Police Stations Tours can be arranged for small groups (no more than 12) Monday through Friday. We have had Cub Scouts, Daisies, and other groups take a 45 minute tour. To find out more, call 650-329-2524.
  4. Police Information, Anonymous Tip Line- 329-2190

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

The Palo Alto Police Department has found that in approximately 50% of our City's residential burglaries the suspects have gained entry through unlocked and/or unsecured doors, windows and garages.

**The #1 point of entry for residential burglaries is through unlocked entry points.**

Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity. The best way you can protect yourself from this crime is to deny the burglar the opportunity to make you a victim. This can be done by simply securing your home so that the burglar will decide it is not worth his/her effort or time to gain entry into your home.

The majority of residential burglaries occur during the daytime. Be sure to secure your home, especially during the day while you're at work or out running errands.

The Palo Alto Police Department encourages you to visit our website at [www.papd.org](http://www.papd.org) and find many *Crime Prevention* suggestions and tips.

- Get information on protecting your Property, your Home and your Business.
- Learn how to be a Good Witness and Report Suspicious Activity.
- View online mapping services and analysis via [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) (Sign Up!)

## Get in the practice of locking all doors and windows when you leave.

When you are home, keep your doors locked. Reports have been taken when the victim was home and didn't realize until too late that the burglar was able to walk into the house because of an unlocked door and take their property.

## BICYCLE THEFT REPORTS ON THE INCREASE

**Stolen bike reports are rising.** You can do several things to prevent theft or to aid in the return of your stolen bike.



1. **LOCK IT.** Buy a good lock and use it no matter where you store your bike. Whether for a few minutes or a few days to weeks, secure it with a lock.
2. **SERIAL NUMBER.** You should have all your bike identifiers (serial number!) written down and place in a safe place.
3. **LICENSE YOUR BIKE.** Bike owners and riders should have their bikes licensed. When your bike has been licensed, all important information is kept in a police database. If your bike is stolen, we have all the important identifiers (the manufacturer name and model, type, color, size and the serial number) to match your bike back to you if it is found or recovered.



### Bicycle License— It's the Law

The Palo Alto Municipal Code (Section 10.64.010) requires residents to license their bikes before riding on City streets and public property.

### A Few Reasons to License Your Bike:

**Bicycle Identification.** If your bike is lost or stolen, the serial number and description can be entered into the statewide system of identification, recovery and notification.

**Recovered Bikes Returned to Owners.** Bicycles that are licensed have a much greater chance of being returned to you if they are lost or stolen and then recovered.

**Identification of Rider.** In the event of a traffic accident, licensing can aid in identifying the rider. This is especially helpful in identifying children, who typically carry no form of identification.

## Where you can get your bike licensed:

*You will need to bring your bike to the location, the serial number will be verified and the bike license sticker will be placed on your bike.*

- Palo Alto Fire Stations will license bikes FREE between 4-5PM daily, if they aren't out on an emergency call.
- During "Back-to-School" activities at schools, the police department may be invited to license bikes FREE!
- Palo Alto has many community-based events offered throughout the year. Many will have the PAPD license bikes for FREE.

At the 2008-9 Back to School week, Gunn High School, Terman and Jordan Middle School invited the PAPD to license bikes. Over 240 bikes for students and family members for **FREE!**



You only need to license your bike once, as long as you own it. The license is not transferable. If you sell or give your bike away, notify the PAPD so we can make the changes in our database. The new owner will need to register the bike in their own name and be issued a new license.

As of January 2009, there have been over 70 bikes reported stolen. Five were found or recovered and only one was licensed. We have over approximately XX bikes that have been turned over to us ("Found") and no way to locate the owners. They will eventually go to an auction to be sold. If the bikes had a license, it would be a quick check to determine if it was licensed in Palo Alto and if so, reunited to the owner.

If you find an abandoned bike, we ask you to bring it to the police station, as we are unable to pick them up.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

What is **Neighborhood Watch (NHW)**? It is a national program to promote safety and security in neighborhoods by:

- neighbors getting to know each other
- learning what is normal for your neighborhood so you recognize suspicious activities and behavior



- to call police to report suspicious activities or crimes in progress

***You are the Eyes and Ears  
For the Police!***

**By having a crime prevention meeting, your neighborhood group can hear and learn:**

- The importance of knowing your neighbors
- Security techniques
- Be aware of neighborhood activities
- Recognizing what is suspicious
- When to call police to report suspicious activities, people and crime
- Crime trends in your area
- Communication and sharing information with your neighbors

**The benefits of NHW are many:**

- Develop friendships with your neighbors
- Watch out for each other
- Deter or reduce crime
- Receive special safety presentations and training
- Build partnerships
- Improve quality of life

**What You Can Do To Get Started**

Contact your Palo Alto Neighborhoods Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC). This is the first step to unite and coordinate with your neighborhood. For information contact: [epvolunteers@paneighborhoods.org](mailto:epvolunteers@paneighborhoods.org). Ask to have a special Neighborhood Watch meeting to learn how to reduce the risk of being a crime victim. If you don't have a contact, give me a call to set up a meeting in your neighborhood.

We strongly encourage you to get involved with the BPC program –Preparedness covers emergencies, disasters and crime. There are many things in life that are optional, but fortunately you can prepare by education and training.

**2009 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>**



This will be the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out (NNO) celebration. The National Association of Town Watch sponsors the crime prevention event.

Palo Alto has been involved since 2004 making this the fifth consecutive year to participate in the national event. Last year, there

were close to 600 participants throughout Palo Alto. Many Block Parties were organized through their neighborhood associations and took place in City Parks. While smaller groups closed off their streets for barbeques, picnic tables, games and activities.

City staff from Utilities, Public Works, Community Services, Police and Fire Departments visited parties and enjoyed the festivities of neighborhood spirit.

Food and activities motivate people to come out and have fun. Ultimately, the one night event will create neighborhood unity to continue involvement year round. Mix in some important information as a means to gain momentum for people to get involved in a community project or goal.

***Make it an evening to get your neighbors together. August 4, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM registered parties will be visited by police, firefighters and City staff.***

Information is posted on [City of Palo Alto Website - Community Involvement](#)

If you have questions or wish to be involved in National Night Out, contact Susie Ord, 650-329-2632 or [Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org)

**“MEET THE CHIEF” MEETINGS**

Since February, monthly meetings have been scheduled throughout Palo Alto as part of an outreach plan to foster better communications and relationships between the Department and the extended Community.

It is an opportunity to meet the Interim Police Chief, Dennis Burns, to hear what the police department is doing, what's been going on and a session for questions and answers.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **June 20, 9am**, Scott's Seafood, 855 El Camino Real, #1 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto
- **July 21, 7pm**, Garden Court Hotel, 520 Cowper St. Palo Alto

**CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

**NEXT CLASS: Sept. 30 – Nov. 18, 2009**  
Sixteen members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> class, graduated on April 15, 2009. The program started in 1995 to offer community members an opportunity to learn

more about their police department through a no-nonsense approach to the realities of police work. There have been 23 academies and over 350 have gone through the academy. Alumni now have a new opportunity to attend advanced classes to continue learning about the dynamics of our police work force.

During the 8 weeks, students learn about our police organization and what it takes to become a police officer for Palo Alto. Some of the classes are: Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure, Investigations, Officer Safety, Use of Deadly Force and will practice on a firearms simulator.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and can be found in the police lobby or online to download:

[City of Palo Alto Website - Citizens Police Academy](#)

Contact Information:  
Susie Ord  
[Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org)  
650-329-2632

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **June 20**, Meet the Chief, Scott's Seafood, 855 El Camino Real, #1 Town & Country Village, 9am
- **July 21**, Meet the Chief, Garden Court Hotel, 520 Cowper St, PA
- **August 4** - National Night Out, 6:00–8:00 PM. Sign-up to have a block party and have police, fire and other city staff visits
- **Sept. 30 – Nov. 18** – Citizens Police Academy, Class #24 – Accepting applications now



We are here to provide you with safety education, prevention techniques and the tools to prepare for a disaster.

If you have a topic of interest for a future issue of **HEADS UP** or if you have a story to share, please forward it to Susie Ord.

Susie Ord. (650) 329-2632  
[Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Susie.Ord@cityofpaloalto.org)  
Program Coordinator, PAPD

Barbara Cimino (650) 617-3197  
[Barbara.Cimino@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Barbara.Cimino@cityofpaloalto.org)  
Emergency Manager PAFD (OES)

Gordon Simpkinson (650) 329-2347  
[Gordon.Simpkinson@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:Gordon.Simpkinson@cityofpaloalto.org)  
Acting Fire Marshall, PAPD

## **EMERGENCY INFORMATION** **CITY OF PALO ALTO**

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/info](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/info)  
[www.paneighborhoods.org/EP](http://www.paneighborhoods.org/EP)

Update on Flood Information and Citywide Emergencies: 329-2420  
City Office of Emergency Services (OES): 617-3197

**EMERGENCY: 9-1-1 or**  
**Cell Ph. Emergency: 470-1258**

### **Police & Fire:**

During Regular Hours of Business:  
PA Police Dept: 329-2406  
PA Fire Dept: 329-2184

### **City Utility Assistance, Non-Emergency:**

Utilities – Electrical: 496-6914  
Utilities – Gas Leaks: 329-2579

### **After Hours, Non-Emergency**

#### **City Assistance:**

Communications Center/Dispatch: 329-2413  
(Available 24/7)

**NEWS:** KZSU – 90.1 FM (Local Only) or  
KCBS 7.40 AM

