

# The Herculean

City of Hercules Information Brochure

# Fall 2009



The Hercules Police Department Open House

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8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Land Use Changes for Waterfront	1
Dedicated City Employee Passes Away	1
Hercules Police Department Open House	2
Dynamite Classic	3
2009 Police Officer of the Year	4
Two New Officers in Hercules	4
HPD Sergeant Attends FBI Academy	5
Citizen's Academy Coming This Spring	6
Carquinez Middle After School Program	8
Volunteers Begin Ohlone Park Clean Up	9
The Case for Code Enforcement Funding	10
New John Swett Unified Superintendent	11
Child Care Program Supervisors	12
Hercules Youth Ambassadors Visit Sister City	13
Expo Brings Together Businesses & Consumers	14
HPD Explorer Attends National Academy	15
Holiday Safety Tips	20
Responsible Pet Ownership	22
Introducing the Hercules Chamber of Commerce	24
Code Compliance Corner	26
EASTBAY Works Rapid Response Team	27
Strengthening Sister City Ties	28

**CITY DIRECTORY**

City Manager	799-8206
City Hall-General Information	799-8200
City Hall Fax	799-2521
Community/Swim Center	799-8291
Parks & Recreation Department	799-8291
Hercules Municipal Utility	799-8285
Hercules Senior Center	799-8219
Finance Dept/Business License	245-6509
Business/Community Development	245-6529
Public Works & Engineering	799-8241
Inspection Request Line	799-8240
City Clerk	799-8215
Police Department	799-8260
Rodeo-Hercules Fire District	799-4561

**City Council** 799-8206  
*Meets the second & fourth Tuesday of each month.*

Joe Eddy McDonald, Mayor	Donald Kuehne
Kris Valstad, Vice Mayor	Joanne Ward
Ed Balico	

**Planning Commission** 245-6529  
*Meets the first and third Monday of each month.*

Sherry McCoy, Chair	Richard Mitchell
Myrna L. deVera, Vice Chair	Raoul Maltez
Jose Bibal	

**Community and Library Services Commission** 799-8291  
*Meets the second Monday of each month*

Adoria Williams-Weinstein, Chair	John Mills
Cletia Hart, Vice Chair	Sid Shapiro
Sherry Madfes	Jojo Soriano

**Education Commission** 799-8254  
*Currently remains dormant*

**Featured on cover:**

Members of the Hercules Police Department at the 2009 HPD Open House. During the Open House, residents had the opportunity to tour the facility, speak with Police Officers and Police personnel, and learn about the department.

For additional information, please visit the City website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us)

# Land Use Changes Coming To Waterfront

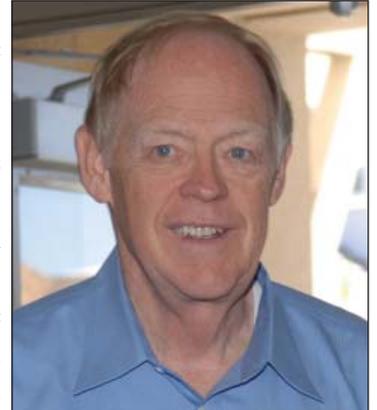
Over the summer, the city began the process of amending the current land uses for the Waterfront District Master Plan to allow for a greater variety of uses. In its present form the Waterfront District Master Plan is quite limiting as to what types of businesses are allowed within the district zone. The portion of the Master Plan that's currently built is the Railroad Avenue Live-Work units. The original concept of the Railroad Avenue Live-Work units was to develop businesses which promoted a "walkable community," but without impacting the existing residences along Railroad Avenue, with high intensive retail, commercial land uses.

These limited uses have generated mostly commercial and office spaces without any retail or auxiliary services which generally benefit the neighborhood and the entire district. The Planning Department to date has received several requests for the uses that are currently disallowed – uses such as a sports store, ice cream parlor, florist etc. Subsequently, the city conducted workshops in the neighborhood to determine the appropriate uses. These workshops generated various suggestions which were compiled and presented to the Planning Commission for approval at its meeting of July 1, 2009. Examples of the suggested uses that are now included in the land use amendment are: bakery, café, florist, sports shop, bookstore, barber shop, ice cream parlor, art store, copy centers, hair salon, pet shops and grooming store, and wine shop, just to name a few.

It is anticipated that the proposed land use will renew the original spirit of a "walkable community" as envisioned by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The final approval by the Council was determined on September 22, 2009 via public hearing.

# City Loses Dedicated Servant

Over the summer, the City of Hercules lost one of its' dedicated employees, Mr. Timothy K. Hansen, who served as the City's Treasurer for almost six years. Tim came to Hercules in 2002 as the Interim Finance Director, but his knowledge and experience kept him around much longer. Tim was always willing to take



on a challenge and saw change as an opportunity. Many residents may recognize Tim from City Council meetings and City staff knew him as a friend, mentor, and teacher.

The City of Hercules was Tim's last career stop, but it certainly wasn't his first. He had over 36 years of experience as a Finance Director and worked in six different counties and city agencies. He received numerous awards and honors from various finance associations.

Tim was a lifelong teacher and mentor, always willing to take the time to assist others. He would share his story, his passions, or his insights with those he came in contact with. Tim was an avid golfer, wine connoisseur, and 'foodie.' He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, friend, and co-worker.

Tim is survived by his wife, Virginia, two children and their spouses, Lance and Dawn Hansen and Kristen and Noel Bourke, and three grandchildren, Julian, Bridger, and Blakeley.

In honor of Tim's life, City of Hercules employees have been collecting funds to plant a tree at a local park and to purchase a donor panel at the Hercules Library. The Library was the largest project in Hercules that Tim saw to completion, so the donor panel will be a fitting tribute to his memory. The memorial tree will also honor Tim for generations to come.

He will be greatly missed, but he leaves behind a lasting legacy of kindness, integrity and courage.

## Serious Injury • Auto Accident

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Patterson**

**Attorney at Law**

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# Police Department Hosts Open House

On October 1, 2009, the Hercules Police Department held its first open house at the police facility, located at 111 Civic Drive in the City Hall building. The open house was an opportunity for the public to see the inner workings of the department, including the changes that have taken place since the administration was moved from a modular building on the City Hall grounds into the space formerly occupied by the Public Works division.

During the move, the facility was upgraded and modernized, with enhanced storage for evidence, records, and weapons in the armory. A loft was constructed which houses a locker room for officers and a former storage room was remodeled to become the Investigations Office.

Most of the Police Department was on hand and approximately 100 members of the community toured the facility. Officers and administrative staff also passed out information about



Officer of the year Dwayne Collard, giving HPD sticker to child



Residents got a personalized tour of the Police Department from the officers

the police department including information on Neighborhood Watch, the Citizen's Police Academy, the Explorer Program and how to volunteer for the department. Various police vehicles were on display, including the Special Response Team van, the Mobile Command Post, the recently acquired Rescue vehicle, the Traffic Division Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and the two dual-purpose motorcycles, along with weapons used by the department. Residents were able to ask questions, meet many of the officers, and enjoy gourmet snacks which were provided by the Hercules High School culinary class. High School servers included Jessica Chhan, Celine Poblete, Felizardo Sosa, and Carissa Acosta and leadership provided by Chef Jerry Clopp.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make this event a great success!



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# Dynamite Classic

On Saturday, August 22nd the Hercules Police Officers Association played in the 'Dynamite Classic' softball tournament against other officers from San Pablo, Martinez, and Pinole. The tournament was held in Pinole at Fernandez Park. The field was prepared by the Hercules Parks and Recreation Department. Fourteen Hercules officers, sergeants, commanders and even the Chief, participated in this year's Classic. The tournament was a round robin format requiring each team to face each other once. The teams with the two best records then played in a single championship game. Play was followed by a potluck barbeque where officers and their families could relax and get to know one another.

The Hercules Police Officers Association's (HPOA) first game was at 10:10 AM against the eventual tournament champion San Pablo Police Department. San Pablo jumped out to an early lead but Hercules rallied, forcing an

eventual 18 to 18 tie.



2008 Officer of the Year, Billy Beason up to bat during Martinez game

Hercules then faced the squad from the Martinez Police Department, which held the Hercules bats in check and eventually won by 5 runs. The third and final game for the HPOA was against members of the Pinole Police Employees Association, a game easily won by Hercules.

Martinez and San Pablo then faced each other in the championship game. San Pablo build up a sizeable lead, but Martinez battled back to within two runs. In the end, San Pablo's bats got hot again and they cruised to an easy win over Martinez.

It was an enjoyable time for everyone who played or attended and a great opportunity for police officers of the area to connect. Teams are already planning for next year's Dynamite Classic.



(From Left to Right) Top row: Dwayne Collard, Darin Tellez, Joe Vasquez, Dan Miller, Rob Pesmark, Fred Deltorchio, Bill Goswick, Alex Abetkov and son; Bottom row: Ed Li, Thomas Koepppe, Anthony Craig, Billy Beason, Tim Stratmeyer; Not pictured: Tom Dalby

# 2009 Police Officer of the Year

Officer Dwayne Collard was named Hercules Police Officer of the Year for 2009 at the 8th Annual September 11 Dinner, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hercules. Officer Collard was born in San Pablo and grew up in West Contra Costa County. He worked as a police explorer for the Highway Patrol prior to graduating from John Swett High School in 1995. Officer Collard then joined the Army National Guard and served as a heavy equipment operator and military policeman until he was honorably discharged in 2000. He worked for a local construction company until he was hired by the Hercules Police Department on September 5, 2004.

Officer Collard established himself as an excellent employee and police officer early on. He is always early for work, maintains a professional appearance, and gives 100% to the job. Officer Collard's superior work ethic resulted in his selection as the department's traffic officer in 2006, an assignment he still holds. This assignment recently required Officer Collard to investigate two fatal accidents earlier this year and his work on both was excellent.

Officer Collard serves as a member of the department's Special Response Team (SRT) and the Contra Costa County Vehicle Theft Special Enforcement Team.



2009 Police Officer of the Year-Dwayne Collard

He operates the department's Harley Davidson traffic motorcycle and is also assigned a dual purpose, off road motorcycle. He is a certified Personal Alcohol Screening Device instructor and responsible for the maintenance and calibration of the department's radar units.

Officer Collard's peers selected him for this recognition and his supervisors describe him as being "humble and approachable" and having a "can do" attitude. When he's not working he enjoys riding motorcycles and spending time with his dog.

## HPD Adds Two New Officers to Team



Officer John Gallegos

The Hercules Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of two additional police officers. Both officers are a welcome addition and are actively contributing to the goal of public safety in our community.

Officer John Gallegos is no stranger to the City of Hercules. He served for thirteen years as a HPD reserve officer prior to being hired by the department as a full-time police officer on October 30, 2008. He then graduated from the prestigious Alameda County Regional Training Center.

Officer Gallegos grew up in Martinez and is a long-time Contra Costa County resident. He enjoys hunting, the outdoors, and family activities with his wife and two daughters. He worked in various construction fields and the

mortgage industry prior to beginning his law enforcement career.

Officer Brian Collins began employment with Hercules on August 3, 2009. He graduated from the Napa Valley College Criminal Justice Training Center. Officer Collins grew up in Vacaville and was a member of the U.S. Air Force for 6 years, where he served as a Loadmaster on C-5 planes. Stationed at Travis Air Force Base, he flew missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Japan, Egypt, and other locations in Europe and Asia.

In his spare time, Officer Collins enjoys activities such as baseball, family activities, soccer, and fishing. Officer Collins feels that Hercules is "a great town with a lot of potential. I enjoy working here."



Officer Brian Collins

# HPD Sergeant Attends FBI Academy

Hercules Police Sergeant Tim Stratmeyer was selected to attend the 239 Session of the FBI National Academy from September 27 through December 11, 2009. The 11 week program, held at the FBI Academy on the U.S. Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia, is widely accepted as one of the most comprehensive and prestigious training opportunities available to law enforcement personnel. Sergeant Stratmeyer will attend courses in Leadership, Ethics and Decision Making, Labor Law Issues, Investigative Interviewing, Effective Writing, Managing Death Investigations and Fitness in Law Enforcement. All coursework is accredited through the University of Virginia. He will be joined by over 250 fellow officers from throughout the United States and other countries.

“Sergeant Stratmeyer is the perfect candidate for this training,” Police Chief Fred Deltorchio said. “He is one of the hardest workers on our department and sets

personal performance standards which far exceed those of the organization. He will thrive in this environment and ultimately strengthen and improve our police department when he returns.”



Sergeant Tim Stratmeyer displays a weapons cache recently seized from a Hercules residence

Along with his classroom studies, Sergeant Stratmeyer will also participate in rigorous physical training. Members of his session will be tested for body fat, strength and endurance when they begin the program. They will then be retested at the end of the training, to measure how their bodies responded to the increased exercise and improved diet provided during the training. “Only a small percentage of the many thousand law enforcement officers in the United States and around the world are selected for this training,” Chief Deltorchio said. Sergeant Stratmeyer is one of the best people we have and will represent our department well.”



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\* Offer ends December 15, 2009  
\*\* Offer ends February 19, 2009

# Citizen's Academy Coming This Spring

The Hercules Police Department will be holding a Citizen's Police Academy in the coming year. The academy is scheduled for March 31st through June 14, 2010. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, with some Saturday courses and field trips.

The Citizen's Police Academy is an excellent opportunity for the public to become involved in the operations of a law enforcement agency. Citizens who enroll in the academy learn about procedures, priorities, and techniques of law enforcement in their community. Training blocks are taught by several Hercules Police Officers and include an Introduction to the Department, Patrol Procedures, Crime Scene Investigation, Identity Theft and Internet Crimes Investigation, Firearms, Narcotics, Emergency Preparedness, Terrorism Training, and Corrections.

The education provided by the academy leads to an informed group of citizens that expand the law enforcement capabilities of a community while providing the nucleus for neighborhood watch and citizen patrol groups for the city.

Members of the academy come from all walks

of life with a variety of experiences and backgrounds. The participants add to the total academy experience for everyone, including the police officers who lead and instruct the various training blocks.

To ensure each student has a great experience, the Citizen's Police Academy program is limited to 30 participants. If you are interested in being part of this exciting experience, complete the attached application, and submit to the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at the Hercules Police Department by January 15, 2010.

If you would like to learn more about the academy, please contact Ms. Gaema Obenchain at (510) 799-8263 or by email at [gobenchain@ci.hercules.ca.us](mailto:gobenchain@ci.hercules.ca.us).



## 2010 Citizen's Academy Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

I, hereby authorize the City of Hercules Police Department to review my background to determine eligibility to attend the Citizen's Academy. I understand submission of this application does not guarantee admission.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

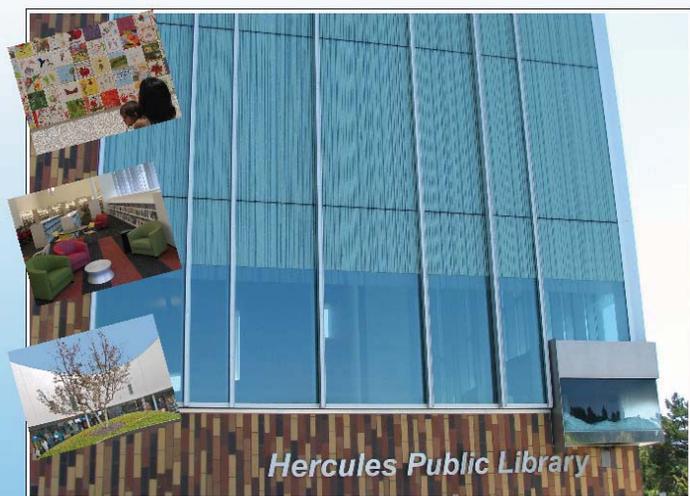
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# 2010 Hercules Calendar

## Order Today for Only \$10

Proceeds to benefit the Hercules Explorers and Teen Youth Council (T.Y.C.)

Come into City Hall or the Community Swim Center and purchase yours before its too late!



When the Hercules Library opened in 2006, it became the largest branch operated by Contra Costa County



# Revamped After School Program At CMS

There are a variety of programs and activities middle school students can participate in, but few combine academic, athletics, and fun as well as the Carquinez Middle School After School Program. “We’re rebuilding the program from ground zero which takes time, but the program is really progressing,” says Principal Robert Bass. “The program has an academic component, a social component, and we’re in the process of building an athletic component.” Program Coordinator Crystal Lopez has seen the program go from only 19 participants to almost 50 and knows the students are happy with the changes they see. “The kids seem to be interested in what we are doing and they want to be a part of it,” says Lopez.

Every day after school, student participants have the opportunity to complete homework, participate in enrichment activities, and of course, just kick back and be kids. Students are encouraged to attend every day, which builds continuity and strong relationships among the staff and middle schoolers. Each component of the program has a designated time and students are well aware of what is expected of them.



Students can get assistance with homework from the After School Program staff

Staff members, most of whom are college students, serve as role models, mentors, tutors, and counselors. “The staff works really well together,” says Adriana Hernandez, After School Program Supervisor and Teacher’s Aide.

The program also promotes student collaboration. Older students, who complete their homework early, can assist younger students. Classmates can ask for clarification and work through challenging problems together. Additionally, the After School Program staff has direct access to the students’ teachers, helping to



A group of boys enjoy a game of football after homework

ensure the right assignments are done, and done right.

After homework, students break up into groups to do a planned activity such as arts and crafts, sports, or an academic project. Lopez adds that she’d like to see the enrichment activities focus on arts and music saying, “We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about music or the arts and want to work with our students after school.” Program Coordinators also want to see the enrichment activities tie into the students regular classroom learning.

In addition to assisting the students academically, the program also helps students’ develop social



Students have the flexibility to study on their own or work with their peers

skills. “Students connect with other students that they would not normally have in their class or socialize with,”

says Hernandez. “Even since the start of the school year, some of the kids have really blossomed.” Principal Bass agrees adding, “Students can greatly improve their social skills and learn to work with students they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn from.”

Even though the program is off to a great start, there is still lots of room for growth. “We’d like to have volunteers get involved in teaching the different group activities and possibly mentoring students,” says Bass. “We have grant monies for up to 80 students and I’d like to see us get close to capacity by the end of the school year.” And with the progress school officials have made in just a few weeks time, the program is well on its way towards meeting that goal.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting and growing program, please contact Ms. Lopez at 510-691-1090 or by email [clopez@jsusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:clopez@jsusd.k12.ca.us).

# Volunteers Begin Clean Up At Ohlone Park

The City of Hercules held its first Volunteer Clean Up Day at Ohlone Park on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 8am-12pm. It was the 1st phase of several phases where volunteers joined forces with the city, local businesses and other community organizations to begin the Ohlone Park Renovation Project. Ohlone Park is located at 190 Turquoise Drive, is in need of major renovations, and the massive task of refurbishing the park began on Saturday.

Over forty volunteers and staff members painted or demolished



Volunteers painted BBQ pits and trash cans on kick-off day

dilapidated BBQ pits and picnic tables, painted benches, trash cans and a utility building and picked up litter in an effort to complete the first phase of this park clean up. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers for their hard work in improving one of Hercules neighborhood jewels! We would also like to thank the following groups and



Over 75 bags of trash and leaves were collected

organizations for helping to make the clean up a huge success: Hercules Home Depot, Community Garden Group, Rotary Club of Hercules, KIWIN's Club and the Chinese Association.



Utility Building Gets Painted

There are many more phases of this park clean up, so look for more volunteer days at Ohlone Park in the near future. The date has not yet been set for phase 2; however, the next phase will include assembling picnic tables, painting and repairing fences and a bridge.

If you would like to be involved in future Ohlone Park Renovation projects or would like more information, please contact Pedro Jimenez at 799-8228, or at [pjimenez@ci.hercules.ca.us](mailto:pjimenez@ci.hercules.ca.us).

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PRESENTS

2010

New Year's Eve Gala

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Dec. 31, 2009 • More Details to Come!

# The Case for Code Enforcement Funding

On September 14th, the Building Division received a sample letter from the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers titled, “The Case for Code Enforcement Funding.” The letter was designed to be a tool for Building Officials and others in charge of code enforcement departments to encourage their City Councils and City Managers to increase funding rather than decrease it.

The letter talks about code enforcement as the “thin line” between orderly development, maintenance of property values and environmental protection, and “land-use anarchy.” It goes on to state, “While codes and regulations have been enacted that promote orderly development and neighborhood protection, unless there are professional individuals doing the heavy lifting of enforcement, the door is open to a deterioration of all the land-based programs and policies that elected officials have worked so hard to put into place to encourage clean, safe, and prosperous neighborhoods.”

In addition, it states that code enforcement professionals are highly trained individuals who are versed in the rights of entry, officer safety, housing and building codes, vehicle abatement, citation and fine issuance, nuisance abatements, mediation, community development, neighborhood preservation, environmental protection, and many other skills that provide Californians with services that are not appreciated, until they no longer exist.

“As history confirms, when the economy declines, land-based and building violations begin to increase, resulting in visual blight, illegal or hazardous structures, and unresolved code infractions due to the high volume of cases.”



Landscape maintenance is an important part of taking care of a home



The Neighborhood Clean Up Program brings volunteers into a designated area to help residents clean up their yards and homes and reduce the need for traditional code enforcement efforts



In addition to volunteers, heavy equipment and dumpsters are brought in to haul away tons of unwanted trash

In closing, the letter states it is vital for elected officials to maintain this unique form of public safety enforcement and staff it with individuals who have chosen to dedicate their professional lives to this difficult discipline.

That being said, the building division staff would like to personally thank the community for their commitment to code enforcement and the support they show to the staff. These staff are tasked with enforcing the laws and regulations of the City and are working hard to ensure that all of the things outlined above are carried out in a professional manner.

In addition to supporting basic code enforcement efforts, our community is going above and beyond to keep Hercules a beautiful and well maintained community through the Community Pride and Neighborhood Clean Up Program. The program, which started last fall, brings a group of volunteers into designated neighborhoods to assist residents with cleaning up their yards, medians and streets. The program has been very successful, collecting over 79 tons of trash in just one year and has even been recognized by the National League of Cities.

In our efforts to stave off environmental and neighborhood degradation-issues that have a direct impact on property values and more serious property crimes- we are grateful for the unwavering support and commitment from our residents.

For more information on code enforcement or the Community Pride and Neighborhood Clean Up Program, visit our website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us) or contact the Building Division at 510-799-8244.

# John Swett Unified Starts Change At Top

Dr. Mike McLaughlin is no wallflower when it comes to a challenge. Last December, when he took the Superintendent position for John Swett Unified School District, he knew there were big challenges ahead and it was those challenges that drew him in. "I see the potential. I think the District can become a marquee district in Contra Costa County," says McLaughlin. We sat down with the new Superintendent to learn more about him and his goals for John Swett.

*Tell us about your background.*

I'm a third generation superintendent and third generation graduate of USC. Before going into education, I was in Finance for ten years. I try to bring that business attitude to education. After teaching for several years in Sacramento, I took my first Principal/Superintendent position with a K-8 district in Etna, California in 2001. After three years, I moved to Ventura County and became the Superintendent for Briggs Elementary School District, which was also K-8. When I started at both of those districts, they had declining enrollment, similar to John Swett, but I was able to work with the community and the school educators and now both districts have increasing enrollment.

*What brought you to John Swett?* This area has the diversity and community my family and I were looking for. I see a lot of potential, the District has great

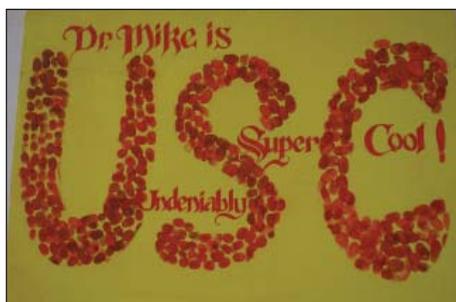


Dr. McLaughlin in his office

people, the teachers are dedicated, and the community really cares about their schools.

*What's your philosophy on education?*

The business world has greatly influenced my thinking about education. I believe education is our product and students are the customer. I believe we need to equip students to succeed and to do that we need to bring in the tools of the 21st Century, so students are competitive when they finish high school. If they don't have those tools, I don't think we're doing our job.



A sign with the fingerprints of the students from his former district hangs in his office

*What are some of the biggest challenges the District is facing?*

The financial situation in California is bleak so we're fighting an uphill battle with that. We have the challenge of becoming competitive, changing our declining enrollment to increasing enrollment. Right now we're really a hidden gem, but I know we have the potential to become a top-notch district.

*What are your goals for the District?*

I want John Swett to be a marquee district in Contra Costa County, a district that people really want to go to. I want to enhance the technology to a 21st Century level, enhance visual and performing arts programs, and modernize the facilities to today's standards. These are lofty goals, but we're already ahead of schedule. As we continue to implement change, people get excited.



Completing JSHS's football field was one of the first phases of the modernization project  
*Tell us about some of the changes you've already made.*

We've begun the modernization of John Swett High School, including the state of the art football/baseball/softball complex. We've hired a music teacher who is teaching K-5 after school and started a band at the middle school, so we're building the music program. We've started adding color and curb appeal to each of the campuses so that students can be proud of their schools. We've also hired a technology coordinator and he is almost finished with the fiber optic infrastructure which will enable us to effectively bring in more technology. I'm very encouraged by the support of the community and their eagerness for change.

*What is your greatest accomplishment thus far?*

I don't think I've done it yet. When I left the district in Southern California, their enrollment was higher than ever, and the district had been around since the late 1800's. I followed a vision and its holding true, and that is definitely a big accomplishment and now I'm excited to bring that vision here.

*What would you like the Community to know?*

John Swett Unified School District is a district on the move. We are a good district that is committed to becoming a great district!

# Child Care Program Supervisors Bring Wealth of Experience to Hercules



Ohlone Supervisor Gwendolyn Windham and Office Assistant Maria Rubio

**Gwendolyn Windham** studied Early Childhood Education at Solano College and Contra Costa College. Gwen has over 20 years of experience working with children. She began her career as a child care aide with the YMCA and later returned to YMCA as a Site Supervisor of the pre-school and before/after school child care programs. Gwen came to the City of Hercules in 2000 and supervises the Ohlone Child Care Program, Ohlone Summer Camp Program and the newly opened Ohlone Tiny Tot Program. In her spare time she likes to spend time with her grandchildren and travel. She especially likes to look for adventure on the back roads of California.

Maria Rubio, Gwen's office assistant, credits Gwen's success to her ability to listen saying, "Ms. Gwen is always striving to guide her staff in meeting the children and parent's needs. Ms. Gwen always makes the time to listen to children and parent's concerns. Every time a new parent to the Hercules community walks into our office to inquire about child care, she welcomes them to our community with a warm, big smile, Ms. Gwen has shown me that being in child care is not just a job but a love and dedication to work with and for the children."



Office Assistant Jamie Wooldridge and Lupine Supervisor Claudia Vega

**Claudia Vega** received her Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Administration from Fresno State University and is currently taking courses at SFSU working towards an MS in Recreation Administration. Claudia has worked with children of all ages, starting with the YMCA in San Francisco, where she managed the after school program for 1st – 5th graders. She also spent three years working with a non-profit organization and most recently, she worked for the City of San Bruno, overseeing the recreation department's after school programs. Claudia supervises the Lupine Child Care Program, Lupine Summer Program and Lupine Tiny Tot Program. In Claudia's spare time she enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, hiking, traveling and playing with her dog, Tyson.

Claudia's office assistant Jamie Wooldridge admires Claudia's ability to keep things organized, saying, "One of the things I love about Claudia is that she is very structured and organized. Claudia has taught me many time saving techniques. I am on my way towards being an Excel PRO! Now, I use spreadsheets for everything, including weekly rosters and the attendance of each child in the After School Program and Tiny Tot program."



Office Assistant Rozen Stafford and Hanna Ranch Supervisor Ambra Bonham

**Ambra Bonham** has over 25 years of experience teaching and directing pre-school and school-age child care programs. Ambra worked for the city from 1989 – 1999, before leaving to start a family. She returned to us in 2005 as the interim child care coordinator at Hanna Ranch Child Care. She is now the permanent child care supervisor of the Hanna Ranch Child Care and Hanna Ranch Tiny Tots Program. Ambra attended San Diego State University, Napa Valley College and Santa Barbara City College, where she received her AA Degree. In her spare time, Ambra enjoys going to movies, hiking and baking cookies with her son.

Ambra's positive attitude is appreciated by all. "My work site is a better place because I share an office with this energetic, positive and hard working lady. It might sound crazy but she is contagious. Don't worry, I mean it in a good way. Her enthusiasm on her job and confidence in the things she does is remarkable. What an asset for the City! She wants the best for everyone. Personally, she brings out the best in me and I'm proud to hear her say I'm her right hand," says Rozen Stafford, Ambra's Office Assistant.

# Hercules Youth Ambassadors Visit Sister City

By HHS Journalism Student Floraine Sioson

Morning announcements, accidental library discoveries, friends armed with applications and English teacher Mrs. Lynne Dirk--what do they have in common? Last summer, juniors Julian Lin, Nicole Ng, Stefan Feurst, Marciana Suela and freshman Rachael Redlo had the opportunity to become youth representatives in Japan through the Hercules Sister City Association's Youth Ambassador program.

Since 1998, this program has recruited middle and high school students to represent Hercules in Tsushima, while also visiting various areas of Japan to experience and appreciate the culture, people and food. "I'm always asked how my stay in Japan was, and I respond 'Hot, humid, it rained, we had to walk a lot...I loved it.' But, I really did love it," said Suela. For the first half of the trip, the ambassadors were sent to live with different host families who took each student on various adventures for a week. Suela's family, for example, took her to calligraphy lessons, while Lin spent time at the mall with new Japanese friends.

"Some of the most memorable experiences were staying with our host families," said Feurst. "I think all the ambassadors agree they were all wonderful. They treated us like family. Some of them, and even some ambassadors, were crying [when it was time to leave] because neither party wanted to be separated." Although each ambassador had a different host family, they all went to the same group activities and attended the Tsushima Tenno Matsuri festival, one of the top three famous river festivals in Japan. The highlight was the evening festival called Yoi-matsuri, in which five large boats with illuminated lanterns are set afloat. Stay-



The youth ambassadors take a quick break from sightseeing for a photo op at Otori Gate at Miyajima Island in Hiroshima.

ing with a host family included eating unfamiliar Japanese dishes, adopting the Japanese reverence for manners and respect and facing the feared language barrier. Some students took Japanese language classes to prepare themselves, while others resorted to hand gestures, sounds and the occasional online translator. "With a little English from my host family, and a little Japanese on my end, I got through a lot [of the communication problems]," said Redlo.

During the latter part of the excursion, the ambassadors toured major Japanese cities such as Tsushima, Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Tokyo, and went sight-seeing and shopping. When not immersing themselves in the Japanese culture, they had free time to do as they pleased. They visited various sites, like the Nagoya Castle, the Toyota Museum, a plethora of shrines, a bamboo forest, an assortment of malls, fish markets and even a life-sized version of the Japanese anime robot, Gundam.

After staying with the host families during the first half of the trip, the ambassadors stayed in different city hotels for the second half. "In the second portion of the trip, you get to wake up in a different city almost every day," said Ng. Every ambassador described the trip as a memorable cultural exchange and recommends other students to apply for ambassadorship, as it is a chance to make new friendships, represent Hercules and even change one's perspective on different cultures.



The Hercules Sister City delegation, and its youth ambassadors, sample a taste of Japanese culture, while they visit a tea ceremony at Tsushima High School.

□ *Continued on page 14*

# Expo Brings Together Businesses & Consumers

On September 24, 2009, the City of Hercules and Hercules Chamber of Commerce hosted the Business and Consumer Expo 2009. Over 400 residents came out to learn about local businesses in Hercules and the surrounding communities. "Participants were able to meet with the owners and managers of over 50 local businesses," says Rochelle Samuels, City of Hercules event coordinator. Participants enjoyed great food provided by El Sol Restaurant, Kinder's Meat and Deli, La Strada Restaurant, Pinole Creek Café, and The Powder Keg Pub.

In addition, the event included live music, a kids craft table and face painting and over thirty raffle prizes. "There was something for everyone," adds Samuels. "We are very thankful for the businesses and individuals that brought the event together, especially our sponsors."

The Expo was so successful, the Chamber and City are making plans to continue the event on an annual basis.

"We were really pleased with the turnout and the response from the business owners," says Shirley Gotelli, Executive Director of the Hercules Chamber. "We are excited to build on the event's success and to continue to promote Hercules businesses in a variety of ways."



Participants feasted on food from Kinder's, El Sol, La Strada, Pinole Creek Cafe and The Powder Keg

Thanks again to the following sponsors for helping to make the event such a huge success: Arrowhead Water, D'Lorenza Floral Couture, El Sol Restaurant, Elegant Treasures, Fast Signs, Fil-Ams of Hercules, Hercules Florist, Hercules Lion's Club, Kinder's Meats and Deli, La Strada Restaurant, A Muse Muzick, Pinole Creek Café, The Powder Keg Pub, Rotary Club of Hercules, Sign-A-Rama, and the WCC Leo's Club.

Thanks also to everyone who participated in the event, we hope you received valuable information and will continue to support local businesses. For information on upcoming Chamber events visit [www.herculeschamber.com](http://www.herculeschamber.com).

## ❑ *Sister City continued from page 13*

The city of Hercules and the city of Tsushima have been closely affiliated with each other since 1981. The HSCA gives its adult members, as well as Hercules' youth, the opportunity to have visits between the two cities, allowing the relationship between these two towns to prosper. The 2008 Japan trip was postponed to the summer of 2009 due to a lack of applicants. This move will also enable students to attend the Tenno Matsuri festival in the future. There will be a trip for 2010, unless otherwise stated by the association.

To apply, interested students must submit an application, a personal essay, and teacher recommendations. After, students and their parents are interviewed. Pre-trip preparations include fundraising to help pay for the cost of the trip and taking Japanese language classes to reduce the language barrier. Rather than finding an application while dusting a library counter, like Ng, or listening to Mrs. Dirk talk about her son's experience with the program, like Redlo, students can contact Sharon Calonico, orchestra director, for applications. As Feurst said, "There's no downside to sending in an application, so why not?"

HHS Junior Sarina Curtis also contributed to this story.

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# HPD Explorer Attends National Academy

One of our very own Police Explorers, Silvia Gutierrez, was accepted to the National Law Enforcement Explorer Academy in Washington DC this past summer. Silvia has always had a strong interest in law enforcement. While attending Heald college, she learned about the Explorer Program, which only a few agencies provide. Silvia called the Hercules Police Department to learn more about how she can become a part of the Explorer program. She was turning twenty at the time and was informed that she could only be in the program until she turned twenty-one. Silvia was not affected by the news. She was still highly interested and motivated to become a part of this explorer post and wanted to gain as much experience as she could within that short amount of time.

Silvia progressed greatly in the explorer program and was soon promoted to the rank of Corporal. She received a variety of awards and was greatly respected by her fellow explorers and police department personnel. Silvia participated in just about every community event hosted by Hercules while attending school and working a full time job. During her tenure, Silvia was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, due to her hard work and commitment to the post. She also successfully tried out for the Explorer Tactical S.W.A.T. team, which is a very challenging task, especially for a new Explorer. In January 2009, she participated in the Chandler Arizona Tactical Swat Competition.



A total of 30 young people attend the U.S. Secret Service Academy and toured Air Force One

Silvia was accepted out of hundreds of applicants to attend the U.S. Secret Service Academy in July 2009. While attending the National Academy, she met with Secret Service Agents, Uniform Division Officers and was exposed to the training that regular Secret Service agents go through. Silvia also met members of the Maryland State Trooper S.W.A.T. Team. She had the opportunity to learn about the duties of canine and park enforcement officers and what it takes to work in the counterfeiting and fraud division. Academy participants also visited the White House, the Security Service Headquarters and the Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier. In addition, Silvia visited the National Law Enforcement Memorial where she presented a wreath to honor fallen officers.

In January 2008, Silvia graduated from Heald College with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She is now attending the Napa Valley College Criminal Justice Basic Police Academy as an Intern. When she graduates next year, she will have the opportunity of being hired as a Reserve Police Officer with the City of Hercules, where she can continue to pursue her law enforcement career. Silvia is still a part of the Hercules Explorer Program as an Explorer Advisor, and currently works part-time while attending the Police Academy. Best of luck Silvia during the academy, we can't wait to have you rejoin the team as a Reserve Officer.



The Academy scheduled was jam packed with training courses in a variety of areas: such as physical fitness, control tactics, and firearms  
Fall 2009  Page 15



Silvia, third from left, was selected among thousands of applications to attend the Academy in Washington D.C.

# Cabalen

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"Spend more time with your family! Let Cabalen do the cooking for you!"



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## What people say about Cabalen...

"I love coming here Saturday or Sunday for breakfast or lunch. Since I don't live with my parents anymore, I barely get the chance to eat a home-cooked Filipino meal. So whenever I am craving rice & tasty Filipino food, I go to Cabalen to fill that void (for a reasonable price). The set up is like a buffet where you point at what you want. This place is also Family owned, & the owners are very friendly & personable. I love getting kare- kare, bangus, mongo etc."  
- KA, Hercules, CA

I love this place. My mom found this restaurant and insisted that I give it a try. The owner and her daughter were serving the food, and they were so friendly! The servings

were good-sized portions. I went there for breakfast once, and it was VERY GOOD. The place is very clean, and it's a comfortable environment. There is a steady stream of people coming through there all the times. My parents love the food here so much that I had Cabalen cater their 60th birthday party!

I definitely recommend it!  
- MR, Vallejo, CA

Excellent Pork Adobo and Pancit! My wife loves this place. Friendly and helpful service. They are happy to answer any questions you may have about the various dishes they offer; all reasonably priced.  
- JC, Richmond, CA

I've only had Filipino food twice before this. Once was a total disaster in L.A. To me, this food tasted like I was sitting in a family kitchen. Now I feel like I've had the real thing, and now I know what the fuss is all about. It took all of about 15 minutes from El Cerrito to the restaurant. I don't know if there is any other reason to come to Rodeo - but perhaps it holds some secret gems. If that is so, then this is one of them.  
- CB, El Cerrito, CA

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<sup>1</sup> Source: 2007 Ad Tracking Study. The survey results are based on 1,216 online interviews with a national random sample of adults (ages 25-54) who are equal decision makers and who have bought or sold a home within the past two years or plan to purchase or sell a home within the next two years. Brand awareness questions are based on a sample of 1,216 respondents with a margin of error of +/- 2.4% at 90% confidence level. The study was conducted between February 19th - October 7th, 2007 by Millward Brown, a leading global market research organization.

<sup>2</sup> CENTURY 21 System has been named one of the leading organizations among residential real estate systems, according to *Training* magazine's "2007 Training Top 125" list.

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# Holiday Safety Tips

## From the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Prevention Bureau

The winter holidays are a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, lots of parties, and a risk of fire.

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District would like to remind you that human error is involved in most home heating fires. December, January, and February are the leading months for home fires as well as home fire deaths in this country. Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. Most of these fires could have been prevented with proper understanding and use of these devices. Review the following safety tips for helping to keep your home and family safe this holiday season.

### Heating Safety Tips:

- When purchasing new heating equipment, be sure to select products that have been tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory and be sure it complies with local fire and building codes.
- Install and maintain heating equipment correctly.
- Place heaters at least 36" away from anything that can burn, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, and people.
- Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.
- Don't leave children or pets unattended w/space heaters.
- Don't attempt to dry clothes or other combustibles over space heaters.
- If the electric cord on a heater is worn or frayed, have the cord replaced by a professional electrician.
- Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season.
- Always use a sturdy screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent sparks from flying out.
- Remember to burn only wood in a fireplace and not trash, trimmings, or cardboard and never use flammable liquids in a fireplace.



### Holiday Lighting:

Take care when burning candles. Be sure they are kept well away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit

candles, and keep candles, matches, and lighters out of

reach of children.

- Never use candles to decorate Christmas trees!
- Never place electric lights on a metal Christmas tree!
- When decorating with lights, use only those labeled by a testing laboratory. (UL Approved) Check for and replace frayed or damaged cords.
- Don't overload electrical outlets and turn off or unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

### Holiday Parties

- Decorate with only flame-retardant or noncombustible materials.
- If your guests smoke, provide them with large deep ash-trays and check them frequently.
- After the party, check inside and under upholstery and trashcans for smoldering cigarette butts.

### Christmas Tree Safety

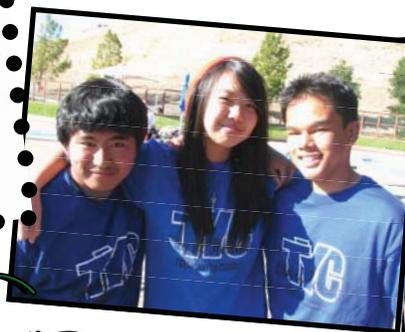
- Choose a fresh Christmas tree and put it in a stand designed not to tip over.
- Keep tree well away from heat sources and exits and water it constantly. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled fire retardant.
- If you hang stockings, live garlands, and combustible decorations over the fireplace, don't use the fireplace however, it is best not to place any combustibles on or near the fireplace opening.



### Kitchen Fire Safety

- Wear tight-fitting clothes when cooking -- loose clothes can be ignited by hot burners.
- Don't leave the kitchen with something cooking on the stovetop and always turn pot handles inward.
- Don't store items on the stovetop - they could catch fire.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Don't use electrical appliances in or near water.

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.



T.Y.C.

# Parent's Night Out!

Do you need some time for holiday shopping?

Have a party to go to or just want the evening to yourself?

Come take advantage of T.Y.C.'s Parents Night Out and get ready for the holidays while your kids have fun.

Kids will participate in group activities, arts & crafts including making a gingerbread house, sports, and much more!

**When:** Friday, December 11, 2009

**Time:** 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Ages:** K-8th Grade

**Where:** The Hercules Teen Center

2007 Refugio Valley Road

**Cost:** \$20 for Residents and  
\$30 for Non-Residents

Fee includes cost of activities and snack.

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, December 7

**For More Information:** Call 510-799-8289



# Responsible Pet Ownership

The City of Hercules has always stressed the importance of responsible pet ownership, but in the past few months, this issue has come to the forefront due to three separate dog attacks. In all three situations, the dogs were 'at large,' meaning they were not leashed or locked up in the backyard. One of these incidents even resulted in the death of the dog that was attacked.

Due to the recent attacks, the Police Department is reviewing the City's municipal code, which incorporates the County's animal ordinance, to prevent future attacks of this nature. It is an unfortunate reality that irresponsible owners put responsible owners' pets at risk. In September and October, the Police Department held meetings to hear from residents about what changes they would recommend to protect owners and their pets. The public safety sub-committee is now considering those suggestions and will submit their recommendation to the City Manager and City Council in the coming weeks. Updates will be posted on website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us) as they become available.

The City also wants to take this opportunity to remind ALL dog owners, that dogs are required to be re-

strained, unless the animal is on private property or in an authorized off-leash area, such as a dog park. A dog that is not restrained is considered 'at large' and may be impounded by the Contra Costa Animal Services Department and the owner may be fined. Furthermore, if an animal is determined by the Contra Costa Animal Services Department to be dangerous, it may be euthanized by the department. This was the action taken in the case of the August 20th dog attack.

The City and Police Department take these incidents very seriously and need your assistance. If you see a loose dog, please call the Contra Costa Animal Services Department at 925-335-8300 or Hercules police dispatch at 510-724-1111. Please take this opportunity to save the police dispatch number in your cell phone, if you have not done so already.

Even if your dog is well-behaved, another unfriendly dog may be in the area. If you are with your dog and see another loose dog, please try to avoid the other dog. Calling Animal Services and providing them with as much information about the dog's location and description will help them locate the animal and keep you and your animal safe.

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**CARNE ASADA** (steak) 6.25

(rice, beans, sour cream and grilled salsa)

**CAMARONES** (tiger prawn) or

**CARNITAS** 7.75

(rice, beans, grilled salsa, sour cream, and avocado)

**VEGETARIAN** 4.75



**GUACAMOLE** 4.50



## TAMALE 3.50

Homemade pork tamale topped with mole, lettuce and cheese

Add rice & beans 6.50

## SOUTHWEST LUMPIA

com, black beans, bell pepper, onion and grilled chicken complimented with sweet/spicy chili 3 / 5.00



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Your choice of Steak, Chicken, or Camarones (Tiger Prawns) combined with red/green bell peppers and sliced onion. Includes sour cream, lettuce, cheese, salsa, guacamole and tortillas.

Served with rice & beans.

**CHICKEN OR CARNE ASADA** 11.95

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# Introducing the Hercules Chamber of Commerce-A First Choice Resource

“The Hercules Chamber of Commerce mission is to advocate the common business interests and general welfare of all members, regardless of size; to foster and promote a healthy, ethical, competitive business climate; and to enhance the quality of life in our community.”  
*So, what does this mean to the residents of Hercules?*

In survey after survey, the residents of Hercules have said that they want more retail stores, more organizations that create local jobs, and more services in our town. The Chamber of Commerce has a role to help facilitate and to promote these businesses. If residents want more businesses, they will need to support these local vendors to assure their economic viability. Businesses need residents; residents want businesses!

The Chamber is in the process of upgrading its website, [www.herculeschamber.com](http://www.herculeschamber.com), with the goal of making it a first choice resource for a resident who needs to find a business or service. For example, you moved to Hercules two years ago and never established yourself with a local dentist. Now you have a toothache and need to find a dentist. The Chamber has several dentists as members; you can visit the “members” section of the website and find a listing of these dentists. Is it time for your teenager to get a checking account or debit card? Several local Chamber member banks have programs specifically targeted for teens. Your furnace will not come on and you need a repair? Do you need a smog check, a document notarized, or a computer repaired? The list is endless...

Did you know that there are many home based businesses in Hercules? If you want to learn more about them, the Chamber of Commerce is a first choice resource.

The Chamber also participates in many community service projects that enhance the quality of life in Hercules. Some of these projects include co-sponsoring with the City of Hercules, the July 4th parade; conducting a mock interviewing program at Hercules High School; hosting a candidates night during City Council election cycles; participating in the City Community Update in April, the Cultural Festival in June, and the City-wide Clean-Up day in November; and hosting an Annual Awards Dinner to recognize outstanding individuals and businesses in Hercules.

As a resident of Hercules you do not need to own a business to find value in your Chamber of Commerce. We are a resource for you; we are here to help you.



Chamber Director Michael Sailer (right) presenting D'Lorenza Floral owner Cheri Soriano-Escalante and her parents their first \$5 at the grand opening in May



North Shore Dental Dentists Betty Fong, Yvonne Chu-Hyland and Registered Dental Assistant Janika McClough receiving 2009 Business of the Year Award



The Chamber participates in a variety of events every year including the West County Expo in Pinole

# *Pinole Hercules Little League*

Baseball / Softball / Tee Ball / Challenger

Ages 5-18



## 2010 Season Registration Information

### REGISTRATION FEES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

League Web Site: [www.phllca4.org](http://www.phllca4.org)

League Hotline: 510-433-9943

**Check the web site or call our hotline for registration dates and more information!!**

### LEAGUE ORIENTATION

A parent or guardian is required to attend a 15 minute League Orientation prior to registration.

### RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Player members of Pinole Hercules Little League must have proof of residency and live within Pinole, Hercules, or the unincorporated areas of Montalvin, Bayview, Tara Hills, or the areas of Richmond/El Sobrante that are bound by east of Interstate 80, north of San Pablo Dam Road, and west of Castro Ranch Road.

### PROOF OF RESIDENCY

A **VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH PICTURE** (showing current address) **AND one of the following:** Utility Bill, (with statement showing actual resident, which must be the same as Driver's License), Internet Service, Voter Registration or Property Tax Statement.

### PROOF OF AGE

**Original Birth Certificate** or a **Certified Copy** of the **Original Birth Certificate** is required.

# Code Compliance Corner

The City of Hercules Building Division is happy to launch a new informational column called “The Code Compliance Corner.” The column will address frequently asked questions concerning code enforcement, building permit issuance and requirements, and inspections.

One of our department’s main objectives is to gain voluntary compliance whenever possible in an effort to avoid the need for legal action. Code enforcement works with citizens through one-on-one discussions, informational handouts, and home inspections, which all result in new working relationships and neighborhoods which are cleaner and better maintained.

Over the past year, there have been numerous requests for explanation of courtesy notices left on doors and warning tags left on cars. We’d like to use this first Code Compliance Corner to help clarify why the notices and warnings were given, and what needs to be done to comply with the request. It should be noted that although these are requests for compliance, they are based on the City’s municipal code and do require action on the part of the person receiving them to avoid further action.

One of the most frequently asked questions is regarding cars parked



Code Enforcement Officers, Kelly Frerichs and Ernie Visconti assist with Neighborhood Clean Up Program

in residential driveways. The City of Hercules Municipal Code requires that all vehicles parked in the front driveway must be both currently registered and in operable condition. Vehicles that are inoperable, whether registered or not, and vehicles with expired registration tags are not permitted to be parked in public view. Vehicles with expired registration tags are considered to be inoperable, since they cannot legally be driven on the streets. Vehicles that fall into these categories must be parked in the garage or in a side or rear yard and must be screened from view. Placing a car cover over the vehicle is not an acceptable alternative, since the vehicle is still in the front driveway.



Inoperable vehicles and vehicles with expired registration can not be parked in public view

It is the responsibility of the property owner and/or the vehicle owner to make the vehicle operable or remove it from the driveway.

The second most frequently asked question is related to holiday lighting. Although holiday lighting is not specifically addressed in the municipal code, it is covered by the requirements of the California Electrical Code which is adopted by the City of Hercules. The Code states that holiday lighting use shall not exceed 90 days, and must be removed when not in use. These requirements are based on the likelihood of a hazard due to the continued exposure to the outside environment. The wire can become brittle and crack, and when exposed to inclement weather may short out and cause an electrical fire.



Holiday lights can become a fire hazard when exposed to the elements for long periods of time

In addition, Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL) has tested and labeled the wiring, advising that lights be used a maximum of 90 days. If the manufacturer’s recommendations are not adhered to, a fire may result and your insurance company might even refuse to pay the claim.

Thanks to the hard work of our conscientious citizens, a welcomed new trend seems to have emerged. Neighbors are working to maintain the appearance of their homes and yards and as a result, they’re improving their neighborhoods. It is gratifying to see residents weeding, trimming, mowing and painting. As one happy person commented, “I have lived in this neighborhood for 15 years and this is the first time I have seen so many neighbors out working in their yards.” We would like to commend Herculeans for doing their part in making and keeping Hercules a beautiful city.

The “Code Compliance Corner” will be a continuing segment in each edition of The Herculean and we hope you take advantage of it. If you would like more information about the building division, file a complaint, or submit a question to the “Code Compliance Corner” please contact us at: 510-799-8244 or visit [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us).

# EASTBAY Works Rapid Response Team

*If your company is experiencing cutbacks and layoffs, call your Rapid Response Team.*

*This no cost service will assist you and your employees during this critical time.*

In Contra Costa County, 85 percent of the business community is made up of small businesses, many of which are being forced to layoff employees to survive the current economic conditions. To assist businesses owners and employees with layoffs, the county's Rapid Response Team provides free outplacement resources and services to help displaced workers get back to work with minimal downtime.

The Rapid Response Team urges businesses to contact them regarding employee layoffs as soon as possible. They will work with you to schedule an on-site presentation for your employees about job search, job training, academic and career assessment, career planning and other services available at EASTBAY Works One Stop Career Centers. Information about obtaining unemployment insurance and other organizations and agencies that can help workers smoothly transition back into the workforce is also provided.

The resources provided through the Rapid Response Program assist businesses and dislocated workers during a critical time. Contact your Rapid Response representative, Susie O'Bryant at (925) 671-4542 or [Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us) for details. Additional information about EASTBAY Works and its partners can be found at [www.eastbayworks.com](http://www.eastbayworks.com).

If individuals are moving out of the area, One Stop Career Centers are located throughout California and the nation. More information can be found at [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org) by simply entering a zip code or city.



## What to Do with the Yard Waste Cart?

Have you ever wondered what to place in your **Green Cart**? To reduce garbage and save landfill space, yard waste is collected from residents and businesses in Hercules. Place all organic materials (yard waste) directly into your 65-gallon green cart. Do not place material in plastic bags. For more information call: (510) 262-7100 or visit [www.recyclemore.com](http://www.recyclemore.com)



### **YES (acceptable items):**

- grass clippings, leaves & flowers
- weeds, yard trimmings
- pine needles
- unpainted wood
- tree branches (no longer than 3 feet)
- fruits & vegetables (uncooked)

### **No (unacceptable items):**

- plastic bags
- garbage
- rocks, soil, or concrete
- plastic, metal, paper, or glass
- pet waste or manure
- hazardous materials

Brought to you by the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority

# Strengthening Sister City Ties

On November 5, 1981, The City of Hercules entered into an official sister city relationship with Tsushima, Japan. Representatives from Tsushima had heard about Hercules because of our state of the art wastewater treatment plant and were interested in the new technologies we were using. Since Hercules was also interested in forming a partnership with another city, the Sister City friendship was formed.



The 2009 Tsushima Delegation after a demonstration from the Hercules Police Department

Over the years, the two cities have strengthened their bond of friendship through cultural exchanges and delegation visits to the respective cities. Home-stays with host families have enriched the experiences of delegation members to Tsushima and vice-versa. The sister city relationship requires a team of volunteers dedicated to maintaining the friendship and partnering with other volunteers who live thousands a miles away. These volunteers are key for any sister city relationship to be prosperous.

In witnessing the successful sister city relationship between Tsushima and Hercules, members of the community have expressed the desire for the City of Hercules to consider entering into a second official sister city relationship.

In response, the Hercules City Council formed the Sister City Exploration Committee to serve in the capacity of an advisory board. The Committee is currently exploring the possibilities of the city forming a second sister city relationship and the possibility of additional sister city relationships in the future. The Committee is seeking input from the Hercules community to incorporate more ideas into their recommendations.

If you have suggestions of possible sister cities or thoughts about forming additional sister city relationships, please consider the following questions:

- 1) What international city would be a good candidate for a sister city relationship with Hercules and why?
- 2) Have you heard of any interest from your suggested city to form a relationship with Hercules?
- 3) What role would you play in bringing that official sister city relationship to fruition?
- 4) The success of a sister city relationship relies on the commitment of those involved to keep the momentum going. If the city you suggest is selected as a sister city for Hercules, how will you continue to support that relationship?
- 5) Would you be interested in assisting with the current sister city relationship Hercules has with that of Tsushima, Japan?

Please submit your responses to the Hercules Sister City Association Staff Liaison, Phyllis Decena, by email at [pdecena@ci.hercules.ca.us](mailto:pdecena@ci.hercules.ca.us) or U.S. Mail at 111 Civic Drive, Hercules, CA 94547, by November 30, 2009.



**You're Invited!**  
**to the annual**  
**Senior Holiday Luncheon**

*Brought to you by the*

**Hercules Lions Club**

**The WCC Leo Club**

*Co-Sponsored by*

*The City of Hercules, The Christmas Coalition &  
Home Instead Senior Care*

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 13, 2009

**WHERE:** Hercules Community Center  
2001 Refugio Valley Road  
Hercules, CA 94547

**TIME:** 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

***Food, Entertainment and Gifts for all Seniors!!!***

*Bring an unwrapped toy for the Leo Club toy drive*

*For information & reservations, call 510-799-5620 by December 1st*

# THE HERCULEAN

## Advertising Contract

Please complete and return pages 1 and 2 of the advertising contract.

### 1. DESIGN:

- CAMERA-READY color advertisement
- SUBMIT ADVERTISEMENT on a CD or via e-mail. Ad returned only upon request.

### 2. UPCOMING ARTICLE SUBMITTAL DUE DATES:

- Spring** Friday, January 22, 2010 (March publication)
- Summer** Friday, May 28, 2009 (July publication)
- Fall** Friday, September 24, 2009 (November publication)

### 3. ADVERTISEMENT SIZES AND COST:

Please select one of the following advertisement sizes:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Inside-Eighth Page</b>                | (3 1/2" W x 1 1/2" H) | \$175.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Inside-Half Page</b>                  | (7" W x 4 1/2" H)     | \$325.00 |
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\* Hercules Community Non-Profit organizations recognized by the Hercules Community/Library Services Commission will receive a FREE one page ad per calendar year. Increased rates effective July 1, 2009.

### 4. METHOD OF PAYMENTS:

- Check or money order (please make payable to the City of Hercules)
- Master Card or Visa (credit card payments must be made in person at City Hall ). As of 7/25/07, per City Council Resolution No. 07-116, processing of credit card payments will include an additional \$2.00 per \$100 or increment thereof.

### 5. MAIL PAYMENT AND AD TO:

City of Hercules  
111 Civic Drive  
Hercules, CA 94547  
Attention: Herculean Advertising  
Phone: (510) 245-6533 Fax: (510) 799-2521

# THE HERCULEAN Advertising Contract

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ADDRESS

STREET

STATE/ZIP CODE

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PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

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CONTACT PERSON

PHONE

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YES

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SIGNATURE

DATE

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FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

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DATE PAYMENT RECEIVED

DATE AD RECEIVED

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SIGNATURE

TITLE



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3BD/2.5BA IN COUNTRY RUN  
BEAUTIFUL INSIDE  
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**HERCULES SHORT SALE**  
3BD/2.5BA + LOFT WITH OVER  
2,000 SQ FT. MODEL HOME WITH  
MANY UPGRADES.  
*WebID:W01155134*



**HERCULES SHORT SALE**  
3BD/2.5BA  
**PRICED AT ONLY \$270,000**  
*WebID:W01155150*



**HERCULES SHORT SALE**  
3BD/2.5BA **SOLD IN 2 WEEKS!**  
**FOR ONLY \$275,000**  
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**RICHMOND SHORT SALE**  
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