

The Herculean

City of Hercules Information Brochure
Fall 2008



*T.E.S.T. Workers contribute to City
Improvements*

See Page 1 for Full Story



fcj

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**CITY HALL HOURS:
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8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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For additional information, please visit the City website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us

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.

Joanne Ward, Mayor	Charleen Raines
Joe Eddy McDonald, Vice Mayor	Kris Valstad
Ed Balico	

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

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

Community Services Commission 799-8293
Meets the second Monday of each month.

Cletia Hart	Virgilio dela Vega
Timothy Yan	Howard Holt
Susan Marie Lee	Open
Janice Leighton Armah	

Hercules Library Commission 799-8239
Meets the third Thursday of each month.

Andrew Walters	Bruce MacAulay
A.R. Weinstein	Rosalind dela Vega
Sherry Madfes	Sid Shapiro
John Mills	

Education Commission 799-8254
Currently dormant, recruitment will begin in February 2009

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For more info call 799-8291

T.E.S.T. Workers Paint the Town Green

Have you noticed the picnic tables looking a little shinier, the fences a little brighter, the streets a little cleaner and the grass a little greener? If you have, you are not alone. The Public Works Department's T.E.S.T. (Teen Employment Summer Training) workers have been busy cleaning, painting and scrubbing to keep our City looking beautiful. Every summer the City of Hercules hires several young people to work in the Public Works Department and assist with general maintenance and special projects.

The program focuses on keeping our city looking bright while giving young adults the opportunity to earn some extra summer cash. This summer the workers have been doing graffiti clean up, and tons of painting including fences, picnic tables and curbs. The benefits for the City are tremendous but there are many benefits to the young people as well. Jeff Brown, Public Works Inspector, emphasizes these benefits saying, "We teach them about having pride in your work and help them develop a strong work ethic. The program also provides a safe environment for them to learn basic skills that will help them succeed in whatever path they may take."

The program goes for 12 weeks throughout the summer and each teen works 32 hours a week. When asked what was his favorite part of the program, Mike Wright said, "Working with friends and helping out Hercules, helping make it a better environment for everyone." Another worker, Briahna Araujo said the project that has been most challenging was "cleaning up the graffiti on the 10 ft. wall by the Senior Center in the heat of the day!" The other workers who were standing nearby nodded in agreement. The wall has lots of rivets and groves which made this graffiti removal project particularly difficult for the group.

City Staff in both the Public Works Department and Parks and Recreation Department have been especially pleased with the workers this year. Public Works Maintenance Worker, Eric Wright has overseen the TEST Program since 1998 and says "This is the best group of workers we've ever had; the quality of work gets better and better. The benefits of the T.E.S.T. program are tremendous for both the department and the City." Pedro Jimenez, who started as a T.E.S.T. worker and is now a Recreation Program Manager, agreed saying, "they have accomplished a lot of projects this year, without them there are a lot of projects or issues that would get over looked or not completed as quickly." Public Works Director Erwin Blancflor spoke highly of the program saying, "The work they do is of great benefit to our residents and the community. I am pleased to have a program that gives young adults work experience while helping to keep our City clean and beautiful."



On Cover (from left to right): TEST Supervisor David Quesada, TEST Workers: Ryan Da-Camara-Canto, Simone Braxton, Karess Myrick, Gustavo Villasenor Jr., Mike Tran, and Michael Wright

The New Herculean

Over the years, the City of Hercules has dedicated itself to timely and accurate communication with its' residents. The Herculean publication is an important part of this communication effort. However, in 2005, due to budget constraints, the City changed the number of publications it released each year from four to two. While the change has helped to reduce overall costs, the decrease has also made it difficult to achieve the City's goal of timely and effective communication.

In an effort to balance costs with getting information to residents, the City has changed the format of the Herculean and approved the addition of a new publication called Parks & Recreation Activity Guide. The Herculean will remain a semi-annual

publication, but will be smaller and formatted more like a newsletter. The Parks & Recreation Activity Guide will be distributed three times a year (August, January and May) and will contain Parks and Recreation class schedules, fees and program offerings. The City will continue to distribute the Hercules Re:development newsletter and Eye on Hercules city newsletter.

This publication change will result in a total of six newsletters and three Parks & Recreation Activity Guides going out to residents and businesses each year. This is a substantial increase from the four Herculean publications that have been distributed in previous years. The combination of publications will make communica-

tion with residents faster and easier than ever before.

In addition, the City recently launched a new website to further assist residents with staying up to date with what is happening in our great city. One of the best communication features on the new website is called eNotice, an automated notification system that will send an email to the individual when important information is posted. To sign up for eNotice, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us and click on the eNotice Sign Up box. If you have any questions about these publications or the website, please contact Michelle Harrington, Community Relations Officer, at 510-245-6533.



Enjoy photography?

Have some time to spare?

Want to give back?

Join our Community Photo Team! The Community Photo Project is a historical and artistic endeavor to take pictures of Hercules families that showcase the diversity of our wonderful community. Team members are asked to contribute 4-6 hours a month and will oversee all aspects of the Community Photo Project including the photography, administration and printing of the photos.

The City is currently building a list of interested individuals, so if you would like to participate or just want to learn more, **call 510-245-6533.**



Frog Pad Park Nearing Completion



The final touches are being put on Frog Pad Park, located at Willet and Sycamore in between the Baywood and Promenade neighborhoods. The 0.9 acre park contains two play structures, a large covered picnic area and walking path. The landscape architects, Design, Community, and Environment of Berkeley, designed circular play areas to resemble lily pads and incorporated lots of greenery to intertwine the natural elements of the nearby creek and wetlands.

The park is set up to be a big hit with kids. The larger play area contains a play structure which has two slides, a loop pole, swivel station, and climbing wall. The smaller play area, also referred to as the “tot lot,” contains two bucket swings and a smaller play structure for children ages 2-5 created specifically for the size and skill level of younger children.

Safety is always a top priority for the City when designing a play area or park. To help prevent injury, a rubberized surface has been placed beneath both play structures. A wooden fence and perimeter landscaping also help to keep children from running out of the park and into the street.

The large trellis pergola, made out of solid redwood, covers four round picnic tables and is centrally located between the two play structures. Park-goers can enjoy a picnic lunch, relax in the shade of the pergola or take a walk on the walking trail which circles a large, grassy area.



Along the walking trail you will find a memorial tree and plaque to honor the Chinese dynamite plant workers’ who dedicated their service and risked their lives despite discrimination. The memorial tree, a 36” box Gingko, was chosen by the collaborative efforts of the City of Hercules, the Hercules Chinese Association and Hercules Historical Society. Ginkgo trees have ancient roots in Eastern China. Leaf fossils have been discovered which date back to the Permian period, over 270 million years ago. The tree has distinctive fan shaped leaves and a beautiful combination of large and small branches. The plaque below the tree is sponsored by the two local organizations in memory of the Chinese dynamite plant workers. Park visitors are encouraged to enjoy the beauty of the tree and take a moment to reflect on the diligence and

service of those fallen workers who contribute to an important era of our City’s history.



The grand opening of the park is scheduled for mid-September so make sure to check the City’s website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us for the time and date.

Code Compliance Remains High Priority

The City of Hercules has been experiencing many changes lately due to the slow down in the economy. Subdivisions with new single-family homes have begun to be built out with no plans for new developments to begin soon. The City of Hercules experienced unprecedented growth in the past few years and continues to work toward approval of multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments such as the Sycamore Downtown Project which will include 96 residential units and 40,000 square feet of retail space. Many other exciting projects are planned for the City in the future including the Waterfront District and New Town Center. For more information on these projects please call the Planning Division at 510-245-6529.

The City continues to dedicate itself to ensuring the new structures built within the City meet the requirements of the California Construction Codes and are safe for the occupants. In addition, due to the slow economy, the City is now able to focus additional attention to maintaining existing properties with a proactive approach through the code enforcement process.

One of the changes that is evident to the City of Hercules is the obvious increase in foreclosure properties. These are trying times for many citizens who are burdened with properties falling into disrepair next door to them and in their neighborhoods. The City of Hercules is aware of these conditions and is trying to respond as quickly as possible to ensure they are taken care of. Many of these properties are abandoned by the owners and are not identified until they fall into disrepair and are brought to the attention of the City by its citizens. If you see a property that needs attention, please call 510-245-6526. The link to code enforcement can also be found by clicking on the Building Division tab at the City's new website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.

The City of Hercules has also hired a new Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector to address the increase in activity. The new hire should began enforcement activities in August and will work with the City's current Officer to start targeting foreclosure properties and provide general code enforcement.

Previous Herculean articles have discussed Code Enforcement and the desire of the City to increase enforcement. Activity since those articles has increased substantially and will continue to be increased until an acceptable level of compliance is achieved. The City's new website has a list of the most common violations encountered by staff and can be used as a checklist to be sure your property is in compliance.

Some of the items discussed on the website that are considered a violation include:

- Garbage containers in public view;
- Discarded furniture, appliances, litter, debris, and junk;
- Weeds;
- Graffiti;
- Inoperable vehicles;
- Improper storage of recreational vehicles.

Please check your property, be a good neighbor, and report non-compliant properties.

Parks Receive Summer Makeover



Woodfield Tennis Court



Refugio Valley Tennis Facility Picnic Area



Woodfield Baseball Diamond



Foxboro Basketball Court

Refugio Valley, Woodfield and Foxboro parks all received a summer makeover. In 2007, the City was awarded a State Parks Grant to address the enhancement and rehabilitation of some of our parks. New picnic areas were added and older picnic areas cleaned up. Water fountains were installed and even a doggie fountain is now easily accessible on the Refugio Valley Park walking trail.

One of the highlights of the summer project was the addition of two tennis courts at Woodfield Park. The area was converted from tennis courts into a skate park back in the late 1990s, but has not had a designated purpose since the skate park was closed. The heavy usage at Refugio Valley encouraged the City to add the additional facilities at Woodfield once again. The city now has three tennis court locations: Woodfield, Foxboro and Refugio Valley parks. Each court will have a message board installed to let residents know about the other tennis facilities and upcoming recreation events. The three tennis court areas also received resurfacing and new signage. The Refugio Valley tennis courts had originally been resurfaced last November, but were damaged due to heavy spring rain. The damage was repaired and the courts were resurfaced again this past May, so if you haven't had a chance to see them since then, make sure to stop by.

Another highlight was the work completed at the baseball field and basketball courts at Woodfield Park. The baseball backstop was replaced, the dugout retaining walls were excavated and a new keystone wall was put in behind each dugout. The retaining walls on the basketball courts received similar keystone walls and the surface of the courts were resealed and restriped. The Foxboro basketball courts were also resealed and restriped making the courts much more enjoyable for park-goers.

Being the largest and oldest park in Hercules, Refugio Valley Park was granted the most extensive renovations. Three new picnic areas have been created in the main park, including 10 tables and 3 BBQ pits, and another new picnic area, with 2 picnic tables and 2 BBQ pits has been created near the tennis courts. This brings the total number of picnic areas for the park and tennis courts up to 6. The walking trail was resurfaced and a fence was installed between the trail and the creek to help prevent erosion of land into the creek. The fence, along with brand new security lighting, also helps protect park visitors. In addition, the City's T.E.S.T. workers repainted all the existing picnic tables and trash receptacles. A few additions and a lot of renovations have added an extra sparkle to our parks. The much needed picnic and tennis facilities are already being used by residents and can be enjoyed by the community for years to come.

Police Explorers Are Painting Curbs



How many times have you opened your door after a knock and seen someone there, waiving a pamphlet in your face, telling you they are a non-profit organization painting curbs? Where does your money really go? How do you know they are who they say they are? The Hercules Police Explorer Post #2111 is the answer to your questions. They have been recruited by City Manager Nelson Oliva and the Public Works Department to take on the job of painting house numbers on curbs in the front of every Hercules home. The project is expected to take six to seven months and will be a great way for the Explorers to earn money by serving the community they love.

Police Explorers are a division of the Boy Scouts of America focusing more on Law Enforcement related aspects. The program is for young men and women ages 14-21 years old who are currently enrolled in school. They must maintain a 2.5 grade point average and have no criminal history. The training they receive helps them become responsible, productive adults even if they decide Law Enforcement is not their ultimate interest. Many of the principles the Explorers learn such as pride, integrity and teamwork, will serve them well for any career path they take.

Every year the Hercules Police Explorers earn money by holding carwashes, garage sales and seeking donations. Training academies, equipment, uniforms, travel, competition entry fees and field trips all have considerable costs and the funds earned cover many of these expenses. Every January, the Explorers attend a national tactical competition in Chandler, Arizona. They also have the chance to go to Washington D.C. to attend a training academy hosted by the FBI. These very popular programs have become more and more expensive every year.

The curb painting project is funded by the city however, any donations to the Hercules Police Explorers would be greatly appreciated. With an active group of 25 Explorers (and growing), the curb painting project is another way the Explorers can earn funds while providing a valuable service to the community. At the same time, residents can feel good knowing their tax dollars are going to a worth while program which serves to guide our youth responsibly.

If you would like to make a donation or find out more about the Hercules Police Explorer program, please call Cpl. Abetkov of the Hercules Police Department at 510-799-8276 ext. 3038.



Officer Recognition

2008/09 Officer of the Year



When the Hercules Police Officers Association was asked to select the Police Officer of the Year for 2008/09 their membership was quick to respond. Officer Billy Beason (pictured left) was chosen for this honor by an overwhelming majority of his peers.

Beason is a four year veteran of the Hercules Police Department. Before joining the force he worked in the home improvement industry and as a martial arts instructor. He joined the department in 2004 as a reserve officer and became a full time officer six months later.

Officer Beason enjoys a reputation of being one of the hardest working, most proactive members of the department. One of his fellow officers said, "Working with Officer Beason is always enjoyable. When he is working, I know I have a teammate that I can count on through any situation." When not responding to calls, Officer Beason spends his time at work looking for suspicious vehicles or activities. His inquisitiveness often results in discovering crimes not yet reported and solving reported crimes. This was the case earlier this year when he "connected the dots" on an extensive vandalism case.

Beason enjoys bicycling, woodworking and playing golf in his free time. He is a deserving recipient of this recognition by his peers.

School Resource Officers Honored by County Group

Hercules School Resource Officers Ian Baisas and Earnest Taylor were honored at a recent awards ceremony for their efforts to combat juvenile delinquency. The Contra Costa County Juvenile Justice-Delinquency Commission designated both officers as award winners for their work during 2007 at their annual awards program held on May 17th. It was only fitting that both officers were unable to attend the ceremony due to time commitments with their own families.

Officer Taylor (pictured right) joined the Hercules Police Department in 2002 and became the department's first School Resource Officer in 2004. Shortly after getting settled Officer Taylor brought the SQUIRES (San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources) Program to Hercules High School. This program facilitates visits by at-risk youths and parents to San Quentin State Prison. Officer Taylor also obtained funding from the Contra Costa Police Association and established a youth mentoring program at Franklin Canyon Golf Course.



Officer Baisas (pictured left) is a ten year veteran of the department. He recently completed studies for his Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Mary's College in Management. Officer Baisas became the second Hercules School Resource Officer in September 2006, joining Officer Taylor at Hercules Middle High School.

Officer Taylor left his assignment as School Resource Officer and began duties as Corporal on a patrol team. His successor at the school is Officer Joe Vasquez. Officer Baisas is tentatively scheduled to rotate out of the school as well in December of this year. Both will be missed by those they worked with at the school.

Hercules Municipal Utility (HMU) Goes *Green!*

Hercules Municipal Utility is proud to report that 100% of the energy it uses comes from renewable sources such as solar, wind or geothermal. In the last few years, the State of California has passed several mandates requiring investor owned utilities, such as PG&E and Edison, to include green energy in their respective portfolios. The mandate requires these utilities to have 20% of their portfolio from renewable sources by year 2010 and 30% by year 2020. While some companies may struggle to meet these mandates, the HMU has surpassed all mandated legislation and gone 100% green.

The mandates for municipal utilities, such as HMU, are even less stringent, but the City Council has taken a proactive approach of being good custodians of the environment and placed an emphasis on reducing the carbon footprint of the utility. There are legislation proposals that will eventually mandate municipal utilities with similar renewable energy requirements, but the HMU is far ahead of any potential requirements and will continue to seek new ways to be an industry leader.

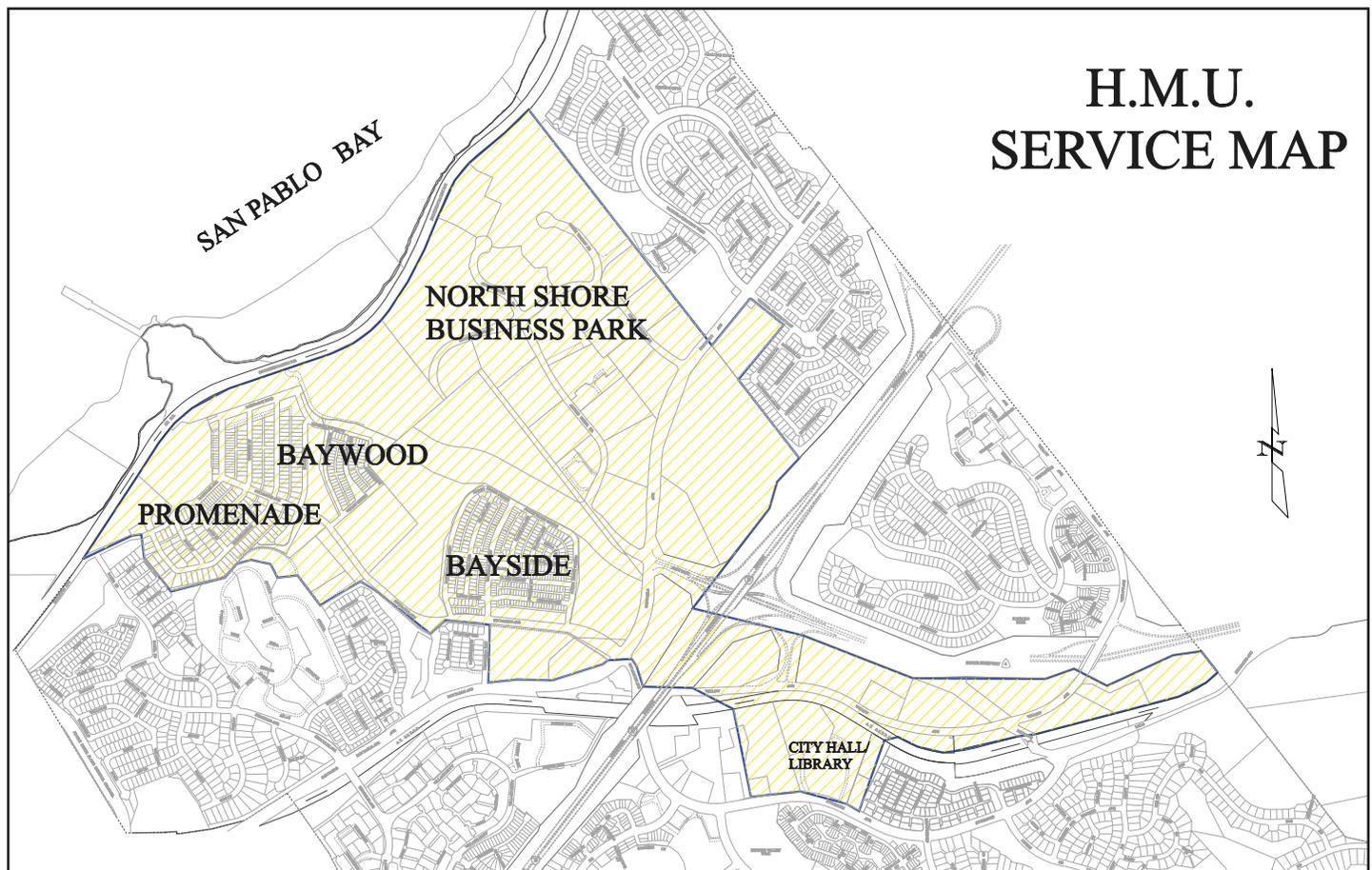
Most of the mandates are being enforced in an effort to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions into the atmosphere. CO₂, also known as greenhouse gas (GHG), is the main culprit in the global warming phenomenon. Renewable energy projects help the environment in two main ways:

1. They produce low or zero carbon emissions
2. They reduce the need for fossil fuel energy

When these projects generate electricity from the wind, sunlight, etc., they release very little or no greenhouse gases. This helps fight global warming.

Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels helps more than the environment — it also reduces our dependence on oil from foreign sources.

To quantify the amount of CO₂ emissions HMU conserved this past year (i.e. avoided CO₂ getting in the atmosphere) was to the tune of 14,658 tons of CO₂!



Hercules/Pinole Tip-A-Cop Event Raises Funds for Special Olympics



The 2008 Hercules/Pinole Tip-A-Cop event was a great success. The Hercules and Pinole Police Departments partnered with Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Uniformed police officers from both departments donated their off duty time to serve patrons at the Pinole restaurant and raised over \$2,000 in tips. Each Officer was paired with a regular server and the tips that were collected by the officers were above and beyond the regular tips given to the server.

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities

to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. Special Olympics began in 1962 with its' first Olympic event in 1968. Today, the organization has grown to over 2.5 million athletes in more than 180 countries around the world.

During the Tip-A-Cop event, the officers were responsible for taking orders, bringing drinks, clearing plates and performing all the typical responsibilities of a restaurant server. Many patrons came to dinner that night just for the event while others were pleasantly surprised to find their local officers serving them in such a unique way.

The restaurant was packed with patrons, officers, and servers and the evening was full of energy and excitement. The Hercules Police Department (HPD) would like to thank all of the diners who participated and the Applebee's staff who ensured the event went off without a hitch. HPD looks forward to another great event next summer and hopes to see even more residents come out and support this great cause.





HEALTHY EATING HABITS PLAY A ROLE IN EYE HEALTH

In honor of Save Your Vision Month, celebrated each March, the doctor and staff at Bright Eyes Optometry remind residents in the city of Hercules about the importance of healthy eating habits for optimum eye health.

More than 22 million Americans suffer from cataracts and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the two leading causes of visual loss and blindness. "Because cataracts require costly surgery and treatment options for AMD are currently limited, preventive measures play a particularly important role in maintaining good eye health," said Dr. Janet Chan.

Based on research by the National Eye Institute, in addition to countless clinical trials, studies and surveys, there is a positive correlation between good nutrition and the prevention of AMD and cataracts. Studies have suggested that by eating foods rich in six nutrients -- antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin, beta carotene, vitamin C, vitamin E and zinc -- you can protect your eyes from disease. In other words, healthy eating habits can mean healthy eyes.

So, what type of foods are EYE HEALTHY? If you are familiar with the link between carrots and good eye health, then you have done some homework. Let's explore other foods that can benefit your eyes. These are foods that contain the six key nutrients for eye health.

Most fruits and vegetables are great sources of vitamin C, including oranges, grapefruit, strawberries, papaya, green peppers and tomatoes.

Vitamin E is more difficult to obtain from food sources, since it is found in very small quantities. However, good food sources include vegetable oils (safflower and corn oil), almonds, pecans, wheat germ and sunflower seeds.

Beta-carotene is present in dark green leafy vegetables (spinach!), deep orange or yellow fruits (carrots, mangoes, sweet potatoes, cantaloupe, apricots, and peaches), vegetables and fortified cereals.

Lutein and zeaxanthin are found together in many food sources. Dark green leafy vegetables are the primary sources of lutein and zeaxanthin (kale, collard greens and spinach), but they are also present in lesser amount in other colorful fruits and vegetables, such as broccoli, orange peppers, corn, peas, persimmons and tangerines.

Good food sources of zinc include meat, liver, shellfish, milk, whole grains and wheat germ.

Eating healthy for your eyes could be the most promising means of protecting your eyes from AMD and cataracts. In addition, planning menus rich in the nutrients described above can mean better overall health for you and your family. Consider eating eye healthy foods and gain benefits for your whole body.

Dr. Janet Chan has been serving the eye care needs of Hercules families since 1999. Her office is located at 500 Alfred Nobel Dr. Suite #138 Hercules, CA 94547.

Please feel free to contact the office with any questions at (510) 724-1000 or visit us on the web at www.bright-eyesoptometry.com

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Anniversary Celebration at the Powder Keg: 08.18.08



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Market • May 2008



4th of July 2007



Founders' Breakfast Launching • August 2007

Hercules Public Library • www.DynamicReferralGroup.com
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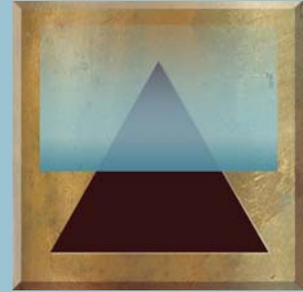
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www.smilespecialists.net

NORTH SHORE DENTAL

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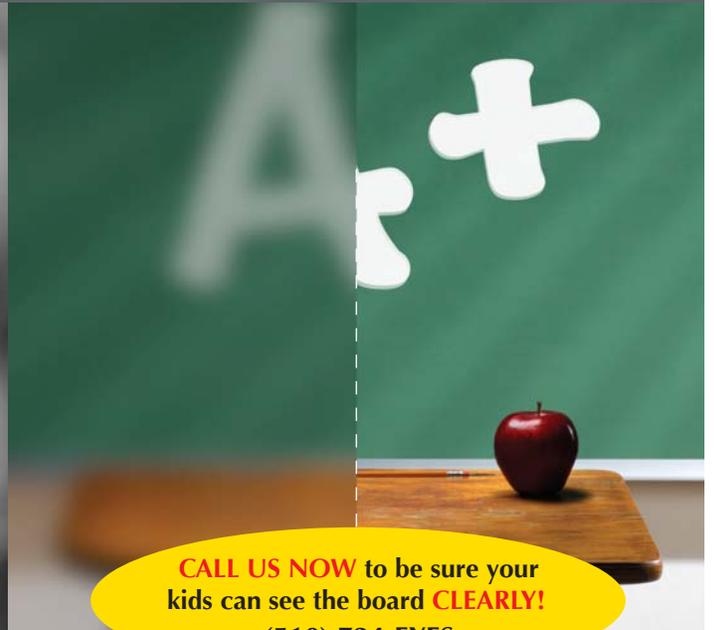


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BY THE BAY

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OPTOMETRIST

Radstons Celebrates 100 Years



Party-Goers Enjoy BBQ

This past June, Radstons Office Plus celebrated their 100th anniversary with a barbecue at their Hercules office. Vendors held demos and handed out freebies to the approximately 400 people that attended the event. Radstons' customers came from all over the Bay Area to celebrate and join in the fun. Owner Diane Griffin was pleased the barbecue was such a success saying, "It was wonderful to bring so many people to the City of Hercules, many for the first time." She hopes to have a similar event next spring to celebrate Earth Day and Administrative Professionals Day adding, "I don't think we are going to wait another hundred years to celebrate again."

Radstons Office Plus has been located in Hercules since 2000, when they opened a 17,000 sq. ft distribution center in the North Shore Business Park. Radstons was founded by Cliff Radstons in 1908 and was purchased by Merlin W. Drucquer, grandfather of the current owner, Diane Griffin, in 1944. The Hercules distribution center provides office supplies and furniture to customers across the Bay Area. The company focuses primarily on business to business operations and currently serves about 1,200 business customers.

On Tuesday, June 24, the City Council adopted and presented a proclamation recognizing Radstons Office Plus for their contributions to the city. Owner Diane Griffin was present to thank the city and Council for their support. She also thanked her employees saying "They are the ones who allowed us to reach this milestone." Radstons is committed to reinvesting in the local community by engaging the services of local companies and building strong relationships with their valued customers. Griffin has



Radstons' Employees at 100th Anniversary Celebration

also personally contributed to the Hercules community and remains involved in several local organizations. At present, she is President of the Rotary Club of Hercules, an advisor to the Hercules Middle/High School Interact Club and on the Board of Directors of the Hercules Chamber of Commerce.



Owner Diane Griffin Thanks Customers

In an interview after the City Council meeting, Griffin expressed her gratitude to the City and shared about how great Hercules is to do business in. "The support we get from City Staff and Council has made doing business in Hercules just fantastic. It has been and continues to be a wonderful experience." Griffin continued saying, "I am tickled pink to be here. Hercules is a lovely place to have a small business."

The City would like to congratulate Radstons Office Plus on their 100th Anniversary and commend their dedication to providing great service to their customers and the Hercules community.

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*Example:	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>% Conversion</u>	<u>SAVINGS</u>
	\$550,000	1.82%	\$23,000
	\$650,000	1.54%	\$29,000
	\$750,000	1.33%	\$35,000
	\$850,000	1.18%	\$41,000

If another agent sells your home, you pay only \$5,000 + 3% of purchase pr

*Example	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>% Conversion</u>	<u>SAVINGS</u>
	\$550,000	3.91%	\$11,500
	\$650,000	3.77%	\$14,500
	\$750,000	3.67%	\$17,500
	\$850,000	3.59%	\$20,500

*Examples compared to industry average of 6%.

**Commission programs vary by agent & property location.

***If your property is currently listed, please disregard this advertisement.



Waterfront Continues to Move Forward

Introduced earlier this summer as a ballot petition, the Waterfront Master Plan Initiative allows the Waterfront's master developer, Hercules Bayfront, LLC, to begin the process for developing the final stages of the Hercules Waterfront. The Initiative modifies the City's primary planning documents, including the Zoning Ordinance and General Plan, to facilitate completion of the Hercules Waterfront as a transit-oriented, mixed-use project. The Initiative includes changes to the land designations and allowed uses of Hercules Point, the Historic Town Center, and the other areas of the Waterfront. It also amends the Waterfront District Master Plan by establishing a form-based code with detailed development regulations and design standards for the currently undeveloped portions of the Historic Town Center, Transit Village, and Hercules Point sub-districts.

After less than three weeks of circulation, Initiative advocates collected over 3,600 signatures from Hercules residents. On June 23, 2008, the unverified petition were delivered to the City Clerk and then taken to the Contra Costa County Elections Department for signature verification. The County randomly sampled signatures, finding that 414 of the 500 sampled were valid, and concluded that the total number of statistically valid signatures was 2,850 (25.3 % of the 11,266 total registered Hercules



National Night Out Celebration at Waterfront

voters). Because over 15% of the City's registered voters signed the petition, State Elections Code requires that the City Council either place the proposed initiative on the ballot of an upcoming or special election, or adopt the initiative as an ordinance.

Given voter's overwhelming support for the initiative, and the expense of placing an initiative item on the ballot, the City Council voted unanimously at its July 22, 2008 meeting to adopt the Hercules Waterfront Master Plan Initiative. Proponents of the Initiative and a representative from Hercules Bayfront LLC, Jim Anderson, addressed the City Council during the public hearing and encouraged adoption of the ordinance. Members of the City Council discussed how the Initiative reflected many residents desire to see the project move forward. They also expressed personal excitement to see the community's vision, including the Waterfront Project, come to life.

Although there are still many decisions and challenges ahead for the project, the passing of the ordinance is a significant step towards a restored and prominent Hercules Waterfront.

To learn more about the Waterfront project or other City projects, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us and click the "Hercules Projects" link.



Artist Rendering of Waterfront Development

Vandalism Prevention

The beautiful City of Hercules is constantly plagued with the problem of graffiti as well as the problems associated with it. The following are some things we can all look for and actions you can take when reporting blight in our community. Be alert and keep your eyes open for suspicious activity. Do you see walls covered with graffiti, spray paint on stop signs, broken street lights or broken public telephones?

Vandalism Hurts

Local governments (and their taxpayers) pay the bills for broken street lights, stolen signs, and vandalized parks. Vandalism hurts people. People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs -- a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna -- is destroyed for no reason. Vandalism can indirectly claim other victims -- a child is injured because a stop sign was stolen, a person can't reach 9-1-1 because the public phone is broken.

Most vandals are young people -- from grade schoolers to teens to young adults -- who damage property for a variety of reasons including boredom, anger, revenge defiance or alliance.

A community's first step in taking back its streets is to be vigilant and active. This power struggle can't be won overnight, but persistent communities working in partnership with law enforcement almost always emerge as victors.

You Can Help Prevent Vandalism

- Educate the public, especially young people, about the costs of vandalism.
- Clean up vandalism as soon as it happens -- replace signs, repair playground equipment, paint over graffiti.
- If you see anyone committing vandalism, report it to the police, school authorities, or someone who can take action.
- Protect your house or apartment from vandalism by using good lighting and locking gates and garages.
- Remember, vandalism is a crime.

Take a Stand!

- Tap into the energy and idealism of youth. Involve young people in all vandalism prevention efforts.
- Organize a graffiti clean-up project in your neighborhood.

If you observe a graffiti vandal in the act or you suspect a person of vandalism, please contact the Hercules Police Department at 510-724-1111. Together we can make a difference!

CITY OF HERCULES ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING EVENT

“Come celebrate the season”

Friday, December 5, 2008

Hercules Community Swim Center

6:00pm–9:00pm



Youth Protection Ordinance

Over the past several months, the Hercules Police Department has noticed a steady increase of calls involving juveniles during school and nighttime hours. These calls for service negatively impact the ability of Hercules Police Officers to focus on the needs of our community.

To address the problem of juvenile crime and to promote the safety and well-being of the city's youngest citizens, the City Council adopted the Youth Protection Ordinance at the July 22, 2008 City Council meeting. The Youth Protection Ordinance sets curfews for minors, persons under the age of 18, both during school hours and late night hours.

Regular school attendance provides important benefits to students and to the health, safety, and quality of life for all residents within the City. The Hercules Police Department finds that responding to crimes caused by truants imposes a burden on department resources. Police officers tasked with supervising juveniles who are detained are rendered unavailable to address other police needs throughout the community. This degrades the level of police presence in the community and on school campuses, thereby decreasing overall public safety.

Additionally, many areas that are normally considered safe, during the daylight and early evening hours, become hazardous during nighttime hours. The Youth Protection Ordinance is now another tool the Police Department

has to help protect the youth of the City; by reducing the likelihood that youth will become victims or suspects of criminal activity during nighttime hours.

The new ordinance contains both a daytime and nighttime curfew. The daytime curfew makes it unlawful for any minor, subject to compulsory full-time or continuing education, to be found away from their home or school on a regular school day between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The nighttime curfew makes it unlawful for a minor, or a parent or guardian to knowingly permit or insufficiently control a minor, from being in any public place within the City unsupervised, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Fines and penalties will be assessed for each violation of the ordinance.

There are several exemptions to the ordinance including when the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, coming or going to their place of employment or school, in a motor vehicle and traveling, or attending an official school, religious, recreational or social activity. Both curfews have many other exemptions which are too extensive to list. If you would like a complete list of the exemptions or to learn more about the fines and penalties for each violation, please refer to the complete text of the ordinance, available on our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.

New Hercules Website

The City of Hercules is pleased to announce the release of our new website! The website has great new features like the Community Events Calendar, Parks and Recreation Online Registration and eNotice. Make sure to check it out at www.ci.hercules.ca.us



Earthquakes: A Special Threat to Condominium and Townhouse Residents

Hercules staff members spend countless hours preparing to assist our community members in case of a disaster. This disaster can come in many shapes and sizes. As part of the California lifestyle the disaster that comes to mind the most is an earthquake!

Several scientists have predicted that the greatest natural disaster in the history of California and maybe the United States is coming. Hercules and the rest of the Bay Area may be in the epicenter of this disaster. It may come today, and it will almost certainly come during the lifetimes of most current residents of Hercules.

When an earthquake the size of the distant 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake strikes the nearby Hayward fault, many, perhaps thousands of us in Hercules may be helpless. It is

very clear that a substantial amount of damage is caused to structures by the fires that ignite as gas lines rupture; sparks ignite explosions, and our homes burn to the ground. Because the earthquake will start hundreds of thousands of fires in the Bay Area, it is entirely unrealistic for any of us to expect local fire companies to stop our homes from being destroyed. Agencies may be unable to respond in time to be of much help.

Despite the horror of this scenario, there is some good news. The City of Hercules is sponsoring an Emergency Gas Shutoff Valve Program. This program makes it possible for you to have a special valve installed in the gas line leading into your home. Ground shaking during a major earthquake will cut off the flow of gas into your home so that even if the gas lines within your home rupture during the earthquake, your home may still be protected from fire damage.

If you live in a single-family home, you need to contact the Affordable Housing Program at 510-799-6517. Call them today, not tomorrow, to make arrangements for the installation of a gas shutoff valve.

On the other hand, if you live in a condominium or a townhouse, you face a special threat. Suppose that you live in a six-unit condominium building. If five units are protected by shutoff valves and one is not, all units will be lost if a fire starts in the unprotected unit. If you live in a multiple unit dwelling, you owe it to your neighbors to install a gas shutoff valve in your unit.

The City of Hercules most strongly urges the Home Owner Association Boards of each multiple condominium or town home unit complex within the city to mandate immediately the installation of gas shutoff valves for each unit

within the complex the board serves. Installations cost will be about \$80 per unit, the city will provide the valve at NO COST. Households with Low to Moderate incomes may apply and qualify for a fee waiver and can have the valves installed and supplied at no fee! We urge the community to take a major step in preparedness and join the City of Hercules in addressing this very important matter.

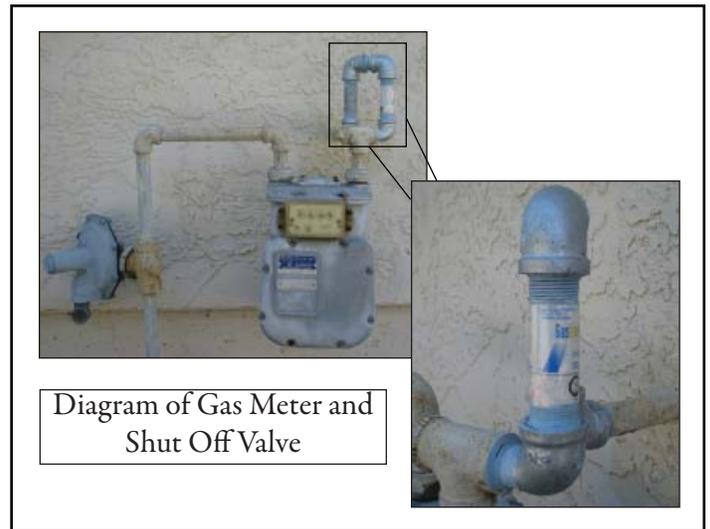


Diagram of Gas Meter and Shut Off Valve

 Friends
of the
Hercules Library
Used Book Sale
& Hercules Historical Society display
September 20: 11am-5pm (50 cents & 25 cents)
September 21: noon-4pm (\$1-a-bag)
herculeslibrary.org



Community Safety Tips

from the Police Department

The safety of Hercules depends on all of us. Small changes in our daily habits can, in many cases, pay large dividends in securing our community against crime. Here are some tips that can be considered which will help keep our city safe:

1. US Mail – A locking mailbox or the use of a post office box can prevent mail theft. Mail theft occurs throughout the entire city of Hercules. By protecting yourself and your family from mail theft you may stop identity theft before it occurs.
2. Auto Burglary – Parking all personal vehicles inside your garage, if you have the ability to do so, can safeguard them from burglary. If you have to park your vehicles in your driveway or on the street, try to make them “hard targets.” Hard targets are vehicles without valuables (purses, wallets, laptops, mail, checkbooks) inside the passenger compartment. Place any items of value that must remain in the vehicle into the trunk. If you have personal vehicles parked in your driveway or on the street, please remember to lock all the vehicle doors and keep the windows rolled up. Many thieves gain entry to vehicles due to the owner not locking the doors.
3. Auto Theft (10851 CVC) – Your personal vehicles should also be hard targets against auto theft. If you have a newer model personal vehicle, consider one of the following theft deterrents: an audible alarm system, a CLUB anti theft device (steering wheel or brake), or a kill switch. Auto thieves are using “shaved keys”, keys that are filed down, to steal older model Hondas, Toyotas, Acuras, and Saturns.
4. Residential Alarm Systems – It is strongly recommend that you install an alarm system in your home. Residential alarm systems are a definite deterrent to burglars, who rarely choose homes that are alarmed. Burglars tend to gain entry to homes by kicking side garage doors or front doors, or through windows left open or unlocked sliding glass doors.
5. Other “Target Hardening” ideas for your home. Motion sensor flood lights are an excellent security measure. Burglars do not want to be seen at night. By installing motion sensor lights above your driveway that illuminate the front of your home, you may prevent your vehicle or home from being burglarized. Set the sensitivity on the light so that a subject needs to be a few steps on your driveway before it goes off. The side gate of your home should be locked. Preventing access to your backyard will keep potential burglars from easily gaining entry to your home through a side door or sliding glass door. Also, check the landscaping around your home. Cutting back any bushes or other foliage that prevents you from seeing outside, or provides a hiding place near your residence, will repel a potential offender.

Lastly: Get to know your neighborhood and your neighbors. Your neighbors provide you with extra eyes and ears to keep the community safe. Do not hesitate to call the police if you see something unusual in your neighborhood.

Want your voice heard?
Register to vote!
The deadline to register for the upcoming election is October 20, 2008.
Registrations forms are available at City Hall, the Post Office, the local DMV, the Library, and the Contra Costa County Elections Office.

MAKE HISTORY AT THE FRIENDS OF THE HERCULES LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

The Hercules Historical Society needs the community's help. In conjunction with the Friends of the Hercules Library (FOHL) Used Book Sale, scheduled for September 20 & 21, the library will be hosting a display by the Hercules Historical Society. Society members will be on hand with photographs and other items relating to Hercules history. Help is needed in identifying people and places depicted in the photos.

The community is welcome to come and see the display -welcome to come with questions concerning Hercules history, and more than welcome to bring in photos or other items related to our early history to share. The Historical Society is preparing these materials for inclusion in a new book about our town's history. To find out more about the book project please email the Society at herchistsoc@hotmail.com. To read Hercules histories and to view the Society's virtual museum please visit their website at www.herculeshistoricalsociety.org.

The FOHL Used Book Sale will be held in the Hercules library's meeting room, doors open to the public 11am-5pm Saturday the 20th and noon - 4pm Sunday the 21st. All books on Saturday will be priced 50 cents for hardbacks, 25 cents for paperbacks. Remaining inventory on Sunday will be sold for just \$1-a-bag.

FOHL members are invited to shop starting at 10am Saturday. Annual memberships start at just \$5 a person (\$15 for families) and will be available at the door. In addition to getting into our sales an hour ahead of the general public - all members get a special 50% discount on all book purchases made in the Friends Bookstore for the term of their membership. So please come by and check out our childrens classics, adult best sellers, cookbooks, and large selection of non-fiction. For more information call our store at (510) 245-2420 x103.



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