

The Herculean

City of Hercules Information Brochure
Spring 2009



T.Y.C. and T.H.E. S.P.O.T.
Celebrate Year At
December Party On Page 1

Interact Students Assist
With Community Wide
Coat Drive On Page 29



Hercules Explorers
Volunteer For Second
Community Pride Event On
Page 5

Teens Play Integral Part of Hercules Community

Looking good's not easy.
We can help.



**MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$50
TOWARDS COMPLETE PAIR OF GLASSES***

Cannot be combined with vision and insurance plans.

Call 510-724-1000
for an appointment

www.BrightEyesOptometry.com

BRIGHT



E·Y·E·S

OPTOMETRY



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Teen Programs Continue to Grow	1
Waterfront Update	3
Foreclosures and the City of Hercules	4
Community Pride Campaign Underway	5
HPD Chaplain Program	6
Police Department Update	7
Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Today	8
Prescription Drug Discount Program Info	11
Hercules Schools Take Center Stage	13
Hanna Ranch Elementary	14
Lupine Elementary	19
Ohlone Elementary	20
Rodeo Hills Elementary	21
Carquinez Middle	22
Hercules Middle/High	23
John Swett High	25
Coat Drive Collects 1,270 Items	29

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.

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	Jojo Soriano
Janice Leighton Armah	

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

A.R. Weinstein	Bruce MacAulay
Andrew Walters	Jo Ellen Macotte
Sherry Madfes	Sid Shapiro
John Mills	

Education Commission 799-8254
Currently remains dormant

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

The Hercules High School Boosters Club presents:

The 6th Annual TITAN'S SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, March 14, 2009

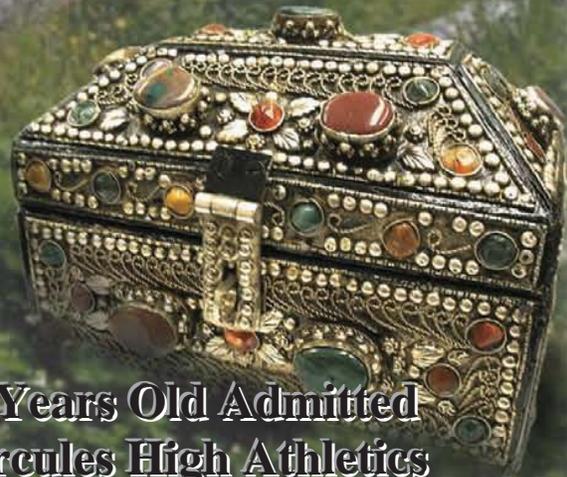
7:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.

\$20.00 per Person

Catered by Hercules
Titans Culinary Arts Class
Chef/Instructor Jerry Clopp
Hors D'oeuvres & Wine
Tickets Available at the Door

Hercules Swim Center
2001 Refugio Valley Rd.
Hercules, CA 94547

No One Under 18 Years Old Admitted
Proceeds go to Hercules High Athletics



Teen Programs Continue to Grow With Opening of Hercules Teen Center

With the one year anniversary of the opening of the Hercules Teen Center set for next month and the exponential growth due to the new space and additional offerings, we thought we'd share with you some of the cool things that are happening with our teens.

Special Events A Highlight

In December, T.Y.C. (Teen Youth Council) and T.H.E. S.P.O.T. (Teens of Hercules Empowering thru Sprit, Preservation, Outreach and Teamwork) got together for a joint holiday party and end of year celebration. At the event, some of the teens shared their stories and experiences with the programs. Many enjoyed being involved in the community wide events such as the Citywide Drill, Tree Lighting Ceremony and Halloween Haunted House. Ramiah Davis, who played a victim in the disaster drill in November, said that it was something she had never done and that dressing up for the part (wearing extensive make-up) was really fun.

Davis is one of 21 students on the TYC Executive Board, which is made up of mostly high school juniors and seniors. Teen/Youth Coordinator, Janine Shaheed, said the Executive Board gives students an opportunity for cross-age mentoring and play a

key role in planning events such as the holiday party and Halloween Haunted House. Trivernal Johnson, another Executive Board member, said he also enjoys getting to do new things and looks forward to going on the planned events including Santa Cruz and Great America. Both students have big plans for when they graduate high school. Davis wants to be a lawyer and Johnson is still deciding between business, computers, law, or a combination of the topics. Even though Johnson admits he first got involved to complete his community service hours (a requirement for graduation), he stayed



T.Y.C. Executive Board Members:
Ramiah Davis, Trivernal Johnson and
Kiana Johnson

committed not because he had to, but because he wanted to.

Various Programs To Serve Our Teens Various Interests

While the T.Y.C. boasts participation numbers of over a hundred sixth through twelfth graders, it is not the only activities teens can get involved in. There is T.H.E. S.P.O.T. morning and afternoon pro-



Teens from T.Y.C. and T.H.E. S.P.O.T. enjoying friends and food at holiday party

grams, tutoring classes, cheer camps, dance troops, and many more. During T.H.E. S.P.O.T.'s afternoon program, there is even a homework hour, where students can collaborate with their classmates or receive additional assistance from staff. However, when it is time for fun, there is plenty of that as well. The Teen Center is stocked with wireless computers, big screen TVs, video game consoles, a basketball and volleyball court, a pool table, air hockey table and a karaoke machine. The Teen Center has enabled the City to create even more programs just for teens and provide our young people with a safe place to learn, play, or just hang out. Some of the other teen activities include Kaplan Test Prep for the SATs and ACTs and teen party rentals.

New Program Offers Assistance To Trouble Teens And Their Families

One of the newest programs is the Golden Sierra Life Skills class. The KIND program (Kids In Need of Diversion) provides a concentrated educational course for struggling youth on issues such as truancy, theft, drugs,

☐ *Continued on page 3*



Teens playing musical chairs at December holiday party



Awards Dinner

and

Installation of Officers

Citizen of the Year
Business of the Year
Youths of the Year

Special Recognition

Robert B. Polacchi
North Shore Dental
Janna Lee
Christine Imazumi
Susan L. Pricco



Saturday, March 28, 2009
6:00 PM

Hercules Senior Center
111 Civic Drive
Hercules, CA

Tickets \$40.00 Per Person

For information, please contact the Chamber:
510-741-7945 ▪ office@herculeschamber.com

☐ *Teens Continued from page 1*

anger management and conflict resolution. Students are given the option of participating in the program or facing other types of punishment such as suspension or detention. "So instead of missing more school and sitting at home possibly doing nothing (with a suspension), students can learn how to make positive choices and develop important life skills," said Shaheed.

Free DROP-INS Every Friday In April

To celebrate the one year anniversary of the Teen Center, the City of Hercu-

les will be hosting FREE DROP- IN every Friday in April from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Teens are invited to stop by and give the Teen Center a try! Test out your skills on our video games, use our wireless laptops, sing along with our karaoke, kick back and watch TV in our lounge room or play pool, ping pong, or air hockey and much more. Also learn more about the outstanding programs the Center has to offer. For more information visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.



Hercules teens feasted on all types of food at annual holiday celebration

What's New in the Waterfront?

By Assistant City Manager Lisa Hammon

It's often hard to understand why projects "take so long." Since starting work at the City about seven months ago, I am often asked: "Why isn't anything happening at the intermodal transit center?" "Why hasn't construction started?" "Where are we in the process?"

On a project of this magnitude (42 acres), there is much work to do before the project actually starts construction, such as: environmental review, drawing and reviewing plans, submitting funding applications, working with the developer on the components of the project that the City/Redevelopment Agency will fund/build and what the developer will fund/build, obtaining railroad approval for relocating the tracks and building the center platform, planning for utility relocations, and holding Project Team meetings to keep everyone apprised of the latest developments, to name just a few tasks.

Currently, we are commenting on the Administrative Draft of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Hercules Intermodal Transit Center prepared by Impact Sciences for the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) and the City. In a few months the draft

document will be released for public review and comment. Plans are underway for how the Bay Trail, railroad right-of-way, grade differentials, and buildings along the waterfront will all fit together in an aesthetically pleasing way that takes advantage of the beautiful San Pablo Bay views. Design drawings will be sent to the railroad in the next thirty days for review and approval. Different alternatives for access to Hercules Point are being considered. Hercules staff, the developer, and many consultants meet on a very regular basis to keep the "behind the scenes" work moving as expeditiously as possible.

So, thank you for your patience as we do the work that is required to get to the construction phase. If you have questions about the project, feel free to contact me at 510-799-8251 or by email at lhammon@ci.hercules.ca.us.

COMMUNITY UPDATE 2009

Saturday
April 4, 2009
10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Hercules
Community Center
2001 Refugio Valley Rd
For more information,
visit our website at
www.ci.hercules.ca.us

Foreclosures and the City of Hercules

Like most cities in California, the City of Hercules is experiencing a large number of foreclosures within its neighborhoods. Just six months ago the numbers were considered high at 64 foreclosure properties. That number two weeks ago was 124 and as this article is written it is up to 156.

Good News In The Midst of Bad

This is not good news for the City, but there appears to be some positives in the midst of the bad. One of those positives is that the majority of the properties are being maintained in an acceptable manner. There have been a handful of properties that were left by the owners only to be vandalized by neighborhood kids, squatted in by homeless persons, and in one case rented out to an unsuspecting renter who subsequently had to move back out when it became obvious the property was in foreclosure proceedings.

Code Enforcement Officers Acting Quickly To Eliminate Problems

Although the City of Hercules has not experienced many of the problems some of our neighboring cities have, we have had problem properties. The City has moved quickly in these cases to get them cleaned up and to ensure they remain clean. This has not been an easy task. The City maintains a list of Real Estate Officers for the various banks that are taking possession of foreclosure properties. Code Enforcement contacts them, advises them of the problem, and provides reasonable timelines to abate the problem, usually fifteen days. In many cases the banks who are repossessing homes change rapidly and it takes some time to find the appropriate contact person. Although

this has been challenging, the City has been very successful in making contact and getting results. It is imperative to maintain these properties so that neighborhood property values don't fall anymore than they already have.

New Ordinance To Fight Blight

In an effort to fight the blight that foreclosures can bring and to provide another tool which Code Enforcement Officers can utilize, the City of Hercules recently adopted an ordinance which addresses foreclosure properties that fall into disrepair. Once a problem property is identified as being in foreclosure, a notice is sent to the bank advising them that they are in noncompliance. If the property remains in noncompliance for more than thirty days, the City of Hercules can begin charging a penalty of \$1000 a day for every day over thirty that it remains in noncompliance.

We have been fortunate to gain compliance without having to utilize this more aggressive approach to date. However, the City of Hercules must use whatever tools are available to ensure our neighborhoods are maintained and property values are stabilized as much as possible. The citizens of Hercules can rest assured that the City will use whatever options it has at its disposal when necessary.

Ready To Act When Necessary

As stated before, we are not without foreclosures, but with a vigilant city staff and the tools outlined above, we are ready to act when necessary. If you see problem properties in your neighborhood, please call the Code Enforcement staff at 510-245-6526 or 510-803-7029.

Even Renters Can Be Impacted By Foreclosure Crisis

Most tenants assume their renting responsibilities consist of making their payments on time and keeping the property in order, but the recent increase of foreclosures has forced some tenants into asking "what are my legal rights?"

In today's market, it is imperative for renters to be proactive and know what rights they have if their landlord, and consequently, their rental property is in the midst of default.

In July 2008, a new California law was passed that you should be aware of. The law states that tenants living in a unit undergoing foreclosure proceedings must be given a 20 day notice that the property may be sold. The notice must state that the tenant may be given a new lease or rental agreement with the new owner; otherwise, they are entitled to a 60-day eviction notice.

This means that a tenant should have at least 80 days notice before they would be required to leave the property. This law will remain in effect until the end of 2012.

For answers to any other questions concerning your rights as a Renter, a helpful contact is the Housing Rights Center at (800) 477-5977, or you can go to their website at: <http://www.hrc-la.org>.

Cleaning One Neighborhood At A Time

The Community Pride and Neighborhood Clean-up Campaign is underway, with two events already held and another fast approaching. The first event was held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 off Lupine Road and Heather Avenue. Over 20 volunteers and city staff partnered with residents to help clean up front yards and haul unwanted items away.

Two seven ton dumpsters and a Goodwill truck were brought into the area and were completely full by days end. Rakes, shovels, clippers, wheel barrels and other tools were also made available to participants.

The second event was held on January 31, 2009 and was even bigger than the first! More volunteers, more dumpsters and more tools all arrived to assist Zone 2, which encompassed Poppy Drive and Court, Daisy Court, Lily Court, Thistle Court and Lupine Road from 1830 to 1976.

“One person couldn’t have done anything, but 40? So many people coming together really makes a difference,” said Alfonso Alvarez, a resident who participated in the first clean up day. He later added that the volunteers were really great and he even got to meet some of his neighbors. Manuel and Irene Beltran also participated in the first Community Pride event and said, “This is great. It saved us a lot of money.”

The purpose of the Community Pride and Neighborhood Clean-up Campaign is to add beauty and curb appeal to neighborhoods throughout Hercules and provide pre-planned clean up efforts to residential areas,



T.Y.C. Volunteers at first clean up



One ton dumpster filled to the brim



Explorer loading dump truck at second clean up day



Collected yard and roof debris

one block at a time. Homes and neighborhoods with good curb appeal reflect community pride and increase property values.

Youth volunteers have made a big difference for the program. Students from the Teen Youth Council (T.Y.C.) volunteered for the November clean up day and the Hercules Police Explorers came out for the January clean up event. The impact of Hercules youth is expected to continue as several other youth groups and teams have signed up for future clean up days.

Nicole Richardson, who is overseeing the program, has been thrilled with the campaign thus far saying, “Each event is getting better as we perfect the program. We continue to receive a lot of positive feedback from residents and the campaign just keeps on gaining momentum.”

The Community Pride events are scheduled on a bi-monthly basis with the next day set for Saturday, March 21, 2009. Residents will be sent written notification at least two weeks prior to the event date for their neighborhood.

Want to get involved? The city is still looking for team leaders, individuals who would oversee a group of 4-5 volunteers on the day of the event. For more information about volunteering or if you have questions about the program, call 510-245-6517 or visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us and click on Affordable Housing under the Departments and Services tab.

Police Department Chaplain Program



The Hercules Police Department has established a Chaplain Program for the purposes of providing spiritual and emotional support to all members of the Department, their families and members of the public. We are pleased to announce and welcome the newest members to the team, Father Larry Young, Pastor John Wright and Minister Elizabeth Lonsdale. All will be serving as Police Chaplains for the Hercules Police Department.

Father Larry Young (pictured top left) is a Pastor at St. Patrick Catholic Church which serves the communities of both Hercules and Rodeo. Reverend John Wright (pictured right) is the Pastor of Full Gospel Fellowship where he too serves the communities of Hercules and Rodeo. Minister Elizabeth Lonsdale (pictured below) is the Principal of Ohlone Elementary School where she serves as a leader in our community's educational system.



All three have dedicated themselves to volunteer their time by serving as a resource for department personnel when dealing with the public in such incidents as accidental deaths, suicides, suicidal subjects, serious accidents, drug and alcohol abuse, and other such situations that may arise. We are honored to have these three individuals working with us in a joint effort to proudly serve our community.



Friends of the Hercules Library USED BOOK SALE

Saturday, March 21

11:00am—5:30pm

(Members Only 10am—11am, memberships available at the door.)

Paperbacks

25¢

Sunday, March 22

Noon—4:30

Scanners welcomed.

Hardbacks

50¢



Police Department Update

New HPD Administrative Staff



On November 17, 2008, Margaret Fukuda began employment as the Police Assistant for the Hercules Police Department. Margaret was the successful candidate out of approximately 400 applicants for the position. It has been a smooth transition for Margaret, who has a long history of association with Law Enforcement.

Margaret was previously employed by the Suisun City Police Department and the San Pablo Police Department, where she was involved in several support service positions including Youth Services Specialist, Community Service Officer, and Police Service Assistant. Margaret's husband is an Oakland Police Officer, and her son is a Police Officer in Vallejo.

Margaret has completed Administration of Justice coursework at Solano Community College in Suisun, and at the Sacramento City College Public Safety Center. She resides in Benicia with her husband and three of her six children. In her spare time, Margaret enjoys travel, long nature walks, reading, and being with family and friends.

On October 21, 2008, Gaema Obenchain was hired as the new Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator for the Hercules Police Department. This newly created, part-time position, is aimed at reducing crime and promoting safe communities.



Gaema is very enthusiastic about becoming a member of the department and Hercules community. She has already attended several community meetings and developed a Holiday Safety Guide which was distributed to our local businesses. Gaema's duties include helping residents develop and implement Neighborhood Watch Programs. She also plans to institute a Business Crime Prevention Program for the local merchants.

Gaema earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in Management from Saint Mary's College. She resides in Vallejo with her husband and four children. In her spare time, Gaema likes to spend time with her family and making scrap books. She especially enjoys watching her children play basketball and softball.

Serious Crimes In Hercules Remain Low Despite Increase In Crimes Against Persons

The advent of the New Year brought a sense of renewed accomplishment for the Hercules Police Department, as the serious crime rate dropped to a 5 – year low for the City.

Serious crimes are identified by the California Department of Justice as "Part 1" offenses, and include criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny (theft), and motor vehicle theft. These crimes are quantified and tracked on a monthly basis by most jurisdictions, to identify serious crime levels and trends.

In 2008, Hercules had a total of 624 Part 1 crimes. By contrast, there were 851 serious crimes reported in 2004, 741 in 2005, 627 in 2006, and 633 in 2007. Specifically, there were no criminal homicides, 4 forcible rapes, 30 robberies, 134 assaults, 138 burglaries, 218 larcenies, and 100 motor vehicle thefts during 2008.

"Considering the economic times and the extremely high crime rates in many of our surrounding cities, this is an important accomplishment for Hercules," stated Commander Tom Dalby of the H.P.D. Administrative Division.

While the decreasing crime trend is encouraging, and definitely a reflection of the commitment of the department, it is important to note that the crimes against persons has increased from this year to last. The number of assaults and robberies went up by 25 and 6 respectively, even though most of the other numbers dropped.

Citizens are encouraged to form neighborhood watch groups and to call dispatch at 510-741-1111 if they see suspicious activity. With the commitment of the community and dedication of the department, we can continue the trend of reducing serious crime in 2009.

12 Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Today

The City of Hercules continues to increase its code compliance efforts throughout its neighborhoods. When neighborhoods fall into disrepair through lack of maintenance, they often become a magnet for crime. The Code Enforcement Division works closely with the Hercules Police Department and its citizens to ensure that our neighborhoods are safe, clean and crime free.

The following is a list of simple steps any resident can take now to make a difference:

1. Report crime promptly. Neighbors sometimes don't report criminal activity because they don't want to bother the police, they assume police are too short-staffed to respond, or they believe that there isn't much an officer can (or will) do about a given problem anyway. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee that they won't. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.

2. Report nuisances and other non-criminal problems promptly. Examples: junked cars on front lawn, abandoned autos in the streets, old mattresses left to rot in a back yard, garbage dumped illegally in a vacant lot. When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to do something," do something. Call code enforcement, non-emergency numbers, landlords, residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that may have influence on the issue. Then call your neighbors and ask those who are also concerned about the issue to call and report as well. Then keep calling until the issue is resolved.

3. Take away the opportunity for crime. Think about your home, your car, and even your lifestyle, and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Lock your car and never leave valuables, even for a few minutes, in the car where would-be thieves might see them. Trim bushes or trees on your property that offer too-convenient hiding places. Also, trim where trees and bushes block a clear view of your front door and address from the street or make it difficult for a person to see out of windows in your home. In short, make your front porch visible and make sure your home looks like it has its "eyes" (windows) open.

4. Meet the youth who live on your block and greet them by name. This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take; yet it can make a profound difference should there be a future need for adults and young people to speak to each other in



Get to know your neighbors at events like block parties and neighborhood watch meetings

the midst of a neighborhood crisis. Also, it is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other. Even those without children should know to whom the various children in the neighborhood belong. In this way, each adult is better able to help in an emergency and is better prepared to discuss problems immediately as they arise.

5. Make a list of the names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block. Not just two neighbors-set a goal of at least 10 and preferably 20 or 30. Find almost any citizen who has turned around a problem block and you will find a citizen who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where "everyone knew each other" and find that today your neighborhood just isn't like that? That's true for many people. That's not "society's" fault, and you can fix it. Unless you know neighbors

names and numbers, you can't call them about a concern or let them know about a neighborhood problem. Learn the names and phone numbers of your neighbors this weekend. □ *Continued on page 9*



Reporting crime promptly can help police respond faster

□ Continued from page 8

6. Make a list of landlords in your area as well. As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and most are rightly concerned about the health of the community in which their properties stand. You can find out the name and address of the person or organization that owns any property, including the rental house next door, by contacting your County Tax Assessor's office. Do it today.

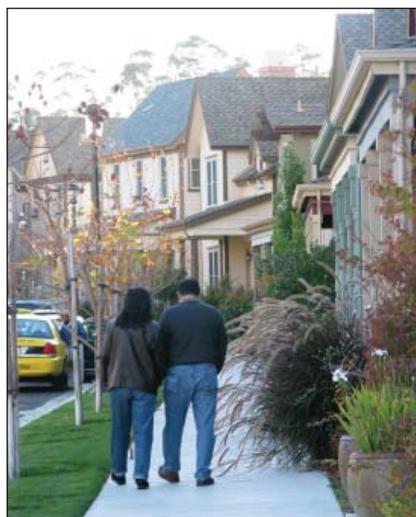
7. Turn your porch light on. Do this every night at dusk and keep it on until dawn. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. Turning on porch lights is a simple way to start this process. It also makes the street feel more "welcome" to good residents who are out for a walk in the evening. It communicates a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by the residents. This can become a daily routine or it can be accomplished by installing a timer. It is also immediate-while you wait for local government to install that new streetlight that everyone is asking for, go ahead and add a little more light yourself and encourage other neighbors to do the same.

8. Walk around the block. It sounds simple enough, but neighbors benefit over time when more responsible citizens walk about more, particularly for those who are comfortable doing it, at night, every night around their block. At a minimum, walk around the block, once every day, preferably at night if you feel comfortable doing so. Take a moment to chat with neighbors, including youth, when the opportunity arises.

9. Drive slowly on neighborhood streets. While we often call for stop signs, lights, and speed bumps, we often forget that we can organize a means to slow down neighborhood traffic sooner. Remember that it is legal to drive a few miles per hour below the speed limit in your neighborhood. For example, if the speed limit is 25, try 20 instead. Regular slow driving on neighborhood side streets by multiple neighbors will dampen the desire of racers to use your street-it isn't as fun to cut through a neighborhood if the likelihood of being stuck behind a car traveling at a more respectful pace has increased. Also, do it on every side street in the neighborhood, not just the one near your home.



Keeping your porch light on creates a more welcoming atmosphere



Walking around the neighborhood can help reduce crime and keep you alert of potential issues

10. Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there. Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by taking away the existing litter that attracts it.

11. Stay where you are. Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long-term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability after conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep and help transform a geographic area that exists as a "neighborhood" in name only into a real community of involved people. Please, stay and help.

12. Help your neighborhood association or similar groups. If you are willing, decide what greater contribution you would like to make-then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood and how you can help and, perhaps more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood.

Finally, don't stop at 12 tasks: Do whatever else you can to make your neighborhood a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family. Remember, living in a good neighborhood isn't a right, it's a responsibility.

*Where Service Comes 1st,
And Lasts....*



The 3 L's Deliver Unbeatable Service!

“Let our family work for yours!”

**Lamberto Agustin,
Lourdes Agustin
Lizanina Agustin**

Citadel Real Estate

Join the many happy Hercules homeowners who maximized their home equity listing and selling their homes with us using our commission program.

You get three times the service with incredible savings !

This is how our commission schedule works when you list with us:

Citadel Real Estate

2550 Appian Way Ste. 220
Pinole, CA 94564

Phone: 510-758-4888
Phone: 510-799-5925
www.lourdesagustin.com
www.lizanina.com

If we procure a buyer for your property, you pay a FLAT fee of \$10,000

*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.



Easy-To-Use Prescription Drug Discount Card Now Offered To Hercules Residents

The City of Hercules recently launched a program to help provide residents with some relief from the high cost of prescription drugs. The city is making prescription drug discount cards available free of charge to city residents in collaboration with the National League of Cities (NLC).

The card is FREE to all Hercules residents, regardless of age, income or existing health insurance. By using this card you may save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies. Finding a pharmacy is easy since most major retail pharmacy chains participate, including Rite Aid, Lucky Supermarkets and Walgreens.

“In the current economic climate, many people are watching what they spend. The City is thrilled to partner with the National League of Cities to make the prescription discount program available to our residents,” said Community Relations Officer Michelle Harrington. “Whether or not an individual has prescription coverage, the discount card can make it easier for residents to afford the drugs they need to be healthy and stay healthy.”

The NLC prescription discount card is easy to use. Residents only have to show their card when purchasing medication at one of the many participating pharmacies. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee of any kind and residents and their family can use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

Cards are available now at several locations throughout Hercules. For a complete list of locations, or to print a card online, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us/perscriptiondrugcard. Residents can also call toll-free 1-888-620-1749 or visit www.caremark.com/nlc for additional information about the program.

The discount card program is administered by CVS Caremark.

The NLC is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

Chinese Association of Hercules



invites you to join!

歡迎你加入喜家利市華人協會

have fun! sharing living experience! community bond!!

The Chinese Association of Hercules was established in 1979. Currently, the Association has over 200 family members from Hercules, Pinole, and other nearby cities in the Easy Bay. The purpose of the Association is to promote friendship and cooperation among members, foster an understanding of Chinese culture and traditions, share common interests, and provide a strong voice for Chinese in the communities. The annual association activities include:

- Chinese New Year Banquet
- 4th of July Parade
- Cultural Festival
- Mid-Autumn Festival Picnic
- Bi-Monthly Dining Out
- City Cleanup Campaign
- Christmas Party
- Academic Achievement Awards

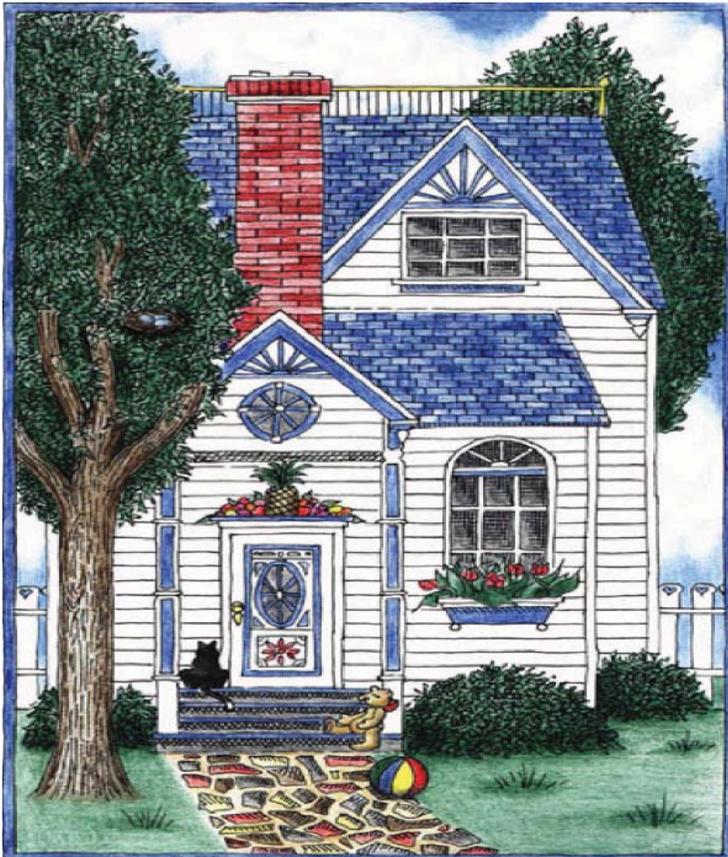
Make friends who speak your language

Application Form can be downloaded from our web site at www.geocities.com/caohercules.

Mailing Address: PO Box 5253, Hercules, CA 94547. Phone number: (510) 799-1271

For more details, please call us at anytime.

HERCULES Citywide GARAGE SALES



**Saturday,
April 25, 2009
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Maps to participating homes
only 25 cents
starting at 8 a.m. in front of
the Hercules Library
109 Civic Dr., Hercules (off Sycamore)

Register your Hercules residence
by April 10, 2009
use the registration form below!

Send your check for \$20, payable to HSCA, to PO Box 5092, Hercules, CA 94547
You will receive confirmation a few days before Sale Day.

NAME: _____

Address _____

Address of sale (if different) _____

Phone: _____

Questions? Call Shirley 510-724-7063

A benefit for Hercules Sister City Association Youth Ambassador Program

<http://tsushima.home@comcast.net/>

City Committed To Highlighting Our Schools’ Unique and Positive Programs

“I think our community, needs to hear about the positive things going on in our schools, not just the negative.” This statement, made by City Manager Nelson Oliva, has prompted the City to begin a series of articles about the programs and offerings of our schools. In January, Community Relations Officer Michelle Harrington, sat with each Principal to discuss their goals and desires for their school. The following pages contain portions of those interviews and an attempt to reflect the individuality of the Principal and the school. One thing that is clear, is that

our Principals care deeply for their students, faculty and community.

In each Hercules publication in the coming years, the City will focus on one program, event, or school to highlight in more detail. There are many positive things that are happening in all seven Hercules schools, and we hope these articles reflect that. We also want to thank the Principals, Robert Bass, Kathleen Brady, Anita Hayward, Linda Larson, Liz Lonsdale, Linda Steensrud, and Guy Zakrevsky, for their time and commitment to seeing our students and schools succeed.

School Lingo

API - Academic Performance Index-a measurement of academic performance and growth of schools primarily based on standardized testing (CST and CAHSEE). The numeric API score ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The index is one of the main components of the Public Schools Accountability Act which was passed in 1999. Every California school has individual goals, although the statewide performance target is 800.

GATE - Gifted and Talented Education-provides very high achieving students with an education that is challenging and flexible to facilitate the student reaching their full academic potential.

The District - Hercules students are served by two districts-West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and John Swett Unified School District (JSUSD). Four Hercules Schools are in the WCCUSD-Hanna Ranch Elementary, Lupine Elementary, Ohlone Elementary and Hercules Middle/High School. The other Hercules schools, Rodeo Hills Elementary, Carquinez Middle and John Swett High School are in the JSUSD. Each District sets their own goals, strategies and policies which shape an individual school’s goals, strategies and policies.





Hanna Ranch Elementary School

Principal: Anita Hayward

Tell us about your background: I went to the University of Chicago Graduate School of Education, worked in several schools doing staff and program development, served as Vice Principal for three years and this is my 10th year as a Principal.

What is one of the best aspects of your school? We have wonderful staff and community. We all contribute to student learning and creating a warm, inviting atmosphere. I am very proud that our teachers embrace all students and students are responsible to all adults. For us, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. I also want to recognize our office staff. They set such a welcoming tone for the whole campus. They are the heart and lungs of our school.

What do you want to see happen at Hanna Ranch? I want to see our achievement gap continue to narrow; to ensure all teachers have the physical and professional support they need to reach and teach all children; to give parents every opportunity to understand and participate in our school's mission and for our school's underlying philosophy to reflect and support our joy in learning and learning together.

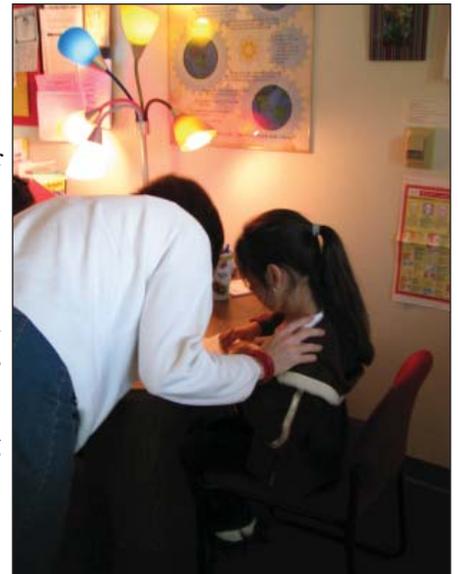


Principal Hayward assisting students with Inauguration Day projects

This year, the WCCUSD has implemented an equity program, how has this been implemented at your school? Our school is focusing on two areas for improvement: increasing student engagement and student responsibility. We are working to refine our discipline plan to account for more student responsibility and want to create a plan that is inclusive, school wide and is more of a proactive equity builder. For student engagement, we are working to establish more instructional routines that include a wider variety of ways for students to respond and show what they know; thereby creating a more collaborative learning environment. We want to give children a chance to talk, think, interact, and engage in the learning in a way that fits who they are and how they learn best. We want success to come from everyone and be for everyone. I hope we can break down the barriers that prevent a child from learning. I believe that if you are positive and inclusive, the learning will come.

What is one program you are really excited about? This year we are piloting an intervention program. When a child struggles, they need a new path to the same learning. We, as educators, need to analyze the first learning path provided and tailor a new path that supports the student in seeing and using what they already know. To achieve this, the learning center instructors and myself are going into the 1st through 3rd grade classrooms on a regular basis, usually twice a week, to provide new learning paths for six to eight students per class who have been selected by their teacher. It is our goal to set up classroom intervention programs based on our pilot work. We want to give students the power to use what they know and provide responsive instruction for students at all levels.

What can the community do to help? The community has been wonderful, they provide great classroom support, but there are always opportunities to mentor students both at the school and in the community.



Principal Hayward teaching students about letters

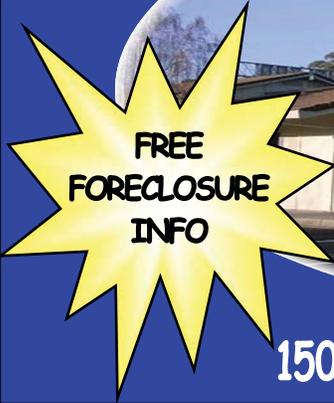
Hercules Office

COLDWELL BANKER

BARTELS-REALTORS®

Grand Opening!

Serving the West Contra Costa County for more than 50 years.



1500 Sycamore Ave., Hercules

(510) 803-8200

OUR AGENTS GET RESULTS!



Bo Falcon
510.387.3205



Ann Beetham
510.367.5221



Alma Yee
510.375.2880



Solomon Bekkele
510.282.9365



The MacAulays
510.305.4808



Bernard & Beeh
510.589.6481



Ruth Gebrewolde
510.685.4535



Manuel Cantiga
510.685.3141



Maro Golparast
510.381.2254



Marie Wong
510.734.0666



Vatey Roth
510.367.5039



Daniel Billostas
707.246.4318



Lai Tam
510.367.9329



Lea Mutya
510.685.3139



Kimberly Foster
510.860.6854

01 BRAND NAME

CENTURY 21® continues to be the brand most recognized by consumers.¹

04 HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is available to all CENTURY 21 brokers, sales associates, employees, and their families.

05 LEAD MANAGEMENT

The CENTURY 21 LeadRouterSM tool captures online inquiries and instantly sends leads directly to CENTURY 21 agents.

03 TRAINING

The CENTURY 21 Learning System® has been voted to *Training* magazine's "Top 125" list six years in a row.²

02 TECHNOLOGY

CENTURY 21 agents have innovative technology and marketing tools to help you go for the gold.



THERE ARE AT LEAST 21 REASONS TO JOIN THE CENTURY 21® TEAM

Visit our office today to see them all.



Ray Sharma | Broker
1611-C Sycamore Avenue
Hercules | CA | 94547
Office (510) 245-2100 | Office (510) 845-2100
info@BayRealtor.com
<http://www.BayRealtor.com>

¹ 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.

² 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.

The Value of the CENTURY 21[®] System at Bay Realty

We are a strong, vibrant, and global real estate family.

We strive every day to deliver unsurpassed market intelligence and insights, and use our strengths to help you successfully buy and sell real estate.

We embrace your goals and are committed to achieving them.

Our network is your edge: More than 50 countries, 8,000 offices, and 140,000 agents strong.



1611-C Sycamore Ave
Hercules, CA 94547
(510) 245-2100
www.BayRealtor.com



Sign of a golden opportunity.

At Bay Realty, find local CENTURY 21® professionals that can help you with real estate guidance whether it's buying or selling a home.

Reduce the stress of the real estate process and connect with experienced CENTURY 21 Sales Professionals that understand your unique needs and community.



Bay Realty

1611-C Sycamore Avenue
Hercules, CA 94547
(510) 245-2100



Lupine Elementary School

Principal: Kathleen Brady

Tell us about your background: I've been in the West Contra Costa Unified School District for over twenty five years and now I've been the Principal of Lupine for five years. Before becoming a Principal, I was a Vice Principal and Project Manager for the District and before that I was a kindergarten teacher.

What do you want to see happen at Lupine Elementary? I want our student achievement to continue to increase. Last year, we just broke 800 on the Academic Performance Index. I'd also like to see the achievement gap get smaller. I also want to see the school get better access to the park. Currently, there is a fence and retaining wall that blocks student access. I am really hoping we can work with the City to get a handicap accessible walkway to connect the school directly with the park.

What are some of the positive attributes of your school? We have outstanding teachers, one of our 4th/5th grade teachers, Mrs. Oliva, just received honors from the District. We have really been focusing on science and have seen a dramatic improvement in test scores in this area. I have seen students get really into being 'scientist'-wearing safety glasses and lab coats, this is also due to our wonderful 4th and

5th grade teachers we have here. Another great attribute is our GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) students. Our school currently has twenty five, which is almost triple what most schools have.

How has the WCCUSD's equity program been implemented at Lupine? There are tons of activities and projects related to equity. Every month the students are working on different things and many of the projects are displayed throughout the school. One class had each student create a shield to represent their family and culture.

Tell us about the special pizza party you had on January 9th? The pizza party was to reward all of the school's honor roll students. We had 70 students for the first trimester; they are 4th and 5th graders and must receive all 3's and 4's and no 'N's. We do this during the students lunch break time.

What is one goal you are really focusing on for the school? I want to integrate more computer technology with student engagement, with the end goal of



Music students receive focused attention in small class setting

higher student achievement. This is a difficult task since we are very limited on resources and funds. Currently, we do not have enough working computers for the upper grade classes to go to the computer lab together. I am also working with some of our staff members to increase their computer literacy. This is becoming vital in today's world and teachers who are computer literate are more likely to be able to integrate that technology in the classroom.

How have community partnerships assisted your school? PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric) provides the school financial resources that pay for a safety supervisor in the morning and afternoon. Having a safety supervisor has virtually eliminated behavior issues that take place during these times. This fund also pays for any supplemental science materials we need for the classrooms or the Science Fair.



Fourth and fifth grade honor roll students posing for picture with Principal Brady after pizza party

Ohlone Elementary School

Principal: Liz Lonsdale

Tell us about your background: This is my 5th year as an administrator, and 2nd at Ohlone. I taught at De Anza High School for four years, then was the Assistant Principal for two and concurrently the Principal at Delta High School. I was also the interim Principal at Olinda Elementary so I've been with the District a total of nine years.

What do you think is the best aspect of your school? The kids. On most days, especially the tough days, I really look forward to recess where I can visit with them and connect with them. We have really great kids and great families.

What do you want to see happen at Ohlone? I want to see the school rebuilt. I want our kids to be safe, not just physically safe, but mentally and emotionally safe. I want students to feel comfortable speaking their ideas and trying out new ones, to be able to ask questions, be receptive to new ideas and information and to be safe from bullying or teasing. We are pretty happy with our API scores, I want to see them stay up. I also want to see more curriculum for life skills such as conflict mitigation, helping students to resolve issues between themselves. We have a new math program with real life perspective, which is a good step. I'd also like to see more support for academic intervention and I definitely want all children to keep learning.



Principal Lonsdale chatting with students about their day

happy? Are they safe? Are they getting enough exercise? Can they be themselves? I don't think one number can reflect a school or a student; both have a lot of intricacies. I also believe education is a team effort: parents, guardians, teachers, students and the principal. It often helps to know the home situation, so I encourage our teachers and also try to develop connections with our students families.

What is one program you are really excited about? This year we started a program to tutor beginning English learners. It is a pull out program for all grade levels. Students are either non or beginning English learners. The program helps to develop vocabulary, inflection and body language.



Is Ohlone doing any intervention programs now? This year we hired a part time instructor who is currently working with 25 students. These students are not special education, they're generally students who have gotten lost in the system. They may be in the program for long term or to work on a particular skill or subject. The learning center is also thriving. Lots of kids have made progress in math, but still room for growth. Students go to the learning center for short periods during the day. How long a student goes for depends on their needs. Similar to the intervention program, they may go all year or it may be for a particular skill.

Tell us about your whole student approach. I believe that schools often place too much emphasis on one number. I believe you have to look at the whole student. Are they eating healthy? Are they



Computer labs, like the one at Ohlone, enhances a students learning experience

Rodeo Hills Elementary School

Principal: Linda Larson



Tell us about your background: I've be a Principal for eight years and a teacher for twelve years. For five of those twelve years, I was a teacher on Special Assignment, which means I was in charge of categorical programs such as GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) and English Language Learners.

What do you think is the best aspect of Rodeo Hills? We have many outstanding teachers. Five of our teachers have earned National School Board Certification. Some of our teachers have been selected as Teachers of the Year and two of our teachers were in the top three for County Teacher of the Year. Our PTA works very hard to help make Rodeo Hills a better school by having fundraisers to help with field trips, assemblies, and furnish teachers with supplies needed.

What do you want to see happen? I would like to continue to raise our academic performance at Rodeo Hills. We are on our way, last year our API score went up 48 points to 775. Our goal is to reach of 800. We have two programs that have helped increase student performance on standardized testing. One is called Accelerated Reader and the other is Board Math.



Principal Larson assisting student in school office

Tell us about some of your reading programs like Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is a program that helps students improve their reading comprehension. Every classroom book is marked with a reading level. Students can then select books at their reading level. After they read a book, they take a comprehension assessment on the computer and based on the results, may advance to a higher level. We have a Reading Challenge for all students which started in January and will end in May. Each student has personal goals to meet and as they achieve their goals they earn small prizes like an extra recess and a special t-shirt. Students are very proud of their reading accomplishments.

Last year we started a program for our English Language Learners called Learning English Together (LET). This program is designed to help students and parents work together to learn English. Books and vocabulary cards are provided in both Spanish and English, and students can work with their parents on reading and vocabulary.



One of two lions performing during the District's Multicultural Night about to discover a bag of candy

How have community partnerships assisted your school? We feel very supported by the community. We have a program called Project Read where volunteers from ConocoPhillips come to the school at lunch time and read to first grade students. We have a Multicultural Night each year which is quite unique because Saint Patrick School, Carquinez Middle School, ConocoPhillips, and Rodeo Hills all plan and organize the event together. There are musical performances, essay and poetry readings, art displays and we end the evening with the Lion Dance performed by Yes Martial Arts. Each child that comes to the event has a "passport". They go from continent to continent doing fun activities provided by the teachers. Many other organizations including, the Rotary Club of Hercules, the Lions Club of Rodeo, Bio-Rad and RMAC (Rodeo Municipal Advisory Committee), support us in a variety of ways.



Multicultural Night projects feature art work about Antarctica



Carquinez Middle School

Principal: Linda Steensrud

Tell us about your background: I have been at Carquinez Middle School for twenty five years; eight years as Principal, four and a half years as Vice Principal and for the rest of the years, I was a 6th grade teacher.

What do you think is the best aspect of Carquinez Middle? We have a broad cultural mix of people and experiences. We have a very inclusive school, on the playground and in the classroom, students can work and play together. Diversity is a positive thing at our school. Students are educated together, they get to know each other, learn about each others' cultures and they will be able to take those experiences and knowledge with them into the real world.

What do you want to improve? We can always improve academic achievement, so that is a priority. Safety is another top priority. When behavior is under control and the environment is safe, teachers can teach and students can learn. I also want to provide students with support so they have more confidence in themselves and I'd like to see students take better advantage of our support programs.

Can you tell us more about your after school programs? We have some wonderful after school programs including a Homework Clinic, which offers assistance with homework three days a week and a daily after school program that goes until 6pm everyday. The daily after school program is federally funded and provides academic support in addition to recreation activities such as arts, crafts, and cooking. Students generally go to the Homework Clinic on an as needed basis whereas students who attend the daily after school program are encouraged to attend everyday. We also have music programs after school. There are two bands, a jazz band and a regular band, and a vocal program. Our school shares a music teacher with the high school and students can easily walk over to the high school through a tunnel that connects the two schools. We also offer a late bus to accommodate the music students and those who go to the Homework Clinic.

What are some of the school's special programs for students during the day? We offer Spanish classes to 7th and 8th graders, which is great for students because if they pass both years, it counts towards one year of high school Spanish. We also have a wonderful art and ESL program.

Does the Middle School host any recognition events? We have several events to recognize student success. Every spring, students who made the honor roll get to go on a trip. Often times, the trip is to a college campus, although we try to go to at least three different locations. This way, students who make honor roll all three years, have a unique experience. About 35 to 40 percent of our students make honor roll and this trip is a great reward for their efforts. We also have end of year parties for each grade. The 8th grade promotion is put on by the parents and is a highly attended event for us. In addition, the school hosts three afternoon dances which are open to all students who have exhibited good behavior.



Principal Steensrud observing small group lesson



Students art, from past and present, lines the walls of Carquinez Middle School



Hercules Middle/High School

Principal: Guy Zakrevsky

Tell us about your background: I've been the Principal here at Hercules Middle/High School for four years. Before that I was the Principal/Superintendent of a smaller school district for five years.

What do you want to see happen at HMHS? I want to see us be known as a World Class School. We have 32 home languages spoken so we already have the world part, now it's becoming World Class (academically). Given our diversity and socioeconomic mix, our school is very successful, but I want to continue to build on our success and see ALL levels of students be successful. Whether they go to an Ivy League school, junior college or go into a trade, I want students to reach higher and achieve their goals, whatever those may be.

What Regional Occupational Program (ROP) classes, does HMHS offer? We have a new culinary arts program, a bio-tech program, yearbook and newspaper classes. ROP is a career training program designed to give students experience



Batman decor creates relaxed atmosphere in conference room

in vocational type careers. All ROP programs are overseen by the County who also provides funding for the classes. Currently, our Bio-tech program is the strongest. Our students excel at math and science and the Bio-tech program is a reflection of that. The culinary arts program is in its first year, but is doing quite well. The teacher, Mr. Jerry Clopp, is a former chef and has a passion for cooking. The class is available to all high school students as an elective. In the program, students learn the skills they need to be successful in the food restaurant industry. I really want to see this class expand into a full fledged program. For next year, we are converting a classroom into a kitchen with a café and possibly down the line could open up the café to the community. It's important to note that our teachers are key to any successful program. Exemplary programs come from exemplary teachers.

How has the District's Equity Program been implemented at your school? This is the first year the idea of Equity has been the focus for the District, however, our school has been incorporating principles of equity into our culture and ideology for several years now. I believe Equity is not about focusing on one group, but about making sure all students have appropriate edu-



Principal Zak doing morning announcements with leadership student

education opportunities, that all students can be successful. It's about focusing on equal opportunities and having two way respect. When students and teachers have mutual respect and students feel they are in a positive learning environment, then Equity can be fostered. Two way respect is the top priority of our student/teacher protocol, so equity and respect are very important to our school- it is an on-going process.

You have a very unique office and conference room, can you tell us about that? My office and conference room are filled with Batman items, most of which were given to me by students and staff. I grew up loving Batman and over the years my collection has grown with the help of students and staff. A lot of difficult meetings happen in this office and in the conference room, so the décor create a more casual atmosphere which helps lesson some of the tension of the meeting and help ease those involved.

An Old-Fashioned
4th of July
In Hercules

THEME:

WITH LIBERTY FOR ALL

Saturday, July 4, 2009

PARADE

10:30 AM: Redwood Rd. to Sycamore Ave.
to Refugio Valley Park

IN THE PARK

Immediately following parade: games, booths,
food and beverages

FIREWORKS

At dusk over the Hercules/Pinole Waterfront



With Gratitude To Our 2008 Contributors

Drs. Mora Family Dentistry
Hercules Bayfront LLC
Kel-Aire Heating & Air Conditioning
Pillow Pre-School

Pro Media - Ultra Sound
Richmond Sanitary Service
Synergistic Telecommunications

Participant Information:

Participant Applications will be available **after March 31, 2009.**
At that time, please visit the Hercules Chamber of Commerce website: www.herculeschamber.com.
Please click on the "Events" link.

Event co-sponsored by the City of Hercules and the Hercules Chamber of Commerce
Fireworks Co-Sponsored by the City of Hercules and the City of Pinole

For event information, please call 510-799-7536 or 510-741-7945

John Swett High School

Principal: Robert Bass

Tell us about your background: I've been a Principal for a total of seven years, including three years at John Swett. I was a math/science teacher for five years before becoming a Principal.

What do you think is the best aspect of your school? I think the best aspect is that the students all get along. We have an eclectic group of students, they are very accepting of each other. We don't have to worry about cliques and since we are in a small district, many of the students have been around each other for many years. We have very few discipline issues and students feel safe, so they want to be on campus and they are able to learn.

What do you want to see happen? We are about to begin a major renovation, I want to see that to completion. I want to see more students pursue secondary education. This is very important to me and to all our staff. I really want to see students in the sub-groups be just as successful, essentially, eliminate any academic achievement gap. I believe we do this by building relationships, accentuating the positives and letting students know they can do it.

The District has a Character Counts Program, how does that program take shape at the high school level? The District, and I, believe that by emphasizing character early, it becomes a part of who [students] are, it's engrained. Our staff make it a priority to show respect to students and lift them up.



Staff conscientiously looks at where students are and try to assist as needed. We provide homework clinics and other tools to try and meet student's individual needs. We are currently in the beginning stages of creating 'student success teams.' These teams would be a place for collaboration and for teachers and mentors to reiterate the importance of education. We are actually beginning to look for possible mentors and guest speakers in different fields to

show students real world opportunities. "You don't know what you don't know," and I think students need to know just how important education is in the real world.

How is the school empowering parents? We have an online program called School Loop which enables parents to find out student assignments, grades and connect with their students teachers via email. The program was piloted by the high school last year and is being implemented District wide. School Loop eliminates parents having to ask 'do you have homework?' With the click of a button they can log on and find out. The email feature is also very helpful for parents since they can quickly connect with any of their student's teachers. We are also in the beginning stages of creating a handbook which would assist parents and guardians with the tools they need to help their teen find success. Often times, parents just don't know where to begin or what to do. We have made it a priority, as a school, to build positive relationships with parents and guardians and assist them with helping their teen be successful in school and in life.

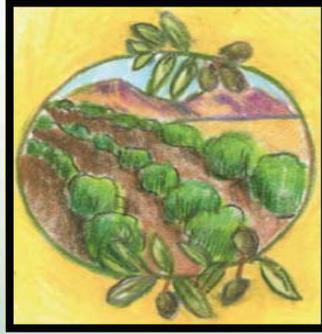


Principal Bass working in his office, which contains memorabilia from his Air Force days



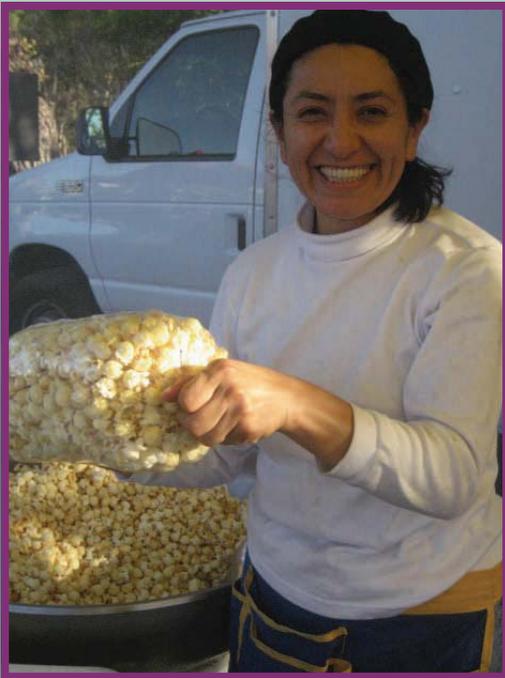
Principal Bass talking with student after school

H C



F M

HERCULES CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET



The Farmers' Market in Hercules is a wonderful place to meet friends and neighbors within your community.

Come over and enjoy wholesome, freshly picked produce and listen to music. Come and celebrate the rich ethnic diversity within our community.

**OPENING DAY:
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009
HOME DEPOT PARKING LOT**

**NEW TIME:
3:30PM-7:00PM**

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, or would like to be a part of our entertainment, please contact Mindy Niualiku at (510) 799-8230 or e-mail at mniualiku@ci.hercules.ca.us



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:

- Summer** Friday, May 15, 2009 (July publication)
- Fall** Friday, September 18, 2009 (November publication)
- Spring** Friday, January 15, 2010 (March publication)

3. ADVERTISEMENT SIZES AND COST:

Please select one of the following advertisement sizes:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Eighth Page | (3 1/2" W x 1 1/2" H) | \$115.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Quarter Page | (3 1/2" W x 2 1/2" H) | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Half Page | (7" W x 4 1/2" H) | \$225.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Full Page | (7" W X 8 3/4" H) | \$570.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front/Back Cover Full Page | (7" W X 8 3/4" H) | \$595.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Back Cover Half Page | (7" W x 2 1/2" H) | \$620.00 |

* Hercules Community Non-Profit organizations recognized by the Hercules Community Services Commission will receive one FREE half page ad per calendar year. Increased rates effective Summer 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 and 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

PLEASE PRINT

NAME/BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

STREET

STATE/ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

CONTACT PERSON

PHONE

RETURN ORIGINAL AD

YES

NO

SIGNATURE

DATE

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

DATE PAYMENT RECEIVED

DATE AD RECEIVED

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Community Coat Drive Collects Close to 1300 Coats for Bay Area Rescue Mission

On January 27, 2009, the Hercules City Council honored the participants of the 2008 One Warm Coat Drive. Several businesses and organizations contributed to the success of the program and on Tuesday, Council thanked each participant with a proclamation. John Lee, from the Bay Area Rescue Mission, joined in the thanks, sharing with the Council that many of the coats had already been distributed. Local businesses assisted the drive by volunteering to be a drop off location, host a special event, or assisting with logistics.

A total of 1,270 coats, hats, scarves, gloves and other warm apparel items were collected and donated to the Bay Area Rescue Mission earlier this month. The Bay Area Rescue Mission has been caring for the poor and impoverished in West Contra Costa County for over 40 years.

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for your dedication to the 2008 One Warm Coat Drive: Hercules Wellness Center, Hercules Fitness Center, Radstons Office Plus, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Sycamore Hills By the Bay, Franklin Canyon Golf Course, Lucky Supermarkets, and the Hercules Interact Students-Christine Imazumi, Janna Lee, Cliff Vuong, Kelsey Wong, Kenneth Wong, and Michael Zhao.



Participants of the 2008 One Warm Coat Drive (from left to right): Victor Kerenyi, Laurie Ongouliau, Diane Cockrell, Cliff Vuong, Janna Lee, Kenneth Wong, Michelle Harrington and John Lee

On behalf of the City Council, City staff Michelle Harrington, also thanked the Hercules community for showing such generosity and kindness. It took the combined efforts of the businesses and the community to complete such a successful drive.

Due to the success of the event, the City is planning on hosting a similar drive next winter. Details will be made available on our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.



Cliff Vuong (right) and Kenneth Wong (center) take donation from Hercules resident at special drop off event at Lucky Supermarkets



The 1,270 donated items filled up the Bay Area Rescue Mission truck quickly



Darren Ng, OD



Tam Nguyen, OD



3700 San Pablo Ave. Ste. 5
Hercules (by Kinders and Starbucks)
www.insightoptometry.net

About the Doctors

Dr. Darren Ng and Dr. Tam Nguyen earned their doctorate degrees at UC Berkeley School of Optometry. Dr. Ng is a native of El Sobrante and earned his BA in Molecular Cell Biology at UC Berkeley. Dr. Nguyen grew up in Sacramento and earned her BS in Human Development at UC Davis. Both doctors enjoy working with people in all age groups. They believe in attention to detail and providing personal eye care for their patients.

Our Practice

We carry a large selection of frames for patients of all ages, including children, young adults, and seniors. Our designer frames include Prada, Gucci, Bvlgari, Fendi and Silhouette.



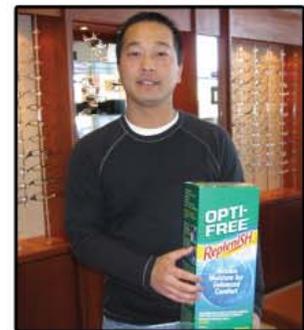
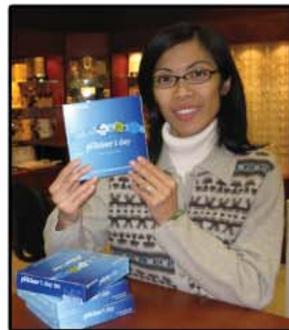
Proud Sponsor of the Hercules Titans High School basketball team

We wish much success to Coach Drew and his team for the 2008-09 season. During the home opener for 2009, a free throw shoot out for a free pair of Oakley sunglasses was performed at halftime. Congratulations to Hercules High School students Elijah and Chalsee for winning the shoot out and a pair of Oakley sunglasses!



Our Contest Winners!

Congratulations to Helen of Pinole for winning a 1-year supply of Coopervision's Proclear 1-Day contacts and Tony of Hercules for winning a 6-month supply of Opti-Free Replenish contact lens solution!



Computer Vision Syndrome

125 million computer users are affected.

Does it affect you?

What is it?

Computer vision syndrome or CVS is a common vision problem that affects computer users of all ages. It is a direct consequence of prolonged computer use resulting in eye strain, dryness, blurry vision, headaches, and associated muscle strain. CVS is recognized by the American Optometric Association as a growing problem since the computer tech surge.

What causes it?

With more and more computer use, there is an increase in demand for our eyes to focus, track, and converge. Poor ergonomics also contribute to CVS (improper computer screen placement, chair height, etc.).

What symptoms should I look out for?

The most common symptoms are eye strain, poor focus, blurriness, dry eyes, headaches, muscle and neck strain. Some computer users also complain of poor night vision when driving home from work.

What can be done if I experience these problems?

First, it is important to become aware of your work environment. How far is your computer screen from your eyes? Are there overhead lights? Knowing this information can help your optometrist make an accurate assessment of your symptoms. A vision exam will determine any causes related to CVS. If necessary, computer or workstation glasses can be prescribed to relieve symptoms of CVS, including eye and neck strain.

If you are experiencing symptoms of CVS or would like to know more about it, please feel free to call us for more information. We will also offer a free consultation for anyone interested in preventing or relieving symptoms of Computer Vision Syndrome.

510-741-9900

3700 San Pablo Ave. Ste. 5
Hercules (by Kinders and Starbucks)
www.insightoptometry.net

We accept most vision insurance, including
VSP, EyeMed, MES, and MediCare.



Lower your rates, not your standards.

(Discounts up to 35% on car insurance.)

Switch to State Farm® and you could save big with one of our many discounts.
Hurry in (but don't speed).



Geoffrey Lavitoria, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0C08703
1327 Sycamore Ave
Hercules, CA 94547-5489
Bus: 510-724-1800

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

statefarm.com®

P060396 12/06

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company—Bloomington, IL

The Herculean
City of Hercules
111 Civic Drive
Hercules, CA 94547

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rodeo, CA
Permit No. 23

ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON