

Happy New Year!

You Are Invited Second Annual Cupertino New Years Party

Benefiting the Cupertino Library
Quinlan Center
10185 North Stelling Road, Cupertino
December 31, 2005
8PM- 1AM

Elegant Buffet Dinner
Champagne & Wine
Beer & Non-alcoholic Beverages

Party Favors

Door Prizes

Dancing to DJ Music of Milt Wehrman

\$74.50 per person

Party Attire

RSVP

By December 20, 2005 to
Jack Hubby
11487 Lindy Place
Cupertino CA 95014
(408) 996-2821

jackhubby@comcast.net

Checks payable to Cupertino Library Foundation



Jack Hubby
11487 Lindy Place
Cupertino CA 95014

Yes, I will be coming
Checks payable to Cupertino Library Foundation
_____ persons @ \$74.50 per person \$ _____ enclosed

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

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Hours

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Sunday | 2 to 6 |
| Monday | Closed |
| Tuesday | 12 to 9 |
| Wednesday | 10 to 9 |
| Thursday | 10 to 9 |
| Friday | 10 to 6 |
| Saturday | 10 to 6 |

Phone Numbers

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| General Number | 408.446.1677 |
| Accounts, Billing | 800.286.1991 |
| TeleCirc | 800.471.0991 |

Web Addresses

Santa Clara County Library:
www.santaclaracountylib.org
Teen Page: www.santaclaracountylib.org/teen
Kids Page: www.santaclaracountylib.org/kids

Storytimes

Bedtime Stories (ages 3 and up): Weds, 7 p.m.
Toddler Stories (ages 1-1/2 to 3): Thurs., 10:15 a.m.
There will be no storytimes December 18 - 31.

Kids' Films

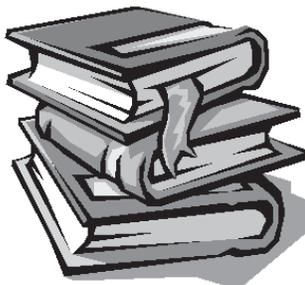
Kids in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited for winter films and popcorn in the Children's Story Room on Wednesday, December 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Mandarin Storytime

Families are invited to celebrate Chinese New Year with Librarian Lannie Kuo at a storytime program in Mandarin Chinese on Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Do you love to read?

Join us for Booktalks at the library



Librarian Judy Dana will introduce you to some new books for adults on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 from 3:30 to 5 pm in the

Children's Story Room. The booktalks will consist of a short description of several book titles, covering all genres and subjects.

Booktalks are scheduled every other month. The next session will be on March 22, 2006.

For more information please call the Reference Desk at 408.446.1677.

Firebird Youth Orchestra

The Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra, directed by Gordon Lee, will perform on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 3 p.m. in the Cupertino Community Hall next door to the library. The orchestra includes elementary through high school students, who play music on traditional Chinese instruments. For more information, please call the Reference Desk at 408.446.1677.

Knitting at the Library

Bring your needles and yarn to the library every Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. and join knitting expert Lakshmi Moorthy in the Story Room on the main floor. Adults and Children (10+)



can learn to knit or get tips for their own knitting projects. Knitters of all skill levels are welcome to attend.

Cupertino Scene

The *Cupertino Scene* is published monthly, except in August and January, and distributed to all residents and businesses in the city. Information may be submitted via e-mail to rickk@cupertino.org. Questions may be directed to the Public Information Office at City Hall, 777.3262. Deadline is the first Wednesday of the month for the next month's issue.

Databases and Research Tools

Santa Clara County Library subscribes to online databases for adults and children, on a variety of subjects, including business, science and literature. Many of the databases are available even when the library is closed. If you're not at the library, just go to the library's webpage at www.santaclaracountylib.org, click on databases, and enter your library card and PIN number to access a database.

You may choose from any of the available databases. For example, you can research a company using *Standard and Poor's Net Advantage*, prepare for an academic or professional exam with *Learning Express* or find information for a state report in *America the Beautiful*. If you have any questions about the databases, please call the Reference desk, at 408.446.1677, during the library's open hours.

The Friends of the Cupertino Library Bestseller Collection

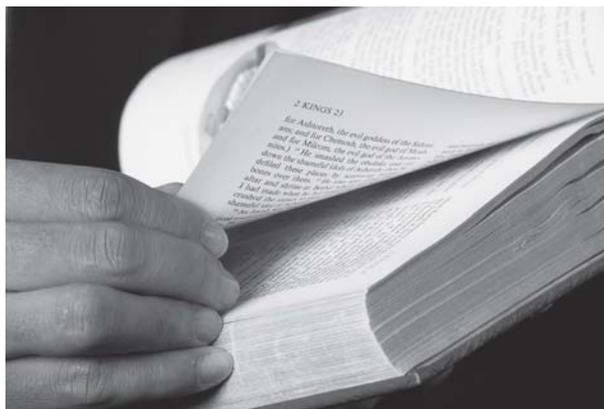
Funded by the *Friends of the Cupertino Library*, the Bestseller Collection is a special browsing collection designed to make it easier than ever to find a bestseller on the library shelf when you visit the library. The books are available on a first-come, first-served basis (no reserves). All titles check out for one week.

Located in the New Book / New Magazines / Media area right off the lobby.

Friends of the Cupertino Library also welcomes everyone to their ongoing Lobby Book Sales. The next annual Friends Book Sale will be held in the Community Hall on Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12, 2006.

Collecting Cell Phones

The *Friends of the Cupertino Library* have placed a cabinet in the library lobby to collect used cell phones. Proceeds benefit the Cupertino Library.



Internet Classes in Mandarin

Beginning classes on how to use the Internet are available in Mandarin, by appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the library's Reference Desk at 408.446.1677.

Teen Database Classes

Database instruction for teens, thirteen to nineteen, is available at the library, by appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment to learn about the library's subscription databases, please call the reference desk at 408.446.1677.

Internet Basics for Adults

Basic Internet classes for adults are held at the library on the second Saturday of every month, 2 to 2:30 p.m. These drop-in classes are limited to five participants and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must be able to use a computer keyboard and mouse. If interested, please come to the Adult Reference Desk at 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Library Tours

Library tours are conducted the third Wednesday of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. Tours include an explanation and demonstration of the library's online catalog and subscription databases, and library collections and services. For more information about library tours, call 408.446.1677.

HERE COME THE PARADE

Save the Date – March 11, 2006

In a first for the Cupertino Lunar New Year Unity Parade and Cultural Fair, grants are being offered for programs and activities that promote awareness of cultural diversity. “Thanks to generous community support our committee is delighted to have the opportunity to offer six grants of \$500 and two grants of \$1000,” stated Kris Wang, Parade Committee Co-Chair. “Over the past three years we have been very pleased at the community’s response to this event which raises awareness of the broad spectrum of cultural diversity throughout Cupertino,” stated Steve Andrews, Parade Committee Co-Chair. “We look forward to increasing the impact of this event through this \$5000 grant opportunity.”

Plans are underway for the fourth annual Lunar New Year Unity Parade scheduled for



Saturday, March 11, 2006, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Lunar New Year Unity Parade Committee would like to invite your organization and you to join this exciting Cupertino community event.

If you would like to be a sponsor for the Lunar New Year Unity Parade, please contact Tommy Shwe at tommy.shwe@cbnorcal.com. To join the parade teams, please contact Steve Ting at s_ting@pacbell.net or Penny Peng at yen-ping@pacbell.net. Please contact Jon Kaplan at jonnymkap@aol.com to volunteer. Food vendors, please contact Fari Aberg at fari.berg@hp.com. and stage performers; please contact Ann Woo at annwoo@comcast.net.



The mission of the Lunar New Year Unity Parade is to bring our community’s broad spectrum of cultures together while celebrating the Lunar New Year. We encourage people of all ethnicities, ages, and back-

grounds to participate in this fun event. If you would like to join the committee as a volunteer, please contact the Committee co-chair: Steve Andrews at 408.973.1348 or firstwater@comcast.net. Please go to www.unityparade.org for complete details.

CUPERTINO SYMPHONIC BAND

The Cupertino Symphonic Band will present its popular Christmas Concert, conducted by Tom Narcisso, on Sunday, Dec.18, 2005, 3 p.m., at Quinlan Community Center located at 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino. Canned goods for community services would be a great donation but the concert is free! Music will include traditional holiday music plus some pieces about characters like the

Grinch. For more information, call 408.262.0471 or try our website at www.netview.com/csb.



COMMUNITY CRAB FEED PLANNED

An all-you-can-eat crab feed open to the public is scheduled Friday, Jan. 27, in the St. Joseph of Cupertino parish hall, 10120 N. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino. The fifth annual event features a menu of fresh crab, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Dessert, as well as no-host beer and wine, will also be available. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Tickets, at \$30, may be purchased in advance by calling the St. Joseph of Cupertino School office, 408.252.6441. After Jan. 20, available tickets will be sold for \$35 each. All proceeds from the event will go toward school programs and services.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Swearing-in and Retirement of Councilmembers

Monday, December 12, 2005
6:45 p.m., Community Hall
Swearing-in of Patrick Kwok, Dolly Sandoval, and Orrin Mahoney
Retirement of Sandy James

CREST Award Nominations

Monday, January 2
www.cupertino.org
Forms are available to nominate individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the community during 2005.

State of the City

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
11:45 a.m., Cupertino Room, Quinlan Community Center
Visit Cupertino-Chamber.org for more information.



Open House



Join Us On
Saturday Jan. 7, 2006
10 am - 12 pm
2111 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino (408) 777-3160



Free
Prizes, Classes, Games, Body Fat Testing, Crafts, Face Painting, and More

SIMPLY SAFE

New section added to Cupertino Website for Emergency Information. During disasters, this new section of the website will be filled with details about the community including: shelter locations, road closures, school & office closures, safety information, how to rebuild, etc. You can reach the information from www.cupertino.org, and then click on "Emergency Information". If you have wireless Internet capability, you may even be able to access the information before power is restored. The information will still be valuable in the days, weeks and months following a major disaster as recovery efforts continue.

The Community Emergency Training Center has moved to a bigger and better space at Vallco Mall. Many thanks to Vallco for allowing us to use the space free of charge.

In addition to training classes, there are many free preparedness resources you can pick up. Copies of "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country" are now available at the center. We even sell emergency supplies! The new space is 2156 and is directly across from the old center on the upper level of Vallco near JC Penney.

Winter Preparation Resources

Flooding: Santa Clara Valley Water District has an excellent website. www.valleywater.org Information includes flood hazards, sandbag program details and Noah's Flood Safe Guide (downloadable or call 408.265.2600 for a hard copy).

Heating: As customers use their heaters to combat the dropping mercury, Pacific Gas and Electric Company wants to provide a reminder about safe home heating practices. Doing a simple, ten-minute check of a furnace can reduce the likelihood of serious danger from a malfunctioning system. Damaged or worn furnaces can emit lethal quan-

ties of carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas that can cause sickness or even death. Go to www.cupertino.org/emergency and click on "Winter Preparedness" or request a copy from O.E.S.

Upcoming classes: Community Emergency Response Team January 12, 2006. Choose day or evening classes. Five Thursdays from 9 a.m. to Noon, or 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and graduation February 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's FREE and a great way to start the New Year. Bring your friends!

Personal Emergency Preparedness Workshop, Thursday, December 8, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to Noon. FREE

CPR for Infant/Child/Adult. January 11, 6 to 10 p.m. \$25

Kaleidoscope Public Safety Training for 6th-12th Grade. \$35. February 20-24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn CPR, First Aid, Earthquake Preparedness, Fire Safety. Tour the City's 9-1-1 Center, talk to a Sheriff's Office representative about youth crime and put out a real fire! Class limited to 20 students.

Preparing for emergencies, one month at a time...

Donate your canned food earthquake supplies to

Cupertino Community Services, batteries to Toys for Tots and update your emergency kit. By making this donation an annual tradition, your supplies will NEVER be out of date!

Simply Safe is a monthly article provided to inform the community about emergency preparedness, training schedules and volunteer opportunities. Contact the Cupertino Office of Emergency Services (OES) at 408.777.3335, email OES@cupertino.org, or go to the website www.cupertino.org/emergency for more information.

Register for classes through Cupertino Parks & Recreation 777.3120.



BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

The City of Cupertino would like to advise its residents of an increased number of residential burglaries. Jewelry has been the primary item reported stolen. The perpetrator(s) are accessing homes through backyards, looking for easy access via unlocked doors or windows. The perpetrator(s) are also prying open rear windows.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting your assistance and is offering the following suggestions to help prevent further break-ins.

v Secure all doors and windows.

v Secure side-yard gates with locks. Make arrangements with PG&E for meter reading. Designate a responsible party who can provide access to locked gates in the event of an activated alarm.

- Report suspicious persons and/or activity, or illegal solicitors in your neighborhood.

- Report suspicious vehicles by providing license plate numbers to the 911 dispatch center.

- Secure jewelry in a quality safe.

- If you have an Alarm, use it!

- Be watchful of your neighborhood and report any suspicious activity.

We have also been receiving reports of automobile burglaries. The perpetrator(s) are using a rescue tool that will silently shatter glass. Do not leave purses, wallets, portfolios, laptop computers, or other valuables in the car. The perpetrator(s) will shatter the glass, reach into the car and take property. Again, we ask that you be watchful and report any unusual or suspicious activity.

Barriers to Burglary

Perhaps more than any other crime, burglary is a crime of opportunity. Burglars will aim for the easiest targets. Most will give up if they can't get in within a few minutes.

First Line of Defense

Burglars try the easiest entries first – doors and windows. If your doors or windows can't quickly open, chances are burglars will move on. Do not leave your doors and windows unlocked when away from home.

Doors: The best locks for your doors are deadbolts. The deadbolt lock should have a minimum of a one-inch throw bolt containing a hardened steel insert, which resists sawing. The strike plate should be attached to the doorframe with screws that measure four inches. Hollow core doors should be replaced with solid core doors or strengthened with metal sheets. Glass in a door should be unbreakable safety glass. Glass can also be protected with steel bars or mesh.

Hinges: If your doors swing out, the hinges are on the outside. A burglar can easily remove the hinge pins and lift the door out. To foil this, remove the center screw from each side of the hinge and insert a metal pin, or headless screw, on one side. This way, even if the hinge pins are removed, the door will be bolted to the frame.

Windows: Use key locks on all of your windows and always keep them locked. Remember that even the best locks are useless if the window

can be pried loose, or the frame is rotted. If you need ventilation, open the windows, but not wide enough to allow an average adult to climb through. To secure the windows at that level, drill a slanted hole through the front window sash and part way through the back sash, and insert a heavy-duty nail or eyebolt through the hole.

Lighting: Light may be one of the best crime deterrents. In fact, some states have minimum standards for exterior lighting. The rule of thumb is to light up all dark areas, especially doors and windows. Watch for shadows that can conceal a burglar's activity.

Alarms: If you decide to install, or already have, an alarm, put warning signs in every window and at every possible entrance. Knowing that your residence or business is equipped with an alarm may be enough to deter some burglars. For best results, every alarm system should include: A battery failsafe, back up fire-sensing capability, and a feedback device to check whether the system is working. For more information contact Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Stephanie Turini at steffaniet@cupertino.org



Community Calendar

Submit information about clubs and organizations that meet in Cupertino to Linda Lagergren, City of Cupertino, 10300 Torre Ave., Cupertino, 95014, 777-3202
lindal@cupertino.org

Clubs with asterisks meet more than once monthly.
 Call the contact number for details.

| DEC. | Club/Organization | Time | Location | Phone |
|------------|---|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 Thurs | De Anza Lions Club* | 6:45 a.m. | Holders Country Inn | 255-3093 |
| | Cup. Host Lions Club* | 7:15 p.m. | Mariani's Restaurant | 252-6262 |
| | Northwest Y Service Club* | 6:30 p.m. | Northwest YMCA 20803 Alves Drive | 725-8195 |
| | Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service | 7:30 p.m. | City Hall | 345-8372 |
| | Women's Quilting Group* | 9:30 a.m. | West Valley Pres. Church 6191 Bollinger Rd. | 253-2984 252-0932 |
| | Connect Club I* | Noon | Holders Country Inn | 252-7054 |
| | Connect Club II* | 8 a.m. | Chamber of Commerce | 252-7054 |
| | Business Networking Intl.* | 7 a.m. | BJ's Brewery | 996-9111 BNI.com |
| | HP Communicators Toastmasters #4606* | 7 a.m. | HP Cupt. site, Bldg. 46T 19055 Pruneridge Ave. | 650-691- 8724 |
| | Overeaters Anonymous* Food Addicts in Recovery* (FA) | 7 p.m. 7 p.m. | Union Church St. Jude's Church | 253-8394 378-3499 |
| 2 Fri | Alcoholics Anonymous* Fast Start Group | 5:00 p.m. | Redeemer Lutheran Church 940 S. Stelling Rd | 374-8511 |
| | De Anza Kiwanis* | 7:15 a.m. | Intl. House of Pancakes | 973-1456 |
| 3 Sat | De Anza Flea Market Organization of Special Needs Families* | 8 to 4 p.m. 2 to 4 p.m. | De Anza College 20920 McClellan Rd. | 864-8946 996-0858 |
| | Overeaters Anonymous* Planetarium Shows* | 9 a.m. 7 p.m. | Union Church DeAnza Planetarium | 842-0688 864-8814 |
| | American Legion Post 642 | 8 p.m. | 10201 Imperial Ave., #3 | 374-6392 |
| 5 Mon | AI-ANON Steps for Living* Take off Pounds Sensibly* TOPS | 7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. | 940 S. Stelling Rd. First Baptist Church 10505 Miller Ave. | 379-1051 252-2434 |
| | Overeaters Anonymous* Food Addicts in Recovery* (FA) | 7 p.m. 7 p.m. | Union Church St. Jude's Church | 650-327- 1649 246-1620 |
| | Alcoholics Anonymous* Women's Group | 6:30 p.m. | Redeemer Luth. Church, 940 S. Stelling Rd. | 650-903- 0321 |
| | AI-ANON Family Group* ToughLove* | 5:30 p.m. 7 p.m. | Bethel Lutheran Church 10131 Finch Avenue Bethel Lutheran Church | 379-1051 946-7970 |
| 6 Tues | Cupertino Kiwanis* Knights of Columbus 4981* | Noon 8 p.m. | The Blue Pheasant 10201 Imperial Ave., #3 | 252-3830 243-8462 |
| | Cupertino Men's Service* Cupertino Sr. TV Prod.* | Noon 9:30 a.m. | The Blue Pheasant Senior Center | 252-2667 |
| | AI-ANON Family Group* | 7 p.m. | 940 S. Stelling Road | 650-734- 5869 |
| 7 Wed | AI-ATEEN* | 8:15 p.m. | Redeemer Lutheran Church, 940 S. Stelling | 650-292- 8897 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 7 Wed | Cupertino Sanitary Dist* | 8 p.m. | 20833 Stevens Creek #104 | 253-7071 |
| | De Anza Optimist Club* | 7:15 a.m. | Holder's Restaurant | 253-4424 |
| | Cupertino Optimist Club* | 12:15 p.m. | Blue Pheasant | 255-3212 |
| | Tandem Toastmasters* | Noon | HP, 19333 Vallco Parkway | 285-4977 |
| | Macintalkers | 5:30 p.m. | Apple Computer De Anza | macintalkers.com |
| | Toastmasters* | | 3, 10500 N. DeAnza Blvd. | vppr@macintalkers.com 920-2224 |
| | Cupertino Rotary Club* | Noon | Community Center | |
| | Philotesian Rebekah #145 | 7:30 p.m. | Cupertino Odd Fellows | 252-3954 |
| | Cup. Symphonic Band* | 7 p.m. | Cupertino High School | 262-0471 |
| | Overeaters Anonymous* | 7 p.m. | Union Church | 247-8488 |
| | Connect Club III* | 8:15 a.m. | Chamber of Commerce | 252-7054 |
| 8 Thurs | Quota Service Club* | Noon | Blue Pheasant | 252-8568 |
| | (Aids hearing & speech impaired) Cupertino-West Valley Welcome Club | 11:30 a.m. | | 257-6136 252-1529 |
| 9 Fri | Malihini Orchid Society | 7:30 p.m. | Hewlett-Packard, Oak Rm | 267-3397 |
| | Cupertino Coin Club | 7:45 p.m. | West Valley Pres. Church | 253-1232 |
| 10 Sat | Daughters of Norway | 9:30 a.m. | Sunnyview Retirement Community | 255-9828 |
| | Cupertino Odd Fellows* | 8 p.m. | 20589 Homestead Rd. | 252-3954 |
| 12 Mon | Fine Arts League | 7 p.m. | Community Center Social Room | 978-6614 |
| | Southbay Toastmasters* | 6:30 p.m. | Tandem Bldg. 251, 10100 N. Tantau, Rm. 1258 | 253-7622 |
| 13 Tues | Sertoma Club* | 7:15 a.m. | 1366 S. Saratoga- Sunnyvale Rd. | 252-2584 255-5293 |
| | Poets Society* | 7:30 p.m. | Coffee Society | 725-8091 |
| 14 Wed | Krazy Dazys Square Dance Club* | 7 p.m. | Hyde Middle School | 245-9156 |
| | Cross-Cultural Consortium (5Cs) | 7 p.m. | Community Hall | 285-7332 |
| 15 Thurs | Toyokawa Sister City | 7:30 p.m. | City Hall | 257-7424 |
| | West Valley Republican Women | 11:30 a.m. | | 252-6312 |
| | Rolling Hills 4H Club | 7 p.m. | Monta Vista Recreation Center | 257-4745 |
| | Embroiders' Guild of America | 7 p.m. | Sunnyview Lutheran Home | 578-5917 |
| 20 Tues | African Violet Society | 12:30 p.m. | Sunnyview Lutheran Home | 736-9262 |
| 21 Wed | Rancho Neighborhood Association | 7:30 p.m. | Rancho Pool & Recreation Facility | |
| 27 Tues | Historical Society | 6:30 p.m. | Community Center | 973-1495 |
| | De Anza Youth Soccer League meeting | 7:30 p.m. | Creekside Park | deanzayouth soccer.org |
| 28 Wed | The Powerful Pens | 7 p.m. | 18000 Chelmsford | 626-9784 |

Deadline for submitting February calendar information is Jan. 4.



MONTA VISTA MIKE AND THE GREAT CHRISTMAS TREE CAPER

Mike Mikul passed away recently. Mike was the plumber everyone in Cupertino/Monta Vista area called in the old days. Everyone knew Mike. Even though he'd retired and moved to Hawaii many years ago, reading his obituary in the newspaper reminded me of an incident that occurred over 50 years ago - sort of a Christmas memory.

I was a kid and school was out for 2 weeks of vacation. Yippee! Time to look for a tree. Folks didn't put up their trees and decorate as early as they do now and stores actually waited until the day after Thanksgiving to put out their Christmas merchandise. Amazing! Anyway, my uncle Don Regnart decided to take some of the kids up to Table Mountain and cut our trees for Christmas. Grandma Annie's house always got the biggest one and the rest of us got whatever our front rooms would accommodate. I clearly recall mother yelling to her baby brother, as I ran out to the truck, "Don, you make sure those kids don't get into the poison oak!" Oh, the hor-

ror of those words - the dreaded poison oak - which grew like huge weeds all over the hills and even in rural backyards back then. Shiny green leaves in the spring and summer, turning a lovely red in the fall.

Uncle Don drove up Stevens Canyon Road almost to the end and then turned off onto a dirt track that wound higher and higher into the hills. We kids loved the bouncing and jostling in the back of the truck - we were going into the woods - we were going to cut trees. What fun! We ran, we hid, we clambered over rocks and fallen logs and little streams and through the trees and brush, now



leafless in the winter. And we found trees for everybody. We looked like unwashed urchins when we were deposited back on our respective porches, with our Christmas tree in tow. Tomorrow we would set them up and decorate. Mother took one look and my disheveled state and said, "Did you watch out for poison oak?" I never saw any and said so and she ordered me to the shower. Boy, that hot

soapy shower felt good.

About 3 a.m. I started to itch - all over - and by morning the awful truth was evident. Head to toe and not just a case of the rash. Unfortunately, I got the "other kind". These were the days before cortisone shots or other forms of relief and the bottle of calamine lotion wasn't going to even begin to work on this. For over 2 weeks, I lay in bed; unable to open my eyes, mouth, immobile and sipping liquids through a straw. I looked like a character out of a Steven King novel.

Tree decorating came and went - I could hear the other kids playing outside. Cookie baking and licking the bowl happened out in the kitchen - but my bedroom was kept dark and quiet. Couldn't read - we had no TV - the radio and phonograph were out in the living room, but I couldn't move out there. I was deemed "contagious". Only mother came in and out of my room. My little sisters took one look at my swollen face and other body parts early on and fled in horror. Christmas and feasting with all the cousins at Grandma's came and went and also New Year's and still I was relegated to my room. I covered the bathroom mirror with a towel and bawled in self-pity until the salty tears made my itching worse and I sniffled to a stop.

School started; mom went back to her teaching job, dad was working and my sisters went back to school, too. I was old enough to stay by myself and in those days, it was safe to do so. Then the kitchen sink stopped up. No amount of boiling water, using the old plunger or Drano would loosen the clog. So mom called Mike the plumber. When she told me I'd have to let him in to fix the sink, I shrieked. No one and I mean, NO ONE was allowed to see "the face with poison oak". But mom was adamant. I was better. I could let him in and go straight to my room. No amount of protesting or whining worked.

I contemplated putting a towel over my head when I answered the door but then I couldn't see to open the door. I thought about putting a sheet over my head and cutting out 2 eyeholes, except that would look like Halloween and Mike would think that mother had a crazy daughter who couldn't get her seasons straight. I thought about running away, but someone might see me or just not answering the door - then I'd get



switched on top of having p.o. The hour approached and I couldn't think of a way to get out of opening the door. When Mike knocked, I opened the door a crack, stepped aside to let him in and stopped short. Never had I seen such a look on a person's face. Mike was dumbfounded and horror-stricken. I thought he looked scared. I was so mad at having to open the door and face him, that I probably looked even worse than usual.

Maybe Mike, like my uncle Don, had never gotten poison oak. Maybe, even though he'd lived here all his life, he'd never seen the "other kind", just the rash kind. Maybe he was afraid I was still "contagious". Maybe he just felt sorry for me. I'll never know what he thought. He just stood there, holding his toolbox and didn't move for a long time. He finally closed his open mouth and turned back down the driveway, muttering, "tell

Hazel I need to go get a different part for the sink."

I guess the sink got fixed. And I know Mike was our plumber for many more years after that Christmas vacation. But I always thought that when he came over to fix something at our house, that he always looked at me a little warily - I sort of felt like a changeling child - like maybe he thought I would morph back into that creature who had opened the door and peered out before.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and New Year and don't forget to stay out of the poison oak.

Rule # 1 - poison oak does not have leaves in the winter - just bare twigs. Rule # 2 - If you think you have been in it or gotten the oil from the plant on your clothes, don't take a hot, soapy shower. Throw your clothes in the wash (not with any other clothes) and take a sponge bath all over, with rubbing alcohol, to cut the oil. Then you can take a cool shower with Fels Naptha soap.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE DATES

UNAFFECTED

Since Christmas and New Years Day fall on Sundays this year, trash and recycling collection will remain unaffected. Customers will have their normal pickup days, Monday through Friday, during the holidays.

RECYCLING

DURING THE HOLIDAYS

A lot of trash is produced during the holiday season. Here are some recycling and garbage reminders:

Christmas Trees: Christmas trees will be collected at homes in Cupertino on regular collection days from January 2nd through 13th. Trees should be put out by 6 a.m., cut into 4-foot lengths, with all decorations and stands removed. Place trees in your tan yard waste cart or at the curb. Trees will be picked up at apartment and condominium complexes during the same period. Managers should call Los Altos Garbage Co. when the complex is ready for tree pick-up: 725-4020. Flocked trees are accepted for composting.

Corrugated Cardboard: Corrugated cardboard can be placed in the blue recycling cart or flattened and placed alongside your recycling cart. Residents living in apartments or condominiums should ask managers where cardboard is collected on-site. Boxes must be flattened and cut into 3-foot by 3-foot pieces. If desired, large quantities can be taken to the Sunnyvale Recycling Center at the north end of Borregas Ave. (call 408-752-8530).

Styrofoam: We accept blocks of Styrofoam, placed in clear plastic bags in your blue cart. While we do not accept Styrofoam “peanuts” for recycling, they are accepted at Postal Annex in the Oaks Shopping Center (Stevens Creek @ Mary Ave.) and other mailing services stores. Call first (343-0667). Residents who have the new type of “peanuts” made of cornstarch, may stir them into a compost pile or a dirt area and dissolve them in water.

Wrapping paper: Gift wrapping paper can be included with other recycling at curbside. (Most apartment and condominium complexes have paper recycling in totes.) Plastic-coated and foil wrapping paper and ribbons and bows cannot be recycled.

No limit: Remember that there is no limit to the amount of recyclables that can be set out on your collection day. (Although, yardwaste should only be set out in your yardwaste tote.) Extra recyclables can be placed in boxes and set next to the full cart.

Cans and bottles: Place a well-labeled recycling container next to trash containers at parties to make it easy for guests to recycle.

Produce Less Waste: Avoid producing unnecessary waste that needs to be recycled or disposed of this holiday season. Make these practices part of your holiday routine:

- package gifts in reusable gift bags
- bring your own bags to the store
- refuse a bag if you’re only buying one or two items

EXTRA HOLIDAY TRASH?

On-Call Disposal Days: Residents (with garbage can service) are reminded that they have the option of using their two free On-Call Disposal Days for disposal of large amounts of trash. Schedule a Disposal Day by calling the Los Altos Garbage Company at 725-4020. For details, visit the city’s website at www.cupertino.org/environmental (click on Garbage) or call the garbage company.

Extra Bag Tags: Another option for residents who periodically generate extra garbage is “Extra Bag Tags.” Place extra trash in plastic trash bags and attach a tag to it where your garbage collector picks up. Bags cannot be larger than 32 gallons or weigh more than 25 pounds. Tags cost \$5.33 each or 10 for \$50.67, and are available from the Los Altos Garbage Company, call 725-4020.

WHAT TO DO

WITH OLD COMPUTERS

If you received new computer equipment

for Christmas and are wondering where to take your old computer:

Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) in San Jose, 408.451.3853, www.raft.net

A non-profit that provides used, working computers to teachers and other non-profit agencies.

Computer Recycling Ctr. in Sunnyvale, 888.887.3372, www.crc.org

A non-profit that redistributes working computers to teachers and other non-profits. Accepts working and nonworking equipment. Some charges may apply.

City of Cupertino and Apple Computer's free electronics recycling program:

(408) 862.2667. Mon, Wed., and Fri. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 10300 Bubb Rd.— Accepting all computer components and peripherals (PCs and Macs), fax machines, VCRs, stereo equipment, home copiers, DVD players and TVs. Bring proof of residency. The facility will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.

JUNK MAIL KITS

If your mailbox is becoming overwhelmed with holiday catalogs and solicitations that you don't want, start reducing the flow of mail to your house by using a Junk Mail Reduction Kit. Find the kit on-line at www.cupertino.org/environmental, the Quinlan Comm. Ctr., city hall, or call the public works dept. at 408.777.3354 for your free copy.

SWITCH FROM WOOD TO GAS

The Air District is offering rebates to encourage residents of Santa Clara County to burn gas instead of wood.

\$100 to retrofit an existing fireplace by installing a new gas log set or a new insert.

\$300 to replace an existing wood burning stove or fireplace insert (must be 1990 or older) with a new gas appliance. Your old woodstove must be scrapped at Pick Your Part in Milpitas. First come—first served. To check availability call (1-800) HELP-AIR or for more information about the program, visit: www.sparetheair.org

COUNCIL ACTIONS



Regular meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Council Members Present: Kwok, Lowenthal, James, Sandoval, and Wang.

Council met in closed session regarding Mike Honda et al. v. Kimberly Smith et al., Superior Court Case Number 105CV047535, and authorized settlement of the claim by petitioners for litigation costs regarding ballot argument authorship.

Council met in closed session regarding De Anza Cupertino Aquatics (DACA) and Dolphin Swim Club, and directed staff to accept the proposal by Dolphin Swim School to lease the facilities.

Proclaimed the week of November 13-19 as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Continued the final map for California Water Service, Tract No.9748, Greenleaf Drive, to December 6.

Approved the final map for H/S CTC Funding, Inc., Tract No. 9724, Town Center.

Accepted municipal improvements, grading, retaining wall, sidewalk, for Peter S. and Barbara K. Gwozdz, 10367 Byrne Avenue.

Upheld the appeal of Application No. U-2005-04, Gate of Heaven Cemetery, regarding the Planning Commission's approval of a use permit for statuary, Veterans' markers and landscape features at an existing cemetery. The appellant is Robert Lindberg.

Certified that the Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan is complete and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; Approved General Plan amendments, and approved the General Plan Technical Appendices.

Approved Applications re: 19310 – 19320 Pruneridge Avenue. Architectural and Site Approval for a 130-unit town home development. Approved a General Plan Amendment to allocate 130 residential units for a proposed town home development – changed the land use designation for the park from Industrial/Residential to Parks zone. Rezoned an 8.5-acre site from Planned Industrial Zone to Planned Residential Zone. Approved the Tentative Map to subdivide an 8.5-acre parcel into 31 lots for a 130-unit town home development with a public park. Approved tree removal

Continued on page 14

Council Actions, Continued from page 13

and replanting of approximately 81 trees.

Approved an assignment of the lease with the Coffee Society at the Cupertino Library to Jackie and Bill Streeter, Dan St. Peter, and Ralph Flynn with no change in the terms of the existing lease and at no cost to the City.

Regular meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Council Members Present: Kwok, Lowenthal, James, Sandoval, Wang

Accepted an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for Fusion Korea, 20956 Homestead Road, Suite A-1.

Adopted a resolution amending Administrative Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Code for compliance with current State and Federal law pertaining to harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

Received a written report on events/festival waivers.

Accepted the Final Map for Adobe Terrace, Developer Pinn Bros., 20128 Stevens Creek Boulevard.

Accepted a Roadway Easement and Improvement agreement for sidewalk, driveway, curb and gutter, and street improvements for Sesharao Patchipala and Padmavathi Patchipala, 10455 Byrne Avenue.

Established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation Goal for federally funded projects for the Federal Fiscal Year 2005-06 and adopted a method to be used in federal-aid contracts to ensure prompt and full payment of any retainage kept by the prime contractor or subcontractor to any subcontractor. Authorized the City Manager to appoint a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise liaison officer.

Denied an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of Wayne Aozasa (CA Water Service), located on Greenleaf Dr., APN 326-33-107.

Approved Application, 20415 Via Pavisio, APN 315-01-213 through 222, regarding a modification of a use permit (8U-94) to convert a 140-unit apartment project (Aviare) to for-sale residential condominiums.

Approved an amendment to the 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan.

Approved a semi-rural designation to eliminate the requirement for sidewalks on Scenic Boulevard, east of Carmen Road,

Awarded a contract for Reconstruction of Curbs, Gutters, and Sidewalks, Project No. 2005-08, to CB Construction Co. in the amount of \$423,175.00, and approve a contingent amount of up to \$60,000.00 for additional work that may be identified and approved by the Director of Public Works.

Extended the expiration of commissions from January 15 to January 30 beginning in 2006. Application deadline December 23. Interviews January 9 and 10.

Received resignation from Technology, Information, and Communications Commissioner Charlon McIntosh, and initiated the process to fill the unscheduled vacancy in January.

Canceled the meeting of December 20, 2005 and added a meeting on November 29 for performance evaluation of the City Manager.

Second reading and adopt of Ordinance No. 1969: Modifying a Development Agreement (1-DA-90) to Extend the Term of the Agreement to August 15, 2009, to Require a Hotel Use for Future Development in the Northeast Portion of the Property, to Require a Use Permit for Any Hotel Other than at the Rosebowl Site, to Require a Use Permit for a Parking Garage Over Three Stories Located North of Macy's and to Require Neighborhood Meetings Prior to Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings Regarding the Height and Design of the Proposed Parking Structure Located North of Macy's." (Vallco).

Please Note: Agenda items are subject to change. Prior to the meeting, confirm agenda with city clerk, 777-3223. Copies of agendas are available at City

Hall on the Thursday preceding council and planning commission meetings.

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City Meetings

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|-----------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| December | 1 | Parks and Recreation Commission*** | 7:00 p.m. |
| December | 6 | City Council*** | 6:45 p.m. |
| December | 7 | Teen Commission (Sport Center) | 6:00 p.m. |
| December | 7 | Technology, Information & Communications Commission (Conf. Rm. A) | 7:00 p.m. |
| December | 7 | Library Commission (Conf. Rm.) | 7:00 p.m. |
| December | 8 | Public Safety Commission (Conf. Rm.) | 7:00 p.m. |
| December | 8 | Housing Commission (Conf. Rm.) | 6:30 p.m. |
| December | 13 | Planning Commission*** | 6:45 p.m. |
| December | 14 | Environmental Review Committee (Conf. Rm. A) | 4:30 p.m. |
| December | 15 | Design Review Committee (Conf. Rm. A) | 6:00 p.m. |
| December | 20 | Planning Commission*** (Special Mtg.) | 6:45 p.m. |

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 26 THROUGH DEC. 30 FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS.

Unless otherwise noted, all City Council and commission meetings are held at 10350 Torre Ave. City Hall is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For recorded meeting schedule/information after hours, call 777-3200.

The City Channel (Comcast Cable Channel 26) offers agenda information, broadcasts of council/planning commission meetings and other programs. All meeting agendas are posted outside of City Hall 72 hours before the meeting.

***These meetings will be seen live via webcast at www.cupertino.org, or on The City Channel, Cable 26.

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