

Around Forestville

GOT NEWS? Vesta Copestakes • vesta@sonic.net • 887-0253

Coming Up... Lions Run - Julie White is beginning to organize the annual Lion's Run, which raises money for El Molino High School athletic programs. Like the Volunteer Center's Human Race, this is a run/walk where people pay to participate - gather sponsorships and have a good time in the process. Last year they ran the West County Trail, so it's a very pleasant experience! Anyone interested in becoming involved in this event should contact Julie White by e-mail at: juliewht@yahoo.com. Depending upon volunteer feedback, the race will be held either in August or September this year.

Youth Park BBQ... Yes, it's time to start organizing the 2008 BBQ and parade, so anyone who wants to get involved should contact Patty Baxman, BBQ chairperson at 575-3484. They are looking for new volunteers to organize the parade, so please keep this in mind if the idea intrigues you.

Thank You Anne-Marie... Anne-Marie's Butcher & Deli located in Speer's Market is no longer and Allen and Susan have replaced it with their own Deli. Anne-Marie has run an excellent meat and deli counter for many years. We've also come to rely upon her summer BBQ on weekends! Susan tells us that not only will Speer's be carrying on the BBW tradition this summer, but they are also expanding their prepared food line for all the people who just don't want to cook. Check it out - Speer's FRESH Deli, ready to take your order.

Getting Closer... The Downtown Committee that will be handing out money donated by BoDean Company for use on behalf of our community, is getting closer to setting up the application process. As soon as we know what procedures they require, we'll tell you what you can do to get a chunk of that change to maintain and improve Forestville for the benefit of all.

Town Square Planning... The Forestville Planning Association hired Laura Hall and Robert Alminana to review plans for the proposed park in the Thiessen/Crinella development. Santa Rosa Planning/Design Review Committee requested changes in the parking element, so it seemed appropriate for the FPA Downtown Planning Committee to get professional input on the design they have been working on for about three years. They were very impressed with Laura and Robert's review and have prepared a report for us in The FPA Reports column. When all Design Review Committee requests have been met, the plans will go before the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Easter Egg Hunt & Coloring Contest... Easter comes early this year so we're getting Coloring Contest forms out around town. The Coloring Contest is open to children ages 2 to 12. Pick up - and drop off completed forms at Bank of the West, El Mo Store, Circuit Fitness, The Movie Library, Frame of Mind & Forestville School. Get as creative as you want, fill in the form so we know how old you are and make sure the forms are turned in by March 3rd so we can choose our winners and have your Easter Basket prizes ready in time for the Hunt on March 15th. The Easter Egg Hunt is open to children through age 12. Show up at the field behind Forestville School by 10am so you don't miss a thing! Rain or shine - be there! The Easter Bunny will be on hand as a special treat and don't forget to bring your hunting basket!

Honoring Outstanding Volunteers... On March 8th the Forestville Chamber of Commerce will have our Annual Dinner to honor the 2007 Citizen of the Year Denise Wood and Volunteer of the Year J.D. Kaiwi. This year we will also be honoring Chief Gary Duignan for his Service to our Community. (Please see accompanying articles) Dinner will be catered by the El Molino Culinary Arts & Hospitality departments featuring a full menu of Spanish cuisine. We'll also be having our Faux DuDu Rooster Fundraiser for the Forestville Emergency Assistance Fund, so please bring a few extra dollars. You could walk away with half of what we raise! Tickets are on sale at Bank of the West, ElMo Store and Circuit Fitness and must be purchased by March 1st.

Prime Timer's Bazaar... Our Seniors are holding their first-ever benefit for the Forestville Dining Site on March 1st from 8am to 3pm at the Holy Ghost Hall on Mill Street @ Hwy 116 in Sebastopol. This will be a Rummage Sale of new, collectable and used items and will feature a Chinese Raffle and bake sale. Help us raise money to keep our senior dining site open for all. For info call Bobbie at 887-2439, Claudia 887-2093 or Denise 887-11107.

El Mo Project Grad Yard Sale... If you're about to clean out your closets and garage, we're asking you to keep anything worth money so you can donate it to the Project Grad Yard Sale at the beginning of May. This all-important sale helps pay to keep our high school senior safe on graduation night. Collection dates will begin right before the sale.

Forestville School Registration and School Tour~February 25th
Kindergarten~Preschool ~ All new incoming students for the 2008/2009 school year, come and join us at 9:30 am. For more details: Kindergarten-8th grade-887-2270. Preschool-887-9081

THE FPA REPORTS

The Forestville Planning Association

By Richard Naegle, President

www.forestvillefpa.org

REPORT ON THE THIESSEN DEVELOPMENT

The FPA recently engaged Laura Hall and Robert Alminana, nationally known consultants on town planning (hallalminana.com) to evaluate Orrin Thiessen's plans for his proposed downtown development. Our particular interest was the Town Square on which the FPA's Downtown Planning Committee had been working with Orrin for over two years. Laura and Robert presented their report at a meeting to which the Downtown Planning Committee as well as the Boards of the Chamber of Commerce and the FPA were invited. Full notes of that meeting with many more interesting details can be found on www.forestvillefpa.org. Meanwhile, here are the highlights:

-Laura and Robert felt that the design for the Town Square itself was quite good. They liked the non-linear path design, the use of the sloping land for the amphitheater, saving the existing oak trees, and the choice of new landscape trees. Laura emphasized that it was important not to over-design the square, and that we allow the design to evolve over time.

-Their main concerns were (1) that the Square was too small compared to the square footage of parking around the square, and (2) that the Square was not adequately contained by the surrounding buildings. They recommended parallel parking around the square instead of angled parking. This would allow for a larger square, the edges of the square being closer to the activity and presence of the surrounding buildings.

-Comparison of sizes of Town Squares: Forestville .45 acres (or .54 acres if parallel parking rather than angled parking); Sebastopol .58 acres; Healdsburg .92 acres. Note—in a follow-up meeting, Orrin and the Downtown Planning Committee agreed to shift to parallel parking on three sides of the Square.

-As to the containment of the park by the buildings, Laura and Robert showed us slides of public spaces that really felt comfortable, places you would want to hang out. They also showed us slides of spaces that were decidedly unfriendly. It was clear that

the friendly places were well contained by the surrounding buildings. This containment can be achieved by either bringing the buildings closer together, or increasing the height of the buildings. The ideal height-of-building to distance-between-buildings ratio for a square is from 1:3 to 1:6. Orrin's design has a ratio of 1:9. One solution they strongly suggested was that there be three story buildings around the square instead of the currently designed two-story buildings. This would result in a 1:6 ratio for the Town Square area. However, it was noted that Healdsburg's Square is 1:9, and it works well. Laura suggested the large, mature trees probably make the difference. Orrin's plan includes fast growing, large trees as well as most of the oak grove already on the property. Orrin stated that he was clear that the majority of local people wanted buildings no more than two stories tall.

-Laura was very complimentary towards the architectural design of the overall development—in terms of variety, of fitting in with local styles, and of "defensible space." Defensible space is about areas that are not only attractive to pedestrians but feel (and are) safe for them.

-They challenged us to envision a future Forestville one hundred years from now, to envision what we want for our whole Town, and then create a plan to make it happen. We were asked to imagine a pedestrian friendly downtown boulevard with wider sidewalks that allow for places to hang out, bike lanes, and more trees and landscaping. This can happen if we can get CalTrans to designate River Road as the Highway 116 route, and/or if we can get the Bypass built.

-Laura commented that no growth in our area is not an option in terms of County politics and economic pressures. Therefore, we have a choice between creating a vision and planning for that growth now, or just waking up one morning and seeing what's happened to us.

**Stay tuned to this column for future updates, including when you will have the opportunity of voicing your opinion about the project plans at public County hearings.

Hollydale Community Club...

Rent the Clubhouse...call 887-0330 or 695-2197 for info.

Forestville Students, get your Community Service "Hours" helping at the Clubhouse.

Big Thanks to Canyon Rock for the Blue Shale truck loads.

Want/Wish list: Looking for a small 25-30# Ice Maker for the Club's Kitchen.

2008 Calendar - Celebrating the Club's 61st Year:

Saturday 3/1 Clubhouse Interior Work Party 9:00AM-2:00PM

Saturday 3/15 Annual "Irish Supper" Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed @ 6:00PM

Saturday 6/21 Rootin' Tootin' Boot Scootin' Country Hoedown @ 6:00PM

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