

Around Forestville

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

Sewer Discharge Coming to Steelhead Beach...

Did I get your attention this time? That's right - the lead article for last month's WCG was about **Defending Our Water**. We have more work to do because now DI, Forestville's discharge site, is at the top of Santa Rosa's list. We have until May 20th to comment on the EIR. When you see the details of what they plan to do to Osprey Trail alone, it will get your hackles up! Even Regional Parks is up in arms about this. If you thought it was to be in someone else's back yard - think again. See Brenda Adelman's article on page 12 for info.

Downtown Clean-Up Day

We're sure hoping to get a good crowd for **May 17th** - starting at 10 am. bring tools, wheelbarrows, pickup trucks - whatever it takes to get our parade route clean for the Youth Park Parade and BBQ on June 6, 7 & 8. We get plenty of out-of-town guests and we'd like Forestville to look its best. The **Forestville Chamber** will supply bottled water and trash bags. We have a dump truck sponsored by the Fire District, Firefighters Association and Albs Trucking...we're ready to roll!

Time to Volunteer...

The Forestville Youth Park is gearing up for, not only, the parade (pick up your entry forms around town or call Leslie Zumwalt at 887-8530) the Youth Park BBQ! We love this event - Lots of food, great music, games and entertainment galore. It takes more than 200 volunteers to pull this off every year so if you're up for a very good time and one or two days of community volunteering - just give Patty Baxman a call and sign yourself up. You are guaranteed to have fun! 575-3484 to volunteer.

United Methodist Church Bell Tower Repair Fundraiser...

A special "Construction" theme dinner and auction is planned for **Saturday, June 14, 2008** starting at 6PM (social and silent auction) with dinner at 6:30 pm followed by Live Auction at 7:30pm in the Social Hall (Wiebe Hall) of the Forestville United Methodist Church (Center St. & Covey Rd). This dinner event is being planned as a fundraiser to help pay for the repairs needed for the bell tower that is starting to lean continues towards Covey Rd. (there is no eminent danger yet)

This dinner is especially fun since each item on the menu is a mystery until it arrives at your table. Of the ten items on the menu, each diner will select items for their three courses not knowing what the item is. Let's say

that someone at the table selects items "sand", "pipe", and "shingles". When the three items arrive, it is possible that the tray might include a fork, a bowl of soup and a pat of butter. The fun continues until all of the dinner items arrive at your table.

In addition, there will be many items available to bid on through both a live and a silent auction. The Live Auction will feature such items as a Reno Hotel stay, Chef Michel caered dinner for 6 and more!

Don't miss out on the fun. Seating is limited to 80 people. Donations are requested at \$15 for adults & youth (13 and older), \$10 for children (6-12 years old). Children 5 years old and under are free. Family maximum is \$40. For reservations please call the Church Office at 887-2020 or Mike Mortensson, Building Committee Chair at 887-2759.

Steelhead Restrooms are in...

If you haven't been down to Steelhead Beach lately, you might want to check out the new restrooms. These are a major improvement over the portables that people seemed to delight in catching on fire. They will be fully operational soon. Next - campgrounds - remember all this in the plan ten years ago? It's ten year later...now.

Sunset Beach... is getting ready for a real access from River Road. The channelization project came before the Board of Supes recently. River Road Channelization and River Access Project (C03410). Watch for it.

Raising Money for Running...

Juie White is getting people inspired to do another Lions Runs to raise money for the El Molino all-weather track project. Recently **Art-Direct** held an art sale for this purpose, sponsored by Hans Bruhner of First Priority Financial. Not too many people buying art these days, so the project still has a long way to go. I'll keep you posted.

El Molino High School students held an all night jog-a-thon on April 11th and 12th to raise money for the All-Weather Track fund. Approximately 150 students participated gathering flat amount and per-lap pledges. The students ran and walked around the current asphalt track accumulating between 4 and 76 laps or 1 to 19 miles each. The runners raised almost \$25,000 bringing the total for the all-weather track to almost \$70,000. The new track surface is targeted for a summer installation if enough funds can be raised.

For more information contact head track coach Doug Hastings 707 823-6910 - Tax deductible donations are appreciated!

Meanwhile in Graton...

By Hollynn D'Lil

gratoncolumn@comcast.net

(707) 829 9440



May in Graton - time for the annual **Pancake Breakfast at the Graton Fire Station**, sponsored by The Graton Firefighter's Association. Come for breakfast Sunday, May 18th, if you want to meet Graton.. Everyone who's not out of town that day will be there. The event goes from 7 to noon, which is a way of sorting folks for compatibility. Early risers will have met, set. and et by the time those of us who think brunch is the more civilized meal of the day find our way to a stack and that much needed cuppa joe.

If you missed the Graton Community Club Plant Sale and Flower Show, you can still plan on buying plants at **Miss Hallberg's Butterfly Garden Open House** Sunday, June 29, from 10-4. It's a unique opportunity to see this fabulous garden and learn about butterflies on self-guided tours. The old homestead place is wonderful to visit anyway, but add a book sale, bird watching, habitat gardening, a children's activity table, and you can really expect to have a lovely time. (The children's activity table last year was so inviting, and they actually let kids of all ages play, thank goodness!) There will be lots of volunteers to meet and greet people and talk about the fluttery fauna. It's also free!

Speaking of butterflies, I've already spotted the Tiger Swallowtail in my garden. (I have the Alpine wildflower plants to thank for they bloom all year and provide nectar during the times when the penstemen and buddleia aren't ready for visitors yet.) It's only May and already the bird bath has a steady lineup of customers. There have been some yellow breasted and orange breasted birds as well as the bluebirds and blue jays. I,m thinking the yellow and orange ones might be orioles. Please, if you know what they are called, let me know!

A group is forming called, for the sake of the alliteration if nothing else, **the Graton Green Group**. Our goal is to create a park in Graton. If you are interested in helping us realize a dream, please contact me. There is still open land in downtown Graton and near downtown Graton, but it won't be there forever. So it really is time for Gratonians to think about the future of Graton and whether it will follow in the Sonoma County tradition and have a downtown plaza.

We have a legacy of work by visionaries in this little town who have created

many traditions, institutions and landmarks that make our community town unique and enriched. We have the lovely landscaping downtown, the tiles in the sidewalks, Centro Laboral, the Graton Community Club, our own service district and sewer, the Graton Fire District, Graton Day, the Graton Trail Stewards and the neighborhood potlucks, to name just some of the ways that folks have come together to make our town a great place to live. Surely, with a history like ours we can create a park. Help us work toward creating a plaza in downtown Graton. Envision a place for the children to play, a place to sit and talk to friends, a place for a community garden, a place to hold evening concerts, theater events, and art shows. Graton is such a lovely little town with lovely, caring people. We deserve a park.

Help win a grant to improve the Graton sewer! Have you filled out the questionnaire from the Rural Community Assistance Corporation? Please make sure that you do so that Graton can qualify for loans and grants from the California Small Community Wastewater Grant Program.

Missing: The **Love Your Neighbor Thrift Store** is no longer in Graton. Hopefully, another such enterprise will come along soon.

Our Home: Have you signed the **Climate Protection Campaign petition** yet? It's the "Cap & Dividend Petition: CA's Global Warming Solution." The target of the petition is California Air Resources Board and the California State Legislature. Let the California Air Resources Board and California Legislature know that you support Cap-and-Dividend, where polluters pay, clean energy becomes competitive, and dividends protect the poor and middle-income families from rising energy prices. Go to the Climate Protection Campaign website and save yourself some money and save the planet. All that for a mere 1.35 minutes of computer work. How can you resist?

Making Peace: "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict -- alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence." Dorothy Thompson.