

Around Forestville

By Gaylyne Sword (707) 332-0335
glsword@comcast.net



I feel a bit guilty as I'm sitting here wondering how long the beautiful daffodils will last. We definitely live in paradise and there are plenty of flower-and-food-filled activities going on around town to help remind us of how lucky we are!

Community St. Patrick's Dinner

Speaking of luck, the **Hollydale Club** is celebrating St. Patrick's Day with their Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed w/ Music, **March 13th**, 6:00PM. Don't miss the Ping-Pong Tournament on **March 27th** Call Charles @ 887-7840 for info.

Student Snippets

Forestville School's after school program, **ASAP**, is having a bake sale on **Sunday, March 14th**, 9AM to 1PM in the front parking lot. All proceeds benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's **Pennies for Patients**. Come buy a sweet treat for this worthy cause.

Don't miss Forestville School's spring musical, **Disney's Mulan Jr.**, beginning **March 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th** at 7pm and **March 21st and 28th** at 2pm. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door.

The Leadership classes at El Molino and Analy High School are sponsoring **Bob Burke's Charity Auction and Dinner**, "Have Hope, Give Hope". This worthy event is being held at the Sebastopol Community Church on Saturday, **March 6th** from 6PM to 9:30 PM. Tickets are \$10.

El Mo's Music Department is hosting the **Annual Jazz and Pasta Dinner Benefit**, **March 12th**, 5:30PM to 8PM in the High School Café Theater. Come enjoy the Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, Encore Singers, Forestville and Guerneville school bands, a silent auction of local goods and wine from area merchants, and Mike Spediacci's authentic Italian sauce. All proceeds benefit El Molino Music Department. \$15 Adults, \$10 Students, \$5 Performers.

El Molino Boosters and Project Grad are sponsoring a **Chicken and Tri Tip BBQ**, **March 27th**, Oddfellows Hall

5:30-6:30PM No Host Bar (Beer & Wine), 6:30-9:00PM Dinner served \$25 person includes: Chicken/Tri Tip, Pasta, Salad and Garlic Bread, Silent auction/ Raffle.

TOWN MEETING hosted by FPA

Town Meeting, **March 14th**, 4-6 PM, Oddfellows' Hall. Providing updates on local projects and issues and furnishing information on energy efficiency measures. There will be how-to booths by a small number of vendors, local citizens, and possibly County staff to help citizens implement measures in their homes and businesses. Supervisor Efrén Carrillo will be in attendance to provide the community with information and updates regarding local projects, such as the roundabout, the bypass and more and he will also participate in a question/answer session.

Chamber of Commerce

Citizen of the Year Awards dinner, **March 20th** at the Oddfellows' Recreation Club. Tickets available at Bank of the West.

Easter Egg Hunt, **March 27th**, 10AM, Forestville School. Rain or Shine, Grass or Mud! The Children's Easter Coloring Contest forms are available at Bank of the West, Forestville Pharmacy, Frame of Mind and other local businesses. Or download a form at www.forestvillechamber.org

Forestville Methodist Church

The **Victory Garden Project** will continue in 2010! With the help of up to fifty volunteers this project provides organic veggies for the Food Closet, as well as our community members. Garden sites can be found at the Youth Park, a Paradise Ct. home, at the church, and many other local residences. Come and join this merry band of gardeners - call, Katherine Best-Smith at 887-2020 Monday thru Friday, 8-12 or 523-0252.

The church is having a **Film Festival**. Each Friday until Easter at 7 PM, with films portraying the life of Jesus. Come enjoy fellowship, popcorn.

FUMC Rummage Sale, **March 13th** 8AM until 3PM.

With a little time and a little money we can have a huge impact on our community and beyond. Don't forget, *everyone* makes a difference!



This column is compiled by Dan Northern, Fire Chief of the Forestville Fire Department on behalf of Sonoma County Firefighters. If your fire department has information for your community, please submit it to vesta@sonic.net. Our intent is to keep readers informed and educated about this most essential service for the safety of our homes and lives.

Forestville Fire District

Budget

Like most other public agencies in the state of California the current economic crisis is impacting the Forestville Fire District with a decrease in property tax revenue. While the current situation is not dire the Board of Directors has formed a committee to look into methods of cutting costs and improving efficiencies. More information will be available in the upcoming months as the Board and staff develop plans to address the issue.

New Volunteers

This District is in the process of bringing on new volunteer firefighters. Nine candidates will be put through the next phase of the testing process which is the background investigation.

Russian River

In Russian River we are happy to report that Redevelopment will fund our 241,000 ambulance project. We are also 4 classes in on our first CERT training, and we are looking forward to planning another one in the near future. We hope to be able to offer first aid and CPR by the summer. We are happy to report that we also have one new volunteer who has almost completed basic training as well as two new firefighter interns will start soon...Three new part-time firefighters will also start soon.

Battalion Chief Jim Greule will retire in March. Jim's career spans 40 years of service to the Guerneville and Russian River area. Jim has held almost every position available as a volunteer and as paid member of the District. We are happy for Jim and wish him the very best in retirement. Jim will not be an easy person to replace. Jim takes with him a wealth of knowledge and a command presence that has always had a calming effect on those of us around him even in the most critical situations. Best wishes Jim from a grateful Fire District.

Bodega Bay

Our new rescue squad "8835" is in service. This new 4 x 4 rescue unit contains all of our technical rescue equipment. From cliff rescues to heavy lifting and small stadium lighting this unit will serve our area well.

Don't forget the Fisherman's Festival will be on April 17th and 18th...

Reporting Emergencies:

If you need to call 9-1-1 to report an emergency here are some tips to follow:

- Stay calm. It's important to take a deep breath and not get excited. Any situation that requires 9-1-1 is, by definition, an emergency. The dispatcher or call-taker knows that and will try to move things along quickly, but under control.
- Know the location of the emergency and the number you are calling from. This may be asked and answered a couple of times but don't get frustrated. Even though many 9-1-1 centers have enhanced capabilities -- meaning they are able to see your location on the computer screen -- they are still required to confirm the information. If for some reason you are disconnected, at least emergency crews will know where to go and how to call you back. As the call progresses, you may hear clicking - do not hang up!
- Wait for the call-taker to ask questions, then answer clearly and calmly. If you are in danger of assault, the dispatcher or call-taker will still need you to answer quietly, mostly "yes" and "no" questions.
- If you reach a recording, listen to what it says. If the recording says your call cannot be completed, hang up and try again. If the recording says all call-takers are busy, wait! When the next call-taker or dispatcher is available to take the call, it will transfer you. This does not happen often, in Sonoma County.
- Let the call-taker guide the conversation. He or she is typing the information into a computer