

The Highlands lowdown

April 2011

The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 57, Number 4

www.highlandscommunity.org

T-Mobile Plans Antennas

T-Mobile has applied for a permit to place antennas on top of a telephone pole at the end of Cobblehill Place, less than 50 feet from the nearest home. Other cell phone providers may be given access to other telephone poles in the vicinity as a result. T-Mobile representatives will be at the HCA meeting on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. to explain their position and hear your concerns. At this point, they are not considering any other location for this installation and have had no input from the Highlands. It is vitally important that the community understand the potential impacts. Hear both sides of the story and get your questions answered. The county public hearing is set for May 19, so save both dates!

A Letter From Our Fire Chief

Dear Highlands Area Residents,

Many years ago, Highlands residents and neighbors in adjacent unincorporated areas established Community Service Area Number 1 (CSA 1) to fund supplemental police and fire services. CSA 1 is funded through a combination of dedicated property tax revenues and a supplemental tax of \$64 a year. These funds pay for a fire engine and three staff 24/7 based at the Tower Road County Fire Station and 18 hours a day of neighborhood patrol coverage by the Sheriff's Office.

Until last year, CSA 1 tax revenue covered 100% of the cost of the fire engine and Sheriff's patrol and even provided enough to create a reserves fund. But last year, expenses exceeded revenues by about \$100,000. The good news is that the community has about \$1 million in reserves so all expenses could be paid with a combination of tax revenue and reserves. But that option will not last forever.

At the same time, County Fire, which provides emer-

► **Fire Chief:** to page 7

Let's Live Up to our Heritage Volunteer on the 4th of July!

by Dorothy Greene



Highlands traditions mean a lot to those of us who live here, but it's fascinating to find out, as I did, how much they can mean to someone who moved away over 40 years ago. Last January, I received an email from Sandra Fliehmman Decoria of Calwell, Idaho, who found me as the *lowdown* editor on the Internet and wanted to share Highlands reminiscences of the years her family lived on Cobblehill from 1959 to about 1967. "I grew up there and have so many wonderful memories," she wrote. Her photos came later, including the one above of a 4th of July parade.

Sandra's family was among the early residents of the Highlands. It didn't take long after people moved here for organization of the July 4th celebration to begin, and it was elaborate. Through the years, elements have been

► **4th of July:** to page 10

HRD Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Rec Center Social Room

lowdown Deadline

Friday, April 29

HCA Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Rec Center Social Room

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Rick Priola
HCA President

Fire Services: Every day we hear more and more about cutbacks in services because of budget problems at all levels of government. Now it's coming very close to home with possible changes in our fire services, as Fire Chief John Ferreira's article on page 1 describes. He will be at the HCA meeting on April 26 to answer our questions about the situation and give us his suggestions to deal with it. Come to the HCA meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to find out all you want to know about the future of our fire services.

T-Mobile Antennas: T-Mobile representatives will also be at the HCA meeting to present their plan and get our response to their request to put cellular phone antennas on a Cobblehill telephone pole. See the article on page 1 for more information.

4th of July: The Highlands traditional 3rd and 4th of July celebrations are getting closer and closer. Every year, we have always depended on the participation of a group of generous residents who offer their time to help make all the pieces of the events come together. This year is no different, and we still need volunteers to help out at the fireworks, the parade, and the midway. By spending a few hours of your time working in any of these areas, you can contribute to the community, make some new friends among your neighbors, and have a good time too.

You can help sell cookies and hot chocolate at the fireworks, register parade participants on the 4th, or offer to work a couple of hours at the food booth or running a game at the Midway. There are many different roles you can play. Call me at 574-8313 to do your bit.

Harold Norton: We were very sorry to learn of the sudden death on April 4 of long-time resident Harold Norton. During his years in the Highlands he had been very involved with athletic activities at the Rec Center. Memorial services were held on April 9.

Josue Orozco: There's finally an end to the case of Josue Raul Orozco, who was the youngest person ever charged with murder as an adult in San Mateo County. His escape from the Youth Services Center on Valentine's Day 2008 caused turmoil in the Highlands and led to significant changes in the Youth Services Center's operations.

After his escape, he was recaptured months later in Texas, and his first trial ended in a deadlocked jury. He was scheduled to be retried for first-degree murder in March, but before the trial began, pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter and nine counts of witness intimidation and was immediately sentenced to 43 years in prison. He will have to serve at least 85% of his sentence.

As always, I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the HCA meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at hcapres@gmail.com.

HCA Meeting April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes
- III. Sheriff's Dept/CHP/CDR Cal Fire
- IV. Reports
 - A. First Vice President
 - B. Second Vice President
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Membership
 - E. *lowdown*
 - F. Public Utilities Committee
 - G. Emergency Services Committee
 - H. Land Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

HCA Board Officers for 2011

President:	Rick Priola	574-8313
First VP:	Jean-Pierre Bernard	357-7644
Second VP:	Gene McKenna	346-7348
Treasurer:	David Krakower	(415) 398-1100
Secretary:	Denise Haas	372-0373
lowdown Editor:	Dorothy Greene	341-1752

HCA Committee Chairs for 2011

Land:	Sam Naifeh	572-8787
Public Utilities:	Wil Pinney	345-2546
Emergency Services:	Pam Merkadeau	280-9046
Membership:	Liesje Nicolas	773-7805
lowdown Co-Editor and Technology:	Beverley Madden	574-1593

HCA MINUTES

by Denise Haas

HCA Meeting, March 22, 2011

I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Rick Priola.

II. Review and Approval of the Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2011, was moved by Melissa Wilson, seconded by James Goodman, and carried unanimously.

III. Sheriff's Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF — Deputy Sheriff Dimitre Korinis (dskorinis@sanmateo.ca.us) encourages residents to email him with any non-emergency concerns or call (650) 363-4000 if someone suspicious is seen. Residents are also reminded to make sure their home and vehicles are secure. (Seven to eight unlocked cars were burglarized recently.)

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Mike Jarske remarked that the Highlands has enrolled 97 residents in CERT training over two years. Over the last month 76 Cal Fire service calls went out in Community Service Area Number 1, (CSA 1) including 12 motor vehicles incidents, 3 hazardous condition calls, 9 fires, 17 EMT calls, 3 public assists, and 4 engine/truck fires.

IV. Reports

A. First Vice President – No report. Rick Priola asked Margaret Glomstad to report on HRD projects. The concrete has been poured on the retaining wall, and the pool dome is

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scheduled to come down on March 28, 2011.

B. Second Vice President – No report. Residents are encouraged to call to volunteer for the 3rd- 4th of July neighborhood festivities, which may be canceled due to lack of support.

C. Treasurer – No report.

D. Membership – Liesje Nicolas reported that the 2011 membership drive is halfway to its goal.

E. lowdown – Dorothy Greene announced that the submission deadline for the April issue will be April 1, 2011.

F. Public Utilities Committee – No report.

G. Emergency Services Committee – No report

H. Land Committee – No report

V. Old Business – None

VI. New Business – Melissa Wilson inquired about the minimum height for overhead wires. Low-hanging wires are a hazard and should be reported.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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Science Adventures

Wed. 5/4-6/1

12:05-1:30 p.m. \$110 LGI Rm.

Dangerous Creatures - They bite! They sting! Could you survive an encounter with one of the "deadly" beasts? Swim with the sharks. Design a snake. Build a working electric ray and a heat seeking croc-thermometer as we discover if these creatures are really dangerous...or just misunderstood. Join Gizmo to take a daring look at these "outlaws" of nature as we take a bite out of biology.

Indoor Rock Climbing

Fri. 5/13-6/10 4-6 p.m. \$125/150

Kids are just natural-born climbers. At Planet Granite, we offer an exciting 5-week program to introduce them to this great sport. This program is an excellent opportunity for kids to challenge themselves mentally and physically in a safe and supportive team environment. Kids will be separated by age groups (5-8 years, 9-13 years). Planet Granite t-shirt included. Parents MUST attend first class with minor to sign release paperwork. Location: Planet Granite, 100 El Camino Real, Belmont. (650) 591-3030. Ages 5-13.

Eichler Exteriors:

Restoration or Renovation

Mon. 5/2 7-10 p.m. \$30/35

If you are thinking of making small or larger changes to the outside of your Eichler, take this class! I cover original and updated paint colors, with swatches to look at. Also where to put the paint (tough to figure out), window replacements, door hardware, lighting, house numbers, mailboxes, fencing, landscaping, and any other questions or advice you need. When you finish the class, you will walk out with "the plan."

If you can't make the class or are curious about the content, it is free

and you can download it at www.highlandsrec.ca.gov. Class will be held at: 1975 Ticonderoga Drive, San Mateo.

Learn to Play Golf the Right Way

**Novice Sat. 5/7-5/21 \$150
4-6:30 p.m.**

**Beginner Sat. 6/4-6/18 \$150
8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Beginner - Now is your chance to experience a new world by learning golf at the Crystal Springs Golf Course. Start out right with Jennifer Alex-ander, LPGA Class A Teaching & Club Professional, and learn the golf basics to get you quickly prepared to enjoy the game on the course.

Novice - This is a wonderful opportunity to get you out and playing on the golf course. It is designed for those who have taken beginning golf classes or those who took up the game and now want to improve their skills. It will take you to the next level so that you can comfortably manage your golf skills on the golf course. Ages 14-Adult. To sign up, email Jenniferlpga@yahoo.com, visit www.playcrystalsprings.com, or call (650) 228-6832. No class 6/16.

Adult Tennis

**Level I MW 5/23-6/27 \$200/205
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Level II MW 5/23-6/27 \$200/205
7:30-8:30 p.m.**

Adult Tennis I - This class is for adults with little experience or instruction. They will be instructed in the basic fundamentals of proper grip, forehand, backhand, serve and volley. This is a great way to meet other tennis players and practice your skills. No Class: 5/30.

Adult Tennis II - This class improves on what was learned in Adult Tennis I and introduces tennis strategy. No Class: 5/30.

Beginner Adult Group Swim Lessons

Sat 4/16-5/14 10:30 a.m. \$40/45

Sat 5/21-6/18 10:30 a.m. \$40/50

This class is for those afraid of and uncomfortable with the water. This class is taught with each participant working at his or her own pace. Participants learn water safety skills, floating, developing confidence in deep water, basic swimming skills. Ages 16 and up. Class is 28 minutes.

► **Rec Programs:** to page 10



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COMMUNITY NEWS

You're Paying Too Much for Sewer Service

by Bill Campbell

Our waste water is collected, transported, and processed by Crystal Springs County Sanitation District (CSCSD)- part of San Mateo County Public Works.

You pay \$1,200 per year (look at your county secured tax bill). However if you lived in the City of San Mateo, Belmont, Foster City, or Burlingame, you would pay about \$550! CSCSD proposed an increase from \$496 to \$900 in 2007. We, the ratepayers, exercising our rights under PROP 218, protested in the majority, so our rate stayed the same in 2007. San Mateo DPW then started to meet on a regular basis with members of the various community associations within CSCSD. What has happened? We stopped exercising our rights under PROP 218. Our rate has gone from \$496 (2007) to \$1,200 (2010)!

Problems: 1. Our complicated agreement (which needs to be critically analyzed and re-evaluated) with the Town of Hillsborough and the City of San Mateo. We have to use their lines and San Mateo's treatment facility.

► **Sewer Costs:** to page 8

HCA Committee Member Response

by James Goodman

Mr. Campbell has every right to be concerned. Every member on the committee that has been meeting regularly with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works for the last 3 1/2 years shares his concern. The problem is that even at \$1,200 per year, our fees are not quite enough to cover the cost of state and federally mandated upgrades to our sewer district that are coming our way. However, the County is not going to request any increase for the next tax year.

The main problem is that our sewer district only has about 1,600 homes in it, and the sewer lines are old and need millions of dollars of work to avoid costly sewer spills. (There are big fines now for sewage spills.) Largely due to the efforts of the citizens' committee, it was discovered that the flow meters, which determine our share of treatment costs, were inaccurate and that over a period of years the Crystal Springs Sanitation District (CSSD) had overpaid by more than a million dollars. New flow meters will soon be installed, and there are negotiations with the city of San Mateo and Hillsborough to get credit for the overcharges, but this may end up in arbitration.

► **Response:** to page 8

In the Weeds: Highlands Gardening

by Melissa Wilson

Gardening is an ongoing effort – some more effort and some less, depending on your approach to design, soil preparation, and maintenance. Today's focus is basic. We live in perhaps the most ideal climate in the US, the USDA Zone 9, or as *Sunset Magazine* identifies us, Zone 16. Our early and morning fog cool us off, and we rarely get "too hot" to kill off plants. We don't need to water much (and when you do, do it at night when it is most cool). Keep in mind that microclimates also are important. Southern exposures get much more sun than northern exposures; western gets more than eastern. And atriums present a whole different opportunity as they allow us to plant more fragile plants that need shade.

However, we still have our local challenges: high winds that dry out plants and break branches; deer, gophers, and other burrowing rodents that eat roots; and our clay soil.

So, you are just about to get started. You will think about what comes out (keeping in mind county tree regulations available through the county planning department), what goes in, and soil preparation.

► **Gardening:** to page 7

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Book Club

by Jo Nassutti



We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. in the Exercise Room at the Rec Center. On

May 3 we will discuss *The Soloist*, a true story by newspaper columnist, **Steve Lopez**. The story is a portrait of mental illness, social neglect, and the fight to save a fallen prodigy. Lopez puts a face on mental illness and shows how friendship can change the lives of both the downtrodden and those who try to help.

For **June 7** we will read *The Ladies Auxiliary* by **Tova Mitvis**, a lyric debut novel by an insightful storyteller. Author Elizabeth Strout says "A truly compelling look into a community where the divine is always bumping up against the human." It is a very amusing book.

Questions, call Jo Nassutti at 650-345-8915. **Curious**, come by and observe.

Senior Net News

by Barbra Cohn

Finally it's spring! Time to greet the great outdoors with a picnic. We're hoping that all of you will be ready to eat, mingle, and just enjoy at Laurelwood Park* on May 17. Just bring yourselves (and \$5) for a celebration of the season. Maybe we'll even have some Bocce ball to make the day more special. See you all at 11:30 at the park.

*How to get there? Just take De Anza down to Woodberry, turn right to Shasta, turn right again, and at the end of the street, there you are. If you need a ride, call Cliff at 349-5290.

Attention Art Lovers

by Nancee McDonell

On May 7 and 8, a group of Highlands artists will be participating in "Silicon Valley Open Studios." Look for balloons and signs. Check out great art and snacks!

SAVE the DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 25
4th of July Golf
Tournament
Place, Tee Times,
Registration TBD

Adult Soccer Tournament

by Linda Siguenza

There will be an Adult Co-ed Soccer Tournament on May 7, from 10 a.m. to noon at Highlands School. Sign up for only \$15 a player for an outrageously fun, 8 versus 8 co-ed soccer tournament.

Four teams are planned. Players are guaranteed two 30-minute games. All levels are welcome. If you have friends that you want to play with, let us know. Sign ups have already begun. Contact Linda Siguenza at 571-9252 or lin3@comcast.net to sign up or get more information.

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COMMUNITY AND UMC NEWS

Crystal Springs UMC News

by Steve Schlichter

Easter Activity

April 17, 10 a.m Palm Sunday Service. We celebrate the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem with music and worship.

April 21, 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service and Seder Dinner

April 24, 10 a.m. Easter Sunday Service. We celebrate the risen Christ with music. Easter egg hunt after services, along with fellowship

The children's sermons during the Lent and Easter Season are an original creation using puppets.

Prayer Breakfast Group

On April 9 at 8 a.m. a new prayer breakfast group will be formed starting with a catered breakfast for this initial meeting in the Fireside Room. Future meetings will be the first Saturday of the month at 8 a.m.

Golden Gate Radio Orchestra

GGRO is the local orchestra that plays music from the early part of the last century until about the 50s. They also present the history behind the songs. They rehearse at the church and for many years have been led by people from our church and have excellent vocalists. This is really good music.

The annual church benefit concert will be coming up probably in early June. Watch for the date and time. Call 650-345-2381 for information.

►Fire Chief: from page 1

agency response and fire protection in the unincorporated area through a contract with CalFire, is also facing budget challenges. In addition to the CSA 1 fire engine, County Fire has a 24/7 engine with three personnel stationed at Tower Road too. Together, two engines and six staff are available at Tower Road all day, every day.

One option for reducing costs for both CSA 1 and County Fire is to reduce the total staffing for the two engines from six to five personnel available full time. With five staff, the first engine called out from Tower Road would have three personnel. If a second call came in, the second engine would be sent out with two staff. An engine with two staff can respond to all types of emergencies including medical calls and fires. About 15% of calls to Tower Road are fires; over 85% are medical or other emergencies.

This proposal would benefit both CSA 1 and County Fire. Going from six to five firefighters would balance

the CSA 1 budget and create about \$200,000 in savings for County Fire.

I know that CSA 1 residents will have questions about this proposal so I am going to attend the next meeting of the Highlands Community Association on April 26th. I hope you can be there.

**John Ferreira, Chief
San Mateo County Fire/CalFire**

►Highlands Gardening: from page 5

This is also a good time to replace fences, put in underground barriers if your neighbors' plants or gophers move into your yard, or if you are thinking of planting your own invasive plants.

To Do Tip: If you have decorative grasses that go brown in the winter and regrow in the spring (like muhly or japanese blood grass) cut them a few inches from the ground, and you will have new sprouting soon. If the plant has already sprouted, pull out the dead growth.

We'd like to continue offering gardening tips. Send yours to lowdowneditor@gmail.com

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HIGHLANDS RESIDENT

COMMUNITY NEWS

► **Sewer Costs:** from page 5

2. Difficulty measuring our flows into this system.

3. Having a flat rate (not based on winter water use as the cities do)

More information can be found at <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us> Public Works, flood, lighting, sewer and water, sewer services, CSCSD

Whom to contact: Wil Pinney, HCA Public Utilities Chairman - 345-2546

Our County Supervisors Office - DistrictOne@Co.SanMateo.CA.US Phone 363-4571.

Another problem is the cost of our garbage/recycling. The County negotiated our rate with Recology (see letter dated Oct. 19, 2010). Our new rates effective Jan. 1, 2011 are among the highest (if not THE highest in San Mateo County)!

Comparable cost for comparable service. It's your money. Get informed. Get involved.

*Bill Campbell,
574-0320*

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for
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► **Committee Response:** from page 5

Rather than a flat rate, a study could be done to see if sewer rates based primarily on household water usage is viable, since all the water we use in our homes ends up in the sewer system. Some households would pay more than \$1,200, and some would pay less, unless we become a bigger sewer district.

A Prop. 218 protest is not necessarily the best response. For instance, because we are paying the \$1,200, our debt ratio qualifies us for a state-revolving loan that is critical to help cover current and some upcoming costs. Burlingame Hills did a Prop. 218 protest to hold the rate at \$1,150, but now does not qualify for such a loan and may face bankruptcy in the future as a result.

The Department of Public Works has been very cooperative and understanding of our dilemma and has provided us with hundreds of pages of studies and documents. It is negotiating with Hillsborough and the City of San Mateo and is exploring more long-term financing options to help pay for the required upgrades. The Department also understands that there is a structural problem with such a small sewer district, but all parties – the County, the City of San Mateo, Hillsborough, and the CSSD, have to negotiate a new agreement that will spread the costs across many more homes.

James Goodman, 372-0986

Highlands lowdown

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Ads should be submitted in electronic format, preferably Microsoft Word or Quark. Display ad rates are \$12.50 per column inch. Ask about inserts. Classified ads must be paid for in advance. Cost: \$3 up to 15 words, \$1 for each additional five words. Classified ads are free for anyone giving away or swapping Eichler fixtures or providing repair tips.

Neither the lowdown nor the HCA is responsible for the accuracy of any information in the display or want ads. Readers are encouraged to check that licenses are current and to get references. Subscriptions for non-residents of the Highlands are \$25 per year. Individual issues are \$2.50 each, if available.



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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands School News

by Mary Tsao

Recycling News: Did you know you can help your local school by dropping off your bagged plastic and bagged cans? The school also makes money from recycled ink cartridges. Drop these items off at the school office any time. The school also accepts gently used paper that it can recycle by using the back for copies.

Coke Rewards Program: Sign in to our new Coke rewards program for Highlands elementary so we can reward students with new gear for school. Get rewarded with My Coke Rewards for Schools at <http://www.mycokerewards.com/schools>. Make sure you stock up on your favorite Coca-Cola beverages to get codes, and then enter the codes online to get points and donate them to our school. Any questions, contact Jay at jaybeard@sbcglobal.net.

Be a Champion: Support school kids in our community by buying tickets to the Giants game on May 25. Go to www.smfcef.org. Behind a wildly supportive community, our beloved 2010 San Francisco Giants overcame the odds to bring home their first championship since they moved to the West Coast. Join the San Mateo & Foster City Education Foundation in celebrating the Giants' success at AT&T Park on Wednesday, May 25, as the Giants take on the Florida Marlins. You'll not only honor our Giants heroes, you'll support our younger heroes (our students) at the same time. If you have children in the San Mateo Foster City District schools, sign them up to perform the National Anthem on the mound at AT&T Park! And join us for Fan Day at Borel Middle school on May 15 for food, fun, games, and a preview of the National Anthem performance from 4-7 p.m. For more information, to sign up to perform, and to purchase

tickets, visit www.smfcef.org.

Cook-off Thank You: The PTA would like to thank all community members who helped make the first annual Highlands Cook-off a great big success. See the article below for a list of winners.

Dates for your Calendar

April 20 – Open House at Highlands Elementary School

April 22 – Earth Day

April 26 – PTA Meeting

Highlands Cook-Off Was a Great Success

The first Highlands Cook-Off was a great success. Thirty-two competing chefs brought their A game to the competition, which was held at the Siguenza home on Allegheny. More than 80 guests enjoyed this evening of tastings, cocktails, and great company. A wonderful mix of generations attended and competed. The event brought out the true community spirit of the Highlands, where old and young clinked glasses and celebrated the evening together, and Highlands School PTA benefited.

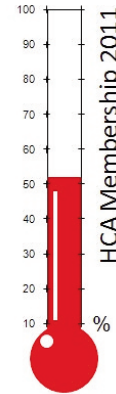
The winners were: **American**

Bistro: Lamb Sliders with sweet potato fries by Eric Peschke, **European:** Foie Gras Toasts with Sauternes Gelee by

► **Cook-Off:** to page 10

HCA Membership Drive

by Liesje Nicolas, HCA Membership Chair



Thank you to those who have mailed in your dues! Our HCA membership drive has reached 50% of our goal so far. In an effort to be green, we've decided not to deliver membership cards this year unless requested. If you would like one, please let me or your area rep know and we'll be

happy to get one to you. You can find your area rep or pay your dues on www.HighlandsCommunity.org.

It's time to plan the Highlands 51st annual 4th of July festivities. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer. Every volunteer job contributes to make the festivities wonderful for everyone! Volunteering with your neighbors – even just an hour of your time or donating something for the bake sale – will make you feel good. We live in an amazing community, so help keep the Highlands spirit alive!

Please mail in your dues of \$30 and, if possible, a donation to the 4th of July celebration to HCA, 205 De Anza Blvd., #49, San Mateo, CA 94402-3989

WE'D LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU ON YOUR REMODEL OR ADDITION!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

► **Rec Programs:** from page 4

Intermediate Adult Group Swim Lessons

Sun 4/17-5/15 10:30 a.m. \$40/45
Sun 5/22-6/19 10:30 a.m. \$40/45

This class is for those who are not afraid of the water and are looking to improve their swimming skills. Participants learn: floating, rhythmic breathing, crawl stroke, elementary backstroke, treading water, and other swimming skills. Ages 16 and up. Class is 28 minutes.

Adult Swim Clinics

Do you want to improve your stroke technique for any or all of the competitive strokes? Then sign up for a clinic and receive tips and learn drills to make you a stronger and more polished swimmer.

Clinics are on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and are \$20/25 per person per clinic. MAX- 5 people.

- 5/4 Freestyle
- 5/11 Backstroke
- 5/18 Breaststroke
- 5/25 Butterfly

Lifeguard Training

Session 1: 4/30, 5/1, 5/7, 5/8
Saturday/Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$200/205

Professional Rescuer, First Aid and Lifeguard Training. Students must be 15 years or older (proof of age must be shown at the first meeting) and must pass a water skills test to be admitted into the class. Bring class material, swim suit, towel, and comfortable clothing. **Must attend all classes per session!**

► **July 4th:** from page 1

added and subtracted. The first Highlands July 4th in 1960 included a gala dance, puppet show, hay ride, and a Queen Contest. The contest continued for some time, with neighborhood convertibles borrowed to transport the contestants. There were years when a group of women clowns pranced around in the parade. Lately, the marching band that Mark Finnern organized in 2009 has added a welcome new spice.

Sandra remembers how much the wooden shoes she wore in the parade hurt, parents throwing coins into the pool on the 4th for children to retrieve, water games, and wonderful fireworks. "The 4th was always such a big deal, and so much fun." She calls the Highlands "a one-of-a-kind place" that she and her brother loved.

Volunteering came naturally to those who planned the first celebration and has remained a hallmark of the event ever since. Volunteers are still needed to continue the tradition of a wonderful, fun-filled holiday. There are many different ways to offer your help at the events, and whichever you choose will add you to the long list of Highlanders who have set the stage for a great time. Call Rick Priola at 574-8313 and join the crew!

► **Cook-Off:** from page 9

Darren Thornycroft, **Asian Fusion:** Apricot Chicken Rice by Linda Siguenza, **Latin American:** Halibut Ceviche by Javier Schwarzberg, **Dessert:** Russian Napoleon Cake by Julia Eberman, **Mixology:** Ginger Tom by Tom Sipes, **Best of Event:** Darren Thornycroft's Foie Gras Toasts with Sauternes Gelee.

There is already talk of a second Cook-Off on a date to be announced soon. Talk to anyone who attended; you won't want to miss the next one!

A fabulous cookbook with recipes from the event is available for only \$14. It is as much a piece of art, as a collection of culinary masterpieces. View and order the book at <http://www.magcloud.com/browse/Issue/174040>, or contact Tom at kesipes@gmail.com

"What a fabulously fun evening. I was stunned, yet thrilled, to make history as the Cook-Off's 1st grand prize winner. May there be many more such winners in the future!" Darren Thornycroft winner overall



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RESPONSIBLE 8th GRADER AVAILABLE to pet-sit dogs or small animals. Call Jonathan at 346-4215.

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Do you need pet care by a mature Highlands resident mom who is available mornings and late afternoon/evenings? Call Leslie at 650-578-1087. Great local references

COMPUTER GURU FOR HIRE Need help setting up a MAC or PC? Want to go wireless in your Eichler or learn how to use that new iPod? Technical handyman ranging from computers to home audio/video - no job too small. Local IT professional. Call Uy at 773-6356.

LOCAL HIGHLANDS HONEY
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HOME OWNERS! IS YOUR HOME IN NEED OF REPAIR? Retired contractor looking to do smaller workload repairs. Jobs that I can do: Ceramic tile installation and repairs. Bath and kitchen repairs. Window and skylight installation. Beam, dry rot repairs. Waterproof coating, absolutely waterproof! Small termite repair. References provided if needed. Call Bill Hamlin, (650) 637-7748.

ROBERT'S HANDYMAN SERVICE
Remodeling, bathrooms, fences, stucco, small jobs. Highlands references available. Call 650-771-6952.

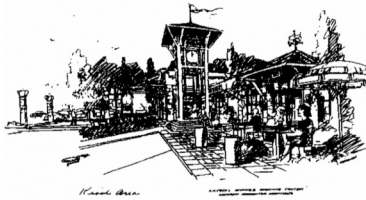
HDTV WALL INSTALLATIONS - Wall fish cable, phone & CAT5/6 home network. Audio/Visual specialist. E-mail joel-com@comcast.net or phone 650-759-6511.

MEDINA HOUSECLEANING SERVICE - residential/commercial/ windows/carpets. Highlands references for 13 years. Licensed, insured. 408-509-3448.

HANDYMAN, REMODELING, SIDING decks, fences and painting. Reasonable rates. 25-years experience/15 years with Eichlers. Call Mike Kinsey, 650-679-4552.

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MAUI - TWO BEDROOM BEACH condo. Call 341-1963.



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Alterations to Go	341-6360	Little Hunan Restaurant (Home Delivery)	571-1575
The Bar Method (Yoga, Pilates, Ballet)	573-3330	Merry Maids	572-8200
California Cancer Care	341-9131	Papagayo Mexican Grille (Catering)	578-1966
Crystal Springs Chiropractic, Dr. Jordan Savara	574-1456	Rainbow Pizza (Home Delivery)	571-1848
Crystal Cleaning Center	342-6978	Realty World, Martinelli Properties	578-1300
Dental Care -- opening soon		Renew Laser Clinic, Dr. Adele Makow, Laser Skin Care	341-3600
Crystal Springs Fish & Poultry	212-7921	Renew Life Center, Dr. Julieta Gabiola Primary Care, Internal Medicine	341-3600
Crystal Springs Pet Hospital	341-3438	Ritz Salon & Spa	570-5750
Citibank (West) FSB	525-9028	Safeway	341-4039
CVS Pharmacy (572-2514, Drive Up)	572-2438	Shoe Repair	349-4209
Design Jewelry	345-7870	Starbucks Coffee	345-0483
Dianda's Italian Pastry	570-6260	Tasty Treats	312-1579
Esposito's Deli (Catering)	525-1970	U.S. Postal Services	570-5562
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A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

Unique San Mateo Store Sells Peaceful Stuff for All Ages

by Florence Beier

Are you looking for games and toys that are non-violent, environmental, and/or promote peace? Something special for your children or grandchildren? How about books or CD's with a message about conflict resolution? Would you like to find a source for such things that is close by, locally owned, and friendly? Then you need to find Dove and Olive Works.

This small store, filled to the ceiling with colorful goodies, is at 178 South Boulevard (neither south nor a boulevard, but just the curve between Palm and B streets!). I was fascinated by the Solar Rover, Dragonfly kite kit, and *Put Em Up* (a book about preserving, pickling, drying, and freezing fresh fruits and veggies). For kids under five we find puzzles. A unique book for ages six to ten is *Hot Stuff to Help Kids Chill Out – The Anger Management Book*. Grown-ups and children can find DVD's from "Jazz and Blues Christmas" to "A Jewish Odyssey." You can find out more on their website at www.reachandteach.com

So that's the Dove. Olive is a tasting bar for Palestinian olive oil. An assortment of handmade scarves are also on display. This is a fund-raising project for Rebuilding Alliance, which partners with Israeli and Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations to help

Palestinian communities rebuild. The Alliance has built playgrounds, kindergartens, and a birthing center. Get more information at www.RebuildingAlliance.org. I realize that not everyone will agree with their point-of-view, but it is worthwhile to learn about this peace-building effort.

We were introduced to Dove and Olive Works when we were invited to breakfast there to meet the young Israeli and Palestinian who were here to speak at an interreligious gathering. Sponsored by OneVoice, the two, who are now close friends, spent ten days in the U.S. helping us see how hearing another's story can lead to understanding. Then on a Monday evening over 180 people turned out for an event produced by a team of eight Peninsula faith groups – Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. After the two spoke, eighteen tables of ten had meaningful conversations about what they had heard.

The news these days is so depressing, that it is easy to decide, "There's nothing I can do in the miserable mess called our world." On the other hand the number of non-governmental and non-profit groups working for peace is endless. I guess the best I can do is to check out who they are and prioritize where to spend my time and money, in hopes that it might make a difference.