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Notes from the Mayor of Concord

by Tim Grayson

Please feel free to contact Mayor Grayson at (925) 671-3158 or by email at citycouncil@ci.concord.ca.us

Concord's Public Works Department

The mayor of a city, if he or she is as fortunate as this mayor, and wants to do his job properly, must at times perform the duties of a public relations officer. I am feeling that urge today. I've spent a number of hours accompanying and observing members of our Public Works Department performing a myriad of diverse and specialized tasks that collectively filled me with great admiration and pride. Like attending a rehearsal of a giant dramatic production I went behind the scenes and saw what it takes to operate the infrastructure of a well-run, effectively managed city. Quite frankly, when it comes to our Public Works Department, I was astonished how much we take for granted in our daily lives and that is why I want to share some of my observations with you.

Our Public Works Department is comprised of 8 divisions, employing 61 full-time employees; this does not include our many seasonal workers. As I recount some of the statistics regarding the volume of their workload, please remember that its staff was drastically cut during the recent recession and our economy has not improved to the point where we can consider adding to their numbers. This, of course, raises the specter of deferred maintenance and frankly that is one of my most compelling concerns.

There are 7 employees in our Sewer Division. They maintain over 383 miles of sewer, this means they hydro-clean 1,287,361 linear feet of sewer. I accompanied a team of workers as they cleaned out the sewer line on Landana, near Dana Plaza.

I had the pleasure of visiting a number of job sites, watching them plant trees, repair city streets, set-up for events at Todos Santos Park, and more. When you see our city workers, bedecked in their orange shirts, working on our sewer lines all over our City, and doing many other maintenance tasks, you can share the same feeling of respect I feel as they perform their important work.

The Signs Division has 4 employees. They inspect and maintain 14,800 signs and every square inch of pavement and curb markings. The 3 employees of the Signal Division maintain, repair, and replace over 8,200 city-owned street lights, along with 150

signalized intersections (over 6,000 LED lights).

Whether driving, biking, or walking we don't pay much attention to our streets, unless we come across a pothole, but the condition of our streets impact our lives daily. Another statistic for you to appreciate, we have 1,425 streets in Concord. That computes to 875 curb miles; 4,620,000 linear feet of street surface which are cleaned monthly by 2 employees. The other 7 members of our Street Division maintain 59,500,000 square feet of asphalt, 231 miles of storm drains, 6,000 storm drain catch basins, and over 13.5 miles of drainage channels and ditches. Have enough statistics? I know you're beginning to get the idea. Now you know how I felt when our Public Works Director, Justin Ezell, began to count off the various numbers and statistics with which he is involved on a daily basis.

We're not finished. The 1,195,339 square feet of medians and roadside of our streets are maintained by 5 employees of the Parks Median Division, not including seasonal workers. The Parks Division recently planted 57 trees at the Boatwright Fields. This Division has 15 employees, including a certified arborist. Planting trees is a small part of their duties. They also care for trees, remove litter, and maintain 26 parks, mow over 31,000,000 square feet of grass, in addition to inspecting and repairing park play structures.

Finally, the Fleet Division, comprised of 5 employees, repairs over 261 City of Concord vehicles, and provides similar services to 7 other outside agencies.

Thank you for your patience. You are not expected to remember the specifics of the many divisions highlighted. The point is that our Public Works Department makes a significant contribution to the quality of life we all have come to expect. It is another example of the services you pay for with your tax dollars.

I believe our citizens are getting the benefit of exceptional services at a bargain rate. By way of comparison, one example, the Walt Disney World Resort, which does entertain millions of visitors on a regular basis, provides services which are comparable to what I've described for our city. To do this they have a staff of 58,000 employees. I know they do a lot more to do and have many additional features, but when you compare this to our Public Works staff of 61 full-time employees I believe we are doing quite well and now you know why I am so proud of the job they are doing.



scenes from the society

Concord Historical Society

by Carol Longshore

An Immigrant's Concord Story

Born in the month of May, in the year of 1937, this single child boy arrived in Berkeley, California, much to the delight of his Italian immigrant father Joe and his Polish immigrant mother, Cecelia.

Back in that day, an Italian could immigrate to America through an American sponsor. The American sponsor was responsible for finding him a job and impressing the importance of learning English and becoming an American citizen. His sponsor was Antonio Vasconi who didn't have to impress Joe, he already could hardly wait to become an American citizen and only English was spoken in his house. He went to night school to learn more about our laws, customs and free enterprise. Joe became an American citizen in 1935, the happiest day of his life.

The boy was happy. He and his father would go on rides on the weekends, bringing vegetables and fruits to sell or trade to the farmers along the way. They would ride to Pittsburg and over Kirker Pass to Walnut Creek. Their garden was beautiful and bountiful.

Tragedy struck when he was six. His father, Joe, was killed on the job and everything changed for the family. After his father's death his grandparents on his mom's side along with his Uncles, Andy and Ernie, stepped up to help with the family duties. He can remember walking two or three times a week to Martinez with his grandfather, who walked with a cane. They would find a fishing spot near Swanton's, a little fishing store and eatery, file the fish and bring it home for dinner.

He lost his grandfather when he was nine and his uncles became more involved. "My uncles had two

different personalities; Andy was outgoing and athletic and Ernie was shy and disciplined. Andy taught him how to work on cars and Ernie taught him discipline and responsibility. However, Uncle Roy, his mother's sister's husband was his father figure. His son Donny became like a brother to him. His childhood was full of friends, family and loyalty.

"We were all home the night of July 17, 1944, when the ammunition ship exploded at the loading dock on the Naval Weapons Base. My grandmother lost an eye due to the flying glass." It was a frightful night. As you can guess, he's from Port Chicago and when he came to Mount Diablo High School in 1951, he and his buddies from Port Chicago were ready to rock and roll. Sometimes called a gang they quickly became the core of their sports teams. He played football and baseball naturally. (His father was a champion swimmer in Milan, Italy). He dated Nancy for five months and had nothing to do between football and baseball so he took her to Reno to get married. He was 17 and she was 16! They didn't tell anyone until after graduation. After graduation he went on to Diablo Valley College, San Jose State and...

Turn to page 3 to learn his identity.

The Concord Historical Society has moved its resource center to Farm Bureau Road in the old Woman's Club. We're so happy. Don't forget our Mother's Day Tea at the Galindo Home May 9th, 10th and 11th. There will be two sittings on Friday and Saturday and one sitting on Mother's Day. You can contact the chair of this event, Joan Reed, at 672-2471 for more info.

Reserve June 21st for our Summer Social, too

Watch for more information on our website - concordhistorical.org or call the Resource Center at 827-3380.

The Spring Contra Costa Crystal Fair is a Magical Mix

Get ready for the Spring Contra Costa Crystal Fair which includes a magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, and jewelry.

Whether it's stone beads from Nepal, amethyst geodes from Madagascar, jade from China, or jewelry from northern California artisans - you'll find it at the Crystal Fair at below market

prices.

You'll also find an aura camera, tarot reader, sound healer, massage therapist, reiki master and many others - 30 booths in all.


The exact location is the Civic Park Community Center at 1375 Civic Drive at Broadway in Walnut Creek. The hours are 10am to 6pm on Saturday, April 12; and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, April 13. Admission is \$8 (under 12 free). There is plenty of free parking and the downtown Walnut Creek BART station has a shuttle to Civic Park.

For info: Jerry Tomlinson at (415) 383-7837.

Read the Calendar of Events Starting on Page 5 of This Issue

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Amazing Love



Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20th
With Concord United Methodist Church

6 am Sunrise Service and 10 am Easter Service
Free Nursery Care provided at the 10 am service
11:15 am Free Children's Easter Egg Hunt

1645 West Street, Concord (925) 685-5260 concordumc.org

Concord Survey Results Show Positive Trend

A random sampling of 500 residents gave the City of Concord high marks in the 2014 Community Priorities Survey, continuing a multi-year trend of positive feedback. Four out of five residents

rated their quality of life in Concord as "excellent" or "good". Eighty-three percent of residents were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the job the city of Concord is doing to provide city services.

Residents expressed greater optimism in 2014 about their future quality of life than in 2010, the last time the survey was conducted. This year, 28.6 percent expect their quality of life to be "better" and 55.78 percent expect it to be "about

the same" compared with 27 percent "better" and 44 percent "about the same" in 2010.

The survey was conducted by telephone between Feb. 9 and Feb. 13 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percent. Survey results are available on the City's website at <http://www.cityofconcord.org>. For more information, contact Community Relations Manager Leslye Asera, (925) 671-3272.

An Immigrant's Concord Story continued from page 2

Dan Colchico played for the San Francisco 49er's from 1960 to 1968 when he was traded to the Saints and ended his career with them in 1969. He married his first love and they had four children. He

lived in Port Chicago until the government kicked his family out. He fought to stay but to no avail.

He is a legend in the area and in the sport of football. Dan is well respected and a loyal friend.

If you want to read in more depth about his career you may find his story "The Pride of Port Chicago, Dan Colchico" available on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/P4KkdP>. It's a good read and he's an interesting man.



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Concord High School News

by Rebecca Jensen



CHS Boys' Basketball

The Concord High boys' basketball team made an exciting run to the postseason, making it to the Division II NCS playoffs for the first time in school history. Though seeded fourth, the Minutemen fought their way into the finals only to fall short against Newark for the championship. However, based on their strong performance, they were given a shot to play in the CIF Division II regional playoffs, another school first. Though their season ended early in those playoffs, the Minutemen hope build upon these experiences for the next basketball season.

Speaking of basketball, did you know that Concord High is represented by nearly twenty different sports teams? Students have the opportunity to participate in athletics in a variety of ways, on a team or as individuals, as veterans or novices. And our coaches are some of the most dedicated, passionate people you could know. CHS has four full-time PE teachers who also serve as coaches. Megan Coddington, who fills the role of Athletic Director (AD) for the first semester, pitches in as the Varsity Girls' Softball coach. Erica Karst serves as the coach for both JV Girls' and JV Boys' volleyball. Brian

Hamilton kicks of our school year as Varsity Football coach, after which he fills the role of AD for the second semester. And Craig Kilcoyne tees off with both the Girls' and Boys' Golf teams.

But PE teachers aren't the only ones out in the field of competition. We have several teachers who spend hours after school as coaches. Matt Ryan, science teacher and department co-chair, hits the courts with Varsity Girls' Tennis. Jose Soltero, math teacher, heads up Varsity Girls' Soccer. And rounding the bases is Matt Harrod, social science teacher, department head and Varsity Baseball coach.

In addition to these faculty members, there are nearly seventy other coaches and assistant coaches (often parents) who work full-time jobs and then extend their day as they come to CHS after hours and share their love of the game with our students in cross country, volleyball, basketball, tennis, water polo, soccer, track-and-field, wrestling, and swimming. They inspire, encourage and push Minutemen athletes to do and be their best, instilling in them the values of dedication, desire and teamwork. Most of these sports barely register a blip on the media radar but they provide an important outlet for students who get the chance to proudly wear their school's colors. Go Minutemen!

compassion and justice ministries.

For example, on April 5 we will be presenting "Convoy of Hope" to bring free groceries, goods and services to the hurting in our community. Our "Clean Start" program for the homeless provides a meal and laundry service each week.

Last November, our "Harvest to Home" outreach provided a Thanksgiving meal to over three hundred families in Pittsburg, Concord, and Bay Point.

This decision is truly bittersweet, but we are grateful for the incredible twenty-five years that we were privileged to present "The Flag" and we know that there are many exciting opportunities just ahead.

There are a few things that will remain deeply held core values: our commitment to reaching people with the message of God's love, our commitment to partnering with our communities in the East Bay to serve in any way possible, our commitment to have a thriving performing arts program, our patriotism and support for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and our deep love for the people of the East Bay who call this wonderful place their "home".

We are grateful for the support, attendance, and friendship that the people of the East Bay have shown toward Calvary Temple Church and "The Flag"... we eagerly look forward to the exciting adventures that lay ahead.

~Linda Reynolds

Performing Arts Director

~John Gregg, Lead Pastor

SEE CONVEY OF HOPE ON

PAGE 12



what really matters

by Dan Ashley, ABC-7 News Anchor

Watch Dan's live newscasts at <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/live>

Credit should be given when credit is due

Last month at the white house, President Obama righted some old wrongs-- awarding the medal of honor to twenty-four army veterans from World War Two, Korea, and Vietnam. Only three of the twenty-four are still alive and all three attended the ceremony. Most of these men were passed-over because they were Black, Jewish, or, like a Bay Area honoree, Hispanic.

Army Corporal Joe Baldonado of Gilroy fought-off an enemy assault in Korea and, as a result of his tenacity, courage, and determination managed to save his unit. Because of his heroism, many of his comrades came back home from that war.

Not Joe.

He died there, serving a country that would not be willing to honor him for his service and sacrifice until sixty-four years after his death on the battlefields of a foreign land. His brother accepted on his behalf.

But I wish Joe could have been there. I wish he could have been there to see what became of the country he died to protect. What a powerful moment that would have been, to have had a medal placed around his neck by a man who would not have been honored either had they served together, now serving as our nation's first African American president.

Thankfully, at least three of the men honored at the White House were able to participate in such a profound occasion on so many levels.

In our two hundred thirty-eight years as these United States, we have often called upon men and women of color to serve our nation and they have done so time and time again and their valor has often been overlooked. Blacks fought against the British in the American Revolution. Can you imagine fighting to liberate the very people who would keep you as slaves for another ninety-years?

During World War Two, many second-generation Japanese Americans volunteered to fight against Japan even after our government had locked away their parents in internment camps for fear of sabotage against the war effort.

In every conflict in which the United States has placed Americans in harm's way, men and women who were not treated fairly by their government, gave their all to protect and to preserve as system that, all too often, held them down. But while they fought for a country that is imperfect, they fought for a country that is great and aspires to be even greater.

What Really Matters is that we continue to reach back into history to honor men like Joe Baldonado and all who served with distinction, but with discrimination.

Dan Ashley is an anchor at ABC-7 News and can be seen weeknights at 5, 6 and 11 p.m. on ABC-7 and at 9 p.m. on KOFY TV20. Follow him on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DanAshleyABC7> Contact him at dan@myconcordian.com. Visit <http://www.rockwithpush.com> for more on the band. Reprinted from www.thoughtcatalog.com

No More Singing Flag

For the past twenty-five years Calvary Temple Church has had the great privilege of serving our community by presenting "The Flag" to the city of Concord, and Contra Costa County, as a special gift to the people of the East Bay.

Throughout the years we have had the joy to see tens of thousands fill Dave Brubeck Park and clap spiritedly to the song Grand Old Flag, shed tears during the sorrowful notes of Taps, smile with the recollection of television shows and movies of yesteryear, celebrate our nation's birthday, and honor our country's armed services.

These memories are priceless and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

As our leadership team reflects on the future vision of our church, we've unanimously determined that we must now bring closure to this honored celebration.

We intend to remain deeply involved in our community, and to repurpose our resources to expand service to those in need through

The 25th Annual Bay Area KidFest Coming in May



Photo courtesy Gary Carr

Medieval jousting from last year's KidFest

Bay Area KidFest. 25th annual event with dozens of activities for kids, tweens and parents. Nonstop free activities - face painting, balloon



art, bounces and crawls, The Dark Knights live medieval jousting show, Puff the Magic Dragon marionette show, Kid's Town America, SportStars Field of Dreams, superstar costumed characters, 100 arts & crafts and exhibitor booths, non-stop entertainment on community stage plus food court, Zip Line, 20 rides and much more. Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-25-26, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Downtown Concord, 2450 Grant St. \$6 per person with the donation of a canned good for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. \$7 without can donation. Babies under 24 months and seniors 65+ are FREE. Benefits local non-profits. <http://www.KidFestConcord.com> or email: info@bayareafamilyfest.com

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Events Calendar

EVENTS BY CITY:

CONCORD

- **Red Cross Community Blood Drive, April 2, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm**, Willow Pass Community Center, 2748 E. Olivera Rd., Concord. SEE PAGE 12 for details
- **CSU East Bay, Concord Campus, 12th Annual Day of the Teacher Conference, April 5, 8:30am-2:30pm**. Keynote speakers include Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla will also be speaking at the event. Learn more or register at www.csueastbay.edu/teacherday
- **East Bay Convoy of Hope community event on Saturday, April 5th at 10am** at Rio Vista Elementary School in Bay Point. SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 12
- **Concord High School Band Booster Car Washes Apr. 6, 9am-4pm** around Concord High School/Montecito Ave, Concord - watch for waving washers.
- **The 39th Annual Concord Family Carnival**, a Concord area tradition since the mid-1970's, will be held Friday through Sunday, April 11-13, in the front parking lot of Concord High School, located at 4200 Concord Blvd, Concord. SEE AD ON PAGE 6
- **CVCHS Music Booster Dinner Fundraising & Poker Tournament, April 11, 6-11 pm**, at Concord Police Association, 5060 Avilla Rd, Concord. Our second Poker Tournament to benefit CVCHS Instrumental Music Department. For tickets and information, go to: www.claytonbands.org
- **25th annual Bay Area KidFest** Brings 3 Days of Family Fun to Downtown Concord, Memorial Day Weekend, **May 24-26** <http://www.KidFestConcord.com> SEE PAGE 4
- **Celebrate Easter with Concord United Methodist Church, April 20**, 1645 West Street, Concord, www.concordumc.org SEE AD ON PAGE 3
- **Easter Brunch, Concord Hilton, April 20, 10 am - 3 pm**. www.concordhilton.com SEE AD ON PAGE 14
- **Concord Antique Faire, Sunday, April 20**. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord. SEE AD ON PAGE 8
- **14th Assembly District Women of the Year Reception, Friday, April 25 at 5 p.m.** in the Salvio Pacheco Square Courtyard, 2151 Salvio Street in Downtown Concord. Participating organizations will recognize their Women's History Month honorees and celebrate the 14th Assembly District Woman of the Year, Cindy Gershen.

CLAYTON

- **TAPESTRY, the Bay Area's only combined vocal and handbell ensemble, Sunday, April 13, 4:00 pm** at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, 1578 Kirker Pass Rd., Clayton. Concert is free and open to the public. www.TapestryRingersandSingers.org
- **Clayton Valley Garden Club - 7p.m. April 9th**, Diamond Terrace 6401 Center St., Clayton. Buzz Bertolero discusses general garden issues, new plants and does Q & A. www.claytonvalleygardenclub.org

MARTINEZ

- **MORE MARTINEZ EVENTS ON PAGE 12**
- **Onstage Repertory Theatre Company presents "WEEKEND COMEDY" March 21 - April 5, times vary**. A comedic clash of the generations occurs when two couples, accidentally rent the same upper New York vacation cabin. Martinez Campbell Theatre 636 Ward Street, Martinez onstagetheatre.homestead.com

PITTSBURG/ANTIOCH

- **Earth Day Celebration, April 26, 10 am - 3 p.m.** Mt. Diablo Recycling, 1300 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg SEE AD ON PAGE 11
- **Contra Costa 4-H Centennial** celebrates 100 years of youth learning Citizenship, Leadership and Life Skills! **May 3rd, noon - 4pm**, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 W 10th St, Antioch

WALNUT CREEK/LAFAYETTE

- **THE SPRING CONTRA COSTA CRYSTAL FAIR, April 12-13**, which includes a magical mix of crystals, minerals, beads, and jewelry. Civic Park Community Center, Walnut Creek SEE PAGE 2

AT THE LESHER ARTS CENTER:

1601 Civic Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Hillendale Home Care Receives "Best of Home Care" Award

Hillendale Home Care today announced that it has been recognized with Home Care Pulse's "Best of Home Care" distinction for the third year in a row. Awarded to the top 50% of agencies in client and employee satisfaction scores from Home Care Pulse, Hillendale is now ranked among a select few of the best agencies in the country.

"We know that sometimes it is difficult to make care decisions when you don't have specific experience with an agency. It was our goal to provide families with the ability to make an informed decision, have tangible ways to measure quality and help them find a comfort level when choosing an agency to work with," commented Aaron Marcum, founder of Home Care Pulse.

Home Care Pulse, a company which measures client and employee satisfaction, created the award to identify those agencies in the private duty home care space that demonstrated a passion for client and employee satisfaction. Home Care Pulse believes that honoring such companies can both educate and help families to make better care decisions for their aging loved ones.

"It is important to us that we truly go beyond making statements about "quality and satisfaction" and put them into action," stated Bridget Waller, founder and owner of Hillendale Home Care.

The selection process for the "Best of Home Care" includes the evaluation of client and employee satisfaction in areas such as agency training, communication, overall quality of care, caregiver performance, caregiver morale, response to problems and recommendation of services to name a few.

To find out more about the "Best of Home Care" award or Home Care Pulse, please visit www.bestofhomecare.com. To find out more about Hillendale Home Care, please visit www.hillendale.net.

Performance times vary. Check for details. (925) 295-1400, www.lesherartscenter.org

- California Symphony, **A Russian Spectacular** - May 4
- **Les Miserables**: Contra Costa Musical Theatre, thru Apr. 20
- Bedford Gallery: **Sky: A National Juried Exhibition**, thru - May 25, <http://bedfordgallery.org>

PLEASANT HILL

- **Hunt is On - For eggs and bones on Sunday, April 6th from 2-4 pm** at Rodgers Smith Park, 750 Grayson Rd in Pleasant Hill benefiting Contra Costa Humane Society. Create arts and crafts, have an Easter picture taken, win a raffle prize, visit the booths. For more information visit www.cchumane.org or contact us at 925-279-2247. Proceeds benefit CCHS animals and programs.

FARMERS MARKETS

- **Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association**, •Concord Tuesdays, 10am to 2pm, year-round, rain or shine, Todos Santos Plaza. •Concord Thursdays, 4pm to 8pm, beginning May 23, Todos Santos Plaza.
- Martinez, Sundays, 10am to 2pm, year-round, Main St. and Estudillo. <http://www.pcfma.org>
- **Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market** Sundays 9 am - 1 pm, Year Round, WalnutCreek, North Locust St between Giamona and Lacassie St. (925) 431-8361 <http://www.cccfm.org>

CITY GOVERNMENT

- **Concord City Council**, 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, Council Chambers, 1950 Parkside Dr, Concord. Or watch online at <http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/citygov/agendas/council/>

The 39th Annual Concord Family Carnival

The 39th Annual Concord Family Carnival, a Concord area tradition since the mid-1970's, will be held Friday through Sunday, April 11-13, 2014, in the front parking lot of Concord High School, located at 4200 Concord Blvd., with individual carnival ride tickets or one-day unlimited ride tickets available for sale at the event.

The Concord Family Carnival will be open 3:30-11 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday, and 12-9 p.m. on Sunday. Gate admission is \$1.00 or one non-perishable food item.

This annual family event features an array of rides for young children as well as the seasoned carnival enthusiast who is looking for fast, twirling and spinning action. In addition to the adult and kiddie rides, the carnival also features various attractions, games, prizes and county-inspired food concessions. All are provided by Butler Amusements, the largest carnival company in the western United States.

As a special tribute, the Concord Family Carnival will highlight the fact that two famous celebrities were born in the City of Concord. Saturday will be "Tom Hanks Day" at the carnival in honor of the Academy-Award Actor and accomplished producer, director and screenwriter who was born in Concord in 1956. Sunday will be "Dave Brubeck Day" in honor of the late legendary jazz pianist and composer (1920-2012). Carnival patrons will have the opportunity to win various memorabilia items related to these two Concord-born legends.

The Concord Family Carnival will also feature musical entertainment on Saturday and Sunday performed by students from various middle schools and high schools of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. These performances are part of the Concord Family Carnival's Mini-Concert Series, which is sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Music Education Foundation.

Over the years, the Concord Family Carnival has featured other community activities as well. This included the "San Francisco Bay Area's Salute to America's Heroes", which recognized the commitment of the

men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, Veterans, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Emergency Responders, Doctors, Nurses, and School Teachers. Another was the "Go Green Auto Show" featuring various energy-efficient vehicles provided by Concord Area Auto Dealers.

"Being fun for all ages, the Annual Concord Family Carnival strives to produce affordable family entertainment to patrons that is exciting, enjoyable and safe." said Nick Mraovich, a Concord High School parent volunteer who has been the Event Chairman for the past 10 years. "Proceeds from the various activities of the event help benefit local children, students and families in many ways."

Carnival ride ticket proceeds benefit the shared safe and sober Graduation Night activities at the Centre Concord in June for Concord, Ignacio Valley, College Park and Northgate High Schools.

Admission fees collected at the entrance gate benefit the Mt. Diablo Music Education Foundation, a non-profit organization to preserve and enhance music education for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District by maximizing student participation, starting at the elementary schools and continuing through middle and high school.

All non-perishable food items received at the admission gate benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN), which prevents abuse and neglect of children by providing support to families who are in stress or crisis. BACN's goal is to bridge the need for emergency childcare while providing a support network of resources and services to ensure both parents and children form a healthy family.

In addition, sales of bottled water at one of the carnival's concession booths will benefit Mt. Diablo Unified School District's Homeless Outreach Program for Education (HOPE) as well as the Foster Youth Services (FYS). These programs provide services that help homeless and foster students get to and from school, get something to eat, get tutoring help so they can keep up with their schoolwork, and get access to a support network when the going gets tough.

Arrangements for the bottled water booth as well as the delivery of the non-perishable food items to Bay Area Crisis Nursery are being coordinated by the Concord High Key Club, a community service organization sponsored by the Concord Kiwanis Club.

For more information, contact concordcarnival@aol.com SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 6



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OR

Non-Perishable Food Item (Donated to Bay Area Crisis Nursery)

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Saturday: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Sunday: 12 – 9 p.m.

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• Carnival ride ticket proceeds help benefit the shared safe & sober Grad Night Activities held at Centre Concord in June for Concord High, Ygnacio Valley High, College Park High and Northgate High.
• The purpose of the Mt. Diablo Music Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is to preserve & enhance music education for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District by maximizing student participation, starting at the elementary schools & continuing through middle & high school.
• The purpose of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is to prevent abuse & neglect of children by providing support to families who are in stress or crisis.



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bookends

by Chadwick H Saxelid

Read more of Chad's reviews at <http://bit.ly/McHguP>

11/22/63, by Stephen King

Let's say you could go back in time, to a fixed moment in the past. Would you?

"But," you ask, "what if I did something that altered the future I came from? What then?"

Then let's give you an out, every trip back in time is a reset that puts the future back on its original (or "correct") path. Make a mistake? Just return to the future, then turn right around and go back to that fixed moment in the past.

In that instant, everything returns to the way it was originally, before you ever went back.

Would you then be willing to go? Would you be tempted to change the past? To see if you could alter the future, make it better, somehow?

These are only a few of the questions that Jake Epping, the everyman hero of Stephen King's 2011 novel, 11/22/63, struggles with as he tries to make the future into something better; first for a former student, then for the entire United States.

Although marketed to potential readers as the story of a man going back in time to stop Lee Harvey Oswald from assassinating JFK, 11/22/63 really isn't about averting that watershed moment. Nor does King focus exclusively on the seductive, and dangerous, and terrifying, allure of being able to tamper with, and even change, the direction of the slow, steady flow of time.

No, 11/22/63 is a book of love stories. It tells of the powerful love that grows between a man from the future and a woman from the past. It tells of how a person can come to

love the act of teaching, and of the special bond that can form between a student and a teacher, when a closed door in the mind is unlocked and swung open.

King has taken quite a bit of flack, from both fans and critics, for writing, or over writing, novels that need not be one thousand page



opuses.

This time, however, his sprawling narrative serves a purpose. It gets across how much can, and does, happen in the five years that it takes Jake to get to that watershed moment in U.S. history.

So, when the moment the troubling "What if?" questions are answered, the reader can feel the full, crushing weight of time along with Jake; the importance of all that was gained, and all that was lost.

11/22/63 might be King's most emotionally potent novel to date, so keep a handkerchief handy. You might need it.

Hearing Impairment Solutions & Vision Resources

Seniors should invite their adult children or care-givers (or vice versa!) to open discussion concerning individual needs and options. Don't be caught unprepared when the hard decisions need to be made. Come to the S.O.S. for answers!

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Pulse of Concord Winter Survey Results

by Edi Birsan

Disclaimer: This article is not intended or represented to be the viewpoint of the Concord City Council, the City of Concord, or City staff or officials (Living, Dead or Undecided).

DISCLAIMER: This survey or the results created were not distributed, tabulated, evaluated or analyzed by the Concord City Council, the City of Concord, or its staff or officials. Finally any placement of shoe leather in one's mouth is most likely the fault of Edi Ersalesi Birsan – or whatever other variation on that theme may be in vogue.

EXCEPT where noted there was no significant differences in the responses for the residents (87.2%) and the non residents (you can figure %) in this survey. The number of responses was a little under 300.

• In the case of a knock on the door and being delivered an emergency evacuation order, my household is prepared to get out in under 10 minutes.

13.6% Strongly Agree, 28.2% Somewhat Agree, 11.4% Neither Agree or Disagree, 22.0% Somewhat Disagree, 20.2% Completely Disagree, 4.8% Not Applicable/Not Sure

This winter we had the nearby Clayton-Mt. Diablo fire that caused some evacuations which is what inspired this question. The Concord Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) is available free to everyone and you can get more information [HERE](http://www.cityofconcord.org/police/emergency/cert.aspx) at:

<http://www.cityofconcord.org/police/emergency/cert.aspx>

• The Pavilion should have more shows in the following two areas (pick no more than two):

29.9% Classic Rock (All), 23.3% Country Music (All), 16.5% (Jazz and Blues Combined- All), 15.6% Jazz (Non Concord Residents), 12.0% Comedy Shows (All), 11.7% Classic Music (All), 10.2% Top Line Soloists, 10.2% Local Battle of the Bands, 2.2% Hispanic Folk, 2.2% Hip Hop, 1.8% African American Folk Music, 0.7% Asian Folk Music

• A Medical Marijuana Dispensary north of Highway 4 (along Bates or north of the Golf Course) is acceptable.

35.5% Strongly Agree, 16.9% Somewhat Agree, 11.5% Neither Agree or Disagree, 3.6% Somewhat Disagree, 25.1% Completely Disagree, 7.5% I Don't Care

When the subject was brought up in City Council over a year ago, the Council refused to even have the topic as a discussion item sent to its policy committee by refusing to second the Birsan motion. As there continues to be a societal shift on this the political shift may catch up.

• Public Road and Sewer Maintenance is needed in my neighborhood and travel routes in Concord.

For the Concord residents:32.2% Strongly Agree, 24.1% Somewhat Agree, 29.4% Neither Agree or Disagree, 09.4% Somewhat Disagree, 04.9% Completely Disagree

The city has had deferred lots of maintenance since the start of the Great Recession, and has collected a large future unfunded liability in the road area. This is a major concern and will feature in the discussions coming up on the expiration of the sales tax measure (Measure Q).

• I would support an ordinance to change to a directly elected Mayor in Concord.

39.1% Strongly Agree, 21.0% Somewhat Agree, 14.4% Neither Agree or Disagree, 05.8% Somewhat Disagree, 14.8% Completely Disagree, 04.9% Not applicable/Not Sure

As the largest city in the County it is interesting to note that several other cities have a directly elected Mayor such as Antioch, Richmond and San Ramon. It is probably inevitable that there will be a directly elected mayor here, the only real question is when? This would have to be done by a vote of the people and could be initiated by the City Council or through a referendum gathering about 6,000 signatures.

• My neighborhood has improved in the last year as compared with the previous year.

02.5% Strongly Agree, 16.5% Somewhat Agree, 40.9% Neither Agree or Disagree, 17.9% Somewhat Disagree, 14.3% Completely Disagree, 08.2% Not applicable/Not Sure

What we need is to find out where those neighborhoods are and what are the components that make up the cause of the feeling that it is not getting better. Could use some help here folks in creating some NEUTRAL questions that fit in one of the formats here (no open ended answers).

• I would support changing the current .5% sales tax, (which is set to expire in 2016), to a .25% sales tax that will expire in 2021 the majority going to infrastructure improvements and upgrades?

22.3% Strongly Agree, 22.3% Somewhat Agree, 11.2% Neither Agree or Disagree, 07.9% Somewhat Disagree, 32.2% Completely Disagree, 04.1% Not Applicable/Not Sure

The city has recently unveiled its budget situation which can be summarized as \$68m revenue (excluding the \$10m from the Sales Tax Measure Q) \$74m being spent *(we take \$6m from measure Q to balance the budget) put on top of that there is \$10m of monthly unfunded liabilities which means that if the full tax measure is allowed to expire *April 2016 we are still in a very deep hole to about \$16m or about 22% of the budget.

Learn more [HERE](http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/pdf/citygov/agendas/council/2014/0211/4A.pdf) at: <http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/pdf/citygov/agendas/council/2014/0211/4A.pdf>

• The City Council is doing a good job.

07.0% Strongly Agree, 27.2% Somewhat Agree, 35.0% Neither Agree or Disagree, 13.2% Somewhat Disagree, 13.2% Completely Disagree, 04.5% Not applicable/Not Sure

Well 34% in agreement and 26.4% disagree with almost 39.5% in the middle. This is why we have elections. In the summer when we get closer to the elections (three are up for re-election / challenge Grayson/Hoffmeister/Leone) there may be more precise questions on exactly what we agree and disagree with.

Senior Options Seminar

Faith Lutheran Church at 50 Woodworth Lane in Pleasant Hill is hosting its Fourth Annual Senior Options Seminar on Saturday, April 26th from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. This event is for Senior Citizens and their adult children and/or caregiver to inform options and decisions related to aging.

Seminar topics will include:

Wills and Trusts
Managing Financial Resources
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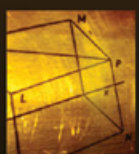
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San Francisco. . April 18, 1906

by Ruth Dwyer



My name is Gertrude Jordan. I am eleven years old and live in a big old wood house in the Mission district of San Francisco. I live with my mother, father, aunt, five sisters and two brothers. My father drives a bakery wagon and gets up at 4 a.m. every day to make his rounds. My mother is up with him to fix him his breakfast before he leaves for work. Their routine never changes, but on this morning everyone's life changed. I, for one, will never forget the horror and sadness of this day, April 18, 1906.

My twin sister and I shared a bed, and we

were both sound asleep at 5:18 when I was awakened by the loudest noise I ever heard. It sounded like a freight train was going through my room. The loud noise was followed by a violent shaking, which threw my sister out of our bed. I could hear my mother yelling for us all to get up, put on shoes and get out of the house. I ran out of my room to find the house coming down around us. Walls were cracking, and the floors were rising and falling in a crazy way. My mom and dad somehow got us all out into the street, where all our neighbors were gathering. I looked at my house and saw that

it was leaning to one side, with all the windows gone. The brick fireplace chimney was in a pile in the alley, and while I watched, the second floor of the house collapsed. I had been sleeping there just a few minutes before and it scared me to think what could have happened to all of us.

The earthquake subsided. There were a few aftershocks, but the big one had stopped. We all stood around in a daze wondering what would happen next. My father wanted to go back in the house to get clothes for us, and to retrieve some money he had in his bedroom. However, my mother pleaded with him to stay outside because of the condition of the house. He always did what his Ellen asked, so we all just stayed on the street.

We thought the worst was over. The military from the Presidio came and told everyone on the block that they should go toward upper Market Street and to Twin Peaks where the Army was providing shelter tents and food. This was a long walk and all we saw was devastation everywhere. Lots of dead horses, overturned wagons, destroyed houses, sidewalks broken and people crying out for loved ones. We were all still in our nightclothes, but we were all together and unharmed. When we got to upper Market St. we looked back and could see smoke coming from various places in the Mission. We learned that the wood stoves everyone used had turned over in some homes and set them on fire. This is when things became horrendous.

I learned from the soldiers on Twin Peaks that the fires were spreading. Most of the water mains were destroyed in the quake and there was no way to put the fire out. I found out later that our house and most of San Francisco was gone. Everything we owned was in that house. I heard loud explosions all the time, as the soldiers were dynamiting areas to stop the fire from spreading across Van Ness Avenue, a main street in San Francisco. I got used to sleeping in a tent and eating outdoors from big pots. My mother told us not to complain about anything as we were very lucky to be alive and all together. I met some girls my age and we really had a good time playing and swapping stories.

My father heard that there were parts of the City which were not affected by the quake and fire. After two weeks on the peaks, he came and told us he had found a house near the panhandle in Golden Gate Park and that we would be moving. He never lost his job, as the bakery was not burned, and he was able to buy a lovely home for us. People from all over the country sent aid, so I was able to get new clothes and enroll in a new school.

The city, as I knew it, was gone, but already there was rebuilding happening. My folks said that San Franciscans were strong, loved their city and that everything would be better than before.

It is very hard to write about all the things I saw that day and in the weeks following. But, I will never forget that horrible day and will relive it in my memory for as long as I shall live.



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Contra Costa Mobile Dental Clinic

Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On March 5 the Dental Collaborative hosted a celebration of its 10th anniversary with recognition of donors, volunteers and other people integral to the program, at Cambridge Elementary School in Concord. There they were presented with a resolution from the office of State Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) and the office of Assemblymember Susan A. Bonilla (D-Concord). The event was attended by Dr. Wendell Brunner, the Director of Public Health for Contra Costa County.

A testimonial delivered by a young patient and family included heartfelt words about the necessity of the mobile dental clinic to the community, and the effect its care has had on her health and life. The young girl, now in fifth grade, has used the mobile unit for 14 appointments, with the Care Mobile providing the only dental care she has ever received.

The Contra Costa Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®, a dental office on wheels, and part of the Dental Collaborative, provides preventive and restorative dental services for children and youth through age 19. It visits underserved communities in Contra Costa County – areas where pediatric dentistry is scarce, and transportation is a barrier to care.

Most children who receive the dental treatment are uninsured or not eligible for other programs, and many have had no prior history of dental care.

The Dental Collaborative of Contra Costa operates the mobile dental clinic four times a week (twice in each of the eastern and western areas of the county) at various locations with a focus on underserved neighborhoods in Richmond, San Pablo, Bay Point,

Pittsburg, Antioch, and parts of Concord. Over its 10 years of service, the Care Mobile has received 11,041 patient visits, serving 5,086 children.

In 2012, it was assessed that 13 percent of Contra Costa County's children—nearly 33,000—were living in poverty, one of the social determinants that affects health, with a higher prevalence of oral diseases among low-income populations. Access to regular dental care plays a critical role in achieving and maintaining good oral health.

Contra Costa County's triennial report on Community Health Indicators 2010 indicates that 25 percent of Contra Costa's school-age children had not seen a dentist within the past six months, and it is estimated that in Contra Costa County at least seven percent of children miss school days due to a dental problem.

"Oral health relates to overall health," said Chris Grazzini, RN MS, Program Manager, Community Health Alliance. "We know too there is a higher prevalence of oral diseases among low-income populations and other disadvantaged groups. Access to regular dental care plays a critical role in achieving and maintaining good oral health, which in turn is essential to a higher quality of life."

"The tooth decay and other dental problems we find among the children we treat can hamper eating, sleeping - even their ability to learn," said Dr. Vanessa Franks, a dentist who works on the Care Mobile. "Any pain or discomfort is distracting and may even cause them to miss school."

For some they are also embarrassed by the condition of their gums and teeth, and they are inhibited to speak."

Tax-deductible donations to the Dental Collaborative for the Contra Costa Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® program can be made payable to the John Muir Health Foundation. <http://cchealth.org>.

Kristy Nass, Remarkable Teacher Dedication

Each fall, five year olds at Ygnacio Valley Christian School begin an unparalleled introduction into a life of exploration in learning. Fondly known by her students and their parents as Mrs. Nass, Kristy Nass was once called an "angel" by the principal at the school where she teaches. It was a Back to School Night when, to bright and eager moms and dads, Principal Johnson said how humbled he was to be serving at a school "...where each and every teacher is an amazing, dedicated, and brilliant educator."

He went on to say that Mrs. Nass, however, was truly like an angel on campus. He explained how she loved, nurtured and poured herself into each new kindergartner. In all his years as a teacher and administrator, he had never seen a teacher more selfless in committing every ounce of their being into the unique learning and growing experience of every young student.

Someone who would rather be behind the scenes than in the limelight, Mrs. Nass, a Wisconsin native, earned her B.A. in Elementary Education at the University of Wisconsin, and taught elementary school in the Midwest for four years before getting married and moving to California.

Often be seen riding her bicycle up Concord Boulevard on her way to school, Nass raised and home-schooled all five of her children, through the 8th grade. After that, the Nass family were hired for several paper route jobs to augment their income so their children could attend a private Christian high school in Walnut Creek.

Even when they were about to become empty nesters, it wasn't a call to retirement for Kristy Nass. Instead, she started a second career. In 2000, she joined the staff at Ygnacio Valley Christian School, in Concord, as the new kindergarten teacher.

Now, thirteen years later, she has shaped and inspired hundreds of children; instilling in them a love for learning, reading, writing, singing,

do have practice doing right things, honorable things, and kind things. She often tells students that if they lie as a child, they will probably lie as an adult, but if they practice honesty as a child, they will most likely grow up to be an honest and trustworthy person.

"Mrs. Nass has high expectations for her five and six year olds, and in return, her students take every opportunity to exceed them! They know she has faith in them and their abilities, and as a result, they relish in proving her right," a proud parent shared. "I was amazed to see the remarkable capacity my daughter had for memorization when she was only in kindergarten. Mrs. Nass' kindergartners were always the star of the school programs with their long recitations of Bible verses and



performances of catchy complicated songs enjoyed by all!"

To the amazement of everyone, Nass takes her kindergartners on twenty field trips in the school year, focusing on science, community helpers, and transportation. Included is a BART ride to a ballet in San Francisco, an Amtrak ride to the US Potomac, and a ferry ride across the bay to the San Francisco Aquarium, as well as visits to the local fire station, police station, post office, veterinarian, grocery store, retirement community, and library, just to name a few. Nass believes, "this opens up their minds to know how the world around them works."

She realized when she started teaching kindergarten that this first year of formal education is more than the beginning of their school career; it's the beginning of understanding the world in which they live. "Being in a private school like YVCS allows the kindergarten class the freedom to go on field trips which show them how they can one day contribute to society, how they fit in to their community, and even their purpose in life," claims Nass.

When it comes to engaging in the world around you, Nass practices what she preaches. She spends every summer vacation, when most of us are sleeping in and hanging out by the pool, serving in close to a dozen summer camps for children. She performs everything from cooking to counseling duties in camps from Potter Valley on the Eel River, to scuba diving and aviation camps. She also assists her husband, Bob, in additional camps, including a Canadian canoe trip on the Bowron Lakes, to a Three Peaks Adventure where high school boys backpack and climb up three 14,000 ft. peaks, ending up at Mt. Whitney.

"Creation has so much to teach and being with children as they explore all there is to see and experience provides even more which I can take back to inspire my kindergartners!"

Kristy and her husband have lived in Concord 37 years and have 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 2 grandkids on the way.

"I love to listen to my kindergartners recite scripture and read to me and I am so thankful to be at YVCS," she said.

~ by Suzette Wong
[Editor note: Visit the school online at <http://yvcschool.org/cms/>]



news from the chamber

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce

by Marilyn Fowler, Chief Operations Officer

Concord Chamber Ribbon Cutting

ON THE FRONT COVER: Monument Crisis Center – New Location at 1990 Market Street, Concord. Executive Director: Sandra Scherer



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Contact the Concord Chamber office at (925) 685-1181, or visit our website at <http://www.concordchamber.com>. SEE OUR AD NEXT PAGE AND RIBBON CUTTING ON FRONT COVER



and reciting scripture. In addition to teaching her classes to read - she believes that introducing and mastering five short vowels and blending the consonant sounds is the key to unlocking the whole world of reading - she also teaches the students cursive writing, in kindergarten! Cursive writing at this age, she believes, is a key to successful reading. "We connect letters to write words and we connect sounds to read words," says Nass. "The children make this connection and flourish in their learning of reading and writing. It's amazing!"

Among the ABCs of learning, Nass also tenderly teaches her little ones, which she treats as her own children, the importance of good character and conduct. Past students recall her teaching them that you don't have to practice to lie or do wrong things, it comes naturally to us all, but we

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something to smile about

by Robert H. Waldman, D.D.S.

Elder Confusion

This story hits too close to home... I just found out that my mother-in-law, has been refusing to go to the dentist and when she did go, she refused to let her dentist take X-rays of her teeth! At 87 she felt no pain and didn't feel it was necessary to maintain the good habits she always practiced and preached to her family.

Because they don't live locally, my wife and I cannot do as much as we would like to support our parents in their later years. We have been engaged in discussions of her medical health and helped advocate seeing specialists for changes in medications which have greatly improved her mental state.

However this whole time we assumed she was continuing the high level of dental care she had committed to many years ago. We knew her "new" dentist after her original dentist retired. We knew the periodontal specialist she was alternating hygiene visits with. We thought we were very engaged in helping her stay healthy, especially her oral health.

Dental problems in our later years can come on swiftly and devastate even the healthiest of mouths. The excuses I've heard were "I'm just too tired at bedtime to brush my teeth", "I've been good and watched my diet my whole life, a little candy now can't hurt me", "I didn't want to go to the expense of dental care when nothing bothers me".

My mother-in-law's dentist was nice enough to email her X-rays and to review her treatment options with me. 7 teeth need to be extracted because of gum line cavities that could have been easily filled if found earlier. Prior to this she had lost only 1 out of 28 teeth! That tooth was lost 2 years ago and at that time none of the other teeth were decayed. She was getting her teeth cleaned 3 times a years and proud of the preventive dentistry she was more than happy to ask for.

Too often our parents are giving up on their teeth figuring its not important and it's too expensive. I think the opposite... Prevention is still the most cost effective way to be healthy. Our seniors should be strongly encouraged to see a dentist for X-rays at least once a year and should have their teeth cleaned as often as possible because preventative cleanings are cost effective.

It's very difficult to tell a senior that they are in good health but they outlived their teeth and now they must sacrifice their teeth in order to be healthy or else risk pain and infection.

Please tell your parents to Swish, Floss, Brush & Swish again and make sure they are still seeing a dentist (hopefully your dentist).

Ask Robert H. Waldman, D.D.S. your questions at 925-682-6940, DrRob@RobertHWaldmanDDS.com or <http://www.roberthwaldmandds.com>. SEE OUR AD BELOW



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**Remember...
Swish, Floss
Brush & Swish Again!**

Read my article on **Elder Dental Care** on page 11



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Family Earth Day Celebration



Saturday, April 26 at Mt. Diablo Recycling

Reserve space for **ONE FREE**
Earth Day Celebration session

Session #1: 10:00 am to noon, or

Session #2: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: Mt. Diablo Recycling, 1300 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg

Questions/RSVP: Adriana.Medina@Garaventaent.com or 925.771.2721

Each funtastic Family Earth Day Session includes:

Presentations, tours and activities throughout Mt. Diablo Recycling's 90,000-square-foot recycling facility!

Come see trucks empty and meet Mr. Recycling Guy!



Mt. Diablo Recycling

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city news

New Concord Pavilion Ticket Presale Program for Concord Residents

The Concord Pavilion (formerly Sleep Train Pavilion) returns to its roots this year, re-adopting the name that originally was given to the facility when it opened in 1975. With the name change comes a new Concord resident ticket presale program, allowing residents to purchase tickets to shows at the Pavilion on the day before the tickets go on sale to the general public.

A special resident hotline at (925) 363-5701 has been launched with information about presale dates. To participate, Concord residents must bring a current utility bill and photo I.D. with matching address to the Pavilion box office on the day before tickets go on sale. Service charges are waived for Concord residents during the presale. The Pavilion box office is located at the entrance to the facility at 2000 Kirker Pass Road.

All concert-goers can buy tickets with no service charge at the box office on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for any show at the Pavilion.

Tickets are available online at <http://www.Livenation.com> and <http://www.Ticketmaster.com>, or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets are also available at Sunvalley Shopping Center in Concord at the information desk and at select Walmart locations. For general Pavilion information, call (925) 676-8742.



"I am delighted to be able to contribute to The Concordian. I believe deeply in the value and voice it gives to the people in the East Bay."

**- Dan Ashley
ABC-7 News**

Read Dan's Column "What Really Matters" in

Convoy of Hope: East Bay Community Event

Calvary Temple Church hopes to provide approximately \$1 million dollars in free goods and services by hosting East Bay Convoy of Hope community event on Saturday, April 5th at 10am at Rio Vista Elementary School in Bay Point.

"We are very excited to bring Convoy of Hope to the East Bay" says, Carey Gregg, Event Coordinator and Director of Compassion Ministries at Calvary Temple Church. "It embodies our deep commitment to provide compassion and justice for the poor and underserved within our community."

The event is providing FREE groceries, a job fair, help with creating a resume, health screening, dental care, haircuts, children's activities, family portraits, live entertainment, and even a free lunch for all who attend, while it lasts, in a carnival-like atmosphere.

Convoy of Hope has served more than 63 million people worldwide. It is an international relief organization that has its roots right here in Concord. When co-founders Hal and Dave Donaldson were children their parents were in a horrific car accident on Hwy 4 that took the life of their father and left their mother terribly injured. In the days and months ahead the family experienced devastation and homelessness. A family in their local church (Calvary Temple Church) took them into their home and showed great kindness. From this incident a heart of compassion for the hurting and underserved was born.

This will be their 20th year as a humanitarian relief organization. Over 800 volunteers, along with several local churches, many community businesses and local service organizations join Convoy of Hope to bring this event home to the East Bay.

Beyond the bags of groceries, services, and play structures, Calvary Temple Church is providing new tennis shoes for children (while supplies last), a local electrician's union has provided 50 bicycles to be given away, the National Breast Cancer Foundation will provide educational resources, and free smoothies and healthy eating tips from Plum Organics, and more.

All of it is free to anyone who attends, aiming to touch each life through aiding their bodies, minds, and souls and to impart ongoing hope to the members of our community who may need a little extra help.

East Bay Convoy of Hope, Saturday, April 5, 10am, Rio Vista Elementary School, 611 Pacifica Ave, Bay Point, 94565

For additional information visit <http://www.convoyofhope.org/eastbay>

Donation Match Program Benefits Concord's Newhall Park

Concord residents, especially those who love Newhall Park, have an opportunity to double contributions to support the park when they shop at Macy's in Sunvalley Shopping Center. Through the Heart Your Park program, any donations of \$1 or more made at the register by March 31 will be matched by Macy's and the funds will go to support Newhall Park.

Macy's Heart Your Park program aims to raise awareness and dollars for local parks nationwide. The program is in collaboration with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the national nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of community parks, recreation and conservation.

"We're delighted that Macy's has decided to support this campaign," says Concord's Parks and Recreation Director Joan Carrico. "Raising awareness and extra funds for Newhall Park is a great way to show support for Concord families."

"We are thrilled to partner with Macy's for Heart Your Park this spring to raise awareness of the importance of local parks in strengthening community health and wellness, and environmental conservation," said Barbara Tulipane, president and CEO of NRPA. "Macy's shares our passion for connecting and engaging local communities. We look forward to the positive impact this effort will have on community parks." For more information about the program, visit macys.com/parks.

Clayton Theatre

Night of January 16th Begins Run

The Clayton Theatre Company is very excited to present its second production, Night of January 16th. The play takes place entirely in a courtroom during a murder trial. The setting is the 1940s.

One unusual feature of the play is that the jury is picked from members of the audience! The jury listens to the witnesses's testimony and then votes on whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. The play therefore has two different endings, depending on the verdict.

Author Ayn Rand intended the play to dramatize a conflict between individualism and conformity, with the jury's verdict revealing which viewpoint they preferred. If you would like to be considered to serve on the jury, please arrive 20 minutes before showtime to fill out the juror paperwork.

The play is directed by LaTonya Watts, and Assistant Director Roxanne Pardi. To purchase tickets please go to our website, claytontheatrecompany.com and follow the link to Brown Paper Tickets. You can also volunteer to work one of the performances, or donate to

Concord, Red Cross Sponsor Community Blood Drive April 2

The City of Concord and the American Red Cross are partnering to host a community blood drive on Wednesday, April 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Willow Pass Community Center, 2748 E. Olivera Rd. in Concord.

The need for blood is constant. Every day, hospital patients require blood for emergency and ongoing care related to serious illnesses, accidents or trauma.

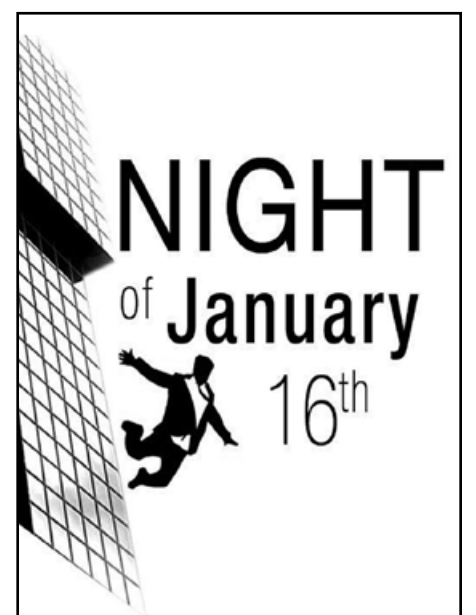
"We are extremely grateful to the City of Concord for its support," said Jared Schultzman, communications manager for Red Cross Blood Services in Northern California. "Blood drive sponsors play a critical role in maintaining a stable blood supply. We hope this generous act of community service inspires people from the city to come out and donate blood at this drive."

Currently, all blood types are needed to ensure an adequate blood supply is available to meet patient needs – especially O positive, O negative, A negative and B negative blood.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org> and enter sponsor code: CONCORD.

A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

For more information, contact Concord's Emergency Services and Volunteer Manager Margaret Romiti,



the theatre company. More information about the Clayton Theatre Company, the show and the cast can be found at claytontheatrecompany.com

If you have questions please call 925-222-9106. The play runs April 4th - April 12th.

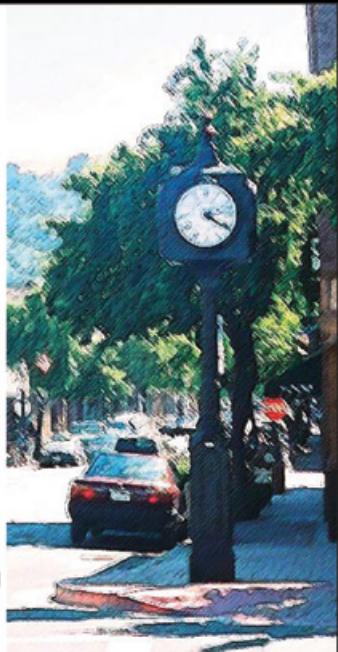
For more information visit <http://www.claytontheatrecompany.com>

What's UP? in downtown Martinez

- April 12 Bay Area Craft Beer Festival
- May 3 Spring Wine Stroll
- May 16 NEW! Friday Farmers Market Car Shows and more! Through 9/12
- May 17 Peddlers Faire
- July 4 4th of July Parade



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a little bit Off!

The humor of Cathy Turney

You can watch football any time. Super Bowl Sunday is the best shopping day of the year. That's why I waited patiently until then to get my new washing machine.

It's not that I don't like going to the laundromat from time to time. What could be more fun, unless it's beating your clothes with rocks in the San Joaquin River? But my big dog poodle, who is smart enough to distinguish between Havarti and Swiss cheese, does not understand "Off. Right now. Louie, on the count of three." So I need a machine that will hold the mess that is Louie.

That brought MyHusbandTheEngineer and me to Best Buy on Super Bowl Sunday with Louie's binky, facedown, in my arms.

Salesman: "How can I help you?"

Me: "We'd like to see your Whirlpool Cabrio washing machine."

Salesman: "Fine. We carry Maytag, Samsung, Frigidaire and,

this is your lucky day, Whirlpool, washers. Right this way."

Me: "Please just lead us to the Whirlpool Cabrio, 4.8 cubic feet, 27-5/8" x 45-1/8" x 27-1/2", front loading washer with sanitary cycle. In white. My husband is an engineer; don't even try to change our minds."

This was his lucky day. He could keep watching the Super Bowl on his smart phone. He led us to the spot where the Cabrio sat and opened the lid. I swear it had an aura.

Me: "It's missing a part. Where's the middle thingy?"

Salesman: "This is the most revolutionary, avant-garde, eco-friendly, technology-forward, machine ever invented. It has no spindle. You pay more because it has less."

Who am I to argue with Wall Street marketing genius? So I stuffed Louie's binky into the tub. Room to spare!

Super Bowl Washday

"What am I supposed to do with all those buttons (thirty)?" I asked him.

"Read the manual."

"Won't happen. Don't you give classes on this thing? My iPhone has fewer buttons, and Apple gives classes."

"Surely a woman of your maturity has grandchildren," he smiled.

I was just about to tell MyHusbandTheEngineer that he should do more research, when a woman who appeared to be upgrading from a white to a platinum Cabrio interjected,

"You'll love it! I just load the clothes and turn it over to my five-year-old. He knows which buttons to push and watches through the glass top—pretends he's in a submarine looking for whales through the porthole.

Hey, it's cleaner programming than TV and endorsed by both Good Housekeeping and Parents

Magazine."

"But I don't have kids at home," I object.

"No problem," says the salesman, "Just buy the Angry Birds app and the neighbor kids will flock to you."

"Right!" the lady chimed in. "I got the 'Grand Theft Auto' app, and my teenager who went, you know, sideways, helps when he's not too busy."

MyHusbandTheEngineer was ignoring this completely, fixated on his next research project: dryers. We bought the Cabrio and left. I know when I'm ahead.

Cathy Turney, author of "Tales of a Codependent Pet Owner," captures the humor in coping with technology and social media, her left/brain right brain marriage to My Husband The Engineer and her codependency on dogs. Contact, comment and follow Cathy's blog at www.ALittleBitOff.net or her web at www.CodependentPetOwner.com.

Mt. Diablo Recycling Hosts Annual Family Earth Day Celebration April 26

Recycling Contest Winners Will Be Announced

Earth Day is not just a once a year holiday for Mt. Diablo Recycling (MDR), a division of recycling and resource recovery company Garaventa Enterprises, though it does highlight a reason to celebrate with the Contra Costa County community. MDR's 2nd Annual Family Earth Day Celebration on April 26 offers free family fun and will feature the announcement of the elementary, middle school and high school winners of their first ever Recycling Contest.

The Family Earth Day Celebration includes a choice between two separate two-hour sessions (10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) taking place, for free, at the MDR facility located at 1300 Loveridge Road in Pittsburg, Calif. Each session includes a tour of MDR's 90,000-square-foot recycling facility where participants will learn about the "Big Blue" and "Big Wall-e" recycling machines, an interactive

education lesson about the 5 R's (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Respect-Recover), recycling games, and a take home craft. Families can also take pictures with the Recycling Guy and with recycling trucks.

"There is no better time than Earth Day to share our passion for recycling and recovery with the entire community," said Joseph Garaventa, MDR's Chief Executive Officer. "In 2014, we are extending our education efforts among area youth to kindle a groundswell of even more recycling and recovery behavior throughout Contra Costa County. Participating in our Earth Day Celebration is a great way for families to explore the many ways they can make a real difference in the quality of our environment."

To reserve a space today, in either session, contact Adriana Medina at 925-771-2721 or at Adriana.Medina@Garaventaent.com. Space is limited to 50 people per session.

Before the start of the second session, the winners of MDR's first ever Recycling Contest will be announced. First, second and third place winners in each category will receive cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$500 live at MDR, and their winning projects will be displayed.

SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 11

Contra Costa Ballet announces Swan Lake

Contra Costa Ballet announces Swan Lake, one of the greatest and most revered, fairytale ballets of all time, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, May 2nd & 3rd, 2014.

Returning guest artist, Kristin Lindsay (Company C Contemporary Ballet), performs the technically- and-theatrically-challenging, dual roles of Odette/Odile, with Aaron Orza (San Francisco Ballet, Diablo Ballet) making his Contra Costa Ballet debut as her eternally-devoted Prince Siegfried.

This archetypal story of good versus evil features the enduring choreography of Petipa/Ivanov and is set to Tchaikovsky's magnificent, timeless score. Filled with beauty and enchantment, Contra Costa Ballet's Swan Lake will



Highlighting the dancers of the Contra Costa Ballet Company, dressed in all white, this opulent ballet casts a haunting innocence on the passion of undying love.

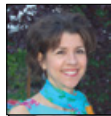
captivate audiences of all ages.

Dates & Tickets: May 2nd - 3rd, 7:30pm. Leshner Center for the Arts, Hofmann Theatre, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 <http://contracostaballet.org>

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Wishing you a Happy Easter



in tune with the arts

by Deborah Ashley

A One of a Kind Wine Country Experience

Photography buffs and wine enthusiasts can rejoice at this incredible and unique new way to experience the Napa Valley and Sonoma wine country this spring and summer. Source Photography in Walnut Creek is launching photo workshops and tours at five exclusive wineries in Napa and Sonoma. The workshops include four hours for photographers to shoot scenic views throughout the estates. They will also have the opportunity to shoot still-lives set up with low-light in the barrel rooms as well as models with studio lights. This is a photography lover's dream tour or for anyone else looking for a unique way to explore five fabulous wineries. After these wine-tour excursions, guests of the workshop sit down to a boxed lunch complete with a wine tasting. As a bonus, all the participants go home with a free bottle of wine. This is an out-of-the-ordinary way to enjoy the wineries of Napa and Sonoma and it would be a terrific way to entertain out of town guests or to celebrate a birthday or any other occasion. Each tour is limited to 24 people who are divided into groups of eight. Each group of eight is lead by one of the partners of Source Photography who give them one-on-one attention as they work their way through the tour. So while you are having a great time taking in the

spectacular scenery of the wineries and tasting the wine, you are learning and improving your photography skills. Source Photography is a Walnut Creek based business that offers an array of hands-on outdoor workshops at venues throughout California in addition to the wine tours. They specialize in event photography with an innovative approach that won them recognition for the Best Event Photography Company of Northern California in 2011 from California Meetings and Events Magazine. Some of their high profile clients include Facebook, LinkedIn and Netflix. Mick Gallagher, one of the Source Photographer partners who will be leading the tours, says that "we explore the wineries inside and out; giving our guests a wide variety of photographic opportunities and the hands-on instruction they need to create stunning images, regardless of their skill level." These tours sound fabulous even if you don't like photography or wine. The wine-photography tours will run in April, May and June, so you may need to start making your plans soon before the workshops fill up. To find out more about the tours, check out the main tour web page at <http://www.sourcephotography.com/photography-workshops-and-tours-focus-on-wineries/>. To find out more about all of the services that Source Photography offers or if you have any questions, you can email them at info@sourcephotography.com or call them at 925 954-8037.

Deborah's Gallery

"High Life" Acrylic 24"x20"

\$600



Deborah's paintings are in an eternal state of growth, but the one constant is that they are about creating feelings and emotions. She is inspired by the colors, shapes and lines in everything all around us. Completing a fine art degree in North Carolina, Deborah now lives in the Bay Area and has continued her arts education with numerous classes and workshops.

She has had success with numerous commissions and shows her work in various locations in California and on the east coast. To contact her regarding purchase of the painting you may reach her at (925) 588-5226.

"I am delighted to be able to contribute to The Concordian. I believe deeply in the value and voice it gives to the people in the East Bay!" ~Dan Ashley, ABC-7 News Read Dan's column on page 4

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Easter Brunch

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH from 10:00am - 1:30pm

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PRIVATE LESSONS AVAILABLE: Deborah Ashley has 20 years of teaching experience in piano, violin and art, and teaches ages 5 through adult. She offers private piano and violin lessons as well as private and group art classes. Contact Deborah at deblovesart@aol.com, (925) 588-5226.

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FILM BUFFS: Mountain Shadow Film Society is a new non-profit membership society starting up for those who miss all those types of great films once shown in our area before the demolition of the Dome theater in Pleasant Hill! <http://mountainshadow.org>

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS: OUR 4TH ANNUAL SENIOR OPTIONS SEMINAR, April 26, (This is a FREE event). 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. Watch for more details to come or contact the church office at (925) 685-7353 or check out our website: www.welcome2faith.com

Diablo Theatre Company Will Not Present Musical Season at Leshner Center.

Diablo Theatre Company, one of the premiere producers of musical theatre, announced that they will not be presenting a musical season next year at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. The company, who just closed their 54th season with Guys and Dolls and in January were honored with six Shellie Awards including Outstanding Musical Production for Singin' in the Rain, can no longer afford to produce main stage musicals at the Leshner Center.

"It was a banner year for us and we are very saddened to announce that we will not have a 2014-15 season at the Leshner Center. The costs of producing main stage shows at the Leshner Center have escalated beyond our resources, compelling us to take a year off to retool and evaluate options," states Sherry Caraballo Dorfman, Board President. She continues, "We hope to produce on a main stage again in 2015-16."

Diablo Theatre Company is not going out of business, but will be taking next year off from the main stage and concentrate efforts on supporting their education programs. Managing Director, Krissy Gray adds,

"It has always been the mission of the company to educate the next generation of theatre enthusiasts and so we are excited to take this opportunity to further support and develop these programs."

The company's acclaimed STARS 2000 Teen Theatre (ages 13 and up) will present eight performances of Thoroughly Modern Millie, July 25 through August 3, 2014, at Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center in Pleasant Hill. Their youth Performing Arts Academy (ages 6-13) will present two performances of Peter Pan Jr. on August 2, 2014, at the Village Theatre in Danville, in addition to offering classes and workshops in triple threat technique – singing, dancing and acting. The company will also continue to rent rehearsal space, costumes, props and sets.

Diablo Theatre Company, who has been one of the anchor tenants at the Leshner Center for the Arts since its opening in 1990, has produced critically acclaimed and audience favorite musicals such as: Singin' in the Rain, Irving Berlin's White Christmas, Legally Blonde the Musical, Peter Pan, Miss Saigon, West Side Story and Ragtime.

The company will be launching a "Back to the Main Stage" fundraiser in hopes to raise enough money to begin producing large-scale musicals again. To make a donation or for more information, please visit their website at: www.diablotheatre.org.

Book Author to Donate 50% of Proceeds from New Book to Autism

Say Yoho! Set sail for adventure in the exciting first book of The Andrew Chronicles! Andrew is a seven year old in the second grade. Suddenly and without explanation, he finds himself in a two story flat in 17th century London.

Join Andrew, his new animal companions, the bumbling pirate Red Eye, and a mysterious and magical book, as they seek to find the hidden treasure of Blackbeard in a race against the villainous buccaneer Jack Frost.

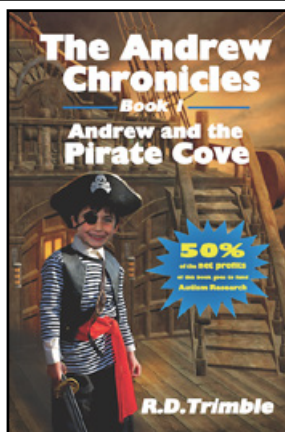
Based on the classic computer game Pirate Cove written in 1978 by legendary game designer and storyteller Scott Adams, this is a riveting adventure for readers of all ages!

R.D. Trimble is the author of

numerous books for children and young adult novels.

As the father of an Autistic child, he pledges that 50% of profits from his books will be donated for causes that provide research and seek treatment for Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The book is available at Amazon at <http://amzn.to/1pp1Shx>



financially savvy

by Kristin Peterson,

5 Costs to Consider When Choosing a Checking Account

Most consumers shop around for a new checking account because they want to receive good value. But how do you know you're getting a good deal? Here are five fees to consider when assessing a new checking account.

ATM Fees

Typically, banks offer free ATM access to their own ATMs. However, be sure you look at the out-of-network ATM fees. Non-network ATM fees can range between \$2 and \$5 and can quickly add up over time.

Monthly Fees

You should also make note of monthly maintenance fees and requirements to avoid those fees. Sometimes the fee can be avoided simply by taking advantage of direct deposit. Often a minimum balance is required to avoid the fee. If so, be sure that the minimum is realistic for you. And finally, some checking account providers require certain activities to avoid the monthly fee; things like number of debit card uses per month or limiting to the number of checks you can write.

Usage Fees

Generally speaking, try to avoid checking accounts that require you to pay to use or access your account. Look at the fee schedule for charges such as

speaking with a phone representative or teller, limits on paper checks written or charging for paper statements.

Overdraft Protection Fees

When there are not enough funds in your checking account to cover a transaction, your financial institution may still pay the transaction using either an elected overdraft protection account or allowing you to temporarily overdraw your account. These types of services can be very reasonable, but often are very exorbitant. We encourage our members to designate other credit union accounts to be used as an overdraft protection source. We will automatically transfer funds from the designated overdraft account(s) to help prevent checks from bouncing. At Pacific Service CU, this is a free service; however, we see these fees as high as \$15 or more per transfer at other financial institutions.

Foreign Fees

If you regularly travel outside of the country, foreign fees should be a part of your decision-making process. Outside of the country, consumers typically pay a premium for ATM access, debit and credit card transactions and more. This can be a real differentiator for some consumers.

At Pacific Service Credit Union, we pride ourselves on being a low-fee leader in the financial services marketplace. For more information, visit www.pacificservice.org, call a member service representative at: (888) 858-6878, or stop by one of our local branches.

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farmer fresh

by Debra Morris, Pacific Coast Farmers Market
<http://www.pcfma.com/concord>

A Plethora of Peas

"How luscious lies the pea within the pod." ---Emily Dickinson

The fresh sweet taste of spring is here in little green peas! Like beans, peas are divided into two categories, those with edible pods and those without edible pods. The peas we know as green pea, English pea, and the garden pea fall into the latter category. Most commercial peas are called garden or English peas. Petit pois is not a variety of pea, but merely green peas that have been picked before full maturity. Thus, they are smaller than normal green peas.

Snap peas look like mini versions of the pods of green peas. The difference is that these pods are edible. Sugar Snap and Sugar Daddy are the two varieties of sugar snap peas, the latter being a cross between a green pea and a snow pea. The Sugar Daddy is stringless. However, even sugar snaps with strings don't necessarily need to be stringed before cooking.

Snow peas used to be seen only in Chinese restaurants. Now they're available everywhere. The pale green, edible pods are flat and wide with little bulges - the immature peas inside - ripping throughout the pod.

For green peas, the closer you are to the time of picking, the better. Check the pea pods. They should be firm, crisp and bright green with a fresh appearance and a velvety touch. Tough, thick-skinned pods are an indication of overly mature peas.

Your peas will taste fresher if you shell them yourself and cook immediately. Avoid buy peas that are

already shelled because you don't know when they were shelled.

Snow peas and snap peas should also have good color (lighter for snow, darker for sugar) and a firm crispness. The ideal size for snow peas is about 3 to 3-1/2 inches long and about 3/4-inch wide. For snap peas, the most desirable size is 2-1/2 to 3 inches long. Snap and sugar peas have a somewhat longer shelf life than green peas, up to three days, unwashed, in plastic bags under refrigeration as low as 33 degrees. But they should be used within a day or two. Snow peas like less humidity than sugar snap peas, so take this into account in deciding where in the refrigerator to store them, or perforate the plastic bag you put them in. When selecting green peas, run your finger to the top of the pod to make sure the peas are not too large but fill up the whole pod. If the pod is not completely filled, the peas won't be as sweet as a full pod.

Easy Pasta with Peas and Parmesan Cheese

- 2 cups fresh shelled peas
- 2 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 tablespoons Greek yogurt
- 8 ounces large shell pasta
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook the pasta following the packet directions, adding the peas for the final few minutes. Drain, leaving 2 tablespoons water in with the pasta and toss with the rest of the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with parmesan shavings while the sauce is hot. If you leave the pasta to sit, it will soak up the sauce.

**Maybe it's you!
Maybe it's a parent!**



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Source: Remodeling, 2012-13 Cost vs. Value Report (www.costvsvalue.com)

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