

Our Town, Occidental

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Quiet Autumn

The weather is turning colder but this time of year is still my favorite in Our Town. The tourists are thinning and the town, while still vibrant, seems to turn more to the locals as it does after Labor Day. The Farmers Market is still going on every Friday for the next week or two and my water tanks will soon start filling (hopefully) as the rains begin.

I live beyond the water and sewer system of our town and every year about this time I begin to follow the weather reports with new interest. I'm waiting for news of the first big rain and calculating how long before the tanks go dry and the truck has to be called. \$150.00 for 3500 gallons. This is enough for about 2 weeks of conservative use for the average family. That's a \$300.00 a month water bill for rationed use.

This is how Our Town's water system used to work. The Occidental Community Services District Board would meet (without audience) around a table at the Union Hotel and keep the water running, the toilets flushing and the lights in Our Town glowing. They would keep the streets clean and most of all be responsible for the care and maintenance of our Fire Department and through that, our safety. When the tanks got low the board would call the truck and fill them up.

Now Our Town has a new water system and the trucks stand by to serve those of us not fortunate enough to have our water issues dealt with by others. All the things necessary for Our Town to function are handled by the OCSD Board. Without fanfare or a lot of notice to most, the board takes care of the business of Our Town.

Occidental Community Services District Board Elections.

For the first time in our history there will be an election to fill three seats on our OCSD Board. Running for re-election are current board president, Assistant Fire Chief and life long Occidental resident, Mr. Ray Lunardi, painting contractor and captain in our VFD, Mr. Coy Brown and newly appointed to the board, general contractor, Mr. Ken Cohan.

Ray Lunardi has managed both the construction of the new water system and the expansion of our fire house. His history on the board goes way back and his value and experience both to the board and our community is evident in the results his leadership has accomplished.

Coy Brown has served this community as a volunteer fireman for 19 years. His easy going but to the point attitude has served the board well during the contentions of recent board meetings.

Ken Cohan is a General Contractor who was just recently appointed to the Board. He is involved with the Harmony Village Project and voluntarily will recuse himself from board issues that could be considered a conflict of interest.

Challenging the incumbents are Mr. Jeff Tweddale and Ms. Margaret Gerner. Jeff and his family have lived in Our Town for seven years. He is the founder and president of a travel technology company based out of his home. Aware of the challenges facing our town he feels he brings new ideas and commitment to accomplish three goals and one "pipe dream":

1. Implement conservation oriented water pricing.
2. Improve board transparency and efficiency by posting documents, minutes and agendas online.
3. Harness citizen involvement on growth issues.

The "pipe dream" is the implementation of a "gray water" policy for new or expanded water hook-ups.

Ms. Margaret Gerner, a resident since 1996, has worked with her neighbors on several environmental issues. "I've been monitoring creeks and, as a member of the Joy Road Area Watershed and Forest Association, helped to stop a bad logging plan and win a precedent-setting case. I'm running for the OCSD Board because I'm concerned that plans to bring water service outside town may lead to over-development. I'm committed to bringing more public participation in this process."

Meet and Greet the Candidates.

The Occidental Community Council will sponsor a "Meet and Greet the Candidate's Night" on Monday, October 22 at 7:00pm at the fire house. All five candidates have agreed to be there and it is a perfect opportunity to meet the folks behind the names on a ballot. Take part and note the history of this event.

Occidental Sewer Collection System Project Update.

The most current and obvious effort of the OCSD is the replacement of our

Around Forestville

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

Calling all hobgoblins and ghouls. Halloween is the perfect time to stop by and get acquainted with ELMO: the Store. On Wednesday, October 31 from 2-8 pm, the wild-and-crazy bunch at ELMO will memorialize you, your trick-or-treater, your friend -- anyone in costume -- with a free photo Stop by and say hi to Jorg (that's not George) Manzo, Cheryl RV Mama Barr, Betty Boop Bowen, and Pete, the King, Summers for a memorable Halloween.

FLU SHOTS at ELMO the Store November 10 - 10am - 2pm

TANDEM CRAFTS FAIRS!

Saturday, November 3rd is Crafts Fair day in Forestville! The Forestville Rebekah Lodge will be holding their annual sale of hand-crafted items in the Odd Fellows Hall from 9:00 until 3:00. You will find many unique items, handmade by the Forestville lodge members. Get started on your holiday shopping, and enjoy a reasonably-priced hot dog lunch while you're at it! How about dessert? The Methodist Church, right next door, will be having their annual crafts sale the same day! They will continue their tradition of offering yummy hand-crafted dessert items! What a great way to enjoy breaking into the 2008 holiday season! Stop by and take a look (and a taste). We look forward to seeing you!

The Forestville Lions, a youth football team, started this year to hopefully be a feeder program to El Molino Football, has had a fun and exciting season. Three coaches, Gary Packard, Frank Lambert, and Mark Reab, have taken a group of 23 6th, 7th and 8th graders from Forestville, Guerneville and Willowside Schools, and created a team that has had some crowd pleasing moments. The boys have been practicing three days a week, with a game on the weekend. The last game will be October 28th at 2:00 on El Molino's football field. Come and cheer on the Forestville Lions! If you would like to sign up for next year, please call Mike Roan at El Molino High School.

Paint the Town!

Young artists and their parents are invited to come help paint the windows of businesses in Forestville. We will begin the painting on Sunday, November 18, 12:00-5:00. The first windows will be in the center of town and ready for the tree lighting.

All materials are provided for this painting event and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring egg cartons and old holiday cards for painting ideas. Please call if you wish to join this fun painting project, so I can reserve your family some space. The Forestville businesses donate money to provide materials for this project and the K-3rd art program at Forestville School. We have tons of fun and a wonderful community.

For sign-ups and information call: Coordinator - Deborah Padrick - 823-8153 K-3rd Art Teacher at Forestville School Email - debsilk@sonic.net www.deborahsilk.com

Gift Making Festival Forestville School Multi 10:00-3:00

December 1, 2007, Saturday

Proceeds benefit the K-3rd Art

Friends of Forestville School Event

Students and Parents join us this day and create wonderful handmade Holiday Gifts. Save plenty of time to create with your family. Costs vary of gifts that you make - tickets at the door. Helpers and ideas for gift making stations needed.

New ideas wanted!

Beeswax candles (make 4 candles for \$5.00) • Silk art on a hoop (design and paint one hour \$5.00) • A Silk Scarf created by a family (\$20 takes two hours - start early) • Bird House Gourds • Woodworking-Pencil Holders • Ornaments - needed • Decorate Gift Cookies • Table Center Pieces - needed • Cards creation and Gift wrapping table • Gifts to purchase table • Paint a stuffed animal kits (\$15), Art supplies
*Gift baskets and Donations needed
Lunch available for purchase. Let's have fun. Contact: Deborah Padrick (707) 823-8153 debsilk@sonic.net

old sewer pipes. This work will continue through December. The majority of the work to replace the sewer main on Graton Road and Bohemian Highway between Graton Road and Hill Street has been completed. Remaining work includes installation of some manholes and one service lateral in this segment.

Once the sewer main is completely installed in Bohemian Highway, the

next scheduled work area is First Street. Following installation of the sewer main on First Street, installation is scheduled to commence in the vicinity of Minna Road and then Coleman Valley Road, including the adjacent parking area on the south side of Coleman Valley Road.

I hope to see a good crowd at the Meet and Greet and till next month remember, we're all in this together.