

Panorama

Business News Exclusively for Chamber Members



MILPITAS
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
Gateway to Silicon Valley™

**NOVEMBER
2006**

MILPITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

The Holidays are Coming! Catch the Spirit...

Several organizations are asking for your support...

Milpitas Holiday & Food Drive

December 1 - 23, 2006

The holidays are quickly approaching and it's time once again to begin thinking about the season of giving and how we can make these upcoming holidays a little bit brighter for those in our community.

The Milpitas Firefighters Local Union 1699 in cooperation with the Milpitas Fire Department, the Milpitas Food Pantry, are sponsoring their annual Holiday Toy & Food Drive. The Milpitas Unified School District will be providing food through the Jack Emery Food Drive. Share the joy of this holiday season with another family by donating a new, unwrapped toy or non-perishable food item. Toy donations are being sought for both children and teens. All food donations (private and or corporate) may be dropped off at the Milpitas Food Pantry, 196 S. Main Street. All toy donations may be dropped off at toy barrels located in all City buildings, or call Fire Station #1 at 586-2820 for additional barrel locations. The following locations will have barrels for drop off.

City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd. • Community Center, 457 E. Calaveras Blvd. • Fire Station #1, 25 W. Curtis • Fire Station #2, 1263 Yosemite • Fire Station #3, 45 Midwick • Fire Station #4, 775 Barber Lane • Milpitas Chamber of Commerce, 828 N. Hillview Drive • Milpitas Food Pantry, 196 S. Main Street • Police Department, 1275 N. Milpitas Blvd. • Senior Center, 540 S. Abel Street • Sports Center, 1325 E. Calaveras Blvd.

If you would like to send a cash donation, please make checks payable to Milpitas Firefighters Local Union 1699, in care of George Perez, Milpitas Fire Department, Annual Toy Drive, 777 S. Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035.

The food and toy give-away is scheduled for Saturday, December 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Spring Valley Bible Church located at 220 S. Main Street, Milpitas. The goal is to provide for over 300 families, so we need your support.

For more information, call the Milpitas Fire Department Station #1 at (408) 586-2820 or the Milpitas Food Pantry at (408) 946-5564. Should you know of a family seeking assistance this holiday season, please call the above numbers for information on receiving donated items. The Milpitas Chamber will be collecting toys and canned goods at their office for the holiday drive. The chamber is also encouraging the members to bring a toy or canned good item to the Business after Hours Mixer held on December 7th at Huntford Printing and Graphics, 275 Dempsey Road, Milpitas. **Let's catch the spirit this holiday season.**

The Milpitas Food Pantry Sponsors Thanksgiving Basket Give-away



Needing Turkeys and Donations for Give-away



The Milpitas Food Pantry will once again sponsor their Thanksgiving Basket give-away. They are planning to give 300 plus baskets of food, and the Milpitas Rotary Club will be on hand to help with the distribution. Gary Taylor, the Executive Director for the Food Pantry, tells us that local churches will be providing the miscellaneous items to go into the baskets. The Milpitas Food Pantry has been told by the Second Harvest Bank that they will not provide turkeys again this year, so the Food Pantry is reaching out to the community for assistance. Call the Food Pantry at (408) 946-5564 for details on donating a turkey or whole chicken for distribution. The Milpitas Post will also assist in the collection of turkeys and chickens, so look for the articles in the Post.

The give-away will take place on Monday, November 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Milpitas Food Pantry is located at 196 South Main Street in Milpitas.

Community Holiday Celebration: Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 1, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall 455 E. Calaveras Blvd.

On Friday, December 1, the City of Milpitas has scheduled their annual tree lighting ceremony at City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Boulevard. The gala event, beginning at 7:00 p.m., will include a program featuring performances, a special visit from Santa, decorated sponsor trees and the lighting of the Holiday Tree. The community sing-along, Santa photos and light refreshments will be incorporated into the festive event. We invite you to bring the family, and catch the holiday spirit on December 1.

Shop and Dine Milpitas This Holiday Season

Remember to "Shop and Dine Milpitas" this holiday season -keep your tax dollars in Milpitas. The community benefits from your support.

In January 2006 the Metro touted Milpitas as the South Bay premier ethnic dining destination. In Milpitas you can find culinary styles and tastes from all over the world. We invite you to discover these dining treasures when you're holiday shopping in Milpitas. For your dining pleasure, visit page 36 in the Chamber's Business Directory for your restaurant listing, or visit the Chamber's website at www.milpitaschamber.com

Invite your group or family gathering to meet or stay in Milpitas - patronize our local hotels and motels. We invite you to visit **Accommodations** on page 24 of the Chamber's Business Directory for a listing of our hotels and motels.

If you don't have a copy of the Chamber Business Directory by your phone, please drop by the Chamber office located at 828 N. Milpitas Blvd. to pick up your copy. Refer to your directory or chamber website when you're shopping this holiday season. Support your members and "Shop and Dine Milpitas".

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MEMBERSHIP MIXER

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

City of Milpitas - City Hall

455 E. Calaveras Boulevard

5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Free to members, and \$10 for non-members.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MEMBERSHIP MIXERS

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Huntford Printing & Graphics 275 Dempsey Road, Milpitas

5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Free to members, and \$10 for non-members.

Bring a canned good or toy for the drive.

Your Chamber

President **NICKY WU**
Proto Services, Inc.
 President-Elect. **DEAN BLOMQUIST**
Pro-Star Towing
 Vice President **DON RYAN**
Milpitas Executive Lions Club
 Vice President **MARSHA GRILLI**
School Board, M.U.S.D.
 Vice President **CHARLENE TSAO**
Sushi Lovers
 Chief Financial Officer.. **TOM VALORE**
LPL Financial Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Burt - TEK Team Xtreme
Robert Dulalia - Saf Keep Storage
Scott Jeng - Associate
David Libby - Century 21 Optima
Jeanne Mader - Allied Waste Services
Tamara Scanlon - Heald College
Noella Tabladillo - Kaiser Permanente
Irene Whiteside - Milpitas Executive Lions Club
Frank De Smidt - Government Affairs Chairman
Debbie Giordano - Councilmember-City of
 Milpitas, Council Liaison

Gaye Morando, Executive Director and Newsletter Editor
 Marilyn Hay, Office Manager

The Chamber of Commerce VISION

is to be recognized as the premier business resource who strives to ensure a healthy economic environment for our community through effective business-to-business interaction.



Gateway to Silicon Valley™

828 N. Hillview Drive
 Milpitas, CA 95035
 (408) 262-2613
 Fax (408) 262-2823

Email: info@milpitaschamber.com
 Website: www.milpitaschamber.com

A MESSAGE FROM...

Diana Whitecar, Economic Development Manager

Cities have always practiced economic development. Milpitas is no stranger to this, as municipal formation was motivated, in part, by the economic value of the new Ford Plant in the early 1950's. According to local history, Judge Joseph Weller realized that a name other than 'Penitencia' would be more reflective of the local beauty and commerce, and affixed "the name 'Milpitas' to the local post office in the mid-19th century. These actions represent economic development.

More recently local economic development has been assisted by the Milpitas Redevelopment Agency. This program was created in 1976 to further economic development through the installation of major public infrastructure, such as the various highway interchanges and light rail. In this role, the City Council and city management served, and continue to serve, as the City's primary economic development team, identifying long term programs and activities to sustain the local economy at all times.

The position of Milpitas Economic Development Manager is to continue to implement the Council's vision for local economic development. Much of my first year has been focused on redevelopment so that the Council can lay the groundwork for the remaining life of the redevelopment program. Most Economic Development professionals work closely with their Chamber of Commerce as a way to connect more quickly with the entire business community and my experience is no different. Participating in Chamber events and organizing the City's Chamber Mixer provides invaluable opportunities to meet with business on their "turf" and invite them into City Hall to see first hand how all departments are working together to serve their business interests.

Economic Development is working to improve the image of Milpitas in the region, nationally and internationally. The Economic Development Commission, consisting of business and residential representatives, identified Image Enhancement is their number one priority. The first step is a visual one with new street light banners and airport signage that will be installed at the end of this year and the beginning of 2007 and later in 2007, with new gateway signage on critical City entryways. In addition, the Commission will be working with a Stakeholder Group to define more clearly what needs to be done to attract more businesses and retain the successful businesses the City has today. This is most critical in the city's industrial and manufacturing areas, where we still have significant vacancies despite incremental growth of new business.

Judge Weller was probably thinking similar thoughts about the future of Milpitas in the 1880's. I hope he would be pleased with how the City has matured and where it's economic growth is headed. As a public servant, it is exciting to be part of the early stages of Milpitas' next 50 years.

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce 2006 Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce is to be the central source of information and activities to enhance the success of our City, of our business community in general and of our members in particular."

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MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Business to Business Interaction...Offering Business Opportunities For You!!

Grand Opening Celebrations Ribbon-Cutting Events



Gentle Dentistry—Dr. Nicole Pham celebrated their grand opening on September 28. Her office is located at 4 N. Abel Street. Mayor Esteves helped officiate the ribbon-cutting with Dr. Pham with the directors, ambassadors, and members joining the celebration.



Attuned Dental Care, Kim Luu D.D.S. opened his office at 1105 S. Park Victoria on October 4. The Chamber Directors and Ambassadors joined the celebration as the ribbon-cutting ceremony was officiated by Dr. Luu and Mayor Esteves.



WaMu (Washington Mutual) opened their new branch at 37 N. Milpitas Blvd. on Friday, October 6 with a grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting. The Chamber Ambassadors and Directors were present to see the following officiate the ribbon-cutting event: Left to right are Lucy Facchin, Regional Manager for WaMu; Chamber Exec. Dir. Gaye Morando; Mayor José Esteves; WaMu Manager Paresh Yadav; Chamber President Nicky Wu; and WaMu Assistant Manager Kaman Lok.



Healthworks Chiropractic—Dr. James Lyon, located at 182 S. Main Street, celebrated his ribbon-cutting/grand opening early this summer. Dr. Lyons has become active in the community. He is a Chamber Ambassador, a member of a chamber connection club, and Milpitas Rotary member. Dr. Lyon shown with fiancée and mother.



Join the Gold...

Become a Member of the
Milpitas Chamber of Commerce!



MOD - MEMBERS OFFER DISCOUNTS

The M.O.D. program allows Chamber members the opportunity to offer their goods or service at a discounted price to other Chamber members, thus promoting inter-member purchases. Remember to identify yourself as a Chamber member when you contact these members so you can receive your discount.

A STORAGE CITY MILPITAS - 324 S. Main Street, Milpitas, (408) 262-4000
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-STORAGE. CHAMBER MEMBERS RECEIVE 2ND FULL MONTH FREE. NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY.

A TOOL SHED EQUIPMENT RENTALS - 1300 S. Main Street, Milpitas, (408) 263-7368
10% OFF ALL EQUIPMENT FOR CURRENT CHAMBER MEMBERS.

ALPHA VIDEO SERVICES - (408) 946-1231 - Angelo Delegeane
10% DISCOUNT TO CHAMBER MEMBERS.

ANGELS AND DOVES FLORIST, 1359 Jacklin Rd., Milpitas, (408) 956-1740
ECUADORIAN ROSES \$8.99 PER DOZEN. FREE LOCAL DELIVERIES WITH A \$50.00 AND ABOVE FLOWER OR BALLOON PURCHASE. FREE BALLOONS WITH GIFT PURCHASES OF \$70.00 OR MORE.

ATTUNED DENTAL CARE - 1105 S. Park Victoria, (408) 263-3090 - We do Cosmetic/General Dentistry
20% OFF ON MOST SERVICES.

AVIS RENT A CAR - 149 W. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, (408) 942-3300
RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT ON CAR RENTAL AS A MEMBER OF THE MILPITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MILPITAS LOCATION.

BLUE CROSS OF CALIFORNIA, Tony Chan, 556 N. First St. #102, San Jose, CA 95112 - (510) 791-1878
www.healthmaster.us - email: sales@tonychan.net

APPLY ONLINE: www.bluecross-usa.com

10% DISCOUNT (first month of membership) to new members only for Blue Cross medical plans.

BRIDGE IN CORPORATION, 540 Clouser Drive, Milpitas, (408) 586-0080
WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT: PORTALS, CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, E-COMMERCE, CORPORATE INTRANET, CUSTOM APPLICATIONS - 5% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS.

CALIFORNIA OVERNIGHT, 865 Sinclair Frontage Rd., Milpitas, (408) 719-1149 Ext. 102
CALIFORNIA OVERNIGHT OFFERS RATES 40% BELOW FED EX. FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS. WE WILL REDUCE THAT BY AN ADDITIONAL 10%. WITH LATER PICKUPS & EARLIER DELIVERIES. MAKE CALIFORNIA OVERNIGHT YOUR CHOICE TO HANDLE YOUR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY NEEDS.

CARTRIDGE WORLD MILPITAS - 80 Ranch Drive, Milpitas - (408) 935-0300 - Harry Bucchianeri, Owner
FIX TWO (2) CARTRIDGES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE (1) - First Order Only.

CENTRE CAFE - 1666 Centre Pointe Drive, Milpitas (408) 945-8996
10% OFF ON DAILY ENTREE OR FREE FOUNTAIN DRINK WHEN YOU BUY AN ENTREE.

CENTURY 21 OPTIMA -252 Great Mall Parkway, Milpitas, (408) 240-8500
10% OFF COMMISSION RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE IN ANY REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION TO CHAMBER MEMBERS.

CURVES MILPITAS-EAST - 1766 Clear Lake Avenue (408) 262-5152
Milpitas Chamber members and their family members (women). If they will join the club for a year, they will waive the first visit service fee (which is usually \$49).

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL MILPITAS - 901 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 942-0400
15% OFF LUNCH OR DINNER IN SWAN COURT. 15% OFF MEETING ROOM RENTAL & FOOD FOR GROUPS OVER 25. PLEASE BRING IN YOUR CHAMBER'S PANORAMA FOR YOUR 15% DISCOUNT.

FEDEX KINKO'S MILPITAS, 257 W. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas (408) 946-2500
RECEIVE 25% OFF ALL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. DISCOUNT FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS ONLY.

FREEDOM EQUITY GROUP, INCORPORATED - 550 S. Winchester Boulevard, Suite 626, (408) 921-8417
DALE SCHRUMPE OFFERS YOU A \$100 DISCOUNT WHEN YOU JOIN THE FREEDOM EQUITY GROUP, INC. THE TOTAL COST IS \$345 TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE OF THE FREEDOM EQUITY GROUP, INC.

G-MODE WEBCENTER, Jenny Yeh, Independent website consultant, (408) 655-6548, www.gmodewebcenter.com
REBATE ONE MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE FEE FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS.

GIORGIO'S ITALIAN FOOD & PIZZERIA - 643 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, (408) 942-1292
15% OFF UPON PRESENTATION OF CHAMBER MEMBER CARD

GLOBAL EQUITY LENDING, 545 E. Brokaw Rd., San Jose, (408) 373-5264
\$125 DISCOUNT TOWARDS GLOBAL EQUITY LANDING MEMBERSHIP FEE TO BEGIN YOUR CAREER IN THE MORTGAGE BUSINESS. NO REAL ESTATE LICENSE REQUIRED. OFFERED BY PHUONG HUYAH.

HAMPTON INN SILICON VALLEY/MILPITAS - 215 Barber Court, (408) 428-9090
ROOM RATES SUN-THURS. \$119. FRI-SAT. \$59 INCLUDING EXPANDED CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND COMPLIMENTARY HIGH-SPEED DSL ACCESS IN ALL ROOMS AND LOBBY.

HEALTHWORKS CHIROPRACTIC, Dr. James K. Lyons, 182 S. Main St., Milpitas, (408) 262-7000
MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED. 30% OFF TREATMENT FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS (CASH PATIENTS ONLY). 20% OFF NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS AND REHAB/EXERCISE PRODUCTS.

HERITAGE OF INDIA RESTAURANT & BAR, 167 S. Main St., Milpitas, (408) 945-1916
RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

HILTON GARDEN INN, SAN JOSE/MILPITAS, 30 Ranch Dr., Milpitas, (408) 719-1313
15% DISCOUNT OFF BEST AVAILABLE RATE, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. PLEASE PRESENT YOUR CHAMBER PANORAMA TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR OFFER.

KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. - 25 Metro Drive, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 437-7505 Ext. 123
NO HASSLES. BOTTOM LINE PRICING.

KOONG'S RESTAURANT Keith Chu, Owner, 103 N. Milpitas Boulevard. (408) 946-8020
10% DISCOUNT TO CHAMBER MEMBERS.

R. LARKSPUR LANDING MILPITAS, 40 Ranch Dr., Milpitas, (408) 719-1212
15% OFF BEST AVAILABLE RATE, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. PLEASE PRESENT YOUR CHAMBER PANORAMA TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT. BASED ON AVAILABILITY. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS.

LILY OF THE VALLEY - Diane Cheung - 605 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas (408) 262-2221
OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS. (next to the Chocolate Affaire in the Milpitas Town Center).

LIN YE ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC - 60 Dixon Road, (408) 263-3238
ONE HOUR OFFICE VISIT INCLUDES EXAMINATION, ACUPUNTURE, ACUPRESSURE, TUINA HERBAL REMEDY, AND CONSULTATION ON YOUR HEALTH. Reg. Price \$99. MO.D. \$55.

MARLOWES FLOWERS & GIFTS, 1285 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, (408) 262-9191
COME TO OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE! MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2006 4 PM - 8 PM 15% OFF HOLIDAY AND HOME DECOR. TREATS WILL BE SERVED!

MARY KAY COSMETICS - Diana Liffengren, (408) 263-3555
10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

MDM ENTERTAINMENT (Mike Westerman) - (408) 597-5286
\$100 OFF FOR ANY EVENT OR PARTY FOR YOUR OCCASION.

MILPITAS BACKFLOW PREVENTION SERVICE, Cathy Branco, 142 N. Milpitas Blvd. - (408) 942-9811
TESTING IS REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF MILPITAS. CALL THEM FOR ANY INFORMATION ON YOUR BACKFLOW NEEDS.

MILPITAS HEALTH & FITNESS - 1000 Jacklin Rd., Milpitas, (408) 946-2151
1) THREE (3) FREE MONTHS WITH PURCHASE OF REGULAR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP. 2) \$100 OF FREE SUPPLEMENTS WITH FIRST PURCHASE OF 10 PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS.

MONITOR MORTGAGE - 1156 Jacklin Road, Milpitas, (408) 957-7600
FREE APPRAISAL (\$350) AND CREDIT REPORT (\$26) FOR ANY REFINANCE OR CREDIT \$1,000 TOWARDS CLOSING COSTS FOR PURCHASES.

MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA - 85 N. Milpitas Blvd. Milpitas, (408) 946-9401
RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

NEW ALADDIN CARPET & FLOORING, Van K. Nguyen, Owner, 91 Dempsey Road - (408) 263-1988
10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

QUINCY'S BAR-B-Q, Johnny Quincy Jones, Owner, 70 N. Main Street - (408) 263-5640
10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT MILPITAS, 1501 California Circle. (408) 941-9222
RELAX IN ONE OF THEIR BRAND NEW STUDIO SUITES AND ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST IN THE MORNING. 50% OFF FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS ON THE WEEKEND.

ROUND TABLE PIZZA - 1271 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 262-7822
\$2.00 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA.

SAF KEEP STORAGE, 1680 S. Main Street, (408) 957-0500
FOR NEW TENANTS ONLY! 25% OFF THE FIRST 4 MONTHS AND \$20 OFF THE FIRST MONTH RENT ON ANY AVAILABLE UNITS. 50% OFF SECOND MONTH RENT ON AVAILABLE UNITS.

SERVERPLEX NETWORKS - 1615A S. Main Street, Milpitas - (800) 454-0918
20% OFF ALL SERVICES.

SPARTAN SYSTEMS -3723 Haven Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 - (650) 200-4577
\$45.00 OFF ANY COMPUTER OR NETWORK, SERVICE, FREE ANTI-SPYWARE SOFTWARE.

SPRINT-NEXTEL-MILPITAS TOWN CENTER, 80 N. Milpitas Blvd. (408) 262-3963
SPECIAL CHAMBER PHONE PRICING AND 10% OFF ALL ACCESSORIES.

STUART ANDERSON'S BLACK ANGUS, 275 Ranch Drive - (408) 268-3570
25% OFF REGULAR PRICED LUNCH OR DINNER.

THE FIXIT TEAM, INCORPORATED 1162 Strada Almaden, San Jose - (408) 946-6000
\$100 OFF YOUR NEXT HOME REPAIR. MATERIALS ARE EXTRA. LABOR ONLY. ONLY VALID IN SAN JOSE-MILPITAS AREA.

US STORAGE CENTERS, 324 S. Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-4000
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SELF STORAGE. CHAMBER MEMBERS RECEIVE 50% OFF FIRST THREE MONTHS OF RENT - NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY.

VICTORIAN SQUARE CLEANERS, Jong-Ag Yi, Ownem 1285 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 263-5640
10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

WELLNESS ONE OF MILPITAS - 1000 Jacklin Rd., Milpitas - (408) 262-1371
20% OFF OF ALL REGULAR PRICES ON CHIROPRACTIC, PHYSIOTHERAPY, MASSAGE AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES. ALSO, FREE "STRESSLESS LIVING" WORKSHOP AT YOUR COMPANY/BUSINESS.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

NOV. 2006

by Frank De Smidt



MILPITAS.....

ENTHUSIASTIC, OVERFLOW TURNOUT FOR CANDIDATES' FORUM

A full house was on hand for the Chamber's 2006 CANDIDATES' FORUM on Thursday, October 19 at Milpitas City Hall's Council Chambers. All six council hopefuls, **Gary Cerezo, Bill Ferguson, Armando Gomez, Carmen Montano, Heidi Pham, and Althea Polanski**, participated fielding many questions from the Community Advisory Commission (CAC), residents, and the audience in addition to their opening and closing statements before an enthusiastic SRO audience. Business promotion, the hillsides, ethics, the "Milpitas" BART station, open government, schools, the budget, and conflicts of interest were some of the issues covered. Mayor **Jose Esteves** and former Mayor **Henry Manayan** came out swinging during their segment handling even more questions. Issues discussed included; hillside development, attracting new businesses, building a cohesive council, city budget, city salaries, conflicts of interest, Elmwood Jail, ethics, Charter City Measure I, BART, Midtown and Transit Area plans, the "Milpitas" BART station, official calendar, the environment, and one's role as Mayor. The audience responded to each candidate with great enthusiasm and intensity. It was not possible or feasible in either segment to consider all of the questions submitted. The forum was televised, broadcast and webcast live. The rebroadcast schedule is to be announced. All three incumbent Board of Education trustees, **Bill Foulk, Marsha Grilli, and Michael Mendizabal** with no challenger(s) were declared elected and declined to participate in the forum.

KING CRAB APPEAL GRANTED AND AMPLIFIED SOUND NIXED AT GILL PARK

The Milpitas City Council took action the following items at their Tuesday, October 17, 2006 meeting with Councilman Bob Livengood absent: - An Appeal of the Planning Commission decision to deny a Use Permit Amendment to allow a 12'x18' Dance Floor for King Crab Restaurant located at 269 W. Calaveras Blvd was granted and the use permit was approved provided the applicant provides a parking attendant during specified hours to direct customers away from the adjacent shopping center parking lot. - The hearing any appeal of the new Milpitas Library Project Bidders List was removed from the agenda as no appeals were submitted. - Approved the report to the City Council for the proposed merger of Redevelopment Project Area No. 1 and the Great Mall Project Area and schedule a joint City Council/ Redevelopment Agency Public Hearing on the proposed merger amendments for November 21, 2006. - Adopted a resolution authorizing the use of Low -and Moderate-Income Housing Set-Aside Funds for Land Acquisition.- Approved Mayor Esteves' recommendations for appointments and re-appointments to four City Commissions. - Approved the proposed 2006-2007 Special Events Calendar and the July 4, 2006 Update. - Approved Event Proposal for a separate Commissioners' Recognition Event allowing more time for recogni-

tion and socializing with commissioners and council plus mementos for the 150 commissioners. - Approved an Individual Youth Sports Assistance Fund grant request of \$1000 for Milpitas National Little League South. - Introduced an Ordinance amending the Milpitas Municipal Code to prohibit amplification of sound at Gill Park. - Adopted an Ordinance amending Milpitas Municipal Code regarding the appointment of Planning Commissioners in conformance with the State Attorney General's Opinion. The Mayor and Council want this in place before interviewing and appointing the Alternate Planning Commissioner. - Adopted Resolution for Waiver for Solid Waste Service for specified Spring Valley Heights addresses. - Approved contract with Magic Wave Productions for installation and integration of equipment for the new Milpitas Community Television Studio.

EDC ACTION PLAN, FACILITIES NAMING, PC ORDINANCE APPROVED BY COUNCIL

The Milpitas City Council took action on the following items at their Tuesday, October 3, 2006 meeting. - A large delegation from Milpitas' Sister City Tsukuba City, Japan was on hand to exchange proclamations and gifts. - Assemblyman Alberto Torrico gave his General Legislative Update on pension and retirement reforms and his Non-Profit Casino Nite bill that was signed into law. - A sizable assembly of city employees from the Milpitas Professional and Technical Group, commonly known as ProTech wearing blue shirts and carrying signs, was on hand to protest over good faith bargaining with the city for a new contract. - Received Odor Control Comprehensive Action Plan Update that shows complaints remain low. - Received Progress Report on Library and East Parking Garage timetable and budget. - Discussed petition regarding noise at Gill Park and neighbor concerns - Councilmember Polanski. Council directed staff to review and prepare new policies for Gill Park that address the neighbor's complaints. - Approved Governing Policy and Operating Procedures for Milpitas Community Television. - Received report on the Utility Rate Subcommittee Spring Valley Heights Solid Waste Service and approved recommendation to allow nine waivers from mandatory solid waste service for current owners only and directed staff to prepare ordinance modification. - Approved recommendations for **Economic Development Commission Action Plan** Implementation: Branding Strategy and Entry Feature Signs. Minor gateway signs were approved for South Main St. and Montague Expy. and at North Milpitas Blvd. and Dixon Landing Rd. - Approved the recommendation from the **Facilities Naming Subcommittee** to request the County to include historically themed elements in the proposed Milpitas Valley Health Center to honor early medical professionals in Milpitas. Under consideration are **Dr. Al Curlin**, longtime Family Physician; **Dr. Renselaer Smith**, early General Practitioner; and **Dr. Sal Cracolice**, early Pharmacist. - Introduced an **Ordinance** Amending Milpitas Municipal Code regarding the **appointment of Planning Commissioners** in conformance with the State Attorney General's Opinion. The Mayor and Council

want this in place before interviewing and appointing the Alternate Planning Commissioner. - Adopted the Ordinance amending the Redevelopment Plans for the Great Mall Project Area and Project Area No. 1. - Adopted a Resolution amending the City Of Milpitas Classification Plan that merges the Parks Division and Recreation Services Division under one Parks and Recreation Director for improved efficiencies.

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS CM CANDIDATES AT SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETINGS

A Special Meeting of the City Council in closed session was held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 in the HR Conference Room at City Hall to interview the four final applicants for the position of City Manager. Another Special Meeting of the City Council in closed session was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 29, 2006 in the City Manager Conference Room at City Hall to interview and discuss applicants for the position of City Manager.

HONDA DEALERSHIP COMING TO MILPITAS

The County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors approved the form of the Ground Lease to PAG Los Gatos, LLC (Honda) at the Elmwood Commercial Development in Milpitas. Honda will soon construct and operate a state-of-the-art dealership facility on the site. "The Elmwood Commercial Project is consistent with the County's goal of generating ongoing revenue from County surplus land," said Supervisor Pete McHugh, County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, District 3. "Having Honda and Toyota at this site will make the dealership an ideal location for environmentally-savvy car buyers."

\$9 MILLION CITY BUDGET WINDFALL

Following a year-end audit of the city's 2005-2006 general fund budget and earlier community meetings threatening cuts to services for residents due to expected cash shortfalls City of Milpitas' finance department announced the city earned nearly \$9 million more in revenues than predicted. Emma Karlen, the city's finance director, told Milpitas City Council Sept. 5 that the city's budget for the coming year would essentially be in the black. Karlen maintained that the city would not have to use reserves to balance its budget or finance city-run services and programs.

WIFI COMING TO MILPITAS

In true Silicon Valley style, Milpitas will soon be a wireless Internet (WiFi) hotspot. The city has been working with Earthlink to install more than 300 WiFi radios, throughout the city to provide seamless WiFi to residents as well as public safety workers. After a month of installation, 80 percent of the radios are installed. Earthlink projects the network will be up and running next month. Users will be able to access the wireless network by opening a Web browser on a computer or laptop within range. Users will be able to choose to pay by the hour, by the day or by the month.

SILICON VALLEY.....

MILPITAS CHAMBER OPPOSES MEASURE A

The Board of Directors of the Milpitas Chamber

PAGE 2 - NOV. GOV'T. AFF. REPORT

of Commerce has voted to oppose Santa Clara County land use initiative Measure A as harmful to the Silicon Valley residents and economy. The measure would drastically reduce housing density. On land zoned for ranching, it would allow only one home per 160 acres, where up to eight are allowed now. On lands zoned "hillside," it would reduce the number of homes that could be built from eight per 160 acres to no more than four. The measure reportedly would severely limit agricultural processing, winery operations, and new cell phone towers. Some believe that the initiative could adversely impact the recently approved County Viewshed Policy. The chamber recommends a No vote. For more information visit: <http://votenoonmeasurea.com>

SAN JOSE MAYOR'S POLL CLOSE

Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez has closed the gap on Councilman Chuck Reed, and with a month left before Election Day, a surprising new survey shows the race for mayor of San Jose is a nail-biter. Reed leads Chavez 42 percent to 40 -- an insignificant gap -- in a poll of likely voters conducted last week for the Mercury News and NBC11. The results are a boost for Chavez, who finished six percentage points behind Reed in the five-way June 6 primary. She also has trailed by substantial margins in a number of recent polls, including one by her own campaign. Both Chavez and Reed expressed confidence their message is what will prove decisive with voters. Reed's own poll and others show him to be about 13 points ahead of Chavez.

CALIFORNIA.....

MILPITAS CHAMBER'S POSITIONS ON NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

The Board of Directors of the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce has voted to recommend to the voters the following positions on state November 7 ballot measures: **SUPPORT Proposition 1A** - SCA 7 Transportation Funding Protection. This is the so-called Prop. 42 fix that makes it much more difficult for lawmakers and the governor to divert the sales tax on gas from transportation to the general fund. This measure closes the loophole in Proposition 42 to ensure that gas tax revenues are used to pay for transportation projects rather than diverted to other programs. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **SUPPORT Proposition 1B** - SB 1266. Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006. The \$19.9 billion transportation bond to make safety improvement on highways, widen roads, reduce congestion, improve public transit and improve anti-terrorism security at California ports. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **SUPPORT Proposition 1C** - SB 1689. Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006. The \$2.85 billion housing bond provides shelters for battered women, clean and safe housing for low-income senior citizens, homeownership assistance for the disabled, military veterans and working families, and repairs and accessibility improvements to apartments for families and the disabled. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **SUPPORT Proposition 1D** - AB 127. Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006. The \$10.4 billion education bond to build and modernize K-12 classrooms and expand the state's universities and community colleges. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **SUPPORT**

Proposition 1E - AB 140. Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006. The \$4 billion flood control bond to repair levees and improve flood protection throughout the state. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **Neutral on Proposition 83** - Sex Offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring. Known as Jessica's Law. CalChamber has no position. **SUPPORT Proposition 84** - Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. The \$5.4 billion resources bond placed on the ballot by initiative. CalChamber also SUPPORTS. **Neutral on Proposition 85** - Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. A re-run of the parental notifications for abortions initiative that failed in the 2005 special election. CalChamber has no position. **Neutral on Proposition 86** - Tax on Cigarettes. The \$2.60 per pack tax increase on cigarettes to pay for an expansion of health care. CalChamber OPPOSES. **OPPOSE Proposition 87** - Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil. A \$4 billion-a-year tax on oil to pay for alternative energy research that would increase energy costs and hurt California's economy. CalChamber also OPPOSES. **OPPOSE Proposition 88** - Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax. A \$50 tax on all property parcels to raise money for class size reduction, textbooks, school safety, Academic Success facility grants, and a data system to evaluate educational program effectiveness. CalChamber also OPPOSES. **OPPOSE Proposition 89** - Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits. The "Clean Money" initiative that creates public financing and new, lower contribution limits. Would severely hinder business' ability to oppose hostile state ballot issues. CalChamber also OPPOSES. **OPPOSE Proposition 90** - Eminent Domain, Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. The initiative that would limit the government's ability to seize private property for private development. Other provisions unrelated to eminent domain could foster costly litigation over property regulations. CalChamber also OPPOSES. For more information visit: www.calchamber.com

WASHINGTON.....

FEDERAL SPENDING DATABASE BILL SIGNED

President Bush signed legislation creating a Web-based searchable database of federal government spending, calling it a first step in making the government more accountable to taxpayers. The database, championed by bloggers, taxpayer groups and editorial writers nationwide, will allow people to search records for hundreds of billions of dollars worth of federal contracts and grants -- or, as Mr. Bush said, "to Google their tax dollars." "We spend a lot of time and a lot of effort collecting your money, and we should show the same amount of effort in reporting how we spend it," the president said during a signing ceremony attended by lawmakers, congressional staff, columnists and bloggers. Written by Sens. Tom Coburn, Oklahoma Republican, and Barack Obama, Illinois Democrat, the legislation creates a database available to the public through a Web site. It will list every entity receiving federal funds, along with information about the amount and purpose of the

spending. The law gives the administration until 2008 to have the database in full operation

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES VISIT FRANK NEWS AT: <http://members.aol.com/frankdsj/franknews.html>

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MEMBER PROFILES

Gentle Dentistry Nicole T. Pham, DDS

..the difference between smiling and having a beautiful smile.

GentleDentistry, Nicole T. Pham, DDS, located at 4 N. Abel Street, Milpitas, celebrated their Red Carpet Grand Opening Gala on September 28, 2006. Mayor Jose Esteves officiated the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the gala was formally kicked in high gear. The event was filled with wonderful enthusiasm, high energy and most importantly with great company. Dr. Pham wants to "Thank" everyone who attended and showed enormous support and made their gala a complete success and warmly celebrated.



Dr. Pham served as Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. She grew up in the Bay Area and embraces the rich cultural diversity that exists in the region. She strives to establish long term partnerships with her clients in the journey to achieve beautiful and healthy smiles. She continually attends advanced courses with an emphasis on thriving for excellence, and she strives to be a leader in the latest dental technologies. Dr. Pham has been using metal free, adhesive materials to create and restore beautiful smiles since 1993. She is a dental artists who, through the use of conservative procedures, enhances the health, beauty and function of smiles. Her ability to create natural, life-like smiles has helped many look and feel their best. Along with practicing general dentistry, she also volunteers as a forensic dentist, DMORT Region 9 Member, Department of National Homeland Security. Additionally, she is the Forensic Dental Consultant to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office. She is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Academy of General Dentistry and American Academy of Forensic Sciences. After joining the Chamber, she attended mixers and other events, joined one of the Chamber's Connection Clubs, and became a member of the Milpitas Rotary.

Gentle Dentistry was established in September 2005 to serve the Milpitas residents and neighboring communities. Dr. Pham made the commitment to maintain her practice based on providing high quality comprehensive dentistry, educating your family about dental health and creating a caring relationship and a relaxed atmosphere. Her practice welcomes clients of all ages and she is excellent with children. Their office hours are Monday through Thursday; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday by appointment only. You are invited to visit their website at www.gentledentistrymilpitas.com. Call today (408) 942-8808 to schedule your "Meet and Greet Tour" of their office.

The Latest Scoop on Gentle Dentistry - They were awarded the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community. And with great pride to announce that they were also honored in the Best Dentist category in Best of Milpitas. Congratulations to Dr. Pham!

The Gourmet Gift Horse

Bay Area's leading provider of corporate gift baskets
Owner, **Tim Wilkin** Manager, **Linda Medrano**
Telephone: 800-762-9910

Founded in 1992, The Gourmet Gift Horse offers a broad portfolio of creative and enticing gifts, and are best known for helping businesses tailor gifts that become an extension of their corporate brand. Whether welcoming a new

employee; thanking a vendor or customer; or enticing VIP guests with invitations to a major promotional event...The Gourmet Gift Horse is the professional choice for business.

The Gourmet Gift Horse's focus on serving the corporate customer, and their willingness to customize gifts to suit the particular needs of a VIP client, have earned them an impressive customer base and reputation for quality and execution. Clients and recipients of gifts from The Gourmet Gift Horse include: the President of the United States, top CEO's and senior executives of companies not only in the Bay Area, but throughout the U.S.



Tim Wilkin, owner of the company, holds an MBA in Finance and Strategy from the Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, and a degree in marketing from Indiana University School of Business in Bloomington, IN. Tim enjoys golf, tennis, investing and spending time with his wife and two children.

We invite you to check out their website at www.gghorse.com sales@gghorse.com, or give them a call at 800-762-9910. Their address is 1526 Stafford Street, Suite 2, Redwood City, CA 94063, and their hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Remember The Gourmet Gift Horse this holiday season.

Ambassador "Cheer Leaders" Enjoy Attending Ribbon-Cutting Events

Government Affairs Chair, Frank De Smidt and Executive Director Gaye Morando far right are shown thanking the Chamber Ambassador "Cheer Leaders" Betty McDermott, Charlene Brooks (Chair), and Jean Stange. Betty and Jean are always seen greeting people at the registration table for the monthly mixers, and Chair Person Charlene Brooks runs the monthly meetings and oversees the committee's work assignments.



Ambassadors have an opportunity to enjoy high visibility networking, and are recognized at mixers and other scheduled events. The Milpitas Chamber's Ambassador Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month at the Chamber office, 828 N. Hillview Drive. The 12:00 Noon meeting includes a light lunch.

Please contact Ambassador Chair Charlene Brooks on her cell phone at (408) 416-8083 if you are interested in serving on this exciting committee. Ambassadors are the Goodwill Ambassadors "Cheer Leaders" of the Chamber, and they have fun.

Heralding Our New Members

Welcome New Members!

BELLA MIA TRAVEL

Lynae English, Owner
2510 Canyon Lakes Dr.
San Ramon, CA 94502
510-917-1177
Travel Agency

ERIK'S DELI CAFÉ

Epifanio Gutierrez, Manager
148 N. Milpitas Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-262-7878
Deli Café School

KUVERA LENDING

Tim Chang, Broker
41111 Mission Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539
408-705-1988
Mortgage

GOLDEN STATE GIFT BASKETS

Carl Baltrunas, Owner
483 Alexander Way
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-945-4321
Gifts/Baskets

MASSMUTUAL FINANCIAL GROUP

Michael Garcia, Agent
101 Metro Dr., Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1343
408-487-1560
Finance Planning/Services

MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA

Avtar Singh, Owner
85 N. Milpitas Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-946-9401
Restaurant

SECRET SUSHI – CREATIVE DESIGN

Adam Helweh, Owner
332 Manzanita Ct.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-625-0637
Communications

XCEL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Jarvis Sulcer, Founder/CEO
1313 N. Milpitas Blvd., Suite 120
Milpitas, CA 95035
510-792-1614

FCC Warns of Potential Rise in Cost of Calling Wireless Telephones in Mexico

Notice from United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Our Chamber is passing on some important consumer advisory information provided by the FCC regarding a potential cost increase in cell phone calls made to Mexico. This information was sent to us by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce when they were informed by the FCC. Any questions regarding this matter, please contact the FCC at http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/mexico_caller_pays.html.

What is happening in Mexico

The Mexican government recently decided to increase the cost of calling Mexico from other countries, including the United States. If you place calls to wireless phones in Mexico, please take note: the cost of these calls may increase soon. This cost increase will apply only to calls to wireless phones in Mexico—not calls to fixed-line phones.

The Mexican government is also changing the dialing instructions for calls to wireless phones in Mexico. When the rate increases take effect, you will need to dial a "1" before the ten-digit number to reach a wireless phone in Mexico.

Because the Mexican government has not yet finalized its rules, it is difficult to predict exactly how much rates will increase and when. The largest Mexican telephone company announced that beginning October 11, 2006, it will add 16 cents per minute to the rates it charges for connecting calls to wireless phones in Mexico. Your long distance or calling card company will determine how much it will adjust the rates if charges you based on this increase.

Please contact your long distance or calling card company to learn more about specific rate increases and to get new dialing instructions for calls to wireless phones in Mexico. If you are unsure whether you're calling a wireless or fixed-inline phone, call your long distance or calling card company to find out. Your long distance company may also send you additional information about possible rate increases and dialing instructions for calls to wireless phones in Mexico. The rate increases could begin soon, but may be delayed if the Mexican government decides to postpone implementing the calling party pays system.

Membership Renewals

Thank You for Your Continued Support...

ONE YEAR...

Andrews & Carlo Certified Public Accountants
FCC Collision Centers
KB Homes

TWO YEARS...

Alpha Video
Iglesia Emanuel Church
Lee's Sandwiches
Patelco Credit Union

THREE YEARS...

Humane Society Silicon Valley

SIX YEARS...

Victorian Square Cleaners

SEVEN YEARS...

H&R Block-Jacklin Road

EIGHT YEARS...

Saf Keep Storage

NINE YEARS...

Milpitas Dental Center

TWELVE YEARS...

Dr. Benjamin Cho, D.D.S.
Union Bank of California

SIXTEEN YEARS...

Milpitas Parents Preschool

EIGHTEEN YEARS...

Children's World

TWENTY YEARS...

Medius Corporation

TWENTY-ONE YEARS...

Victorian Square Shopping Center

TWENTY-THREE YEARS...

A Tool Shed Equipment Rentals, Incorporated
Awards to the Wise

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS...

Milpitas Rotary Club
Santa Clara Valley National Bank
Gregory Wadden, D.D.S.

Entertainment Book 2007
(45 Years of Great Time and Great Savings)
Dine..Shop..Travel..SAVE up to 50%

The Entertainment Book 2007 is available for sale at the Chamber Office. The book offers you savings on casual dining restaurants, fast food restaurants, entertainment, car rentals, hotels and more Entertainment Books make wonderful gifts for the Holidays. Stop by the Chamber Office at 828 N. Hillview Drive (Hillview Office Center) to get your book while supplies last. The price is \$25

District Attorney George Kennedy
Warns Merchants About Potential Bad Checks
During the Holidays

The Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Merchants look forward to a big increase in business and hire many new or temporary employees to handle the rush. The downside of the phenomenon is the increase in bad checks passed to unsuspecting cashiers. Many holiday shoppers feel overwhelmed, often becoming demanding and impatient and do not like going through the "third degree" when making a purchase. In order to keep their customers happy, merchants tend to let their guard down, thus creating opportunities for bad check writers.

To prevent this type of problem from happening, it is important for merchants and their employees to know what to look for when accepting a check. Establish a routine acceptance policy for all check transactions. Accept only checks drawn on a California bank account. Ask for identification such as a California driver's license and be sure the name matches the name on the check. If the address information does not match, verify which is correct. Ask for a telephone number. Record pertinent data on the front of the check and initial. Learn to trust your intuition; if something seems wrong, you are probably right. If the check looks suspicious, ask for another form of payment such as cash or a credit card.

Regardless of how many precautions you take, it is highly probable the bank will return some checks. Most checks are returned due to non-sufficient funds or because the account was closed. If this happens, contact the customer immediately to request payment within ten days. If the customer does not pay within the extended grace period, the check may be eligible for the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program.

District Attorney George Kennedy instituted this unique program to provide cost-free assistance to recipients of bad checks. The primary goal of the program is to obtain restitution and secondly, to hold bad check writers more accountable for their actions without creating an added burden to the criminal justice system. Check writers reported to the program must pay restitution and attend a four-hour intervention class at their expense. Those who fail to cooperate have their case reviewed for a possible criminal filing with penalties that range from court fines to possible jail time in addition to paying restitution. All this is accomplished at no cost to County taxpayers. For additional information about the Bad Check Restitution Program, contact Sharon Letica, Community Relations Representative at (877) 208-8491.

Are You A Target For Fraud?

There are ways to protect your business. The following information from the Better Business Bureau appeared in the The Chamber of Commerce Pacesetter.

- Don't buy supplies from a stranger. Telemarketers offering "great deals" can easily sell you poor quality, over-priced products. If a caller claims to represent your normal supplier, or tries to get information about your copier, printer, etc., get a phone number and offer to call back after you've checked them out.

- Ask charities to provide donation requests in writing. Check with the Better Business Bureau before agreeing to support unknown organizations, including fire and police associations.
- Don't agree to buy advertising for directories, phone book covers, coupon books, etc. without getting all details in writing. Get a contract that includes the number of publications to be printed, method of distribution and costs. Ask for copies of past publications and contact advertisers to see if they were satisfied with results.
- Don't purchase posters required by law, such as minimum wage notice. Most are free from the government agency that mandates the posting.
- Protect credit card and bank account numbers. Shred discarded paperwork that contains this information to keep it out of the hands of identity thieves.
- Make sure every invoice you receive is legitimate. Bogus bills can be paid before someone realized they are fake.

PG&E Update

SmartMeter™ Program Approved by CPUC

PG&E received approval from the California Public Utilities Commission to install an automated metering system, called the **SmartMeter™** program. This system will include 9.3 million upgraded gas and electric meters at every business and home PG&E serves. The new **SmartMeter™** devices and supporting network infrastructure will eventually allow for quicker response to outages, enhance billing accuracy, enable all customers to monitor their usage online to reduce costs, and increase the company's operational efficiencies.

The \$1.7 billion program will begin in Bakersfield this fall and end in 2011. In September, distribution rates for all customers increased approximately 1 percent for five years, This will decline each year thereafter. However, the **SmartMeter™** program will pay for itself through increased efficiencies and operational savings, while also greatly improving customer service.

"PG&E's **SmartMeter™** program is one of the cornerstones of a sweeping effort to take a dramatic leap forward in the way we deliver service to our customers" said Tom King, CEO of PG&E. This technology empowers customers with better information and the ability to make cost-saving choices about the way they use energy. It also gives PG&E new rapid response capabilities to restore service following an outage, as well as enhanced abilities to assist customers when they phone our call centers"

The SmartMeter™-enabled electric meter is virtually identical in size and appearance to existing electric meters. The gas **SmartMeter™** module is a small part that can be added to an existing gas meter. Dozens of utilities in the United States and abroad are already employing advanced meters. However, PG&E's program is the largest of its kind in the United States.

Large commercial and industrial customers who currently have interval meters will also be upgraded to the new **SmartMeter™** devices. The new technology will provide a standardized interface for all customers to access their own load information over the internet-with all the customer service and outage detection benefits.

The CPUC also gave the go-ahead to allow PG&E to offer small commercial and residential customers a new voluntary Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) rate option-a version of the demand-response program piloted to about 1,000 PG&E residential customers in 2003-2004. It's similar to the CPP rate option currently available to commercial and industrial customers with demands greater than 200 kilowatts. Starting the summer of 2007 the new CPP rate option will be available to residential customers and to commercial and industrial customers with demands less than 200 KW with **SmartMeter™** devices installed.

The ability for nearly all customers to voluntarily participate in demand-response programs like CPP should also help to lower energy procurement costs, as PG&E will have to purchase less power "on-peak."

For more information, visit www.pge.com/smartmeter. **SmartMeter™** is a trademark of SmartSynch, Inc. and is used by permission.

2006 Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2006

- 1 AMBASSADOR MEETING, Chamber Office, 12:00 Noon
- 7 ELECTION DAY! VOTE!
- 10 VETERAN'S DAY (observed), City and Chamber Offices Closed
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY, 9:00 a.m. Ceremony
- 14 MUSD School Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER, City of Milpitas,
455 E. Calaveras Blvd., 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 23 & 24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, City and Chamber Offices Closed,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, TBA
- 28 MUSD School Board, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2006

- 1 CITY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 AMBASSADOR MEETING, Chamber Office, 12:00 Noon
- TBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Chamber Office
- 7 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER, Huntford Printing & Graphics,
275 Dempsey Rd., Milpitas, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Bring a toy or canned food item for the Annual Holiday Drive.
- 12 MUSD School Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 25-Jan 2, 2007 - CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Chamber Office re-opens for business Jan 2, 2007

SHOP & DINE MILPITAS - Support your community
Happy Holidays from the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce.

✓ **City Council Meetings**

First & Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

✓ **Planning Commission Meetings**

Second and Fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Get Connected with Connection Clubs

TUESDAY CLUB #1 - 1st & 3rd, Summitpointe Golf Club
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY CLUB #2 - 2nd & 4th
Liou's House Chinese Cuisine, 1245 Jacklin Rd., Milpitas, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Call Chamber office for information (408) 262-2613.

Milpitas Chamber of Commerce
828 N. Hillview Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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