

Panorama

Business News Exclusively for Chamber Members

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary: 1957-2007

MILPITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2007



Distinguished Speaker Series

Sponsored by Milpitas Rotary and Milpitas Chamber

**Hon. Rod Diridon, Sr. Executive Director,
Mineta Transportation Institute
Chair Emeritus and Member,
California High Speed Rail Authority Board
Monday, September 17, 2007**



The Milpitas Rotary and the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce have partnered to present an exciting new program, Distinguished Speakers Series. The first event kicked off on Monday August 13 with a well known dynamic speaker, Richard King.

The Milpitas Rotary and Milpitas Chamber are pleased to announce that on Monday, September 17th, the Honorable Rod Diridon, Sr. Executive Director of Mineta Transportation Institute, and Chair Emeritus and Member, California High Speed Rail Authority Board, will be the guest speaker for the Distinguished Speakers Series. The buffet luncheon program will begin at 12:00 Noon at the Embassy

Suites Hotel, 901 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas.

Rod Diridon is considered the "father" of modern transit in California's Silicon Valley. His political career began in 1971 on the Saratoga City Council. He retired in 1995, because of term limits, after five terms and six times as Chair of both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Transit Board. He is the only person to chair the nine-county, 110-city, 27 transit district San Francisco Bay Area's three regional governments: Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and Association of Bay Area Governments.

Rod is the Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute created by Congress in 1991 and is Vice Chair/Chair-elect of the national Council of University Transportation Centers. He also serves on the Boards of the Santa Clara Valley National Bank, and the Empire Broadcasting Company. From 1969 to 76 he founded and served as President of the Decision Research Institute which developed a "shared survey" research procedure adopted by UNICEF. He provides testimony to Congress and speaks worldwide on sustainability. Rod earned both a BS and MSBA, listed in Who's Who in America since 1974 and sighted by the International Metro Magazine as one of the 50 who influenced mass transit most in North America in the past century. The main train station was rededicated the "San Jose Diridon Station" upon his retirement from elected office.

The buffet luncheon will begin at 12:00 Noon, followed by a welcome from Rotary President Colleen Noll, and guest speaker Rod Diridon. The luncheon fee is \$17. For more information go to MilpitasRotary.org, or call the Milpitas Chamber at 262-2613.



Come Join Us At Festiv'ALL

**An exciting Multi-Cultural Networking Celebration
Sponsored by Pacific Neighbors, Inc. /
Sister Cities San Jose in Partnership with the
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley
Monday, October 15, 2007 – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
San Jose Museum of Art • 110 S. Market Street, San Jose**

Back by popular demand, Festi'ALL, Silicon Valley's most celebrated diversity events, will be held on Monday, October 15th, 2007 from 6-9 p.m. at the San Jose Museum of Art, located at 110 S. Market Street, San Jose.

This multi-cultural networking event is a collaboration of the region's leading diverse business and professional organizations. While each association offers unique benefits specific to the constituency they serve, they also share the common goal of continued prosperity, education advocacy for their members and the communities they serve.

story continued on page 6

Join Mayor Esteves and the Milpitas Chamber For Milpitas Day's at the Oakland A's Game vs. Texas Rangers

Friday, September 14, 2007.....Game Time: 7:05 PM

Take Me Out to the Ball Game...will be the song of the day on Friday, September 14th, when the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce gathers at the Oakland Coliseum for Milpitas Days. The Oakland A's will be playing the Texas Rangers at 7:05 PM, and Mayor Esteves will be on hand to throw the first pitch. The ticket price is \$25 (regularly \$30) with a handling fee of \$5. For each ticket sold, \$5.00 will go into a fundraiser account with the proceeds to be presented to the Milpitas Unified High School Scholarship Fund. One of the goals of the Milpitas Chamber is to support our school district, so business and education programs are a top priority with the Board when they schedule their annual program

For more information about Milpitas Days at Oakland A's, contact Phil Chapman at 510-638-4900 Ext. 3013, or e-mail pchapman@oaklandathletics.com



**Milpitas Host Lions Club in Partnership
With Milpitas Chamber Sponsor Pro-Speaker Series
September 25th at Omega Restaurant
(See Page 6 For Details)**

**Business After Hours Membership Mixer
Thursday, September 20, 2007 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
KeyPoint Credit Union
573 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas**

Your Chamber

President **NICKY WU**
Proto Services, Inc.

President-Elect **DEAN BLOMQUIST**
Pro-Star Towing

Vice President **MARSHA GRILLI**
School Board, M.U.S.D.

Vice President **JEANNE MADER**
Allied Waste Services

Vice President **DON RYAN**
Tango Communication Services

Vice President **CHARLENE TSAO**
MyGourmet Products, Inc.

Chief Financial Officer **TOM VALORE**
LPL Financial Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBIN BENITEZ - The Wave Magazine
DAVID BURT - TEK Team Xtreme
ALAN HUANG - Action Coach
SCOTT JENG - HSBC Bank
DAVID LIBBY - Century 21 Optima
MARY MASHBURN - Keypoint Credit Union
DENNIS PACHUCKI - Cisco Systems, Inc.
STUART "STU" ROBERSON - Store Inside
NOELLA TABLADILLO - Kaiser Permanente
IRENE WHITESIDE - MeridianVoIP Inc.
GLEN WONG - The Diabetes Society
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...

Police Chief Dennis Graham



Years of experience have taught me that the police department cannot prevent and deter crime without the help of our citizens and businesses. This is why we wish to share our crime prevention Top Ten Tips for use in everyday life. We believe that adherence to these practices will reduce your chances of being victimized. Notice that five of the tips pertain to vehicles. Cars are especially vulnerable; in fact, in 2006, stolen cars and thefts of valuables from cars accounted for approximately 38% of FBI Index crimes in Milpitas.

Top Ten Tips

When warming up your vehicle, do not leave it unattended. When parking your vehicle, do not leave valuables in plain view (GPS devices, laptops or laptop cases, and purses in plain view are especially likely to attract thieves).

- Don't leave car keys in your vehicle.
- At night, park in well-lit areas; if at all possible, garage your car.
- Close and lock all doors and windows when leaving the house or your vehicle.
- While on vacation, have someone you trust pick up the mail and newspapers, or stop these services temporarily.
- Shred all old documents containing personal and financial information instead of just throwing them away.
- Never provide your personal information (birth date, social security number, home address, etc.) online, in person or on the phone to anybody you do not know.
- Do not let contractors or utility service employees (cable, water, phone etc.) inside your house if you did not contact them first or without verifying their identities and credentials.
- Immediately report suspicious vehicles or persons to the police department.

Reporting suspicious events is one of the most important things you can do. Keep in mind that you do not have to be sure that a crime is occurring before you call us. If an occurrence or situation seems unusual or "just not right," and you think it might be related to criminal activity, please call the police department. It's our job to investigate and determine whether the activity is related to crime. And remember, you can always choose to remain anonymous when calling us if you are not comfortable revealing your name. If in doubt, have us check it out!

Before concluding, I want to thank the Chamber for all that you do. As a longtime Milpitan, I know that you encourage and support fellow businesses, and sponsor many community activities. This makes for a safer, more prosperous city, and I look forward to working with you in the future to continue to improve the quality of life in Milpitas.

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce 2007 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.



Sommer
 PRINTING & COPY CENTER

Ara Azizian

Tel: 408.942.8226
 Fax: 408.942.8850
 Pgr: 408.865.7656

88 S. Park Victoria Dr.
 Milpitas, CA 95035



SAF KEEP STORAGE
 BOXES ET AL.

Discount Boxes, Moving Supplies, Shipping, Packaging

ROBERT DULALIA
 Project Manager

1680 S. MAIN STREET
 MILPITAS, CA 95035

PHONE: 408.957.0500
 FAX: 408.719.6300
 e-mail: milpitas@safkeep.com

Huntford
 Printing & Graphics

**BRING THIS AD IN FOR
 10% OFF YOUR NEXT PURCHASE!**

275 Dempsey Rd., Milpitas
 408-957-5000 • fax 408-263-2100 • www.huntford.com



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.

ARBONNE INTERNATIONAL - 1253 Madalen Drive, Milpitas, (408) 458-0810
20% DISCOUNT ON ALL PRODUCTS WWW.SKINOFBEAUTY.MYARBONNE.COM MUST PHONE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT OR EMAIL: RUTHVAN@MYARBONNE.COM

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

AVIS RENT A CAR - 148 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.

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.

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL MILPITAS - 901 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 942-0400
15% OFF LUNCH OR DINNER IN SWAN COURT. 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.

GOLDEN STATE GIFT BASKETS - (408) 945-4321 www.goldenstategiftbaskets.com
CUSTOM GOURMET & THEME GIFT BASKETS DELICIOUS GIFTS FOR MOMS, DADS, AND GRADS! 25% DISCOUNT TO CHAMBER MEMBERS, LET US HELP YOU MAKE YOUR GIFT MORE PERSONAL.

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.

HELLO DESSERTS - 1698 Hostetter Road, Suite I, San Jose (408) 453-5566
15% OFF ALL DESSERTS AND DRINKS, EXCLUDING WHOLE CAKES. PLEASE PRESENT YOUR CHAMBER CARD TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR OFFER.

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.

KUVERA LENDING - Tim Chang, Certified Mortgage Specialist (408) 705-1988
COMPLIMENTARY CREDIT PROTECTION & MORTGAGE CHECKUP—\$299 VALUE CREDIT \$1,095 FOR CLOSING COSTS FOR ALL PURCHASE LOANS.

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, ACUPUNCTURE, ACUPRESSURE, TUINA HERBAL REMEDY, AND CONSULTATION ON YOUR HEALTH. REG. PRICE \$99 M.O.D. \$55.

MARLOWE'S FLOWERS & GIFTS - 1235 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas (408) 262-9191
10% OFF FOR ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS

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

MERIDIANVOIP, INCORPORATED - 1150 N First Street, Suite 120, San Jose (866) 561-8647 Ext. 7700
MILPITAS CHAMBER MEMBERS RECEIVE A TAILOR-DESIGNED DISCOUNT UP TO 25% OFF.

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 FAMILY EYECARE - Dr. Schymeinsky & Dr. Contos, 462 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas (408) 262-4178
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED. 15% DISCOUNT OFF COMPLETE EYE HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, CONTACT LENS FITTINGS, AND EYE GLASSES. FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS (CASH PATIENTS ONLY).

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.

MILPITAS SPINE CENTER - 40 N. Park Victoria Drive #G, Milpitas (408) 942-1122
FREE EXAM & CONSULTATION. \$30 VISITS (CASH PATIENTS), 25% OFF ALL PRODUCTS/SUPPLEMENTS. \$50 ONE-HOUR MASSAGES (FOR ANYONE). VALID FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MILPITASHOSTING.COM - Adam Herbel, President, P.O. Box 360569, Milpitas, CA (408) 942-0424
15% OFF ALL ONE YEAR HOSTING PLANS. CHAMBER MEMBERS ONLY

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.

THE PINES RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER at Beautiful Bass Lake
SPECIAL 10% OFFER OFF OUR REGULAR CHALET PRICING FOR MILPITAS CHAMBER MEMBERS. PLEASE CALL RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT AT 1-800-350-7463 TO OBTAIN DISCOUNT. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE WITH THE CHAMBER.

QUICKDATA MEDIA, INCORPORATED - 228 Ringwood Avenue, San Jose (408) 944-0999
YOUR GRAPHIC TEAM & PRINTING HOUSE 10% OFF UPON PRESENTATION OF CHAMBER MEMBER CARD (MAXIMUM DISCOUNT \$200)

QUINCY'S BAR-B-Q - Johnny Quincy Jones, Owner, 70 N. Main Street (408) 945-7943
10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS.

REAL BEAUTY - 531 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas (408) 941-2192
10% DISCOUNT ON ENTIRE PURCHASE - NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

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
FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OFF THE FIRST MONTH RENT ON SELECTED UNIT SIZES.

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

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.

VERIZON WIRELESS - 172 Ranch Drive, Milpitas, (408) 263-1960.
\$50 OFF ANY PHONE WITH A NEW 2 YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT. PLEASE SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

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

WADDELL & REED/FRED SPICKNALL FINANCIAL ADVISOR, PRUNERYARD TOWER II - 1999 S. Bascom Avenue, Campbell, (408) 963-2884.
*1. COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATIONS FOR ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS
2. MILPITAS CHAMBER MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE 20% ORGANIZATIONAL DISCOUNTS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES.*

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

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

Look for the complete coverage on Celebrate Milpitas in the October issue...

The Chamber Salutes the Sponsors:

Thank You...Thank You...

You made our 7th Annual

“Welcome New Teachers” Reception possible...

Major Sponsors:

Mount Olive Church..Once again we applaud Laurie Anderson, Director of Children’s Ministries and Facilities for Mount Olive Ministries for her diligent efforts to arrange for the 101 Goody Bags, and working with us on the logistics for Mount Olive Ministries beautiful hall. The Student Pastor Chris Ng welcomed the gathering to the gala reception held on August 21.

Commonwealth Central Credit Union: Accolades go to Business Development Specialist Michelle Shepard for ensuring that Commonwealth Central Credit Union was our major sponsor for the event.

Music: MDM Entertainment – Michael Westerman – Michael’s music added that special touch.

Food Sponsors: Thank you to the following businesses that provided delicious food for the reception.

Giorgio’s Italian Food & Pizzeria
Liou’s House Chinese Cuisine
Marie Callendar’s
Outback Steakhouse
Milpitas Chamber of Commerce

The following businesses donated useful items for the Goody Bags, or donated door prizes for the teacher’s drawings. There were 101 Goody Bags filled with Chamber directories, maps, pens, certificates, useful packets, and cups. We want to thank the following businesses again for their generous donations

Andrews & Carlo CPA’s, A Professional Corporation
Calaveras Shell Car Wash
Commonwealth Central Credit Union
Healthworks Chiropractic
KeyPoint Credit Union
Lima Family Cedar Lawn
Milpitas Family Eye Care
Milpitas Fire Department
Milpitas Police Department
The Painting Gourmet
Pro Star Towing
Saf Keep Storage
Staples
Tri-City News

Guest Speakers:

Nicky Wu, Chamber President
Student Pastor Chris Ng, Mount Olive Church
Marsha Grilli, School Board President and Chamber V.P.
Dr. Karl Black Superintendent, Milpitas Unified School District (Video Presentation)
Mayor Jose Esteves, City of Milpitas (Video Presentation)

Committee: Charlene Tsao, Chamber V.P. of International Development, Chamber Staff: Gaye Morando, Exec. Director, and Marilyn Hay, Office Manager, Terry Pennington, Office Volunteer.



Business Development Specialist Michelle Shepard (center) greets at Commonwealth table.



One hundred and one goody bags were presented to the new teachers.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

SEP. 2007

by Frank De Smidt



MILPITAS.....

COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD ON UTILITY RATE INCREASES

The Milpitas City Council took action on the following items at their Tuesday, August 21, 2007 meeting with Vice Mayor Bob Livengood absent: City Attorney Steve Mattis reported there was direction given on the selection process for a new City Attorney and there was nothing to report on labor negotiations with the Milpitas Supervisors Association. Two Public Forum speakers expressed disappointment over the Farmers Market closure by that organization and sought to have it re-open soon at the existing site or a new one. - Approved Community Development Block Grant Funds and adopted an Amendment to the Action Plan for FY 2007-08 to reallocate the \$81,348 for Economic & Social Opportunities (ESO) that had withdrawn its application. Milpitas Parks and Recreation would get \$71,348 and \$10,000 would go to Rebuilding Together. - Accepted the City of Milpitas 2007 Report of Public Health Goals for the Public Water System. - Approved the Entertainment Permit for St. John the Baptist Catholic Church "Autumn Festival" on September 21-23, 2007. - Accepted a report on the screening of KB Homes (Terra Serena) from the County of Santa Clara Elmwood Correctional Facility. - Received Report on Motion Picture Licensing Fees and Procedures regard the screening of films for seniors and teens. - Received a Report of Possible Expansion of US Post Office in Milpitas requested by Councilmember Debbie Giordano. Population determines the need for a new postal location. City staff is in discussion with officials from the US Postal Service. - Reviewed Animal Regulations Ordinance as requested by Councilmember Debbie Giordano. - Approved direct mailing of letter notifying property owners of the City's consideration of **water and sewer rate increases** under Prop 218. The letters describing the 7% water and 4% sewer rate increases along with protest information would be mailed by September 21. The protest hearing is set for Tuesday, November 6. - Approved an Exclusive Negotiations Agreement with Silicon Valley Real Estate I, LLC for the development of a hospital, medical offices and hotel at the intersection of Tasman Drive and I-880 that would be located on city and VTA property. The hospital dedicated to heart surgery and care would house 57 beds and would be owned and operated by a group of nearly 80 local physicians. A 250 room hotel and a 12,000 to 20,000 square foot conference center would complete this project. - Adopted resolutions approving the First Amendment to the Agreement of Purchase and Sale and the Amended and Restated Promissory Note between the City of Milpitas and the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Milpitas. - Adopted Resolutions approving the Annual Investment Policy. - Approved Mayor Esteves' recommendations for appointments/re-appointments to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (1), the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission (1), and the Youth Advisory Commission (2). - Approved the Open Government Subcommit-

tee recommendations for Community Notification for up to 1000 feet and outreach for Planning Review Projects. - Directed Staff to develop more distinctive street name sign alternatives to honor Milpitas Veterans. - Adjusted City Council Meeting Schedule for January 1 and July 2008. The Council voted to cancel the January 1, 2008 meeting and both meetings in July 2008. - Approved Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Milpitas and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for the Calaveras Blvd. Widening Project Study Report.

CELEBRATE MILPITAS!

Celebrate Milpitas held over Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 was a great success bringing in thousands more this year for this annual event. An energized Chamber of Commerce and a supportive City of Milpitas were the forces behind this achievement. Milpitas' own young singing sensation, Manuel Romero and The Hit Men, highlighted the strong entertainment lineup. The festival was larger, had more vendors, artisans, and a wider variety of food selections than before. Added appeal included more children's and family activities. Promotion and marketing efforts brought in KBAY and Comcast as media sponsors to join the Milpitas Post to make Celebrate Milpitas! outstanding in 2007. For more information visit: www.milpitaschamber.com www.celebratemilpitas.com

MILPITAS FARMERS' MARKET CLOSES

John Silveira, Director of the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association, has announced the closing of the Milpitas Farmers' Market at the Ayer Education Center site as of Sunday, August 12, 2007 due to difficulties with traffic, parking, and complaints from neighboring businesses. They are seeking a new "location that will allow the farmers' market to successfully serve the Milpitas community".

COUNCIL BEGINS PROCESS TO INCREASE WATER, SEWER RATES

The Milpitas City Council took action on the following items at their Tuesday, August 7, 2007 meeting: Proclamations: Joe House, former Mayor of Milpitas was honored by Mayor Esteves for his service to Milpitas. The Council asked to have a staff report on the Farmers' Market parking issues at the August 21 Council Meeting due to complaints from nearby residents and merchants. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Gaye Morando, and Chamber President Nicky Wu thanked City Manager Tom Williams, the Council, and Staff for their assistance on extending 2007 Celebrate Milpitas! Art and Wine Festival to Calaveras Blvd. coming on Saturday, August 18 and Sunday August 19. Councilmember Debbie Giordano asked staff for an update on having a second Post Office in Milpitas and a report on the city's Vicious Dog Ordinance. - Approved twelve-month time extension for Apton Plaza, a mixed use development consisting of 93 residential units and commercial retail space located at 230 N. Main Street. - Adopted a Resolution confirming assessments, Weed Abatement Report

and Assessment List for 2007. - Approved the Five-Year 2007-2012 Consolidated Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). - Introduced on a 3-2 vote with Mayor Jose Esteves and Councilmember Althea Polanski opposed Ordinance Amendments to Title VIII of the Milpitas Municipal Code for **2007/08 Water, Recycled Water, and Sewer Rate Adjustments that would increase the average residential water bill by 1.99 per month (7%) and sewer bill by \$1.20 per month (4%)**. These increases are being driven by higher water and sewer related costs to Milpitas. The City Council Subcommittee had recommended a 9% sewer rate increase to pay for additional treatment plant expenses. The Council asked staff to look into selling municipal bonds to cover the cost and keep the sewer rate increases lower. The Council also wants a clear and concise explanation and background information on the new rates included in the Prop 218 mailing to approximately 16,000 property owners along with a sample protest response letter. If more than 50% (over 8000) protest the rates before and at the public hearing the increases would be halted. The Council has the option to reject the rates even if the protests fail to do so. In that event, a new rate schedule or other funding mechanism would have to be studied and presented to the Council for consideration. - Received updates on Roadmap for Service Improvements and approved of request for temporary dedicated building inspector for DR Horton, Inc. - Received a report on the construction status of the new proposed building at 1880 N. Milpitas Blvd., at the Northeast Corner of N. Milpitas Blvd. and Dixon Landing Rd. - Approved progress report and took actions on Library, East Parking Garage, and related projects. City Engineer and Public Works Director Greg Armendirez introduced Project Manager Steve Erickson, who is replacing Mark Rogge. Rogge has accepted a position with the City of Sunnyvale. There will be a Steel Topping Beam Signing ceremony at the library site on Monday, August 13 at 11:30AM. - Approved the City of Milpitas Investment Portfolio Status Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2007. - Denied on a 3-2 vote Mayor Esteves' recommendation for Planning Commission Appointment of William Dan Manassau to fill Commissioner Gunawan Alisantosa's expired position. The majority, Vice Mayor Bob Livengood and councilmembers Armando Gomez and Debbie Giordano, preferred to keep Alisantosa seated on the Commission. - Approved Mayor Esteves' recommendations for Appointments/Re-Appointments to the Citizens Emergency Preparedness Commission (3), Mobile Home Park Rental Review Board (1), and the Sister Cities Commission (3). - Approved recommendation to name the future Milpitas BART Station, three public parks, add three names to the list of potential streets and facilities names list. **(Not included in Final Agenda.....)** and display acknowledgement plaques in the City Hall Lobby. - **(Pulled off agenda by staff)** Approve a One-Year Pilot Project for the installation of Passenger Loading Zones and Sharrows along Escuela Parkway

PAGE 2 - SEPT GOV'T. AFF. REPORT

from Washington Drive to Russell Lane. - Approved Event Proposal for the 2008 Commissioners' Recognition Event. THE CITY COUNCIL HELD A SPECIAL MEETING IN CLOSED SESSION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 14 AT 5:30PM TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF CITY ATTORNEY.

FITNESS 19 DISPLACING TWO SMALL BUSINESSES

The eviction of two Milpitas businesses will make way for a Fitness 19 workout facility in the Parktown Plaza on South Park Victoria Drive. One Hour Martinizing, a dry cleaner, and Jessica's Beauty Salon, both of which had month-to-month leases, have been evicted to combine both stores with an empty lot behind them, to create room for the fitness center. Jessica's Beauty Salon had been at the location for eight years, and One Hour Martinizing had been there longer. Fitness 19 advertises itself as an affordable, family oriented gym. The relatively small lot size will allow for weights and cardio machines.

NEWER, LARGER MILPITAS INDIA COMMUNITY CENTER

The India Community Center was already the biggest cultural and social center of its kind when it opened four years ago in Milpitas. Now, the center, which is sandwiched between Fremont and San Jose, the Bay Area's two densest Indo-American hubs, has moved right next door to bigger - and unquestionably finer - digs. Organizers say the architecturally magnificent building, which officially opened last month, is a testament to Silicon Valley's growing and affluent Indo-American community. The inside of the 40,000-square-foot building at 525 Los Coches St., twice the size of its predecessor, was created by architect Kartik Patel, who also designed Milpitas' Jain temple.

SILICON VALLEY.....

LOCAL NOVEMBER 2007 BALLOT

To slash or hike? Voters in Palo Alto, Los Altos and Gilroy will be asked either to raise or reduce taxes in the November election. But no measure in Santa Clara County is expected to be as controversial as Sunnyvale's library bond measure. Eight school districts and five cities in the county will choose mayors, council members and trustees. The make-up of the races took shape Friday (8-10-07), the deadline for candidates to file papers, except in races where an incumbent is not seeking re-election.

NORTH SAN JOSE TASK FORCE

Led by newly elected District Four Councilman Kansen Chu and Mayor Chuck Reed, the North San Jose Task Force recently formed, and is poised to tackle issues that include parks, schools, community centers and additional retail businesses that impact the area's redevelopment. The task force, comprised of 21 members and overseen by San Jose Redevelopment Agency, includes area property owners, and residential and industrial property developers. The group, according to city reports, is meant to be an active forum for people engaged in North San Jose residential and business communities in preparation of the

North San Jose Neighborhood Master Plan. A kick off for the task force meeting was held at San Jose's Orchard Elementary School on July 25, in which about 60 people attended.

FLEA MARKET TO CLOSE IN 2010

The clock marking the demise of the San Jose Flea Market officially began ticking when the San Jose City Council approved rezoning the 120-acre property on Berryessa Road to allow for a 2,818-home development. After a two-hour discussion, the council voted 10-1 shortly before 1 a.m. to approve the development plan filed by the Bumb family, owners of the Flea Market, with a stipulation that the Flea Market remain open until February 2010. The owners and city officials said that in the meantime, they would jointly seek a new location for a flea market to house the scores of small-business owners who will lose their livelihoods if no replacement is found. Councilman Pete Constant opposed the motion, saying his colleagues were adding too many last-minute requirements on the property owner concerning relocating vendors, green building standards, and affordable housing.

CALIFORNIA.....

CALIFORNIA BUDGET DEADLOCK OVER

Lawmakers resolved their nearly two-month standoff over the state budget, agreeing to a \$145 billion spending plan that met Republican senators' demands for deeper spending cuts and restrictions on environmental lawsuits that they said could slow important road and levee projects. The agreement came amid mounting concerns over millions of dollars in missed payments to nursing homes, community colleges and contractors because the state did not adopt a budget by July 1, the start of the fiscal year. It also frees lawmakers to focus on an array of other issues, such as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's drive to overhaul the state's health care system, in the 3 1/2 weeks left in this year's legislative session.

'JOB KILLERS' BEFORE SENATE

With just weeks remaining before the scheduled end of the legislative year, numerous "job killer" proposals are still moving through the process. Included is a new health care tax on employers, higher construction costs, mandatory pay for strikers, increased employer liability, housing development restrictions, and greater agricultural costs. These bills are being heard in the Senate and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

GOP PLAN TO CAPTURE CALIFORNIA'S ELECTORAL VOTES

A prominent Republican lawyer wants to put a proposal on the California ballot next year that could shake up the 2008 presidential contest, a change Democrats say would rig the election. California awards its cache of 55 electoral votes to the statewide winner in presidential elections — the largest single prize in the nation. But under the proposal, the statewide winner would get only two electoral votes. The rest would be distributed to the winning candidate in each of the state's congressional districts. In effect, that would create 53 races, each with one electoral vote up for grabs. The left-leaning state has voted Democratic in the last four presidential elections. But the change — if it qualifies for one of two

primary ballots next year and is approved by voters — would mean that a Republican would be positioned the following November to snatch 20 or more electoral votes in GOP-leaning districts

WASHINGTON.....

IOWA STRAW POLL WON BY MITT ROMNEY

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won an easy and expected victory in a high-profile Iowa Republican Party Straw Poll on Saturday (8-11-07), claiming nearly twice as many votes as his nearest rival. Romney had been expected to win the test because he spent millions of dollars and months of effort on an event, that was skipped by two of his major rivals, Rudy Guiliani and Sen. John McCain. Romney scored 4,516 votes, or 31.5 percent, to outpace former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee who had 2,587 votes, or 18.1 percent. Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback was third with 2,192 votes, 15.3 percent.

NEW IMMIGRANT EMPLOYEE RULES

In a new effort to crack down on illegal immigrants, federal authorities are expected to announce tough rules this week that would require employers to fire workers who use false Social Security numbers. Officials said the rules would be backed up by stepped-up raids on workplaces across the country that employ illegal immigrants. The plan shocked Bay Area immigrant-rights activists, who cited the contributions of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Employers across the country may have to fire workers with questionable Social Security numbers to avoid getting snagged in a Bush administration crackdown on illegal immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security is expected to make public soon new rules for employers notified when a worker's name or Social Security number is flagged by the Social Security Administration. The rule as drafted requires employers to fire people who cannot be verified as a legal worker and cannot resolve within 90 days why the name or Social Security number on their W-2 does not match the government's database. Employers who do not comply could face fines of \$250 to \$10,000 per illegal worker and incident.

CONGRESS APPROVES NEW ETHICS BILL

Congress sent President Bush a bill aimed at reining in the influence of special interests, completing a long-debated overhaul of ethics and lobbying rules spurred by scandals that rocked Capitol Hill. The measure grew out of a pledge by Democrats to "drain the swamp" after they won majorities in both congressional chambers in last fall's elections. It passed the Senate, 83-14, after clearing the House, 411-8, earlier this week. The legislation would ban lobbyist-paid gifts, limit privately funded travel and double to two years the "cooling off" period that senators must wait after leaving Capitol Hill before they can lobby their former colleagues. For ex-House members, the waiting period remains one year.

For more information and updates visit Frank News at: <http://members.aol.com/frankdsj/franknews.html>

###

CHAMBER ACTIVITIES

Addressing the audience regarding “Youth for Human Rights Week,” Mayor Esteves said “there are many opportunities for residents of Milpitas to support this vital campaign to educate youth about Human Rights.”



Mr. Nicky Wu, our Milpitas Chamber President, at the International Leadership Foundation 2007 Award dinner July 26th, 2007, had received the 2007 Asian Pacific American “Leadership Award” from former Secretary of Transportation Mr. Norman Mineta. The award dinner took place at Washington DC with over 1000 attendance from government and civic and business leaders national wide. The International Leadership Foundation (ILF) is a non-profit organization that promotes the civic awareness, involvement and effectiveness of the Asian Pacific American Community.

Once a year, the ILF promotes and recognizes exemplary contributors to APA community by individuals and organizations. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award honorees include Dr. David Ho, MD, Time Magazine's Man of the year 1996 for his contribution on AIDs research, Mr. Kanwal Rekhi described by Fortune Magazine as the “undisputed Godfather of Silicon Valley”, The other award Honorees include the White House Executive Chef Miss Cristeta Comerford, a 2006 Olympic Bronze Medalist Mr. Toby Dawson and the Winner of Survivor 2006 Cook Islands. These Asian Pacific Americans are indeed successful in their own businesses, and also have made a major contribution and effort to better their communities.

Mayor Esteves Proclaims “Youth for Human Rights” Week

In June Mayor Esteves met with Mary Shuttleworth, President of Youth for Human Rights International, and presented her with a proclamation from the City of Milpitas proclaiming June 9th through June 16th “Youth for Human Rights Week”.

He encouraged the community to work together and raise awareness on the importance of teaching youth human rights.

The event, hosted by the Church of Scientology in San Jose, was attended by members of the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce and members of such groups as the Silicon Valley Conference for Community & Justice and the Silicon Valley NAACP.

Youth for Human Rights International is a California based non-profit corporation. The purpose of Youth for Human Rights International (YHRI) is very simple. It is to teach youth about human rights, specifically the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and inspire them to become advocates for tolerance and peace.

This event was being held as part of the Youth for Human Rights International World Tour 2007. Through the YHRI World Tours of 2004, 2005 and 2006, the President of Youth for Human Rights International, Mary Shuttleworth, travelled to 50 countries where she presented human rights education programs to all, from heads of state to children in orphanages. She also met with United Nations officials from US, to Austria, Korea and to the Philippines as well as mayors and community and religious leaders and most importantly, youth in schools, colleges and universities. To date, these tours have touched the lives of millions, both through direct contact as well as media coverage. YHRI now has 71 chapters and groups around the world.

This year's world tour is travelling to 17 cities in 10 countries, starting in Indonesia, then travelling to South Africa, Congo, Kenya, Spain, Morocco, Italy, Germany, England, Puerto Rico and the United States, reaching San Jose and Milpitas today.



Mayor Jose Esteves presenting the proclamation to Mary Shuttleworth, President of Youth For Human Rights International. From left to right: Ryan Johnson, Administrator Church of Scientology; Dr. Karl Hoffower, President of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights; Darlene Bright, Director Church of Scientology; Joy Botelho, Executive Director of the Church of Scientology and host of the event; and Dennis King, Executive Director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The rest are attendees and staff. New Board member Robin Benitez is in the crowd on the stairs.

MEMBER PROFILE

Chamber Welcomes Hello Desserts!

Hello Desserts!, a deserts only café that serves restaurant-level desserts to the common masses, has joined the Milpitas Chamber. The company, located at 1698 Hostetter Road, Suite 1, in San Jose (Berryessa District), opened in the fall of 2002. Their store hours are Sunday through Thursday, 12:00 Noon to 11:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 12:00 Noon to 12:30 a.m.

Co-owners Hayden M. Ly and Jesse A. Encarnacion, tell us that Hello Desserts was named 2007 Best of Silicon Valley, Best After Hours Eatery by San Jose Mercury News; 2006/2007, Best of Coffee Desserts and Ice Cream, Citysearch Online; 2005 Nominated for Best Desserts in Silicon Valley, Citysearch Online; 2003 Best Restaurant in San Francisco Bay Area – Sing Tao Newspaper.

When Hello Desserts joined the chamber, Jesse enrolled their company in the M.O.D. (Members Offer Discount Program, so be certain to have your chamber card with you to get the 15% discount when you shop at Hello Desserts. If you didn't have an opportunity to visit Hello Dessert's booth at the chamber's Celebrate Milpitas Festival, make that trip over to their cafe to purchase one of their tasty treats. Their desserts are absolutely delicious.

For more information, menu list, or to place an order, call Hello Desserts at 408-453-5566.

Heralding Our New Members

AAMCO Transmissions
Manuel Hollero, President
97 E. Brokaw Rd., Ste. 110
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-945-9510
Auto Parts/Repair/Service

Consumer Resources Network
Anolia O. Facun, Administrator/Forwarder
1313 N. Milpitas Blvd., Suite 210
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-262-1131
Information Resources

Hello Desserts
Jesse A. Encarnacion, Owner
1698 Hostetter Rd, Ste. 1
San Jose, CA 95131
408-453-5566
Restaurant

Nugabest Healthlink Center
Sam Gomez, VP Operations
550 N. Abel St.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-946-9400
Massage Beds-Retail

Proline Golf
Thong Le, Owner
601 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408-262-7388
Retail

Safeway Inc.
Espe Greenwood, Mgr.-Public Affairs
555 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
925-467-2212
Grocery

TTI Staffing Agency
Maggie Espinoza, Office Manager
1096 Pecten Ct.
Milpitas, CA
408-956-8254
Employment Services

VNH Staffing USA Inc.
Joy Perry, Regional Sales Manager
1652 S. Main St.
San Jose, CA 95112
510-551-3844
Employment Services

**Milpitas Host Lions Club
In Partnership with Milpitas Chamber
Present Pro-Speaker Series
Welcome September Speaker...
Naval Aviator, Lt. Tom Federico (ret.)
USS Hornet
September 25th 7:00 p.m.
Omega Restaurant, 90 S. Park Victoria, Milpitas**

Tom Federico was assigned to Attack Squadron 155 at Nas Moffett Field. He spent 1957 and 1958 flying AD Skyraiders off of the USS Hornet and the USS Hancock. Since his retirement he has volunteered as a Docent on the USS Potomac and the USS Hornet. His talk will cover the History of the name Hornet, the two aircraft carriers commissioned USS Hornet and what they accomplished in service to our Country through World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the Space Program. Circle Tuesday, September 25 on your calendar, and plan to attend the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Omega Restaurant located at 90 S. Park Victoria, Milpitas. For more information email mhlions@gmail.com

The speaker for October 23rd will be Michael Cook, Resource Developer, International Rescue Committee (IRC).

continued from page 1

Festiv'ALL is an excellent opportunity for these unique entities to meet, greet and exchange information. Festiv'ALL will also feature multi-cultural food and entertainment!

Festiv'ALL is a celebration of the region's diversity and connectedness. Here is a partial list of some of the associations that make Festiv'ALL Silicon Valley's premiere diversified networking opportunity:

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley
Pacific Neighbors, Inc./San Jose Sister Cities
Black Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley
Chinese American Chamber of Commerce
Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Santa Clara County
Indo-American Chamber of Commerce
Mandarin Business Association
Milpitas Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
(...and many more to come)

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce will have a trade table at the event marketing our products and upcoming events. We encourage you to circle October 15th on your calendar, and plan to attend this great networking event. Members that are interested in attending, please contact the Milpitas Chamber office at (408) 262-2613. The pre-registration fee is \$10.....The entrance fee if paid at the door will be higher, so reserve yours today.

Membership Renewals

Thank You For Your Continued Support...

ONE YEAR...

HD Supply-Retail (Formerly Contract Warehouse)
HD Supply-Tools (Formerly Contract Warehouse)
Worldspring LLC

TWO YEARS...

KM Hair Today
Mr. Brakes

THREE YEARS...

Church of Scientology
El Observador Publications, Incorporated
Pro Line Printing, Incorporated
Thai Stick Catering

FOUR YEARS...

Elegant Tailoring & Bridal

SEVEN YEARS...

Pacific Motor Trucking Company

EIGHT YEARS...

Storage City Milpitas

NINE YEARS...

Darlene Carmen – The Painting Gourmet
Jerry Glass, D.D.S.
Hilton Garden Inn San Jose, Milpitas
Hogan Holmes & USOZ LLP
In-N-Out Burger
Intero Real Estate
LPL Financial Services
Council Member Althea Polanski-City of Milpitas
RE/MAX Executive Group-Debbie Rosetto

TEN YEARS...

Mayor Jose Esteves, City of Milpitas
City of Milpitas Recreation Services

TWELVE YEARS...

Venzon Engineering

THIRTEEN YEARS...

Edgie's Billiards, Incorporated

FIFTEEN YEARS...

Charlene Tsao-Sunlight Management LLC

SEVENTEEN YEARS...

Linear Technology Corporation

TWENTY YEARS...

Milpitas Yellow Pages

TWENTY -THREE YEARS...

Merryhill School (Formerly Nobel Learning Comm. Inc.)

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS...

Beverly Heritage Hotel

TWENTY- SEVEN YEARS...

Pacific Tire Outlet

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS...

Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation

TWENTY NINE YEARS...

Lima Family Mortuary – Cedar Lawn

THIRTY- SEVEN YEARS...

Frank DeSmidt, Associate

CHARTER MEMBERS – 1957 (Celebrating 50 Years of Service)

Milpitas Post

Financial Planning Perspectives

Should You Consider a Health Savings Account?

The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) that went into effect this year made it a bit easier for both employers and their workers and self-employees to obtain Health Savings Accounts, a kind of IRA for health care expenses.

Health savings accounts were created as part of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 but have not been widely popular because they're complicated. Anyone under age 65 who buys a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP), can open an HSA. However, you can still own an HSA and be covered under other types of insurance policies that cover liability, dental, vision and long-term care needs, as long as the same expenses are not covered by both your HSA and the insurance policy.

How do I find a qualified policy? If you're employed, your employer obviously selects a qualified option and makes that available to you. However, for individuals or sole proprietors buying such policies, you need to put in some research to make sure you get the right plan for you. You need to ask if your current insurer has a qualified plan, and there are Web sites you can search for ideas-www.hsainsider.com and www.healthdecisions.org.

Will I automatically qualify for the HSA option at my company? No. Under the new law, employers have the right to offer such plans to those who own 5 percent or less of the company or make less than \$100,000 a year. However, if you are self-employed, there are no income restrictions.

What are the maximum contributions? In 2007, individuals can deposit up to \$2,850 in their HSA, even if the minimum single person deductible of \$1,100 is selected. Insured individuals with family coverage can deposit up to \$5,650, even if the minimum family deductible of \$2,200 is selected. For HSA holders 55 and up, they're allowed to make an extra catch-up deposit each year until the date they enroll in Medicare. In 2007, the maximum allowable catch-up deposit is \$800. This catch-up amount will increase to \$900 in 2008 and will remain at \$1,000 beginning in 2009.

How do I get started? The new law allows employees the one-time opportunity to roll over their existing balances in flexible spending accounts or health reimbursement accounts into an HSA. The new rules also allow a one-time opportunity for an individual to transfer in funds equal to the relevant HSA contribution maximum for the year.

If I find a policy, should I automatically buy it? No. Since this is a tax issue as well as an insurance issue, it makes sense to discuss this decision with your tax adviser or financial planner.

What's the difference between an HSA and a medical flexible spending account (FSA)? One important difference is that HSAs allow balances to be carried forward year-to-year, growing on a tax-free basis as long as they're used for medical expenses. On the other hand, Medical FSAs generally require that the money you contribute each year has to be spent by a particular date (yearend or otherwise) or you'll lose it. But in certain cases, such as when you incur medical expenses early in a year, you can be reimbursed by your FSA without having to fully fund it-so FSAs might be a better deal. Get help from your tax or human resources professional.

Can I have both an HSA and a flexible spending account? It depends. In any one year you may maintain both accounts but each year the FSA must be used up and can't be carried forward. You may want to split your money between both to cover non-qualified expenses under the HSA rules. If your FSA provides for limited reimbursement for items not covered by your health insurance plan (such as dental, vision, or wellneww care), you can use an HSA for items covered by your plan and your FSA for medical expenses that are not. Obviously, double-check this with an expert.

What happens if I need to use my HSA dollars for any non-medical reason before age 65? You'll get hit with additional tax of 10 percent, plus any withdrawals will be taxed at ordinary income tax rates. After age 65, you're free to use the funds for any purpose without penalty, but non-medical withdrawals are still taxable.

This column is produced by the Financial Planning association, the membership organization for the financial planning community, and is provided by Thomas J. Valore, a local member of FPA.



The office is requesting the members to update their records....

Capitola Grille, located at 765 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas, was formerly Lyon's Restaurant JRR LLC. Their General Manager, Jose Ledezma, is proud of their expansive new menu. Although the menu includes the popular selections his loyal customers enjoy, it offers a larger variety of seafood entrees and dessert choices. They also have an extensive Take Out Menu. Although the name has changed on their restaurant, you can always be assured of superior customer service when you dine at Capitola Grille in Milpitas. For more information, call (408) 946-8181.

Entertainment Book 2008

(46 YEARS OF Great Time and Great Savings)

The Entertainment Book 2008 will be available for sale at the Chamber Office the end of August.

Entertainment 2008 is HOT! HOT! HOT!

(Save up to 50%)

The book offers you savings on casual dining, restaurants, fast food, restaurants, entertainment, cruise reservations, car rentals, hotels, and more. Entertainment Books make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

Stop by the Chamber Office at 828 N. Hillview Drive (in the Hillview Office Center) to get your book while supplies last. The price is \$25.00

Remember To Shop Locally

The Milpitas Chamber is Encouraging everyone to Shop and Dine Locally

Support your community, and shop and dine locally. When you shop and dine locally, you keep your tax dollars in Milpitas. Those funds can be used to provide the infrastructure of roads, fire and police services that everyone deserves.



2007 Calendar of Events

September 2007

- 3 LABOR DAY, City and Chamber Offices Closed
- 5 AMBASSADOR MEETING, Chamber Office, 12:00 Noon
- 11 M.U.S.D., School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 MILPITAS CHAMBER WITH OAKLAND A'S, Texas Rangers vs. Oakland A's, 7:05 p.m.
- 17 DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES, Milpitas Rotary/Milpitas Chamber, Embassy Suites Hotel/Rod Diridon, Transportation 12:00 Noon.
- 20 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER, KeyPoint Credit Union, 573 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, 5-7:30 p.m.
- 25 M.U.S.D., School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 RIBBON-CUTTING, Sheraton Hotel, 1801 Barber Lane, Milpitas, 5:30 p.m.

October 2007

- 3 AMBASSADOR MEETING, Chamber Office, 12:00 Noon
- 8 COLUMBUS DAY (Observed)
- 9 M.U.S.D. School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. School Board Room
- 15 FESTIV'ALL, San Jose Museum of Art, 6-9 PM, R.S.V.P. to Milpitas Chamber 262-2613
- 16 NATIONAL BOSS DAY
- 18 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER, Huntford Printing, 275 Dempsey Road, Milpitas, 5-7:30 PM
- 23 PRO SPEAKER SERIES – Milpitas Host Lions, 7:00 p.m., Omega Restaurant, 90 S. Park Victoria
- 23 M.U.S.D. School Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, School Board Room
- 25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7:30 AM, Chamber Office
- 31 HALLOWEEN...Shop Locally for your supplies – Support your Chamber Members.

✓ City Council Meetings

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

✓ Planning Commission Meetings

Second & 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, Sushi Mamoru
138 S. Main Street, 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

PRST STD
US POSTAGE

PAID
MILPITAS, CA
PERMIT NO. 5