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Summer 2006

District 5 e-Gram

315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg 94565

Antioch * Bay Point * Bethel Island * Brentwood * Oakley * Pittsburg

FROM SUPERVISOR FEDERAL D. GLOVER



July Fourth fireworks can be a blast to watch, but ... caution urged

LAST YEAR, a Livermore man died after injuring himself while lighting illegal fireworks during a Livermore block party on the Fourth of July.

The man injured himself after he lit a "mortar-type" explosive that was 3 to 4 inches wide and had been placed in a steel pipe that was welded at an angle on a base, said Livermore police.

Before the man could get out of the way, the device went off in his face. He died that evening. He was 36 years old and a father of three.

As we approach the 4th of July, I'd like to remind East County residents about the danger of fireworks and the use of firearms when celebrating our country's Independence Day.

Contra Costa County is a "fireworks-free-zone"; the sale, possession or use of fireworks of all types and sizes (including Safe & Sane fireworks) are banned in the county (County ordinance 44-2.002). This includes the unincorporated areas as well as the cities.

Deputy Sheriffs on patrol will confiscate all fireworks. Offenders could also face up to \$500 in fines. Possession of dangerous fireworks, like M-80's or cherry bombs, constitute a felony and could result in fines of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment.

The firing of firearms into the air may be common in many countries but that practice is against the law anywhere in Contra Costa County, whether it be in an unincorporated area or a city. Bullets fired into the sky must return to earth and poses a high danger because it can penetrate most roofs and cause damage to property or hit unwary residents.

Look, it's real simple. Bullets follow the law of physics. What goes up must come down.

There have been instances where a bullet returning to earth has gone through the roof of a house and almost hit residents.

An additional danger presents itself, especially in East County where it can get breezy during the summer when the cool night air meets the hot land. A change in wind direction, a simple mistake or a faulty product can ignite a deadly fire in seconds. East County, after a wet winter and extra grass and brush, is seeing hot, dry and windy conditions -- the right combination for accidental fires.

"If we're running around putting out little tiny grass fires, it takes us longer to handle the real emergencies," says Randy Champion, fire investigator for the Contra Costa Fire District.

Even with the inherent dangers, Fourth of July fireworks remain a favorite American pastime simply because people remember playing with them as children and see them as patriotic and fun, Champion said.

"Three hundred sixty-five days a year, we tell them not to play with fire, and then on the Fourth of July, we're shooting things in the air, holding sparklers and everything else."

Fireworks pose a danger and risk to people and property. Statistics show that fireworks injure thousands of people annually. Half of the victims are under 15 years of age.

Instead of setting off fireworks, I encourage people to enjoy the spectacular licensed July 4th fireworks displays in Pittsburg and Antioch.



- Antioch: After its traditional parade in the afternoon, at dusk people will gather at the riverfront for the city's annual Independence Day Rivertown celebration.
- Pittsburg: Preceding the evening fireworks around 9 p.m., at the Pittsburg Marina there will be old-fashioned fun and games, hot dogs, sodas and more.

In addition, on June 24, Oakley will have fireworks celebrating their 7th anniversary as a city and Brentwood's Cornfest will have fireworks on in the evening of July 7.

Everyone, please, have a safe and glorious Fourth of July.



Supervisor Federal D Glover is interviewed by Willie Munroe of ABC/Channel 7 news at a June 16 press conference in front of the Shell Refinery in Martinez.

Training program will help local workers, local industry

A new job training program for high-wage jobs recently received a million dollar grant. .

“Securing this grant is a prime example of why it is important for Contra Costa County, through the Workforce Development Board, be a part of the economic engine by helping workers and employers,” said Supervisor Federal Glover.

As the second most industrialized county in California, Contra Costa is home to four oil refineries, as well as chemical and heavy industrial plants.

These facilities are a vital part of Contra Costa’s diverse economy and a source of high-paying jobs.

Manufacturing sector careers pay more than the median income in Contra Costa County and involve sophisticated skills and know-how.

These workers are highly trained to keep up with the rapid technological changes in the field. They will be earning \$70,000 to \$100,000 annually.

There is a need to give local residents an opportunity to enter careers in the manufacturing industry, said Glover.

Local manufacturing companies are having a difficult time filling job openings due to a lack of highly trained, skilled workers.

The State Energy Training Grant will address that shortage through the Process Technician program based at Los Medanos College.

“The grant will help LMC jump start the program by offering accelerated contract training to prepare skilled, displaced workers, such as airline mechanics, for immediate placement in process technology positions,” said Dan Henry, LMC vice president.

The intensive 20 week program will begin in August and the college will begin offering the full 2-year Associate Degree PTEC program in January 2007, said Henry.

The grant is significant not only for The Dow Chemical Company,” said Alan Ishikawa, spokesman for Dow, “but also the local manufacturing sector and the Contra Costa County economy. It allows us to hire more local talent, versus out-of-state workers who may or may not decide to stay long-term in East County.”

“In the long term, along with other funding sources, this training grant will allow Contra Costa County’s Institute of Industrial Training to use the process tech

program as a model to address the shortage of local skilled workers in other sectors such as in electrical engineering and environmental technology,” said Glover.

For more information about the PTech program, call East Bay Works at 925-671-4500. Applicants should ask for information about the Energy Training Grant.

Board of Supervisors seek uniformity of municipal advisory councils

Since their creation in 1990, Contra Costa County’s Municipal Advisory Councils’ selection process and composition will be standardized this summer because of an ordinance authored by Contra Costa County Supervisors Federal D. Glover and Mary Piepho.

The order was introduced at the June 27 board meeting and will go into effect July 1. It was the result of a six-month review of the county’s MACs, PACs and community service districts.

Subsequent board orders widened the disparity among MACs, making some of the MACs elected councils while others remained appointed. One MAC is a combination of elected and appointed members. Some MACs have five members and others have seven or eight.

Since the first MAC was formed in 1990 to advise the Board of Supervisor on the county’s unincorporated community of Bay Point, 11 others have been added. They have taken various forms and have assumed duties that they were never intended to perform.

MAC members who were elected will be allowed to finish out their terms. When their term ends, successors will be picked by the supervisors.

The study was done at the request of Piepho who after assuming office in January this year noticed the variances among the MACs and sought to improve consistency in the composition, powers, and operations of the County’s municipal advisory councils.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Neighborhood
Watch



**Interested in starting a
[Neighborhood Watch](#)**

program in your community?

How do you start Neighborhood Watch?

Local law enforcement agencies have long encouraged the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups to be their eyes and ears in the community.

It's easy. Select the area to be covered by your Neighborhood Watch block. A block consists of 12 to 20 homes that surround you.

Next contact the local law enforcement unit overseeing your neighborhood. For unincorporated areas, the Office of the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit at **(925) 313-2720** and ask for a Neighborhood Watch packet and set a date for your introductory meeting. You can also [click here](#) and fill out the online form to sign-up for Neighborhood Watch and a Crime Prevention Specialist will contact you.

Once you have received your packet, review the information and share it with your neighbors.

1. Contact all your neighbors and decide on a location for the meeting (preferably within the neighborhood, this builds community ties).
2. Prepare a flyer announcing the date, time and location of the meeting. Offer refreshments or have a potluck in conjunction with it. Let people know what the focus of the meeting will be as well.
3. Take a trusted neighbor or family member with you and visit each of your neighbors to hand out the flyers. Face to face contact generates a much higher attendance than a phone call or just dropping the flyer on the doorstep.
4. For best results, notify your neighbors as soon as the date is set. Then approximately 2-3 days before the meeting try to re-contact your neighbors to remind them of the meeting.

A virtual Neighborhood Watch

The Office of the Sheriff is proud to introduce a new program to better aid communication between our citizens and law enforcement. The new program is **E-Watch and E-Alert**.

By forming an E-Watch group, you can become part of a county-wide network designed to pass information quickly and effectively regarding criminal activity.

For example: If there is a spike in auto burglaries in El Sobrante, the Sheriff's Office will initiate an E-Alert that will go out to all E-Watch members in the El Sobrante area.

The E-Alert will explain the type of activity occurring, where it is occurring and prevention tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim. An E-Alert flyer will be attached to the email for printing and distribution to the entire neighborhood.

We have already conducted test runs of the system with wonderful response from the community. This program allows us to provide information to our Neighborhood/E-Watch groups in real time. The quicker that prevention steps are taken the quicker we can see a reduction in crime.

If you have questions regarding E-Watch and E-Alert programs or to join, send an e-mail to Patricia Pava at: ppava@so.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Fruits and vegetables are always in season

We in Contra Costa County, particularly residents of District 5, live in a land of



bounty. Though much of our agricultural lands have been gobbled up by development, there are still enough farmland to bring locally grown produce to our residents who desire the freshest fruit and vegetables possible.

Support local farmers; buy your fresh fruits and vegetables at East County produce stands. For better health, eat 4 ½ cups of fruits and vegetables daily!

U-Pick farms and orchards where customers can pick their produce straight from the branches or vines, are located throughout East County.

For more information, click onto <http://www.harvest4you.com/>

Shoppers and cooks don't have to drive all the way to the farms to get fresh goods. They can also shop weekly at the nearby farmers' markets:

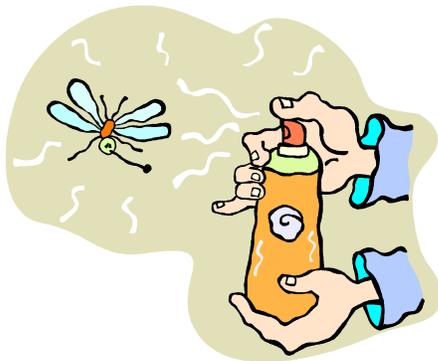
- **Pittsburg:** Railroad and 6th Street, Saturdays (May-Nov) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. EBT accepted here!
 - **Concord:** Todos Santos Plaza, Tuesdays (year round) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursdays(May-Oct) 4 - 8 p.m
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Water, warm weather means more mosquitoes, and possibility of West Nile Virus

SACRAMENTO - Heavy rain and warm weather are perfect ingredients for breeding mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus (WNV), State Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Horton warned today.

"While no predictions can be made on the severity of West Nile virus this season, record rainfall this spring has saturated yards to create perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Horton said. "Californians need to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites by eliminating all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding and applying insect repellent containing DEET."

Horton encouraged the public to remain vigilant and "fight the bite" during an event at the State Capitol to mark WNV Awareness Week, April 24 to 30. WNV was first detected in California four years ago. So far this year, WNV has been detected in 12 birds in Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara and Ventura counties.



In 2005, a total of 935 human WNV infections, including 19 deaths, were reported in the 54 counties that detected WNV activity. Of the 456 horses that also tested positive for WNV, 200 died or were euthanized.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Health officials emphasized that the risk of serious illness to humans is low. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not

experience any illness. However, elderly individuals and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk for serious illness. Individuals with diabetes or hypertension also appear to be more prone to develop more serious complications from WNV, according to research by CDHS' Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory.

Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger included \$12 million in the state budget to supplement the resources of existing mosquito control programs statewide and to expand efforts in areas of the state currently not covered to combat WNV. That investment in equipment and other products to control mosquitoes continues to benefit mosquito control efforts this year.

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) will continue to use a sophisticated geographic information system it began using last year to track regions at elevated risk for WNV. The system is able to produce detailed color maps that identify the locations of birds that succumbed to WNV and indicate with a high degree of accuracy the areas where human WNV illnesses are more likely to occur. The system is determining the areas for enhanced surveillance and control efforts by local agencies.

Horton recommended four simple ways for individuals to protect themselves from WNV:

- Eliminate all standing water buckets, flowerpots, old tires, gutters and other sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding.
- Wear DEET, the most effective insect repellent, picaradin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants if you're going to be out at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Make sure all window screens in the home are in good repair and functional.

SERVING YOU

Serving You spotlights a different county agency and the services it provides for the residents of District 5. This issue, we bring you information the Building Inspection Department.

Building Inspection Department



Carlos Baltodano, Director

The Department provides a variety of building services throughout the County: Plan Check and Engineering services, Building Inspection services, and Code Enforcement services. The Department also provides programs to benefit people throughout the County: Neighborhood Preservation, Residential Rental Inspection, and Weatherization.

The Department's mission statement is to administer building, health and safety standards for the communities of Contra Costa County through public information, plan check, permit and inspection services, and housing improvement

programs with a knowledgeable, dedicated and creative team. Our vision statement is to become the preferred leader in building inspection services by helping customers achieve their construction goals and by enhancing the quality of communities through revitalization of neighborhoods.

The Department was established in 1947 to provide building inspection services to the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. Since that time the Department has undergone many changes both in services and directions. The Department has ventured into contract services to other jurisdictions. For the cities of Clayton, Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, the Department serves as the building inspection department. The Department also provides a variety of building services to the cities of El Cerrito, San Pablo, Hercules, Pittsburg, Walnut Creek, Albany, Antioch and Brentwood.

In 1999, the Department embarked on a two-year process to review and streamline the permit process culminating in a Strategic Plan. The Department involved all the staff in the process and developed the Mission and Vision Statements. The Department also shifted its focus from a more rigid enforcement of life safety codes to a focus on customer service as well as the life safety issues.

The Department continues to find innovative ways to protect the citizens of the county by pursuing programs, training and Ordinances that benefits residents. Some examples are:

- 2000 Ordinance No. 2000-11 – Gas Shut-Off Devices
- 2000 Ordinance No. 2000-35 – Fireplace Ordinance
- 2004 Ordinance No. 2004-27 – Gas Shut-Off Devices
- 2004 Training Staff on the American With Disabilities access laws
- 2005 Ordinance No. 2005-17 – Residential Rental Inspection Program
- 2005 Drafting a Boat Dock ordinance to ensure the safety of Docks

The Department also received the 2004 Award for Excellence from the Board of Supervisors because of its strong customer service approach.

As times change, the Department continues to strive to adapt and improve both the services and the manner in which services are delivered to the residents of the County.

General Information, (925) 646-4108
East County Office, Brentwood, (925) 427-8850

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Report illegal dumping

To report illegal dumping or a spill, call 1-800-NO DUMPING (1-800-663-8674). If you are aware of an emergency and need an immediate response call 911.

For additional information please visit www.cccleanwater.org/contact_us

Volunteer drivers wanted

Meals on Wheels is desperately in need of drivers in the Pittsburg/Antioch areas to deliver meals one day a week from 10:30 a.m. until approximately noon, Monday through Friday only.

The drivers deliver between 10 to 16 hot/cold meals to the frail, disabled, lonely and homebound seniors. The drivers do use their own cars and their own gas for this endeavor. Meals are picked up at Canteen at 1409 North Auto Center Road in Antioch.

To volunteer please contact Lorin Waxman at 1300 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, 94596 or call 925-937-8607, ext. 117.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fourth of July Celebration

July 4, 5-9 p.m. Fireworks at 9 .m.
Pittsburg Marina
Free. Call 473-0700

Independence Day Celebration

July 4 at dusk following parade at 4 p.m.
Fireworks at the Antioch riverfront
Free. 757-6440



11th Scottish Renaissance Festival

Aug. 12 & 13, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
Buchanan Park, Pittsburg
No admission. Call 252-4842

Cornfest

July 7-9. Call for times.
Fireworks on July 7.
Downtown Park, Brentwood.

Call 925-634-3344 or brentwoodcornfest.com

Quality of Life Discussion

July 22

Antioch, Place and time to be determined

Call 925-779-7011

60th Recreation & Park District Anniversary picnic

August 12, All day, Food, drinks, swimming and movie.

Ambrose Park, Leland & Bailey Roads, Bay Point

Free. Call 925-458-2736



Seafood Festival

Sept. 9 & 10, Saturday 10 am-7 pm

and Sunday 10 am – 6 pm

Pittsburg Marina

Food, speedboat races, entertainment

Call 473-0700

East County Economic Summit

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 29

Antioch (Site to be announced)

Call (925) 757-1800

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

ANTIOCH

Antioch Unified School District: 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, district offices, 510 G St. 706-4100.

Antioch Area Public Facilities Financing Agency (Mello-Roos District): 7 p.m., Antioch Unified School District board room, 510 G Street. 776-2030. Meets every other month, first Monday. Call to confirm meeting date.

City Council: 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall, Third and H streets.

Parks and Recreation Commission: 7 p.m., second Thursday, City Hall, Third and H streets. 779-7070, Ext. 0.

BAY POINT

Municipal Advisory Council: 7 p.m., first Tuesday, Ambrose Community Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road. 458-1601.

Ambrose Park and Recreation District, 7 p.m., fourth Tuesday,
Ambrose Center: 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point. 925-458-2457

BETHEL ISLAND

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, 3 p.m., third Thursday,
3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island.

Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m. second Tuesday, BIMID office,
3085 Stone Road.

OAKLEY

City Council: 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, 3231 Main St.,
Oakley. 625-7000.

Liberty Union High School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth
Wednesdays, District Offices, 20 Oak St., Brentwood. 634-2166

Oakley Unified School District, 7 p.m., third Wednesday, District
offices, 91 Mercedes Lane, Oakley, 925-625-0700

Ironhouse Sanitary District: 7:30 p.m., first Tuesday, district offices,
450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley. 625-2279.

Planning Commission: 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, 3231 Main
St. Oakley. 625-7000.

PITTSBURG

City Council: 7 p.m., first and third Mondays, council chamber, third
floor, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave, 925-252-4850.

Planning Commission: 7 p.m., fourth Tuesday, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave.
252-4920.

Pittsburg Unified School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth
Wednesdays, 2000 Railroad Ave.

COUNTY & REGIONAL

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors: 9 a.m., first four Tuesdays,
Room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez.
646-2371.

Delta Diablo Sanitation District: 5:30 p.m., second Wednesday, district
offices, 2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch, 778-4040.

Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission: 1:30 p.m., second Wednesday, room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. 646-4090.

State Route 4 Bypass Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East County Transportation Improvement: second Thursday, second Thursday, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East Contra Costa Fee & Financing Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

Transplan: 6:30 p.m. second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. 925-335-1201.

CONTACT THE SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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