



Photo by Fred McPherson

The Valley Women's Club NEWSLETTER

The Valley Women's Club is dedicated to community action, awareness and leadership in environmental, educational, social, and political concerns which affect the health and welfare of the San Lorenzo Valley and our community.

Dusty Gibson Honored

Community Foundation Good Times Feature

The Community Foundation, supported by The Good Times Weekly, has a monthly feature, Community in Action that will showcase 25 individuals and organizations making significant contributions to their communities in upcoming editions of the Good Times.

Out of 60 nominations recently, the VWC's own Dusty Gibson was chosen to be honored as a young member of a non-profit who is mak-

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Fall 2011

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The 25th Annual
Al Haynes Memorial

River & Road Clean Up

With BBQ Celebration
to Follow – Saturday, 9/17

When Al Haynes had the idea 25 years ago to hold a River clean up, he knew the community would respond and help – and they did. The basic pattern of involving students, families and individuals, keeping recyclables separate from trash, weighing the materials, and enlisting the support of the SLV Water District and the County to haul the materials to the dump, and then celebrating at a BBQ at Highlands Park was established. Al was the Watershed

Analyst for the Water District, and applied for grant money to support the event the first year. Nancy Macy helped out, learned the process, and took over coordination of the event under the auspices of the Valley Women's Club the second year.

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Assembly Member Bill Monning to Speak on the Environment

For the third year, State Assembly Member Bill Monning is setting aside time to come to the SLV to discuss environmental issues impacting us from the point of view of the State Legislature. The Forum, organized by VWC Environmental Committee Members Tai Stills and Mark Becker, will take place at Felton Community Hall on Saturday, October 15th from 3 to 4:40 in the afternoon.

The VWC Environmental Committee is putting together questions/issues that we would like Monning to address in his remarks, along with those things he feels are of interest and concern to us. There will be a long Q&A period where individuals can ask our Assembly Member about issues that concern them.

You are invited to help with the planning, bring finger food, help with set up and clean up, or to attend, bring your questions and your friends.

Growing Proof of the Connection: **Chemicals and Obesity**

Have you ever heard of “obesogens”? They are chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system. It is already known that these are linked to early puberty, impaired immune functions, different types of cancer, birth deformities, and other diseases.

“Now obesity and metabolism are on that list,” according to Bruce Blumberg, a University of California at Irvine professor of developmental and cell biology, who has studied the effect of endocrine disruptors on obesity in mice.

Paula Baillie-Hamilton, an expert on metabolism and environmental toxins at Stirling University in Scotland, was among the first to make the link. She wrote back in 2002 that exposure to these chemicals act as chemical calories, hence the name, “obesogens.”

A recent article in *Grist*, discusses this issue, gives examples of our exposure to these chemicals and how to avoid them. You'll find the link on the VWC website, www.vwcweb.org.

Spare the Air, Your Health and Your Wallet

—with the 2011 Wood Stove Change-Out Program

By Mark Stone, Fifth District Supervisor

With the autumn season right around the corner, it's an ideal time to plan ahead for heating our homes efficiently. Taking steps now will help control your heating costs, help preserve our air quality, and also protect our health and the health of our neighbors.

We have come to realize over the years that there are significant environmental and health impacts associated with traditional wood burning fireplaces and stoves. While healthy people are generally not at risk from smoke-related health problems, people with chronic illnesses are much more susceptible. Wood smoke pollution contains particulate matter, gases, and even toxic compounds. These pollutants can cause or aggravate health effects, including eye, nose, and throat irritation and respiratory disease.

However, EPA-certified wood burning stoves burn more efficiently and cleanly than older models. As a result, much less creosote builds up in your chimney. EPA-certified stoves also release 60% to 80% less smoke up your chimney.

If you're interested in reducing wood smoke pollution in your home and neighborhood, or if you're looking to lower winter-time home heating costs, the following incentive program may be of interest to you.

Starting in September, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (Air District) will once again be sponsoring a program to help property owners replace non-EPA certified wood stoves and to upgrade existing fireplaces with EPA-certified stoves and fireplace inserts. This program, which is a partnership between the County and the Air District, provides financial incentives to help residents change out their old wood stoves with cleaner-burning options, ranging from gas to high-tech wood stoves certified by the EPA.

In order to assist property owners who wish to upgrade to cleaner alternatives, the following discounts will be available

through participating hearth products dealers:

- \$1,250 for San Lorenzo Valley property owners
- \$750 additional discount for qualified low income property owners
- \$250 additional when converting from wood burning to a natural gas, propane or pelletized system

For more information, contact my office (831-454-2200 or mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) or check for program updates on the Air District's website (www.mbuapcd.org).

Recommended Reading

Definition of a Watershed

A *Go Green Column*, written by Ron Duncan and Rob Ketley appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel in May. It has a super, succinct explanation of a watershed and how it works (or doesn't work). [Read and share \(link on vwcweb.org\)](#). And be sure you are making wise decisions about your impact.



Photo by Fred McPherson



Anna Eshoo's Student Advisory Commission:

SLV Students Report on Education Issues

Nearly everyone admits our public education system needs improvement. Representative Anna Eshoo's Santa Cruz County Student Advisory Board – all from San Lorenzo Valley High School, coincidentally – not only identified some key problem areas in education, but spent

the last school year researching potential solutions to those problems. Their reports were presented to Rep. Eshoo as well as to a full house at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers on June 7. In attendance was Christine Padilla, Representative Eshoo's Aide, who mentored the students throughout the year. Congresswoman Eshoo was not able to attend due to illness.

The introduction to the full report states: "The Student Advisory Board was started by Representative Anna Eshoo [in 1993] in order to give students the opportunity to play a role in political activism and gain experience in the field of policymaking and legislation. This unique, exemplary program created by Congresswoman Eshoo, allows students to voice their opinions, while having a direct and meaningful impact on United States policy. Often, young adults feel that they are robbed of the opportunity to affect decisions made at the national level; however, the Student Advisory Board empowers youth to express concerns with the state of our nation, and provide insightful solutions to these concerns.

Granted with this opportunity, we were compelled to select education policy as the overarching topic of our research. As public school students, the health of our state's education system and its relevant federal policies are of vital importance to us. We witness first hand both the strengths and flaws of education policy in California and nationwide, thus we feel both obliged and enthused to contribute to its evolution and improvement."

Six reports were presented, with topics ranging from Learning Disabilities (which included the drafts of two bills which were to be presented to the Congresswoman to take forward for legislative action!), Nutrition, Environmental Education, Improving Public Schools through STEM Education, Teacher Recruitment and Retention, and the DREAM Act. Each report clearly stated the problem, included research and references, and recommended solutions and, in some cases, policy recommendations for Rep. Eshoo to pursue.

When asked why all of the students on the Santa Cruz County Student Advisory Board (a similar Board represents San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties) were from SLV High School, Ms. Padilla said that these students' applications were stronger than

others. She also cited the support given to the students to pursue this program by their teachers, Cindy Martinez (A.P. Government) and Julie Salido (A.P. U.S. History) at San Lorenzo Valley High School.

The students, their future school plans and major areas of study are:

Lara Isaacson – UC San Diego, International Studies

Maxine Orr – American River College – Health

Nettie Mitchell-Brudnick – UC Berkeley, English, International Relations

Miri Becker – SLVHS Senior – High School Advisory Board next year

Hyllery Hershberger – SLVHS Senior – High School Advisory Board next year

Tim Steinberg – U.S. Naval Academy – Aeronautical Engineering

Peter Horton – St. John's University, Santa Fe

Brittany Whitehill – UC Berkeley – Interdisciplinary Studies, International Relations and Human Resources

Applications for the 2011-12 High School Advisory Board will be sent to all high schools early in the new school year and will be posted to Congresswoman Eshoo's [website](#). The filing deadline for last year was October 18, so interested students should check soon with their teachers and/or at the website for this year's deadline.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and to San Lorenzo Valley High School for supporting this important opportunity for personal growth and political engagement.

California Commission on the Status of Women to be Eliminated

Governor Vetoes Commission's Funding

In signing the new State Budget, the Governor exercised his line item veto authority to eliminate the California Commission on the Status of Women later this fiscal year.

By cutting almost half of the Commission's budget, the Commission will only be able to function for part of the current fiscal year. This is an extraordinary loss to the State, since the Commission has had significant impact on legislation and its implementation on a wide range of issues.

For the full language of the Governor's Veto, please go to this [link](#). (scroll to last page)

Find out more about the Commission on the Status of Women: www.women.ca.gov

Redwood Mountain Faire's Success

Rain Reduces Revenue – Non Profits Still Benefit – Fundraising Needed and “Lost & Found”

The really good news is that not even record rains could prevent the Redwood Mountain Faire from making enough to provide funds to twelve local non-profit organizations. Thanks to the hundreds of Faire volunteers, and the support of so many in our community, the 2011 Redwood Mountain Faire was a remarkable success. The artists and crafters and other vendors were there with so many beautiful, creative and interesting items, the music on both stages was absolutely fantastic, the food was delicious and the local beers and wines delightful, so the Faire was great in spite of the weather.

Best of all, when Faire supporters despaired of even covering its expenses, enough people came to enjoy the Faire so that costs were covered and there was \$4,000 to pass on to the Faire's twelve non-profit beneficiaries, based on their participation in the event!!

Start up funds needed... The not so good news is that in order to assure production of the 2012 Faire, since “start-up funds” were depleted, fundraising is necessary.

The first “Save the Faire” event was a great BBQ-Music celebration that took place on Sunday, August 28th. We are very grateful to our featured performers, playing gratis, Sweet Jam and Coffee Zombie Collective. Many thanks as well to Stephen Wyman and Boulder Creek Brewery for great beer, to Steve



Shabry for delicious food, and Eric Hammer for all the BBQ help.

Lost & Found.... There are a passel of umbrellas that were left at the Faire, along with a pair of children's sox and sneakers, reading glasses, a little pink critter toy, a recorder, and other items. Call Nancy at 338-6578 if you are missing something!

Remember, if you want to assure the continuance of the Faire, call Violet Smith (Co-Director) and volunteer to help with upcoming fundraisers, including a Poker Night: 216-6535.

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River & Road Clean Up (cont.)

Each year has been an adventure, and many VWC members became annual volunteers, helping staff the tables, helping at the BBQ, or working all day picking up trash. And hundreds of community members came to help, bringing in over 95,000 pounds of junk over the years. Some years there were a dozen appliances hauled in, another year there was a remarkable collection of electronic discards – then there was the year of the car parts, including an entire VW bug hauled from the River north of Boulder Creek and a dozen tires hauled from along a creek in Felton. Of course an entire house could have been furnished

with chairs, beds, couches and other broken, dirty discards, and a wide variety of sports equipment has been hauled in... And cigarette butts, always cigarette butts.

So, especially this year, your help is needed—to honor Al (who passed away last December), to pick up trash, to celebrate our River and its watershed. The clean up will take place on Saturday, September 17th from 9 am to 3 pm. Following the Clean Up, from 3:30 to 5, the free-for-participants BBQ celebration will take place at Highlands Park down on the deck by the playground. We'll have a special gift for ALL volunteers, prizes for “extra effort,” awards, and memories to share and honors to give.

You can help in many ways –

- Staff the sign-in tables (8:45-12 or 11:45 to 3) in Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond or Felton (Felton afternoon only)
- Help come up with prizes for the “extra effort” awards
- Help with the BBQ – planning, bringing salads or desserts, cooking, set-up, clean-up
- Getting the word out

CALL OR EMAIL NOW TO LET US KNOW YOU CAN PLAN TO HELP! Call Nancy at 345-1555, or email her at nbbm@cruzio.com.

Weblinks

Weblinks, urls, or whatever you call the embedded links to websites can be downright unwieldy in print. Therefore, some web links mentioned in this newsletter are not written out. However, they can be easily accessed and visited via the VWC website. You can also download .pdf versions of the newsletters at the VWC website and click the links within.

Either way, we encourage you to visit our website and learn more about your community—and beyond!

www.vwcweb.org

Recycling Center News

BC Reopens Sundays; Felton Expanding

Due to decreased income, the County of Santa Cruz had to close both the Ben Lomond Transfer Station and the main Buena Vista dump on Sundays. This, of course, impacts the VWC's three recycling centers. Ben Lomond is the busiest of the centers, and Sunday was the busiest day. To help provide alternatives for recyclers, the Boulder Creek site (closed Sundays and Mondays two years ago to reduce costs) has re-opened on Sundays. We hope to expand the Sunday hours in Felton to match the rest of the week.

Another type of expansion is underway in Felton. The Public Works Department has agreed to allow the Felton center to expand to the Gushee corner. Expansion will provide space for

another drop box so that the aluminum cans and the plastics can be stored and transported separately. And, most exciting for the VWC itself, there will be space for an office trailer so that the recycling centers and the VWC will have an office and mailing address. Currently the Director and Manager work from their homes, and have for over twenty years, and the Director's address is the recycling centers mailing address. Having an office will provide storage space as well, a significant benefit when seven to ten years of records must be saved.

Expanding the Felton site entails County permits and infrastructure improvements (fencing, grading, paving), so it will take a while. We'll keep you posted.

Local Happenings

Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center

The Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center will be hosting the 10th annual Ceram-A-Rama the weekend of September 16th – 18th. It promises to be a weekend full of fun, including movies, workshops and contests, celebrating all things Ceramic.

It kicks off with a potluck/movie night on the 16th with an animated film by guest artist Wesley Anderegg.

For the ceramics aficionados, on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wesley will be sharing his diverse talents with a limited audience. Then, on Sunday, it's time for the CERAM-A-RAMA! This is a FREE event that includes demonstrations by local artists on a wide range of topics such as throwing clay on the wheel, trying your hand at Raku, or making tiles and other sculptural pieces.

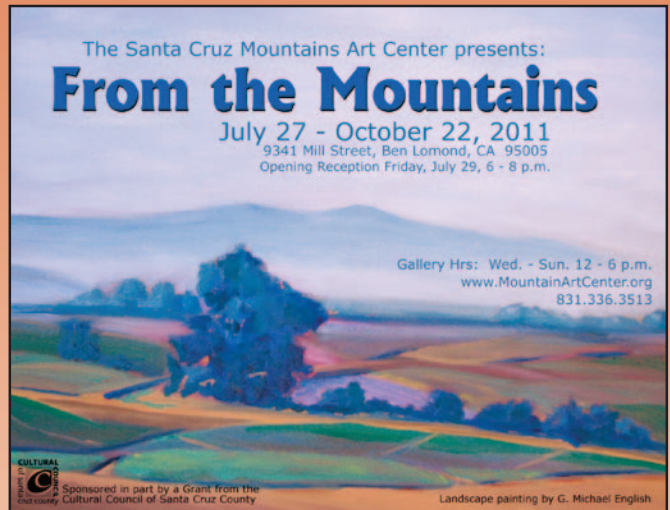
Phoenix Ceramics is donating the clay for this event and many of the beautiful bowls created that day will be donated to the annual Empty Bowls charity event raising much needed money to feed the hungry in our community.

Mountain Community Theater

Mountain Community Theater has 3 exciting shows coming up between now and the end of the year. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students and you can buy tickets online at <http://www.mctshows.org/tickets.html>.

- **Duets of Broadway VI — A Dinner Fundraiser:** Directed by Greg Ferrar, September 17th
- **Robert Louis Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde** (The Play): Directed by Miguel Reyna, October 7th – 22nd
- **Our Town:** Directed by Peter Gelblum, December 2nd – 18th

All 3 plays are being performed at Park Hall in Ben Lomond.



Model Train Exhibit at the SLV Museum

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum in Boulder Creek will be hosting a special exhibition of model trains all during the month of September.

As part of the special exhibit, your family could win a complete model train set. The museum is selling raffle tickets for a drawing for an N-scale Jupiter 4-4-0 locomotive, tender, carriages, track, power pack and speed controller.

In other museum news, there was a ceremony and BBQ on August 20th when the building that houses the museum was honored by E Clampus Vitus, a fraternal organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Western heritage. The Clampers presented the museum with a plaque describing the history of the building and containing a time capsule filled with business cards of local people and businesses. If you would like to check it out, the plaque is now mounted on a pedestal in front of the museum.

Environmental Activists Give Presentations to the VWC Board



Photo by Fred McPherson

The VWC Board had two fascinating guests make presentations at its July meeting.

Inspired by his botanist father, John Olmsted's pioneering efforts in environmental protection for state park lands, Alden Olmsted has launched a fundraising campaign aimed at raising public awareness of the closure of many state parks. Specifically, he has been asking non-profits to sponsor a "bucket" for dollar (or more) donations which had raised \$10,000 by mid-July. As the VWC doesn't have a permanent location, the board suggested that he contact the Mountain Parks Foundation.

Alden is also a filmmaker and has produced a biography of his father which is scheduled to be screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival in October. Board member Laura Whaley is also trying to work out a date to screen it at the Boulder Creek Library.

At the same board meeting, Kristen Manyrivers, an experienced environmental educator, described her latest project called "Collaboration for Green Schools." She is in the process of seeking funding for a pilot project within the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara county school systems. Her project would apply the principles of permaculture to make schools clean and green. Permaculture is an approach to designing human settlements and agricultural systems that are modeled on the relationships found in natural ecologies. According to Manyrivers, Collaboration for Green Schools would provide comprehensive design and implementation — complete project management, as well as help with obtaining funding from federal and state sources.

Lapsed VWC Membership

Last year the VWC switched from a January 1st due date for all members' annual dues to having them fall due during the calendar month when people joined as members.

The problem is that most members are not aware of that change and we have not done a very good job of notifying people about their annual dues.

So, over the summer, the board divided up the list of lapsed members and called or emailed them to let them know how much we would like to keep them as active members of the Valley Women's Club.

If you are unsure about whether your VWC membership is current, please get in touch with Board Member Jim Coffis (336-8812 or jcoffis@gmail.com).

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Dusty Gibson Honored (cont.)

ing difference. We all know Dusty for her involvement in the VWC Board, the Environmental Committee (including the River & Road Clean-up and a two-year series of environmental programs for young children at the BC Rec Hall), and the Education Committee. The Community Foundation is honoring her for an important project she initiated with the Education Committee. Several years ago Dusty learned that almost 50% of incoming kindergarteners did not have the skills needed to begin school; she surveyed local teachers to see what could be done to help them.

So, she is being honored for improving the lives of hundreds of SLV youngsters by implementing the "Ready for School Bags Project." The Project was Dusty's idea four years ago and, with the help of VWC Education Committee members Donna Ziel and Vince Waskell, it has provided each incoming kindergartener with a bag of materials to help make sure her or she is ready for school. For several years Dusty applied for grant monies to help cover the expenses for the bags, books and other materials, and sought donations of the items. From books to scissors, the items in the bags provide both the child and the parents with items that, when used, assure improved readiness. Distributing the bags is always a wonderful event, seeing each child's face light up with pleasure – and being honored by the community for helping our children is icing on the cake. Congratulations and thanks to Dusty.



by Rachael Bachrach

BOARD NEWS



Photo by Fred McPherson

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Donna Ziel zield43@yahoo.com • 336-5043

Board Members' Committee Positions

Education Committee

Donna Ziel, Chair
 Jody Bruce
 Sheila DeLany
 Dusty Gipson
 Michele Mosher
 Vince Waskell

Women's Issues Committee

Sheila DeLany, Chair
 Donna Ziel
 Karen Burman
 Dixie Mitchell-Clow

Recycling Center Advisory Committee

Nancy Gerdt, Co-Chair
 Dixie Mitchell-Chow, Co-Chair
 Michele Mosher
 Nancy Macy

Environmental Committee

Nancy Macy, Chair
 Karen Burman
 Dusty Gipson

Fund Development Committee

Mary Hammer, Chair
 Nancy Gerdt
 Michele Mosher

Publicity Committee

Lynn McKibbin, Chair
 Dixie Mitchell-Clow
 Laura Whaley

Nomination Committee

Michele Mosher, Chair
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The Valley Women's Club

PURPOSE: Dedicated to community action, awareness and leadership in environmental, educational, social and political concerns that affect the health and welfare of the San Lorenzo Valley.

COMPOSITION: This organization shall be nonprofit and open to the public. The Board of Directors shall have not less than five and not more than fifteen members.

MEETINGS: Meetings of the Board of Directors take place the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM, at The Satellite, 6265 Hwy. 9, Felton. Meetings are open to the public. Please contact President **Vince Waskell** with agenda items (335-3130), and Nancy Gerdt with membership questions (335-4249). You are encouraged to attend the Environmental Committee meeting, held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM, at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Hwy 9, Felton; call 338-1728 for information and to confirm the meeting date, in case of changes.

DUES: \$25.00 a year for individual and family memberships; \$15 students and seniors; \$200 lifetime membership. Includes quarterly Newsletter subscription. VWC mailing address: PO Box 574, Ben Lomond 95005. Recycling Centers' mailing address: 15485 Bear Creek Rd., Boulder Creek 95006. Website: www.vwcweb.org.

CALENDAR

See the full calendar for 2011 at www.vwcweb.org

SEPTEMBER

- 10 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, 10:30, Henry Cowell Park Gift Shop Meeting Room
- 10 **Hammer Marcum Nominations Due !!**
- 13 **Board Meeting**, Satellite Center, Felton, 6:30 pm
- 17 **Annual Al Haynes Memorial River & Road Clean Up** 9-3; BBQ Celebration at Highlands 3:30-5. Info: 338-1728

OCTOBER

- 1 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, 10:30, Henry Cowell Park Gift Shop Meeting Room
- 11 **Board Meeting**, Satellite Center, Felton, 6:30 pm
- 15 **Assembly Member Bill Monning discusses Environmental Issues**. 3-4:30, Felton Community Hall Info: 338-1728
- 23 **Hammer Marcum Award Celebration** - 1:30-3:30, Highlands Park Senior Center Info: 338-6578

NOVEMBER

- 5 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, 10:30, Henry Cowell Park Gift Shop Meeting Room
- 8 **Board Meeting**, Satellite Center, Felton, 6:30 pm
- 15 **Nominations due for VWC Board Elections**

DECEMBER

- TBA **Ballots sent for VWC Board Elections and Renewal for 2012**
- 3 **Environmental Committee Meeting**, 10:30, Henry Cowell Park Gift Shop Meeting Room
- 13 **Board Meeting**, Satellite Center, Felton, 6:30 pm

“ IN EVERY COMMUNITY THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.
IN EVERY NATION, THERE ARE WOUNDS TO HEAL.
IN EVERY HEART THERE IS THE POWER TO DO IT. ”

—Marianne Williamson

The Valley Women's Club

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Upcoming Events

September 17, 2011

The 25th Annual Al Haynes Memorial
River & Road Clean Up

October 23, 2011

Hammer-Marcum Awards

Your Chance to Honor a Valuable Volunteer

NOMINATION FORM ENCLOSED
Due September 10!