



Cupertino



Community  
Tree lighting

Sunday, December 7, at 6 p.m.

at the

Quinlan Community Center



The event will feature a community sing-along and Santa Claus arriving in a fire truck with candy canes for everyone. This event is open to all Cupertino residents.

Participants are asked to bring canned goods or a new toy to the tree-lighting ceremony. Items will be donated to Cupertino Community Services and distributed this holiday season.



This event takes place mostly inside.

Cupertino Parks and Recreation Department 408-777-3120

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## Cupertino Scene

The *Cupertino Scene* is published monthly, except in August, and distributed to all residents and businesses in the city. Information may be submitted via e-mail to [rickk@cupertino.org](mailto:rickk@cupertino.org). Questions may be directed to the Public Information Office at City Hall, 777-3262. Deadline is the first Wednesday of the month for the next month's issue.

## Cupertino Temporary Library is Open



### New Library Hours

Monday	12 to 9
Tuesday	12 to 9
Wednesday	10 to 9
Thursday	10 to 9
Friday	10 to 6
Saturday	10 to 6
Sunday	1 to 5

The Cupertino Temporary Library is located at 10441 Bandle Drive, one block west of De Anza Boulevard between Lazaneo and Mariani. Parking / Entrance at the back of the building.



### Library telephone numbers are:

General Library Number	408-446-1677
Accounts, Billing	800-286-1991
Dial-in Catalog	877-471-3349
TeleCirc	800-471-0991

The library has a Web Catalog at <http://webpac.santadaracountylib.org/>, as well as a Telnet Catalog at <telnet://library.santaclaracountylib.org>, and a Dial-in Catalog.

### Bookmark these library web addresses:

Santa Clara County Library Web Site: <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org>; Teen Page Web Site: <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/teen>; Kids Page Web Site: <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/kids>.

Enjoy holiday stories at our regular storytimes,

**December 8 through December 19.**  
**There will be no storytimes December 22 to January 2, 2004.**

### **Children's Storytimes**

Bedtime Storytime (age 3 years and up)

Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Toddler Storytime (ages 2-1/2 to 3-1/2)

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Twos Storytime (ages 1-1/2 to 2-1/2)

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

### **Parent-Child Catalog/Internet Classes**

Parents of schoolchildren may schedule appointments with a children's librarian for either introductory Internet (exploring web sites for children) or library catalog instruction. The classes are open to parents alone or with their children. To schedule an appointment, call 408-446-1677, ext. 3310.

### **Teen Database Classes**

Database instruction for teens, thirteen to nineteen, is available at the library by appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment to learn about the library's subscription databases please call the Reference Desk at 408-446-1677.

### **Internet Basics for Adults**

Basic Internet classes for adults are held at the library every Saturday, 10 to 10:30 a.m. These drop-in classes are limited to five participants and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must be able to use a computer keyboard and mouse. If interested, come to the Adult Reference desk at 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

### **Internet Classes in Mandarin**

Beginning classes on how to use the Internet are available in Mandarin, by appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the library's Reference Desk at 408-446-1677.

### **Bestseller Collection**

Funded by the Friends of the Cupertino Library, the Bestseller Collection is a special browsing collection designed to make it easier than ever to find a bestseller on the library shelf when you visit the library. The books are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **ECO News**

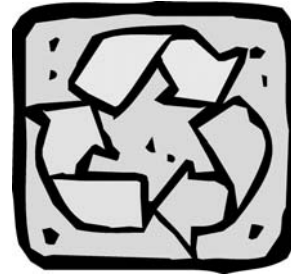
*By Pamela Ledesma*

### **Correction**

The Water District's low-flow toilet program, that was discussed in the November Scene, has been discontinued.

### **Recycling During the Holidays**

A lot of trash is produced during the holiday season. Here, are some recycling and garbage reminders:



**Christmas Trees:** Christmas trees can be processed into compost. They will be collected at

homes in Cupertino on regular recycling days from Jan. 2 through Jan. 16. Trees will be picked up at apartment and condominium complexes during the same period. Managers should call when the complex is ready for tree pick-up: 725-4020. All complexes will be visited by Jan. 16. Trees should be put out by 6 a.m., cut into 4-foot lengths, with all decorations and stands removed. Flocked trees will be accepted for composting.

**Corrugated Cardboard:** Corrugated cardboard can be recycled at the curb on regular recycling days. Residents living in apartments or condominiums should ask managers where cardboard is collected on-site. Boxes must be flattened and cut into 3-foot by 3-foot pieces. While it is not necessary to tie pieces with string, bundling makes handling easier for recycling truck drivers. If desired, large quantities can be taken to the Sunnyvale Recycling Center at the north end of Borregas Ave.

**Styrofoam:** Remember that we can now accept blocks of styrofoam, placed in clear plastic bags in your can and bottle bin, or next to it. While we are not accepting styrofoam "peanuts" for recycling, they are accepted at Postal Annex in the Oaks Shopping Center (Stevens Creek @ Mary Ave.)

Continued on page 6

## Sports Center Job Opportunities

The city of Cupertino Sports Center is now accepting resumes for certified fitness instructors and personal trainers.

The Sports Center is currently closed for renovations and is expected to reopen early Winter 2004. Resumes for contractors will be accepted until December 12, 2003. Please send resumes to: Cupertino Sports Center,

Colleen Manning, 21111 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino CA 95014. Fax # 408-777-3164. For more information please call 408-777-3160.



program, personal training for individuals and groups, racquetball, improved locker room facilities, and a teen center. The fitness center will include Cybex weight stations, free weights and an assortment of Life Fitness equipment including bikes, tread-

mills, stair climbers and elliptical trainers. The facility will have a brand new multi purpose room, which will be available for basketball, badminton, table tennis and a variety of fitness classes for all levels.

The Cupertino Sports Center Grand Opening will be on Saturday January 10, 2004 at 10 a.m. The day will be filled with fun and interactive fitness activities for all. Throughout the day we will offer free

## Teen Center Employment

Are you interested in working with teens? The city of Cupertino is opening a teen center and needs fun, creative staff who are interested in working evenings and weekends. If you are interested, please call Kim Frey at 408-777-3120 for more information.

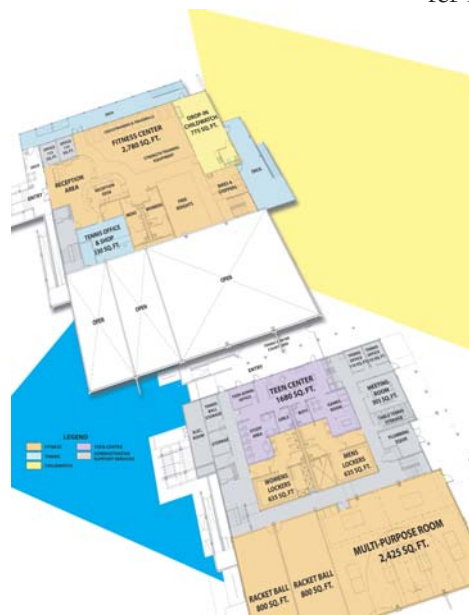
## Teen Center Needs

The city of Cupertino is pleased to announce that the new Teen Center will open in early January. The city is looking for donations, such as a working "XBox" and games, and/or "Playstation 2" games with a Teen Rating or below, music CD's or DVD's. If you have any of these items or other items that would be beneficial to the new teen center, then please contact Kim Frey at 777-3120.

## Sports Center Grand Opening

January 10, 2004, 10 a.m.  
21111 Stevens Creek Boulevard  
Cupertino CA 95014

The Cupertino Sports Center is proud to announce the Grand Opening of the remodeled fitness center on January 10, 2004. The new facility will offer a brand new child watch



fitness classes, drop in basketball, badminton, table tennis, child watch tours and tennis tournaments. Personal trainers will be available to answer questions and set up consultations. Everyone who attends will be eligible to enter our lottery to win Cupertino Sports Center passes.

Please join us for the Grand Opening on Saturday January 10, 2004 at 10 a.m. For further information, please call the Cupertino Sports Center at 408- 777-3160.

## Commissioners Needed

The city of Cupertino is looking for residents to advise the City Council as commissioners. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2003. Council will conduct interviews beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, January 12 and 13.

Commissioners are interviewed and appointed by the City Council, and may serve a total of two consecutive 4-year terms.

Upcoming commission vacancies include:

- Community Development Block Grant Steering Committee – 4 vacancies**
- Audit Committee – 2 vacancies**
- Housing – 2 vacancies (one Business Representative)**
- Fine Arts – 1 vacancy**
- Parks and Recreation – 2 vacancies**
- Planning – 1 vacancy**
- Public Safety – 3 vacancies**
- Senior – 5 vacancies**
- Telecommunications – 2 vacancies**

All meetings are open to the public. For more information or to apply for a commission, contact the Cupertino City Clerk's Office at 408-777-3223, or visit the city website at [www.cupertino.org](http://www.cupertino.org).

## Breakfast with Santa

Come join Mrs. Claus for her delicious North Pole pancakes that she serves to Santa and his little helpers as they prepare for the holiday season. Visit with Santa Claus, sing some holiday songs and make some holiday crafts during your special holiday morning. Breakfast will be served on Saturday, December 6, 2003, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Quinlan Community Center. Cost is \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Register soon, space is limited. For additional information on this popular family event, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 408-777-3120.

## Cupertino Symphonic Band

The Cupertino Symphonic Band, your own community's music group, will present its annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at Quinlan Community Center, 10185 North Stelling Road, Cupertino. The program will feature

a chorus singing the First Noel and Handel's Halleluiah Chorus plus all the traditional and beloved holiday songs for children and adults. Our talented musicians will be lead by conductors Bob Gomez and Tom Narcisso.

The concert is free. Donations of canned food for Cupertino Community Services will be very welcome, especially during the holidays. Contact the band at 408-725-1757 or visit their website [www.netview.com/csb](http://www.netview.com/csb).

## Marching Together

There's something big happening within our community. We are celebrating our unity with the second annual Cupertino Lunar New Year Unity Parade.

A diverse group in Cupertino has joined together to present a special event. The second annual Lunar New Year Unity Parade will once again bring our community's broad spectrum of cultures together. A parade with marching bands, lion dancers, ethnic performances from around the world, and colorful decorations will greet you along Stelling Road from Jollyman Park to Memorial Park on Saturday, February 28, 2004. At Memorial Park there will be an International Fair featuring spectacular stage performances, ethnic food booths and activities for participants of all ages. More than 10,000 spectators are expected to attend this wonderful event, including people of all ethnicities, ages and backgrounds.

To find out more about ways for you to participate in this wonderful event contact the committee co-chair: Michelle Hu at 996-1267 or [m\\_hu\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:m_hu_2000@yahoo.com). Deadlines are approaching soon: Monday, December 15 is the application deadline for Cultural Booths in the International Fair - contact: Uma Krishnan at 257-8972 or [ukris03@yahoo.com](mailto:ukris03@yahoo.com); for Food Booth Vendors - contact: Naegwen Li at 253-3606, or [naegwenl@yahoo.com](mailto:naegwenl@yahoo.com); and for Performance Groups - contact: Ann Woo at 202-3520, or [annwoo@comcast.net](mailto:annwoo@comcast.net). Tuesday, December 30 is the application deadline for the Parade Teams - contact: Lisa Fischer-Colbrie at 252-7955, or [lkfc1@aol.com](mailto:lkfc1@aol.com).



and other mailing services stores. Call first. Residents who have the new type of “peanuts” made of cornstarch, may stir them into a compost pile or a dirt area and dissolve them in water.

**Wrapping paper:** Gift wrapping paper can be included with other mixed paper for recycling at curbside. Place overflow recyclable paper into a box, and place it next to your recycling bins. (Most apartment and condominium complexes now have mixed paper recycling totes.) Foil and plastic wrapping paper and ribbons and bows cannot be recycled.

**Cans and bottles:** Place a well-labeled recycling bin next to trash containers at parties to make it easy for guests to recycle. (Find a colorful label at the Quinlan Center or download one at [www.cupertino.org/environmental](http://www.cupertino.org/environmental) (click on “Recycle”).



**No limit:** Remember that there is no limit to the amount of recyclables that can be set out on recycling day. (Although, yardwaste should only be set out in your yardwaste toter.) Extra recyclables can be placed in boxes and set next to the full bins.

## Producing Less Waste During the Holidays

Avoid producing unnecessary waste that needs to be recycled or disposed of this holiday season. Make these practices part of your holiday routine:

- package gifts in reusable gift bags
- bring your own bags to the store
- refuse a bag if you're only buying one or two items

## Holiday Garbage Dates

There will be no trash and recycling service on Christmas and New Years Day. Customers that would normally be served on Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1 and 2, will have service one day later than normal.

## Keep Your Car Running and Your Family Safe

Whether it's a weekend ski trip, a family get-together or last-minute shopping, millions of Californians will hit the road this winter. So, it's important for consumers to winterize their vehicles ahead of time to keep their cars running and their families safe. "Winter driving can be hard on cars and a challenge for drivers," said Kathleen Hamilton, Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. "So, drive smart by following a few simple precautions. With some easy steps, Californians can better protect themselves, their passengers and their vehicles." **Winter Safety Kit** – Whether you're heading for the mountains or planning a long road trip, it's a good idea to store a few items in an old duffel bag or backpack in the trunk of your car in case of emergency: o Battery jumper cables o Large flashlight and extra batteries o First aid supplies o Extra blanket and some warm clothing o Battery-powered radio with spare batteries o Basic tool kit (screwdriver, pliers, adjustable wrench) o Bottled water and non-perishable food o Highway safety flares in good condition o Windshield ice scraper o Replacement electrical fuses (check owner's manual for specifics) • **Wiper Blades** – Replace dry and cracked wiper blades and top off the wiper fluid. (Do not use water!) • **Brake Pads and Linings** – Have your brakes checked by a licensed adjuster. Visit the Bureau of Automotive Repair Web site at [www.autorepair.ca.gov](http://www.autorepair.ca.gov) to find a licensed brake station in your area. • **Tires** – Regularly check the air pressure in your tires (including the spare) and inspect them for signs of excessive wear. Uneven or excessive tread wear is an indication that it may be time for rotation or replacement. • In addition to registering and regulating California automotive repair facilities, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) assists consumers with all aspects of automotive repair. For more information on other services, visit BAR's Web site at [www.autorepair.ca.gov](http://www.autorepair.ca.gov) or call the toll-free number at 1-800-952-5210.

## Office of Emergency Services

### Winter Safety Tips

By Leslie Martin

Winter's here. Time for sparkling decorations, a crackling fire, the aroma of hot chocolate on the stove, and gingerbread cookies in the oven. Here are some common-sense reminders to help insure your family enjoys the best of the season in safety.

**Fireplace:** Have your chimney professionally cleaned. Creosote is a flammable wood tar that builds up on the inner walls of your chimney and can ignite. Install a spark-arrester screen on the chimney top to avoid roof fires.

Open the damper before lighting the fire. Never overload the fireplace. Use a fireplace screen or glass door to contain sparks. Discard embers only when they are cold.

**Portable Heaters:** Buy heaters with automatic shut-off features. Keep heaters a minimum of 3 feet from furniture, drapes, other combustibles, and people. Turn off before going to sleep. Unplug when not in use.

**Wiring:** Replace or repair damaged cords immediately. Ensure all cords and appliances are Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) approved. Do not overload electrical outlets, or use extension cords in place of permanent wiring. Use only extension cords that have metal casing with a built-in circuit breaker. Never run extension cords beneath rugs or mattresses.

### Christmas Tree Safety

- Artificial trees are safer and cleaner.
- When buying the real thing, test a cut tree by tapping it against the ground. A freshly cut tree should not lose green needles. Cut 1 inch off the trunk to help absorb water. Leave trees outside until ready to decorate.
  - A tree stand should hold at least 1 gallon of water. Mix a commercial preservative with the water. A 6-foot tree will drink one gallon of water every two days, so check water level daily.
  - To keep trees from tipping, secure with wire.
  - Keep trees away from any heat sources,

such as candles, floor heaters, and fireplaces.

- Use only UL-approved lights, and link no more than 3 strands together. Miniature lights have cool-burning bulbs. Turn off Christmas lights before you sleep, and when you leave home.

- **NEVER BURN A REAL TREE IN THE FIREPLACE.**

Marsha and Al at the Office of Emergency Services wish you a healthy, happy, and *safe* holiday season.

**Special Notes:** If you or anyone in your neighborhood would like to become a walking billboard, we now have official Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) tee shirts! \$10 per shirt. Sizes: Small through XX. Order by phone: (408) 777-3335 or email: oes@cupertino.org. We'll let you know when your orders can be picked up.

Registration for CERT, CPR and First Aid

Registration for all classes will now be handled by Parks and Recreation at (408) 777-3110 or parks@cupertino.org. CERT classes are still free. CPR costs \$15 and First Aid is \$25 — unless you're a CERT graduate (for graduates, call the Office of Emergency Services to register for free classes at (408) 777-3335). Registration forms are also available at the Library, Quinlan Center, and City Hall.

**FREE 2004 Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Session #1**  
(Three Friday Nights, Three Saturday Mornings)

January 16, 23, 30 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 17, 24, 31, 9 a.m. to Noon.

**CPR** February 13, 6:30 to 10 p.m.

**FREE CERT Session #2** March 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Graduation May 1, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**If you do only one thing to prepare this month:** Donate food to Cupertino Community Services and buy some to restock your earthquake supplies.

[LMartin@aol.com](mailto:LMartin@aol.com) is a Cupertino writer and CERT graduate.

## Improve Wireless Connectivity

By Ernest Tsui, Telecommunications  
Commission Chair

How many times have you gotten a ring on your cell phone and answered it and then moved a few inches/feet and gotten disconnected? Tried again a few times and then decided to just use a “land line?”

The reason you get connected better in certain locations in the room is that cellular signals reflect off structures and cause interference patterns that result in significantly

varying power levels. This is exactly analogous to filling up your bathroom sink with water and gently touching the middle of the pool of water and watching as the circular wave emanates from where you touched the water. The wave bounces off the sides of the sink and starts interfering with the other portions of the wave reflecting from other parts of the sink, in a matter of seconds, you have an “interference pattern” that resembles what happens when radio waves bounce off objects and walls in your room. The crests and the troughs either, 1) reinforce each other (resulting in a higher crest – or more signal “power” or a lower trough), or 2) they cancel with each other resulting in no trough or crest (or no signal). The regions where 2) occurs tend to cause disconnects when you are in them and the regions of 1) tend to allow connections due to the increased signal power.

Interfering signals from a wireless basestation that you are not using will also form an interference pattern and thus the ratio of signal to interference can vary widely with location in the room. The degree of sensitivity depends primarily on the wavelength (inverse of the carrier frequency) of the signal being transmitted. The wavelengths



of cellular signals tend to be on the order of 6 inches to a foot so that movements so that interference patterns can vary as close as these lengths and more depending on the reflection geometries.

To improve your reception under these circumstances it's oftentimes better to get nearer to a window or go upstairs since the signal levels generally will have less problems going thru a window (less attenuation) than a wall and if you go upstairs, the signal will generally have to traverse less blockage (trees, houses, etc.) before it hits your antenna. Generally speaking the higher you are the better, up to a point where you start to see many basestations all at once and start getting interfered by them.

Finally, you should call your service provider and report any problems with your cellular connection if you get frequent signal outages in your house that you cannot get any coverage no matter where you move. These calls to provide feedback to your provider are also important to them so that they can be used to improve their service to your neighborhood and to plan the locations of future basestations which can provide better signal levels to your home and neighborhood.

We have provided a list of service provider hotlines for the cellular service basestations that are located within Cupertino.

AT & T Wireless: (800) 462-4463, <http://www.attwireless.com/>

Verizon Wireless: (800) 922-0204, \*611 from your mobile phone, <http://www.verizonwireless.com>

Sprint PCS: 888-211-4727, \*2 TALK from your PCS Phone, <http://www.sprint.com/>

Nextel: 800-639-6111, <http://www.nextel.com>

Cingular Wireless: 866-CINGULAR, <http://www.cingular.com/>

T-Mobile: 800-937-8997, from your T-Mobile phone dial 611, <http://www.t-mobile.com/>

MetroPCS: 888.8 metro 8, dial \*611 from your Metro phone, <http://www.metropcs.com/>







## R1 Ordinance Review

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2004, to consider modifications to the R1 zoning ordinance that affect roughly 10,000 single-family homes in Cupertino.

The City's R1 regulations attempt to allow property owners opportunities to develop their land while protecting neighbors from some of the negative impacts related to new development. To ensure the regulations are equitable, the City would appreciate input from homebuilders and residents.

Please check the City's website in early December of 2003 for more information about this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Gilli, Senior Planner at 408-777-3313 or at [peterg@cupertino.org](mailto:peterg@cupertino.org).

## Quick Professional Training

Beginning this fall, De Anza College's Distance Learning Center is providing the community with another choice: fee-based, not-for-credit online pro-

grams that provide the necessary skills for obtaining professional caliber positions in a short time. The Web-based training is now available in such fields as health care, graphic and Web design, business, travel, network security and Microsoft certificate programs. "The self-paced, fee-based training has several advantages for students who want specific workforce training and do not need to earn college credit for these classes," accord-



ing to Jaci Ward, dean of Distance and Extended Learning.

The following are some of the advantages:

- Students are not tied to an academic quarter because they can begin and complete the online training at any time and finish as rapidly as they wish.
- Students can work from home, work or any preferred location. Furthermore, there are no requirements to visit the campus for orientations or to take tests.



- The average time for course completion is from 12 to 500 hours depending on the depth and breath of the training. Most of the online programs or series of courses take three months to complete, although some can take as long as a year.

To offer the fee-based courses, De Anza has partnered with Gatlin Education Services, a large and successful provider of online career training programs. The college also plans to affiliate with other education services to expand this program.

"We're interested in working with Gatlin because it is well established with a proven track record," said Ward. "Gatlin offers one particularly wonderful feature: Students are assigned subject matter experts who work closely with them throughout the course. They conveniently communicate via e-mail."

Like De Anza's traditional distance learning offerings, these fee-based courses are attractive for busy adults who want a flexible schedule because they juggle family, employment and/or educational responsibilities. Because no state revenue is involved, the fee-based classes start at about \$600 per course.

The college's Distance Learning Center was established more than a quarter of a century ago. In the last academic year, the center served more than 13,000 enrollments through a variety of live televised courses, pre-produced courses broadcast on local cable television, and numerous online courses. For details about the fee-based, not-for-credit online programs, visit the web site at <http://distance.deanza.fhda.edu/nfc>.



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

# Roots

By Gail

*Fretwell Hugger*

## Unexpected Gifts

Every land and culture celebrates holidays and at those times gifts are usually given. I started thinking about gifts a little earlier this year because someone unwittingly gave one that made me smile. It wasn't a gift just for me - it was a sort of present to the neighborhood, though my neighbor, the lady who made it, may not have been thinking of it that way.

It started in October with some bales of hay and pumpkins and dried grasses and a scarecrow figure in front of the house. Nothing scary, just symbols of fall. I liked that. The hay reminded me of all the sweet smelling bales stacked many feet high at Cali's Feed and Grain (where the new Verona Apartments are at the crossroads now). The pumpkins brought to mind all the family farms and gardens that used to produce so bountifully in our beautiful valley. And the scarecrow was a reminder of how hard it was to keep those pesky critters out of the fruits of one's labor and how hard farmers work to feed their families and the rest of us.

Around the beginning of November, the hay bales began to sprout red poinsettias and greenery. The appearance of Christmas symbols before Thanksgiving seemed incongruous at first but in passing it every day, the colorful display was a cheery reminder of both coming holidays. It seemed quite creative. The evergreens symbolize life. In an-

cient times, winter was a cold and frightening time, with little food. Game animals were harder to find and trees were bare of leaves or fruit and the sun gave little warmth. Evergreens were promise of life even when the snow was deep. The custom of displaying evergreens and Christmas trees came to America via European immigrants. Mexico gave us the custom of the beautiful poinsettias and a story to go with them. Sometimes called the "flower of the Holy Night," it represents the Star of Bethlehem. Mexican legend has the poinsettia originate in a miracle. A poor boy, with nothing to offer to Christ at his church, fell on his knees, telling God how much he wanted to give Christ a gift that he has no money to buy. As the boy rises, the first "flower of the Holy Night" appears at his feet. He picks the flaming blooms and lays them as his gift on the altar. In 1829,

the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, brought the flowering plant back home to South Carolina and the lovely flowers have been part of the symbolism of Christmas every since.

Sometime in December, hopefully, the Cypress Hotel will again put a lighted Christmas tree and star on its roof, continuing a tradition begun many years ago by Rosario Cali on top of the grain tower; a gift for our community.

In passing my neighbor one day, I told her that I liked her display. She was thinking about adding some more things. "What do you think?" she said, "maybe a nativity scene?"

Merry Christmas everyone and a wonderful New Year to all.



## Cupertino Cuisine- Sweet Potato

By Hema Kundargi

Like so many of the foods associated with Thanksgiving, from cranberries and chestnuts to the turkey itself, sweet potatoes are packed away, until the next Thanksgiving comes along. Many people eat sweet potatoes only on Thanksgiving, and that's a shame, since these tuberous roots are among the most nutritious foods in the vegetable kingdom. They are loaded with calcium, potassium and vitamins A, and C. Sweet potatoes are often confused with yams, but yams are large, starchy roots grown in Africa and Asia. Yams can grow up to 100 pounds and are rarely available in American supermarkets. Nutritionally, sweet potatoes greatly outweigh yams. Because of the common use of the term "yam," it is acceptable to use this term when referring to sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes contain an enzyme that converts most of its starches into sugars as the potato matures. This sweetness continues to increase during storage and when they are cooked. My mother would often make sweet potato pudding as an after school snack. She would bake the sweet potato until soft, and peel off the skin. She would then mash it with little brown sugar and add a dash of cardamom powder.

Sweet potatoes are sold throughout the year, but are most abundant in the fall and early winter. Many stores feature sweet potatoes around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Select sweet potatoes that are heavy for their size, and buy similar-sized potatoes if you plan to cook them whole, so that the cooking time will be uniform. Choose potatoes that are smooth, hard and free of bruises or decay, which may appear as shriveled or sunken areas or black spots. Even if cut away, a decayed spot may have already imparted an unpleasant flavor to the entire potato. Sweet potatoes will keep for a month or longer if stored at 55°F; if kept at normal room temperature, they should be used within a week of purchase.

Sweet potatoes may be somewhat dirty, especially if bought at a farm stand or a farmers' market. You should brush off any excess dirt before storing, but don't wash the



potatoes until you are ready to cook them, as the moisture will hasten spoilage. . If you're familiar with them only as a fat-loaded, overly sweet Thanksgiving side dish, you'll be amazed at

how much more Sweet Potatoes can be. A great staple to keep on hand in the kitchen, they can be baked, microwaved, steamed, boiled, sautéed or grilled. Enjoy them on their own or in everything from entrees, salads and side dishes to muffins, breads and desserts. Instead of a plain potato, bake or microwave Sweet Potatoes to accompany any type of meat, poultry or fish. Add chunks of Sweet Potatoes to soups, stews and even Chili. Raw Sweet Potatoes can be peeled and grated to add to salads or thinly sliced to star on a vegetable and dip platter. However, you enjoy them, your taste buds and your body will thank you.

My favorite recipe with sweet potato is warm salad, which can be enjoyed by itself.

### **Ratalyache Khees (Sweet potato salad)**

- 2 medium size sweet potato
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 1-teaspoon cumin seeds
- 3-4 green chilies, minced (or as per taste)
- 1/4-cup peanuts (roasted and unsalted)
- 1 tablespoon limejuice
- 3/4 teaspoon salt (or as per taste)
- 1/4 cup cilantro (chopped)

Peel and grate the sweet potato and keep it in water, to prevent it from discoloring. Coarsely crush peanuts with a rolling pin. Mince green chilies. Keep aside. Heat non-stick pan and heat oil. Add cumin seeds and wait until it sizzles. Add green chilies and stir for 20-30 seconds Add grated sweet potato, crushed peanuts, and salt. Stir-fry for 2-3 minutes on medium flame. Finally, add limejuice, cilantro and mix well. Serve piping hot as a snack or wrap it in a tortilla for light lunch.

# Community Calendar

Submit information about clubs and organizations that meet in Cupertino to Linda Lagergren, City of Cupertino, 10300 Torre Ave., Cupertino, 95014, 777-3202. Clubs with asterisks meet more than once monthly. Call the contact number for details.

DEC.	Club/Organization	Time	Location	Phone
<b>1 Mon</b>	American Legion Post 642	8 p.m.	10201 Imperial Ave., #3	374-6392
	AI-ANON Steps for Living* Take off Pounds Sensibly* TOPS	7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	940 S. Stelling Rd. First Baptist Church 10505 Miller Ave.	379-1051 252-2434
	Overeaters Anonymous*	7 p.m.	Union Church	650-327-1649
<b>2 Tues</b>	Alcoholics Anonymous* Women's Group	6:30 p.m.	Redeemer Luth. Church, 940 S. Stelling Rd.	650-903-0321
	AI-ANON Family Group*	5:30 p.m.	Bethel Lutheran Church 10131 Finch Avenue	379-1051
	ToughLove*	7 p.m.	Bethel Lutheran Church	946-7970
	Cupertino Kiwanis* Knights of Columbus 4981*	Noon 8 p.m.	The Blue Pheasant 10201 Imperial Ave., #3	252-3830 243-8462
	Cupertino Men's Service*	Noon	The Blue Pheasant	
<b>3 Wed</b>	AI-ANON Family Group*	7:00 p.m.	940 S. Stelling Road	650-734-5869
	AI-ATEEN*	8:15 p.m.	Redeemer Lutheran Church, 940 S. Stelling	650-292-8897
	Narcotics Anonymous	Noon	St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 20920 McClellan	998-4200
	Cupertino Sanitary Dist*	8 p.m.	20065 Stevens Creek #C	253-7071
	De Anza Optimist Club* Cupertino Optimist Club*	7:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Holder's Restaurant Blue Pheasant	253-4424 255-3212
	Tandem Toastmasters*	Noon	HP, 19333 Vallco Parkway	285-4977
	Cupertino Rotary Club*	Noon	Community Center	920-2224
	Philotesian Rebekah #145 Cup. Symphonic Band*	7:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	Cupertino Odd Fellows Cupertino High School	252-3954 262-0471
	Cross-Cultural Consortium (5Cs) Overeaters Anonymous*	7:00 p.m. 6 p.m.	City Hall Union Church	777-3331 247-8488
<b>4 Thurs</b>	De Anza Lions Club* Cup. Host Lions Club*	6:45 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Holders Country Inn Mariani's Restaurant	253-3219 252-2633
	Northwest Y Service Club*	7 p.m.	Northwest YMCA 20803 Alves Drive	725-8195
	Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service	7:30 p.m.	City Hall	345-8372
	Women's Quilting Group*	9:30 a.m.	West Valley Pres. Church 6191 Bollinger Rd.	253-2984 252-0932
	Connect Club I*	Noon	International House of Pancakes / St. Crk. Blvd.	252-7054
	Connect Club II* Connect Club III*	8 a.m. Noon	Chamber of Commerce Chamber of Commerce	252-7054 252-7054

<b>4 Thurs</b>	Overeaters Anonymous* HP Communicators Toastmasters #4606*	7 p.m. 7:00 a.m.	Union Church HP Cupt. site, Bldg. 46T 19055 Pruneridge Ave.	253-8394 650-691- 8724
<b>5 Fri</b>	Alcoholics Anonymous* Fast Start Group De Anza Kiwanis*	5:00 p.m. 7:15 a.m.	Redeemer Lutheran Church 940 S. Stelling Rd Intl. House of Pancakes	374-8511 973-1456
<b>6 Sat</b>	De Anza Flea Market Organization of Special Needs Families* Overeaters Anonymous*	8 to 4 2 to 4 p.m. 9 a.m.	De Anza College 20920 McClellan Rd. Union Church	864-8946 996-0858 842-0688
<b>8 Mon</b>	Cupertino Odd Fellows*  Fine Arts League	8 p.m.  7 p.m.	20589 Homestead Rd.  Creekside Park	252-3954  253-2230
<b>9 Tues</b>	Southbay Toastmasters*  Sertoma Club*  Poets Society*	6:30 p.m. 7:15 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Tandem Bldg. 251, 10100 N. Tantau, Rm. 1258 1366 S. Saratoga- Sunnyvale Rd. Coffee Society	253-7622 252-2584 255-5293 725-8091
<b>10 Wed</b>	Krazy Dazys Square Dance Club* The Powerful Pens	7 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Collins School 21269 Stevens Creek, Suite 610	245-9156 777-3820
<b>11 Thurs</b>	Quota Service Club* (Aids hearing & speech impaired) Cupertino-West Valley Welcome Club Viewfinders Camcorder Club	Noon 11:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Blue Pheasant  Community Center Cupertino Room	252-8568 257-6136 252-1529 253-9136
<b>12 Fri</b>	Malihini Orchid Society  Cupertino Coin Club	7:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Hewlett-Packard, Oak Rm West Valley Pres. Church	267-3397 253-1232
<b>13 Sat</b>	Daughters of Norway	9:30 a.m.	Sunnyview Retirement Community	255-9828
<b>16 Tues</b>	African Violet Society	12:30 p.m.	Sunnyview Lutheran Home	736-9262
<b>18 Thurs</b>	Toyokawa Sister City  West Valley Republican Women Rolling Hills 4H Club  Embroiders' Guild of America	7:30 p.m. 11:30 a.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m.	City Hall  Monta Vista Recreation Center Sunnyview Lutheran Home	257-7424 252-6312 257-4745 578-5917
<b>23 Tues</b>	Historical Society	6:30 p.m.	Community Center	973-1495

*Deadline for submitting January calendar information is Dec. 3.*

## Council Actions



### City Council

#### Monday, November 3, 2003

Regular meeting of the Cupertino City Council  
Monday, November 3, 2003

Council Members Present: Chang, James, Sandoval, Kwok, Lowenthal. Council Members Absent: None

Acknowledge a fee waiver expenditure of \$9,631.16 for the Cupertino Rotary Club's Oktoberfest that was held on October 11 and 12.

First reading of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cupertino Rezoning Sixty-Eight Parcels to the R1-A Single Family Residential District and Amending Chapter 19.28 of the Municipal Code.

Awarded contract for the Civic Center Audio Visual Equipment and Installation contract to Ceitronics, for a total contract amount of \$810,745.

Accepted \$75,000 from the Cupertino Library Foundation as donated by the Friends of the Cupertino Library.

Adopted a policy embracing demographic diversity.

Authorized the City Manager to execute a \$29,000 contract with Public Resources Management Group (PRM), to conduct a Development Fee Study.

#### Monday, November 17, 2003

Council Members Present: Chang, James, Kwok, Lowenthal. Council Members Absent: Sandoval

The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of Cupertino employee Frank Moyano.

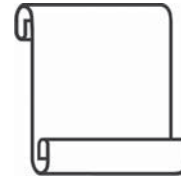
Approved the use permit and conditions as amended to locate a church in an existing, 37,120 square foot office building.

Conducted the first reading of the ordinance regarding Temporary Signs as amended and directed staff to review the ordinance a year after the effective date. The ordinance was amended as follows: Number 8 under letter C was added to section 17.32.010 to read: "The temporary signs in the public right-of-way other than political signs shall be removed by sunset." All open house signs shall be removed by sunset.

Fremont Union High School District (FUHSD) presentation regarding attendance boundaries and projected number of students from new developments.

Approved the allocation of \$25,000.00 from the Civic Center and Library End-of-Project Contingency to Prepare Bids for the Library Shelving and set a study session for January 20 at 5 p.m. to discuss the options for the purchase of the FF&E for the new library as well as funding for the purchase and installation of shelving.

## Agenda Previews



### City Council Meeting Special Meeting

#### Monday, December 1, 5:30 p.m.

Farewell to departing Mayor Michael Chang  
Swearing in of councilmembers Richard Lowenthal and Kris Wang

#### Monday, December 1, 6:45 p.m.

Selection of mayor

#### Monday, December 15, 6:45 p.m.

Approve the minutes from the December 1 City Council meeting

Declare weeds on certain properties a nuisance, setting hearing for Jan 20.

Approve a Use Permit to construct a 107-unit condominium project and 6,450 square feet of new retail space; Approve an exception to the Heart of the City Plan to exceed heights above 36 feet.

Approve a Use Permit to demolish 17,800 square feet of the Oaks Shopping Center and construct 49 townhomes, 2 duet units and to make signage, landscaping and parking improvements to the Oaks Shopping Center.

Approve a contract with the City of San Jose for Animal Services.

Donor tiles policy.

Approve combining the Public Safety and Bicycle and Pedestrian Commissions, and reduce the Fine Arts Commission to 5 members.

### Planning Commission

#### Monday, December 8, 6:45 p.m.

Applicant: Grace Ho/ Cupertino Community Housing for the Disabled. Location: 10092 Bianchi Way. Modification of a use permit (11-U-82) to construct a detached 625 square foot building and ramp at an existing housing development.

Applicant: Chii-Ching Shue (Wong Trust) Location: 10050-10056 Imperial Avenue. Use permit modification (19-U-96) to allow medical use and increase the retail square footage, and to allow shared parking and a parking exception.

Applicant: Leah Hernikl/ Cingular Wireless. Location: 10881 S. Blaney Ave. (Tin Tin Market). Use permit to erect a 50-foot artificial tree and an equipment shelter for wireless phone antennas.

One-year review of modification of a use permit (M-2002-06) to locate a children's playground at the front of the property and extend the hours of operation at 20803 Alves Drive (YMCA).

**Please Note: Agenda items are subject to change. Prior to the meeting, confirm agenda with city clerk, 777-3223. Copies of agendas are available at City Hall on the Thursday preceding council and planning commission meetings.**

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