

CityScene

A newsletter for the citizens of Camarillo

March - April 2008
Volume 14~Number 4

Camarillo City Council

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CityScene is published
bimonthly by the City of
Camarillo. Please address
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Library Offers Programs for Everyone

The Camarillo Library, with its magnificent spacious California mission-inspired architecture and its craftsman-styled interior, has been a vibrant establishment for everyone since opening in March 2007. The Library offers a wide range of services including a collection of over 173,000 items—fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs, audio books, reference books, periodicals, music CDs, magazines and special collections. In addition, a variety of programs are also available for all ages.



Library Entry

For children, the Library offers four story hours a week – “Time for Twos” on **Mondays at 10 a.m.**; “Preschool Story Hours” on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**; and “Family

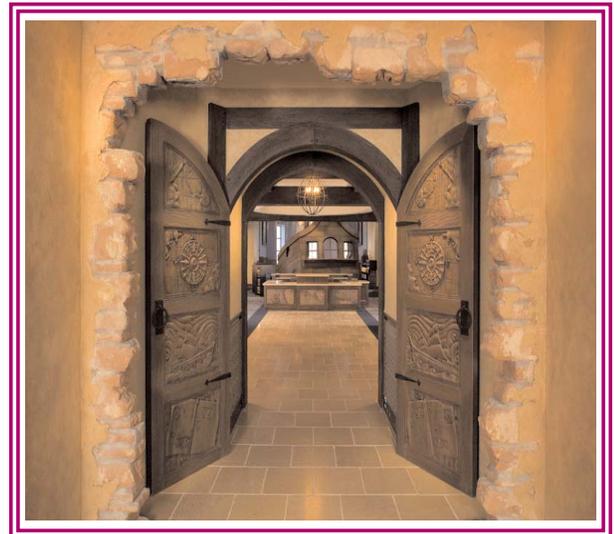
Story Hour” on **Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.** Special **Saturday Programs at 10 a.m.** include Greenway Academy of Dance, **March 8** and Sing Along with Daniel Ashby, **April 12**.

R.L. Lafevers, a fantasy author for teens will be giving a presentation on **March 12** from **4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Max and Ruben’s California Caricatures will present a Teen Animation Drawing Workshop on **April 8, 15 and 22**, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

The Camarillo Library Book Club meets the **second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m.** in the Library Conference Room. Books are selected by the consensus of the group. The selection for **March 11** is Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson.

Susana Elena, Spanish Classical and Flamenco Dancer, will help *celebrate the Library’s first anniversary on March 30 at 2 p.m.* This program with castanets, cape, hat and fan will be great fun for all ages.

For additional information, please call the Camarillo Library at (805) 388-5222 or visit www.vencolibrary.org.



Children’s Entrance

Garbage in Garbage Out

The City of Camarillo appreciates the pride its residents take in keeping Camarillo beautiful. Keeping trash out of our storm drains is important because the City's storm drains empty directly into our creeks and eventually into the ocean, UNTREATED and UNFILTERED. Once in the environment, most of the trash stays in the environment.

Time it takes for Debris to Decompose in the Environment

Glass bottle	1 Million years
Fishing line	600 years
Plastic beverage bottles	450 years
Disposable diapers	450 years
Aluminum can	80-200 years
Foamed plastic buoy	80 years
Rubber boot sole	50-80 years
Foamed plastic cup	50 years
Tin can	50 years
Leather	50 years
Nylon fabric	30-40 years
Plastic film canister	20-30 years
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Cigarette filter	1-5 years
Wool sock	1-5 years
Plywood	1-3 years
Waxed milk carton	3 months
Apple core	2 months
Newspaper	6 weeks
Orange & banana peels	2-5 weeks
Paper towel	2-4 weeks

Source: Windows on our Waters & Pocket Guide to Marine Debris, The Ocean Conservancy © 2003 p. 10

For more tips on pollution prevention, please visit the Community for a Clean Watershed at www.cleanwatershed.org or call the City's Stormwater Coordinator at (805) 383-5659.



Rare Blends Café at Camarillo Library

Location: 4101 Las Posas Road



Mon.-Thur. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Featuring: *Sandwiches, Salads, Pastries, Roastery and Retail Coffees, Gourmet Espressos, Blended Lattes, Loose Leaf and Retail Teas*

Indoor and Outdoor Seating and WiFi.

Solicitors Must Have Permit

All solicitors operating within the City of Camarillo, even those leaving flyers or brochures at residences or businesses, are required to carry a City Solicitation Permit. The City's Business Tax Division issues commercial solicitation permits. To obtain a permit or request more information, please call (805) 388-5330.



Solicitors representing charitable and religious organizations must also carry a permit. These permits are issued by the City Clerk's Office. For additional information, please call (805) 388-5316.

Even with a permit, solicitors may not approach a home or business displaying a "No Solicitors" sign or operate before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. If the solicitor cannot produce a permit or is unusually persistent, residents are asked to call the Camarillo Police Department at (805) 388-5100. If threatened by a solicitor, please call emergency help by dialing 9-1-1.

Help Starts Here

2-1-1 is a free, easy to remember telephone number that connects citizens with important health and human services during times of crisis. 2-1-1 offers access to various services including food, clothing and shelter, physical and mental health resources, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation. 2-1-1 is confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For additional information, please visit www.211ventura.org.

"Las Personas Son La Ciudad"

Spring Cleaning Recycling and Disposal Guide

Time to clean out your garage and your attic. But what should you do with that dingy old chair or mattress and the other clutter gathered during your cleaning spree? Below are some suggestions on several recycling and disposal programs available to residents.

Bulky Item Disposal—Call (805) 647-1414

City of Camarillo refuse customers (those who receive a refuse bill directly from the City) can have two bulky items picked up per year *without an additional charge, by appointment only*. Accepted items include mattresses, appliances, water heaters, furniture, etc., and tree stumps that weigh less than 60 pounds.

For non-City of Camarillo refuse customers, E.J. Harrison & Sons, the City's franchised refuse hauler, will charge \$25 per bulky item, plus handling fees for special handling such as freon removal, Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) recycling and other hard-to-handle items.

Refuse Bin Rental—Call (805) 647-1414

Three cubic yard refuse bins and large roll-off containers may be rented for big cleanup projects. E.J. Harrison & Sons will invoice customers directly for these services. Please contact the Public Works Department at (805) 388-5340 before bins and roll-offs are placed in the street or while your construction permit is in effect for the property.

Hazardous Waste Program—Call (805) 987-0717

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) like paint, solvents, pesticides, pool chemicals, and household cleaners must **NOT** be discarded in your refuse or recycling barrels. The City's HHW drop-off center is open the second consecutive Friday and Saturday of each month by appointment only. Used motor oil and oil filters may be recycled at the drop-off location or State-certified recycling centers. Call 1-800-CLEANUP for locations to the nearest centers.

Backyard Composting "Do the Rot Thing"

Composting, nature's own way of recycling and "Doing the Rot Thing," is the controlled decomposition of organic material such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, and vegetable food waste. Compost is the soil amendment product that results from proper composting.

Whether it's done on-site, at the point of waste generation or on a large scale, composting helps keep the high volume of organic material out of landfills and turns it into a useful product. It's also an excellent source of organic matter that can be used as mulch and can be added to your garden or potted plants as nutrients.

For additional information on how to start composting in your backyard or how to order a partially subsidized compost bin through the City, please call (805) 388-5392 or visit www.ci.camarillo.ca.us.

Universal Waste Program—Call (805) 987-0717

Common batteries such as AA, AAA, C and D cells, button batteries (e.g. hearing aids), fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps and thermometers (sealed glass style), contain toxic chemicals that can cause harm to people, animals and the environment. These wastes must **NOT** be discarded in your refuse or recycling barrels. Please contact the City's household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off center for an appointment. For additional drop-off locations, please visit the City's Web site www.ci.camarillo.ca.us.

Electronic Waste Program—Call (805) 642-9236

All computers, printers, monitors and peripherals, TV's, VCR's, DVD players, fax machines, stereos, radios, cell phones, and microwave ovens must **NOT** be discarded in landfills because they may contain toxic materials. Recycle electronic waste free of charge at Gold Coast



Electronic waste being processed at recycling center.

Recycling, 5275 Colt Street, Ventura, (805) 642-9236. Proof of Camarillo residency is required for free disposal – no appointment required.

The City's "Odds-N-Ends Guide," available on the City's Web site at www.ci.camarillo.ca.us, is an excellent source for disposal or recycling options for many items.

For additional information on universal waste, contact the City's Recycling Coordinator at (805) 388-5392, or log on to the California Integrated Waste Management Board's universal waste Web page: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/Uwaste.



Starting the compost bin.

Plastic Bag Recycling Programs



Return plastic bags to grocery stores.

A new law, Assembly Bill 2449, requires drug stores and grocery stores of at least 10,000 square feet to offer at-store recycling programs for plastic bags.

Although this law took effect July 1, 2007, many Camarillo stores already collected and recycled plastic bags from their customers. As an alternative to plastic bags, some stores now have reusable bags available for purchase, generally

made of light-weight, washable material for convenience. These reusable bags usually come with money-saving incentives, as many stores are offering a discount each time a customer uses a reusable bag in lieu of a paper or plastic carryout bag.

Problems Caused By Plastic Bags:

- Plastic bags have long been a source of litter and debris, often getting caught on fences and in trees.
- Sewers and waterways get clogged with loose plastic bags.
- Plastics bags can take hundreds of years to break down naturally, releasing harmful materials into the soil and water.
- Animals, especially marine wildlife, are injured or die from ingesting or being entangled in plastic bags.

With the passing of AB 2449, you can rid your closets of stored-away plastic bags and reduce the amount of trash in landfills by returning them to your local drug stores or grocery stores for recycling. Please do not put plastic bags in your blue recycling barrel(s).

So, on your next trip to the grocery store, don't forget your shopping list and plastic bags to recycle!

For additional information, please call the City's Recycling Coordinator at (805) 388-5392.

SB 1613 Cellular Phone Legislation

Effective July 1, 2008, Senate Bill 1613 legislation prohibits drivers from using a wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle, unless the phone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free operation and is used in that manner. Drivers who violate the law will face a base fine of \$20 for a first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense.



Senate Bill 1613

While it is always a good idea to use a hands-free device if you must use your cellular phone while driving, a hands-free device while driving does not eliminate the distraction that comes with cell phones. Talking on the phone, dialing and hanging up the phone creates a distraction. However, requiring drivers to use hands-free devices better ensures that drivers have two hands free to place on the wheel while driving.

The law allows drivers to use a wireless telephone for emergency purposes without a hands free device. Drivers of commercial vehicles may use push-to-talk phones until July 1, 2011, and drivers of emergency response vehicles may use a cell phone without a hands-free device.

Upcoming Digital TV Transition

Television stations across the country will be switching from analog to digital television (DTV) on February 17, 2009.

Consumers without cable who have a traditional analog TV will need to purchase a DTV converter box. This is an electronic device that connects to analog televisions and over-the-air antennas to convert the digital signal to analog. Converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 and will be available at most major electronics retail stores.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be issuing coupons for DTV converter boxes in early 2008. Each household can apply for two coupons. The coupons are valued at \$40 each and can be used towards the purchase of the DTV converter box. They must be redeemed within three months.

For more information about the coupon program, please visit www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon.





March 2008

- March 1, 8
15, 22, 29 **CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET**
8 A.M.-NOON, OLD TOWN CAMARILLO, 482-1507
- March 11 **SENIOR EXPO COMMISSION MEETING**
9 A.M., CAMARILLO SENIOR CENTER, 482-4881
- March 14, 15 **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF**
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, 987-0717
- March 27 **PROJECT SENIOR SAFETY FIRST
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION**
11 A.M., CAMARILLO SENIOR CENTER,
PLEASE RSVP, 482-4881

April 2008

- April 5, 12
19, 26 **CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET**
8 A.M.-NOON, OLD TOWN CAMARILLO, 482-1507
- April 7 **MEADOWLARK SERVICE LEAGUE
CHARITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT AND LUNCHEON**
8:30 A.M., VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN CAMARILLO,
PLEASE CALL GWEN SPEAKS, 445-8227
- April 11, 12 **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF**
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, 987-0717
- April 12 **HEALTHY KIDS DAY**
10 A.M. - 2 P.M., CAMARILLO FAMILY YMCA,
3111 VILLAGE AT THE PARK DRIVE, 482-4881
- April 15 **SENIOR EXPO COMMISSION MEETING**
9 A.M., CAMARILLO SENIOR CENTER, 482-4881
- April 26 **CAMARILLO CELTIC FESTIVAL "FREE ADMISSION"**
10 A.M. - 6 P.M., CONSTITUTION PARK, 388-5349

Public Meetings

- March 12, 26
April 9, 23 **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**
5 P.M., CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
601 CARMEN DRIVE, CAMARILLO, CA 93010
- March 4, 18
April 1, 15 **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
7:30 P.M., CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
601 CARMEN DRIVE, CAMARILLO, CA 93010

PVSD Launches New Web site

The Pleasant Valley School District (PVSD) has launched a new Web site (now available at www.pvsd.k12.ca.us). The Web site was launched on January 14 with information that parents, teachers and students will find vital to their success within the community. The District's numerous distinguished schools are featured on the site, along with information on transportation, educational programs, health and safety, childcare, unification, student registration and more.

What you Should Know before you Hire a Contractor

Is the contractor properly licensed? In California, anyone who contracts to perform work that is valued at \$500 or more for materials and labor must hold a current, valid license from the Contractors State License Board in the specialty for which he or she is contracting.

California has 43 different types of trade classifications, including general and specialty contractors. It is always wise to use the "buyer beware" principle to protect yourself when making improvements to your home to avoid problems later on.

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is an excellent source of information for the consumer who wants to make sure the job is done right. Before you sign anything, check the CSLB Web site, www.cslb.ca.gov, or call the Contractors State License Board at 1 (800) 321-CSLB, to make sure the contractor is properly licensed and has workers' compensation insurance.

In addition, all persons conducting business within the City of Camarillo are required to possess a valid business tax certificate (business license) before they start work on your project. To check if your vendor or contractor has registered with the City, ask to see their certificate or call the Business Tax Division at (805) 388-5330.

Every Drop Counts

As you may already know, California's main water sources have been severely impacted by record dry conditions, and we're already using our reserves to supply our everyday water. Our water situation is serious. But here's how you can help.



1. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth and *Save 3 gallons a day.*
2. Shorten your showers by one or two minutes and *save up to five gallons.*
3. Save *20 gallons a day* for every leak you fix.
4. Save between *15 and 50 gallons* each time by only washing full loads of laundry.
5. Talk to your family and friends about conserving water. If everyone does a little, *we all benefit a lot.*

To learn more about how to conserve water outdoors, please visit www.bewaterwise.com.

"Las Personas Son La Ciudad"



City of Camarillo
601 Carmen Drive
Camarillo, California 93010
(805) 388-5307

the City of Camarillo



PRSR STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #21
OXNARD, CA

ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Telephone Directory

City Manager	388-5307	Abandoned Vehicles	388-5150
Cable TV Cust. Service		Airport Noise Complaints	388-4202
Time Warner:	888-892-2253	Animal Regulation	388-4341
Verizon:	888-553-1555	Building & Safety	388-5395
City Cable TV Representative:	388-5349	Camarillo Area Transit (<i>Dial-A-Ride</i>)	988-4228
Economic Development:	388-5349	Camarillo Library	388-5222
Refuse Collection (E.J. Harrison):	647-1414	Graffiti Reports	388-5338
Recycling & Hazardous Waste:	388-5392	Fire Department (<i>non-emergency</i>)	389-9710
City Hazardous Waste Appts.	987-0717	Police Department (<i>non-emergency</i>)	388-5100
City Clerk	388-5316	City Web site	
Finance	388-5320	www.ci.camarillo.ca.us	
Accounts Payable:	388-5352	City e-mail Address	
Business Licenses:	388-5330	cityhall@ci.camarillo.ca.us	
Utility/Customer Service:	388-5325	Camarillo Library	
Community Development	388-5360	www.vencolibrary.org	
Code Enforcement:	383-5660		
Public Works	388-5380		
Streets:	388-5338		
Water:	388-5373		
Engineering:	388-5340		
Traffic:	388-5340		
Sanitation:	388-5332		