

the City of Camarillo

CityScene

A newsletter for the citizens of Camarillo

November - December 2009
Volume 16~Number 2

Camarillo City Council

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Camarillo Christmas Parade: A 48-Year Tradition



The 48th annual Camarillo Christmas Parade, presented by the Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District, will brighten the holiday season on Saturday, December 12, beginning at 11 a.m. Its theme is "A Healthful Holiday" and, fittingly, the Grand Marshals are Helen Philips and Michelle Aguilar, winners of reality TV's *Biggest Loser* in seasons 6 and 7, respectively. Special guests will include Helen's show partner (and daughter), Shanon Thomas, and one of this season's *Biggest Loser* participants, Shay Sorrels. More than 100 parade entrants, including marching bands, beautifully decorated floats, equestrian units, classic cars and fire trucks, are expected to participate in this beloved community tradition. Santa and Mrs. Claus will conclude the parade with their jolly laughter and bright smiles.

The parade route begins at Las Posas and Temple Avenue, traveling west on Las Posas to Carmen Drive. It then follows Carmen south to the Camarillo Community Center at 1605 E. Burnley Street. There, the day's festivities will continue with the third annual Santa's Village Holiday Carnival, offering musical entertainment, kid-friendly attractions, food booths, arts and craft vendors and a visit from Santa Claus. Santa's Village will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To start the day on a musical note, enjoy the band competition, rated in the top 10 in California, beginning at 9 a.m. at the corner of Temple Avenue and Ponderosa Drive.

For more details on all these activities, please call (805) 482-1996, ext. 18, or visit www.pvrpd.org.

"Las Personas Son La Ciudad ~ The People Are The City"

When They Finally Burn Out, Recycle Those CFLs

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans discard more than 670 million mercury-containing Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) each year. But these energy-saving light bulbs must be properly recycled, not simply tossed into the trash or recycling barrel, because they can release dangerous toxins into the environment when broken or damaged.



Recycle waste mercury-containing lamps.

Despite this potential harm, the use of CFLs for general indoor lighting makes good environmental sense because they require significantly less energy than incandescent lamps. They are also more cost-effective, lasting up to ten times longer than the old-fashioned kind of lighting.

Camarillo residents can recycle CFLs free of charge at several locations: Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, 5275 Colt Street, Ventura; Home Depot, 4101 W. Ventura Boulevard; B & B Hardware, 698 Mobil Avenue; and at the City's household hazardous waste drop-off program. For an appointment, please call (805) 987-0717.

Have You Tried Tree-Cycling?

Recycling your Christmas tree is easy! Simply place it (preferably cut into 3-foot lengths) next to your tan yard waste barrel on trash collection day for the two weeks after December 25. Just be sure to first remove all decorative and metal items and plastic tree disposal bags. If you prefer to enjoy your tree well into the New Year, it can still be recycled on a subsequent collection day so long as it is cut to fit inside the yard waste barrel. (Flocked or fire-proofed trees are not recyclable; please cut them in half and place in the green trash barrel.)



Your Christmas tree can live beyond the holidays. Please recycle it.

Another post-holiday "special" allows Camarillo solid waste customers to put out double the weekly amount of solid (green barrel) waste at no extra charge for the two weeks following Christmas. Place your extra trash in bags next to the barrel(s) for free pick-up.

For more information, please call the City's recycling coordinator at (805) 388-5392.

Now Available—Housing Rehabilitation Assistance

Low-interest loans and grants are available for low- and very low-income residents of owner-occupied single family homes and mobile homes. The purpose of the loans and grants is to assist with property repairs and improvements.

Most rehabilitation assistance is in the form of a low-interest loan. Grants are available to extremely low-income residents who do not have the ability to repay the loan. To learn more about this program, please contact Randy Richardson at (805) 388-5369. These funds are limited and the rehabilitation program will be offered until funds are depleted.



For program information and rehabilitation loan applications, please call Comprehensive Housing Services at (714) 841-6610.

Reverse 911: Register Your Cell Phone

The City of Camarillo is connected to the Reverse 911 system, a telephone-based community notification system operated by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). The system automatically broadcasts emergency messages to home and business landlines. Residents who wish to be notified by cell phone, TTY, VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) or e-mail must register for this service—and it's free.

Visit www.countyofventura.org, and double-click on the "Reverse 911" icon to register on-line, or send an e-mail message with your contact information to Reverse911@ventura.org. For more information, or to register by phone, call OES at (805) 648-9283.



"Las Personas Son La Ciudad"

Conservation Still Key to Our Water Future

Despite the recent and welcome few inches of rain, the City Council's summertime declaration of a Stage 1 drought condition in Camarillo remains in effect, requiring a 15% reduction in water use. This restriction does not apply to customers of Camrosa Water District, Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company, Crestview Municipal Water Company or California American Water Company. However, it is everyone's responsibility—and in everyone's best interest—to help achieve this goal by following these important rules:

- Watering landscape between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. is prohibited. Three-week waivers for new landscape are available; please call (805) 388-5373 for details.
- Landscape irrigation is allowed only on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- Washing of hard surfaces, including sidewalks, patios, drive ways and parking lots, is prohibited.

Since mid-September, the City's Water Division staff has been issuing citations for non-compliance with the ordinance. The first violation is a water waste warning, and no penalties are incurred. However, subsequent violations may result in penalties ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, plus installation of a low-flow restrictor at the customer's water meter. View the recently amended Water Conservation Ordinance in its entirety at www.ci.camarillo.ca.us.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Division at (805) 388-5373.

Swine Flu Vaccine Available in Ventura County

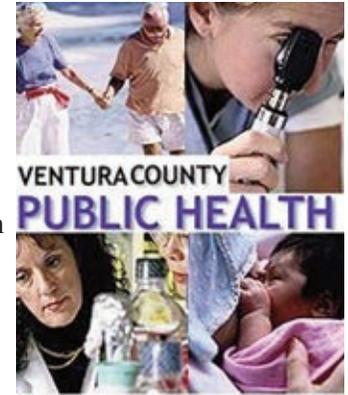
Children 2 to 18 years of age, as well as healthy, non-pregnant women, and infants less than 6 months of age, are now eligible to receive the novel H1N1, or Swine Flu, vaccine. The vaccine is available in Ventura County in a nasal mist and shot form.

When sufficient supplies of the H1N1 vaccine become available over the next few weeks, groups permitted to receive it will expand to include children from 6 months to 24 years of age, pregnant women, households with children under 6 months of age, health care workers and emergency medical personnel with direct patient contact, and those with high-risk medical conditions up to 65 years of age.

People not included in these groups have been shown to be at very low risk for Swine Flu.

If you have any questions about your need to be vaccinated, please contact your physician.

The Swine Flu Vaccine is available to county residents at Ventura County Health Care Agency clinics. Please call the Public Health hotline at (805) 981-5390, or dial 2-1-1, for more information.



2009 Coastal Cleanup Day Volunteers Really Clean Up!

September 19 marked the 25th anniversary of Coastal Cleanup Day, and 630 volunteers celebrated the occasion in Camarillo by removing 2,455 pounds of trash and recyclables from Calleguas Creek and the barranca off of Mission Oaks Park. Their efforts not only beautified the landscape, they kept this unsightly debris from traveling along our waterways to the ocean, where it can cause significant damage to the marine ecosystem. These environmental saviors were also gathering data as they collected everything from diapers to building materials, providing useful statistics about problematic waste. The most-littered items retrieved this year were cigarette butts (16%), food wrappers/containers (17%) and plastic bags (10%). These man-made pollutants can take anywhere from a few months to 20 years to biodegrade, posing a long-lasting threat to marine life, not to mention marring the view.

The Camarillo event was part of a statewide effort sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Preliminary results indicate that 1.2 million pounds of trash were removed from California's beaches, shorelines and inland waterways by nearly 78,227 volunteers. We appreciate the dedication of those who spent part of their weekend to help clean up Camarillo, making our community a better place to live and visit!

In a perfect world, everyone would make sure their own trash is disposed of properly—securely in a trash can or recycling bin, or at a hazardous waste facility when appropriate—and Coastal Cleanup Day wouldn't be necessary. In the meantime, we encourage you to do your part to keep Camarillo clean, and hope to see you at next year's event, *Saturday, September 18, 2010*.



"The People Are The City"

Two Great Events That Make the Season Bright

Camarillo Ranch Foundation's ninth annual Holiday Candlelight Gala, featuring fine food in a festive setting, returns to the historic Camarillo Ranch House on Friday, December 4, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The evening will begin with guests stepping back in time as they walk past the newly renovated and holiday-bedecked 1905 Mule Barn.



They'll continue through a colorful, arched entry to tour the beautifully lit and decorated gardens en route to the grand entrance of the Queen Anne-style Victorian home in which Adolfo and Isabelle Camarillo lived and raised their family.

Featuring sumptuous food, live music, silent and live auctions, special exhibits and tours of the home, this is the Camarillo Ranch Foundation's major fundraising event of the year. The gift shop will be open during the evening, as well, offering the opportunity to purchase special items of local and historical interest, including the 2010 Camarillo Ranch calendar. All proceeds benefit the work of the Foundation in preserving, restoring and operating the property.

Advance tickets (by reservation) are \$75 per person through Sunday, November 30, and \$85 at the gate. Tables of ten may be reserved in advance for \$850.

Dress for this event is cocktail attire or period dress, with black tie optional. For additional information, or to purchase tickets, call the Camarillo Ranch office at (805) 389-8182.

Another highly anticipated holiday tradition is the Meadowlark Service League's 31st annual "Homes for the Holidays" fundraising tour on Sunday, December 6. From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., attendees will enjoy a fun-filled afternoon viewing a number of area homes—in architectural styles from Victorian to contemporary—adorned in holiday splendor. The home displays include beautifully decorated trees and keepsakes from around the world. The historic Adolfo Camarillo Ranch House is part of this year's tour, with the newly renovated Red Barn as the setting for a Christmas boutique.



Local homes are decorated to welcome in the holidays.

Advance tickets for this event are available from Meadowlark Service League members for \$25 (\$30 at the door), or by visiting www.meadowlarkserviceleague.com. The nonprofit League provides funding for a variety of charitable organizations and programs in Camarillo and Ventura County, as well as for student scholarships. For additional information, please call Midge Bradford at (805) 987-4095.

When Knocking on The Door Requires a Permit

Even in this era of on-line shopping, door-to-door solicitation remains a fairly common way to conduct business. Before you answer that knock on the door, remember that all commercial solicitors operating within the City of Camarillo—even those just leaving brochures or business cards at residences or businesses—must carry a solicitation permit issued by the Business Tax Division, and you should ask to see it.

Solicitors representing charitable and religious organizations must also carry a permit when seeking contributions door-to-door or in any public place and must present them upon request. Religious organizations are exempt from this permit requirement if they are simply providing information about their organization. The nonprofit solicitation permits are issued by the City Clerk's office. Call (805) 388-5353 for more information.

If someone selling goods or services comes to the door even though a "No Solicitors" sign is posted outside your home or business, try to get the names of both the salesperson and the company, then call the Business Tax Division at (805) 388-5330. After business hours, you may leave a voice mail message. If a solicitor at the door cannot produce a permit or is unusually persistent, residents are advised to call the Camarillo Police Department at (805) 388-5100. Should you feel threatened by any solicitor, call for emergency help by dialing 9-1-1.

"Las Personas Son La Ciudad"



November 2009

- 7, 14, 21, 28 **CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET**
SPONSORED BY CAMARILLO HOSPICE
 8 A.M.-NOON, OLD TOWN CAMARILLO, 482-1507
- 11 **VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**
 11 A.M., CONSTITUTION PARK
- 13, 14 **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF**
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, 987-0717 OR ON-LINE
WWW.CI.CAMARILLO.CA.US
- 26 **CAMARILLO MOOSE FAMILY CENTER PRESENTS**
A FREE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
 341 (A) ARNEILL ROAD, CAMARILLO
 12 P.M. TO 4 P.M., 484-9118
- 26, 27 **CITY HALL CLOSED**

December 2009

- 4 **9TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT GALA**
 201 CAMARILLO RANCH ROAD, CAMARILLO
 6 P.M. - 10 P.M., 389-8182
WWW.CAMARILLORANCH.ORG
- 5, 12, 19, 26 **CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET**
SPONSORED BY CAMARILLO HOSPICE
 8 A.M.-NOON, OLD TOWN CAMARILLO, 482-1507
- 6 **MEADOWLARK SERVICE LEAGUE 31ST ANNUAL**
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR FUNDRAISER
 FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CALL MIDGE AT 987-4095
 1 P.M. - 5 P.M., VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN CAMARILLO
WWW.MEADOWLARKSERVICELEAGUE.COM
- 11, 12 **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF**
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, 987-0717 OR ON-LINE
WWW.CI.CAMARILLO.CA.US
- 12 **COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING**
 7:30 A.M., CONSTITUTION PARK
- 12 **48TH ANNUAL CAMARILLO CHRISTMAS PARADE**
"A HEALTHFUL HOLIDAY"
 11 A.M., CORNER OF TEMPLE AND LAS POSAS
 FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.PVRPD.ORG
- 24, 25 **CITY HALL CLOSED**

Camarillo Library Happenings

The *Homework Center* continues to be a busy place! Join us for one-on-one homework help for first to eighth graders, Monday through Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., when school is in session.

The *Special Saturday* program continues on November 7, at 10 a.m. in the Community Room, with an exciting presentation by Wildlife Experience. "*Meet Your Native Neighbors*" offers an up-close-and-personal look at a variety of local critters. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Camarillo Library and the Meadowlark Service League.

"*Celebrating Early Literacy*," presented by First Five Ventura County, will be held on Wednesday, November 4, beginning at 10 a.m. This program will also include a presentation by the Ventura Senior Readers' Theatre.

Stephanie Bettman's Fiddlin' will be featured on Sunday, November 15, at 2 p.m. Stephanie's music is new and catchy, an engaging mixture of folk, bluegrass and jazz. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Camarillo Library Meadowlark Service League.

The Teen Advisory Board is mentoring the seniors at the *Wii and You at the Bowl: A "Virtual" Bowling Game* on Tuesday, November 3, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Library Conference Room. Please pre-register at the reference desk or call (805) 388-5811.

Camarillo Book Club (daytime) will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 11 a.m. Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy is this month's selection.

Please stop by the Camarillo Library at 4101 Las Posas Road, or visit www.vencolibrary.org for a complete schedule of events.

Water Wise Gardening Website

The City of Camarillo has joined other cities in the county to create an exciting and practical website that helps homeowners transform their gardens into beautiful water-efficient masterpieces. An intriguing feature of the website is the ability to view sample gardens and use links to determine which plants compose these gardens. The site enables users to build their own private plant list on the website, then print it out to take to the local nursery. Furthermore, the website includes a database of more than a thousand available plants that can be searched and sorted to find just the right plant for every location. Find the link to the site on the City of Camarillo's home page at www.ci.camarillo.ca.us. For more information, please call (805) 388-5338.

"The People Are The City"



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

the City of Camarillo



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Telephone Directory

City Manager	388-5307	Abandoned Vehicles	388-5150
Cable TV Customer 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
Trash Collection (E.J. Harrison):	647-1414	Fire Department (<i>non-emergency</i>)	389-9710
Recycling & Hazardous Waste:	388-5392	Graffiti Reports	388-5338
City Hazardous Waste Appts.	987-0717	Police Department (<i>non-emergency</i>)	388-5100
City Clerk	388-5316	City Website	
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 Website	
Community Development	388-5360	www.vencolibrary.org	
Code Enforcement:	383-5660	Camarillo Government Channel	
Public Works	388-5380	Channel 10 (Time Warner Customers)	
Streets:	388-5338	Channel 29 (Verizon FiOS Customers)	
Water:	388-5373		
Engineering:	388-5340		
Traffic:	388-5340		
Sanitation:	388-5332		

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