



Fairfield Observer

Volume 25, Number 5

October-December 2000

Special Flood Hazard Area Information

Thanks to the Fairfield Streams Project completed in the early 1990's, several areas along Ledgewood Creek and Laurel Creek which historically flooded were removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Now, most of Fairfield is outside of the SFHA. However, there are a few areas in the City of Fairfield that are still within designated flood zones, as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Property owners who own homes or businesses within these isolated areas are required to purchase flood insurance.

Some areas within Fairfield that do require flood insurance and may flood include isolated reaches of Green Valley Creek, Dan Wilson Creek, Suisun Creek, Ledgewood Creek, Union Creek and Laurel Creek.

In 1971, an ordinance was passed which regulates development within flood hazard areas. Anyone planning to grade or build within the City of Fairfield should contact the Department of Public Works to find out if the property in question is within a flood hazard area as defined by FEMA.

Flood Insurance

Fairfield joined the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1984. By participating in the program, homeowners are able to purchase flood insurance and protect their homes from flood damage. If you own a home or building within a special flood hazard area, flood insurance is required. The type of flood insurance coverage offered to property owners is limited to buildings and their contents. The City participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) through FEMA, which is a proactive flood protection program that qualifies property owners in the City for reduced flood insurance premiums.

Property Protection Measures

There are several protection measures property owners can take against flooding. For new structures to be constructed, you can elevate the structure out of the flood plain using engineered fill or special foundations, construct flood walls or use water tight construction techniques. For existing structures you can add water-proof veneer to your exterior walls or build temporary levees or flood walls using sand bags.

See Flood Area, cont'd on page 3.

Fairfield Fire Department - Seeking Interested Citizens!

Have you ever wanted to get involved and make a difference by helping your neighbors and friends? Have you ever considered learning how to provide first aid? How about firefighting? Did you know that the City of Fairfield Fire Department has one of the most active volunteer firefighter programs in Solano County?

In addition, to the Fairfield Fire Department's "in house" staffed fire and paramedic crews, a group of local residents serve as volunteer firefighters, providing emergency services days, evenings and on weekends, responding from their homes to the central Fire station on Union Avenue. Each year the City of Fairfield Fire Department recruits members of the community to join their ranks. Currently eleven recruits are completing the in-house academy and will become active volunteer firefighters.

According to Fairfield Fire Chief **Ron Tougas**, "It is the fire department's desire to recruit throughout the year to supplement the available crews."

When joining, new members may choose either to wait

for the academy that begins in January or start immediately responding in the role of a helper to the other seasoned career and volunteer firefighters. All training is provided by the City of Fairfield. Once certified, members are typically assigned to a duty crew and are relied on to respond to emergency calls.

Who are Volunteer Firefighters?

Many are new residents looking for a way to become involved in their community. Others are longtime Fairfield residents who have been involved for years! And others are young men and women looking for a career in the fire service. Not sure if you'll fit in? Think again! You may be surprised to learn that the Fairfield Volunteer Firefighters are management analysts, students, real estate agents, paramedics, homemakers, truck drivers, computer programmers, military, business managers, and almost any other profession you can think of, who have a desire to give a little of their time to serve the community.

If you are interested and live in Fairfield, Suisun, or in the

immediate area, you are invited to attend one of the informative business meetings held the first Tuesday of every month at Fire Station #1 located at 1633 Union Avenue, at 7 p.m.

To Be A Volunteer

To be a volunteer firefighter you must be at least 18 years old but the department also sponsors a Boy Scout Explorer program offering opportunities to those 15 to 17 years old. The Explorer program is the perfect opportunity for young men or women to determine if they would like to make firefighting a career.

The monthly meeting allows you to meet the Fire Chief and his staff. At the meeting you will gain an overview of what it is like to be a member of the Fairfield Fire Department. If you think you may be interested - don't wait. If you plan on attending a meeting, please call the Fairfield Fire Department at **(707) 428-7375**.

Joining the Fairfield Fire Department can be an extremely rewarding experience. It's never too late to get involved and make a real difference! □

October is Fire Prevention Month

Fire Drills: The Great Escape 2000

If children practice home exit drills they can be better prepared for a real emergency. Take the time to draw a floor plan of your home with your children and create two ways out of every room. Discuss the escape routes in the floor plan with every member of your household.

Pick an outdoor meeting place that stays on the same side of the street as your home. Tell everyone to meet there after they've escaped, so you can count heads and tell the Fire Department if anyone's trapped inside or not.

Hold a home fire drill twice a year by pretending that some escape routes are blocked by smoke or fire. And, at the same time, practice using alternative exits.

Fairfield's Fire Chief **Ron Tougas** reminds residents that, "In a real fire, once you're out, stay out! Never go back inside until firefighters say it's safe."

The Fairfield Fire department is conducting a "Great Escape Contest" during the month of October. Please submit a copy of your home escape plan with your name, address and telephone number on it to **Kathy Sawyer-Shishido** at Fire Station #1, 1633 Union Ave., Fairfield between October 1st through October 27th, 2000. Questions? Contact **Kathy Sawyer-Shishido** at 428-7744. □



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New Year's Eve Magic Event, Pirates in Fairfield!

A hoy! The City is planning a terrific New Year's Eve event with a "Caribbean Pirate" theme. The event will be held at the Fairfield Community Center on **December 31, 2000**. The Buckhorn Restaurant will be the caterer for the evening. Live music and great food and will make this event the most exciting night of the year! Shuttle service and babysitting will be available at this event. Please call **428-7613** to get more information about this exciting New Year's Eve event! This is always a sell-out...call early! □

"New Year's Eve Magic" Babysitting Program- Volunteers Needed!!

The Fairfield Youth Commission is recruiting local teens to help with it's annual New Year's Eve Babysitting program. Offered in conjunction with the City of Fairfield's New Year's Eve event, this program will provide parents a safe place for their children on New Year's Eve.

Proceeds from the night go towards the Youth Commission annual Leadership Conference for Fairfield and Suisun teens.

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please call **428-7660**. □

Get A Great Job!

The Place to be After Three

The Place to be After Three, an awarding winning after school recreation program for middle school students has job openings and invites local adults to interview. Adult staff work as a team to offer both traditional recreation like basketball, arts and crafts and group activities and non-traditional components like college awareness, cooking, television producing, and more. This is an excellent way to turn a hobby into a paycheck! Many staff members use the experience gained from working with the program to further their own career path.

For more information, please call **428-7660**. □

Bringing People Together

Red Ribbon Lock-in 2000

It's like Nothing You've Experienced Before!

The Red Ribbon Week campaign began in 1985 when federal drug enforcement agent Enrique Camarena was murdered by the drug cartel in Mexico. To honor his memory and continue his fight against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors wore red ribbons.

The City of Fairfield's Red Ribbon Lock-in represents our commitment to providing youth with a safe and fun environment. Together with the Fairfield-Suisun Drug Advisory Committee (FSDAC), the Community Services Department is proud to invite 600 seventh and eighth grade students to this year's event, **Friday, October 20, 2000**, at the Fairfield Community Center from 9 p.m. through 6 a.m.

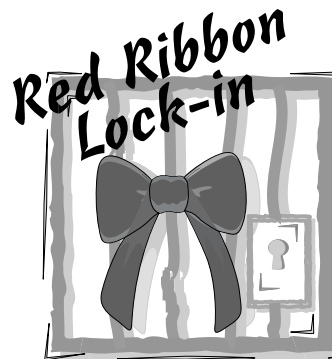
New Events for 2000

- Basketball Bungee
- Game Show Mania!
- All Star Twister Tournament
- Tommy Go-Figure Fashion Show

Favorite Events Return

- In and Out Burger
- Big Time Bouncy Boxing
- Sumo Wrestling
- Lazer Tag
- Balloon Magic
- Insomniac Movie Theatre
- Games Galore and much more!

Beat the crowds and register early for this year's Lock-in. Registration is only \$20 before October 6, 2000. Local ID required to register. Register at **City Hall at the Mall** or call **428-7660**.



Fairfield Community Services
Anti-Alcohol, Drugs and Violence Celebration

Adults We Need Volunteers!

Don't miss the fun! Sign-up with Volunteer Services to help with the Red Ribbon event! Volunteers must be on file with the City of Fairfield's Volunteer Services before **October 11, 2000**. Call **428-7767**. Help make a difference! □



Help Build a Skate Park

You can be part of the biggest youth and teen project in Fairfield by helping to provide a safe place for our youth to skate.

The City Council has approved a Skate Park Master Plan for Allan Witt Park and has allocated \$140,000 toward the total cost of the project. The Skate Park Master Plan was developed through a public process involving Fairfield's youth and adults. The park will consist of 21,000 square feet of concrete complete with jumps, ramps, and bowls.

The Community Services Foundation has already donated \$5,000 toward the project as the first community donation. The Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club has committed \$30,000 and has pledged to raise the additional funds to build the Skate Park.

According to the past Club President, **Mike Garver**, "Rotary around the world has a long history of helping the youth in our communities. The Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club is excited about assisting the young people in Fairfield raise the money for this worthwhile recreational facility."

Please help make this project happen to create a safe place for youth to skate. Please send your

donation today. Please make your checks payable to the Fairfield Community Services Foundation and indicate your contribution is for the skate park. Checks can be sent to the Foundation in care of **Fairfield Community Services Department, 1000 Webster Street, Fairfield, CA 94533**.

For further information, call **428-7740**. □

Seniors Celebrate with Annual Luau!

Island attire set the stage as seniors recently gathered at the Fairfield Senior Center to enjoy an afternoon of island dancing, fresh fruit and fun for the second annual luau. The Na Kupuna Wahine O'Malia delighted everyone with their fancy footwork and native music. The performers ranged in age from the very young to gracious ladies.

Prizes were awarded for the best-dressed contestants. Kaiser Permanente provided the many door prizes and the Fairfield-Suisun Senior Citizens Club assisted with the preparations and serving. □



Performers dance from the Na Kupuna Wahine O'Malia group.

National Night Out

National Night Out (NNO) was celebrated on **August 1, 2000** by seventeen different neighborhoods in Fairfield. This type of celebration has become a tradition the first Tuesday in August for many of the established Neighborhood Watch groups in Fairfield. It helps solidify relationships within their neighborhoods and with the police. Over the years, these close-knit groups have formed alliances that seem to work for the people in these areas. Each year new groups host NNO gatherings (whether they start up in new housing developments, or are establishing new Neighborhood Watch groups in older neighborhoods). These groups are just getting started in the area of working together to build a "sense of neighborhood."



McGruff shakes hands with one of the local children, from a participating neighborhood.

by hosting potluck dinners, picnics, barbeques, and ice cream socials. Some groups wanted to find ways to include the children by encouraging participation in a Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest, one group hosted a pie-eating contest, and another held a flashlight walk.

Our visiting officers offered brief informative exchanges with the groups, depending on what area of the department they represented. Bike officers gave tips on safe bicycling, Traffic Officers performed a sobriety test with neighbors by using goggles that simulate the impairments of alcohol use. Citizen Observe and Report Patrol provided information about their volunteer efforts, Firefighters brought out the engines for children to inspect, and the Mobile Neighborhood Operations Unit canvassed the neighborhoods inviting neighbors to go on tour of the unit.

It was a wonderful experience for the neighborhoods that participated. For more information about next year's event, please contact the police department at **428-7327**. □

National Night Out is event that allows neighbors to connect with one another. This year NNO gatherings invited representatives from Law Enforcement, Fairfield Firefighter's, McGruff, and the Crash Dummies to visit. They gave "Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party"

Flood Area, continued from page 1.

Drainage System Maintenance

The City's drainage system consists of two elements: natural channels (creeks and streams) and the constructed storm drain system (storm drain pipes, ditches and detention/retention basins). Maintenance of these elements is important in keeping the system's flood carrying and storage capacity at a high level. System maintenance refers to the removal of silt, vegetation, trash and other types of debris from all system elements in an effort to increase capacity.

It is the responsibility of Department of Public Works maintenance personnel to ensure that our system is properly maintained but we can all chip in to help keep the flood waters down. Two things you can do to help:

- Do not dump trash, oils or other debris in natural waterways or the City's storm drainage system. Deposit refuse only in designated areas.
- If you witness illegal dumping anywhere within the City limits, especially the City's storm drainage system, contact the Fairfield Police Special Operations switchboard at **(707) 428-7564**.



Determination Services

If you would like to know if your home is within an SFHA, we can help. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are on display for your use in the Public Library located on Kentucky Street. The City also offers a flood zone determination service to lenders, insurance agents, realtors and property owners who want to know if a particular property is within a special flood hazard area. For a fee of \$20, we will provide you with a letter indicating whether or not your property is in a flood zone.

To view the FIRMs located in the Public Works Department, or to take advantage of the flood zone determination service, visit City Hall at 1000 Webster Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. or call the Public Works Department at **428-7485**. □

RideShare Week October 2-6

For more information contact, **Sandy Catalano** at **Solano Commuter Information 438-0656**.

www.ci.fairfield.ca.us Update of Services!

List serv (notification) capabilities are now available on the City's website. Visitors to the site can now subscribe to notifications for agendas and minutes for City meetings, press releases, publications, and job opportunities. The City code is now available on-line to visitors as well. Looking for commercial property to buy in the City? The City now has an economic development properties database accessible from the Planning Department's website pages. Video clips for City cable productions, *Fairfield Living*, *Community Beat with the Mayor*, and *Bringing People Together* are now accessible from the Calendar of Events section of the website. If you have any questions, on how to use the City's website, please contact **Nancy Huston** at **428-7400**. In the future we will be adding many more features to the City's website. □

Channel 46 Programming Moves to Channel 26 December 13th, 2000

DAILY

24-Hour Community Link Bulletin Board; broadcast daily when other programming is not aired.

MONDAY

6:30 p.m. - Fairfield Living; rebroadcast

7:00 p.m. - Youth Commission;
(Live every 1st & 3rd Monday)

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. - Bringing People Together

10:30 a.m. - City Council Meeting;
(Rebroadcast on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

6:30 p.m. - Fairfield Living

7:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting;
(Live 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. - Community Services

Commission; (Live on 1st Wednesday)

7:00 p.m. - Planning Commission;

(Live 2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
rebroadcast on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. - Fairfield Living; rebroadcast

10:30 a.m. - City Council Meeting;
(Rebroadcast 4th Thursday)

7:00 p.m. - Community Beat With the
Mayor; live call in (1st Thursday)

7:00 p.m. - Fairfield/Suisun School
Board meeting; (Live 2nd Thursday,
rebroadcast 4th Thursday)

7:30 p.m. - Bringing People Together;
(Rebroadcast 1st & 3rd Thursday)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. - Community Beat With the
Mayor; rebroadcast

SATURDAY

7:30 p.m. - Bringing People Together;
rebroadcast

SUNDAY

5:00 p.m. - Community Beat with the
Mayor; rebroadcast



Nirasaki, Japan: City Over the Horizon

City of Fairfield Schedule of Meetings

NOTE: The following meetings will be held in the Fairfield City Council Chambers, 1000 Webster Street. All meetings, with the exception of the Open Space Commission, will be aired on Cable Channel 46. (Channel 26 in December 2000)

October

- October 9 - Open Space Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 11 and 25 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 12 - Fairfield-Suisun School District meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 16 - Youth Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 17 - City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

November

- November 1 - Community Services Commission meeting, 6 p.m.
- November 6 and 20 - Youth Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- November 13 - Open Space Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- November 16 - Fairfield-Suisun School District meeting, 7 p.m.
- November 21 - City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

December

- December 4 and 18 - Youth Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- December 5 and 19 - City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- December 6 - Community Services Commission meeting, 6 p.m.
- December 11 - Open Space Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- December 13 - Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- December 14 - Fairfield-Suisun School District meeting, 7 p.m.

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City Phones

Center for Creative Arts Box Office 428-7664
 Citizen Service Center 428-7661
 City Clerk 428-7384
 City Hall at the Mall 428-7714
 City Manager 428-7400
 C.O.R.P.
 (Citizens Observe and Report Patrol) 428-7732
 Fairfield Observer 428-7400
 Graffiti Removal Hotline 434-5332
 Job Hotline 428-7396
 Police Department non-emergency calls) 428-7300
 Recreation:
 Community Services Registration 428-7714
 Rush Ranch 421-1351
 Senior Center 428-7421
 Transit 422-BUSS
 Trees, Streets, Maintenance 428-7407
 Utility Bills/Service 428-7346

Sister Cities International grew out of an initiative suggested by president Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to promote people-to-people diplomacy with the goal of lessening the chance of future world conflicts. Recognizing the great similarities, common interests, and heritage that Fairfield and Nirasaki share, Fairfield's Sister City Program was established in 1973. Designed to contribute to the educational, cultural, social, and economic presence of the City of Fairfield, the relationship with Nirasaki has

indeed been a fruitful one. The Sister City Program is an exciting way for local citizens to expand their cultural, civic, and economic horizons.

Looking for Host Families
 The City of Fairfield Sister City Program is dedicated to letting people give expression to their common desire for friendship, goodwill and cooperation for a better world for all. Call **428-7613** for more information on how your family can participate in this program. □



Exchange student Kimie O'Neill visits Nirasaki, Japan.

Calendar of Events

CityArts Performing Arts Series 2000

This year's Performing Arts Series is sensational. These events will be held at the Fairfield Center for Creative Arts, 1035 Texas Street. Call **428-7662** for tickets. Events remaining this year are listed below:

Handel's Sing-A-Long Messiah December 8th, 2000 - 8 p.m.

Come prepared to sing to your hearts content, accompanied by professional orchestra led by Jay Trotter. Free Admission

Nutcracker December 21, 22, and 23 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

This production has delighted Fairfield audiences for years. Produced by Yanina Cywinska, artistic director for Solano Civic Ballet, Tchaikovsky's famous ballet is a holiday favorite. Tickets are: \$15 for adults and \$10 for Senior/Students.

Community Kwanzaa Celebration December 30th, 2000 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

CityArts Fairfield hosts a free community Kwanzaa celebration, presented by the Kwanzaa Organizing Committee of Solano County. This celebration will include food and retail vendors, informational displays, and entertainment.

Senior Center Celebrates 20 Years

The Senior Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary on **Thursday, October 17** from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with music, entertainment and light refreshments. Approximately 50 clubs and organizations that meet at the Senior Center on a regular basis have been invited to share information about the activities currently at the Center. It should be a wonderful day of reminiscing.

For more information about events at the Center, call **428-7421**. □

Fairfield Fire Station #1 1633 Union Ave., Fairfield

OPEN HOUSE

October 14th
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"Bring your family to meet our family."



The City of Fairfield's Mission Statement

We are committed to responding to the changing needs of our community, to providing superior quality public service, and to creating a distinctive place to live through innovation, professionalism and efficient use of resources.

City Council
 George Pettygrove, Mayor
 Harry T. Price, Vice-Mayor
 Jack Batson
 Steve Lessler
 Karin MacMillan

City Manager, Kevin O'Rourke
City Clerk, Gina Merrell
City Treasurer, Oscar G. Reyes, Jr.

City of Fairfield
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 Fairfield, California 94533-4883

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