



Fog Cutter

Your community newsletter
Vol. 8 No.2 Summer 2008

Historical notes ...

Countdown to Daly City's Centennial

... the unsolved mystery of the crash of the ghost Navy blimp

Few stories in Daly City's history have been told as frequently as the mysterious crash landing of an unmanned Navy blimp on Sunday, August 16, 1942. The blimp's journey had started on Treasure Island shortly after 6 a.m. that day. Designated as L-8, the blimp was one of twelve airships in Squadron 32 used to patrol the coast of Northern California. Flight 101 was on a routine mission that fateful morning. It was supposed to be a reconnaissance flight from



Treasure Island, over the Golden Gate Bridge, out to the Farallon Islands and back to the coast at Point Reyes before returning. The two Navy personnel aboard the vessel, Lt. Ernest DeWitt Cody and Ensign Charles Ellis Adams, were searching for evidence of enemy submarines in the waters of the Pacific.

—continued ... see **Ghost Navy blimp mystery**, page 3

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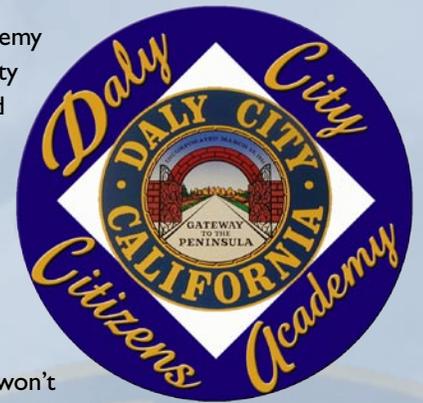
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Residents and Business Leaders sought for Inaugural Citizens Academy

... building relationships/knowning the community

Daly City is seeking applicants for the inaugural class of the Daly City Citizens Academy. The seven-week course kicks off Thursday, October 16 at City Hall with an introduction to the workings of local government. The class will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. each Thursday evening through December 4 (except for Thanksgiving). Different City representatives, including the City Manager, will serve as faculty for the Academy.

The curriculum for the Citizens Academy offers participants a unique opportunity to learn more about the operations and processes of each City department. The sessions will provide insight into the City's revenue sources, State and Federal regulatory restrictions and the budgetary limitations involved with delivering City-provided services.



Citizens Academy participants won't be restricted to classroom presentations and discussions. Most sessions will involve a hands-on tour of one or more of the City facilities covered during the course. Students will explore the sewage treatment plant, tour the police department, examine firefighting equipment, and visit the City's corporation yard.

Have you ever wondered how water reaches your home? Do you know how police dogs are trained and deployed? Are you prepared to survive a major earthquake? Who are John Marchbank, John Daly, John Madden, John Robinson, and what do they have in common? The answers to these and many more questions will be provided during the Citizens Academy. If you are looking for a way to become civically engaged, or you are just curious how things in your city work, the Citizens Academy may be for you.

The tentative class schedule for the Citizens Academy is:

- October 16 ... **Introduction to Local Government**
- October 23 ... **Police Department**
- October 30 ... **Economic and Community Development**
- November 6 ... **Public Works and Water/Wastewater Resources**
- November 13 ... **Parks, Recreation, and Libraries**

—continued ... see **Inaugural Citizens Academy**, page 2

Be prepared for an emergency.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Take advantage of free emergency preparedness classes

Daly City's corps of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers is growing as more residents take advantage of the free emergency preparedness classes offered through the North County Fire Authority. The City increased its efforts to provide emergency response training in order to foster a working partnership between emergency services providers and members of the community. Public safety professionals from the North County Fire Authority and the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services conduct the classes for individuals, neighborhood groups, community organizations, and businesses. People who complete the course develop an understanding of emergency response protocols; learn how to be better prepared for a disaster; and are trained in basic lifesaving skills.

The CERT training course includes 20 hours of instruction and covers topics including fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue, and disaster psychology. Training culminates with a team exercise designed to apply the skills taught in the classroom.

Upon completion of the course, CERT graduates are positioned to help neighbors and family members during a major disaster. In the event of a catastrophic emergency, such as an earthquake, police and fire department resources will be stretched thin. CERT volunteers can assist when local public safety agencies are overwhelmed and unable to respond. Additionally, residents need to have enough emergency supplies to ensure self-sufficiency for one to two weeks.

The next CERT Training sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from September 2 through October 28, 2008. Classes will be held at the Doelger Senior Center, 101 Lake Merced Blvd. from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. All classes are FREE and graduates receive an emergency response backpack and equipment. For more information on the program, or to register, please contact the North County Fire Authority at (650) 991-8139 or visit www.northcountyfire.org and select CERT Training Classes under Announcements.



Inaugural Citizens Academy ... from page 1

November 20 ... **North County Fire Authority/
Emergency Preparedness**

December 4 ... **Finance, Human Resources,
Commissions/Boards**

December 18 ... **Graduation!**

Applications for the Citizens Academy are available at the City Clerk's Office and online at www.dalycity.org. To request an application by mail, please call (650) 991-8127. **Completed applications are due Friday, September 19, 2008.**

FogCutter

The Fog Cutter is the community newsletter of the City of Daly City. Please address inquiries to:

Community Information Office

CITY OF DALY CITY

333-90th Street, Daly City, CA 94015

For information about Daly City activities and programs, please check our web site: www.dalycity.org

Doing our part to protect the environment.

Disposal of household hazardous waste ...

Safe, environmentally clean, and free!

Residents looking for a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of household hazardous waste are encouraged to make an appointment for a special collection in Daly City on Saturday, August 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the main parking lot at City Hall, 333 90th Street, near the intersection of Sullivan Avenue. Appointments are available in 15-minute increments throughout the morning and may be made online at <http://events.smhealth.org/events> or by calling the San Mateo County Environmental Health reservation line at **(650) 363-4718**.

The service is free and available to all San Mateo County residents. Typical household hazardous waste items include paint, solvents, insecticides and herbicides, antifreeze and other automotive products, pool chemicals, fluorescent lights (tubes and compact fluorescent "twisty" bulbs) and personal care products. Materials that will NOT be accepted include electronic waste (televisions, computers, cell phones), asbestos, and explosives.

It is unlawful to dispose many types of common household waste into landfill-bound residential and commercial garbage receptacles. Materials that are classified as hazardous include paint, motor oil, mercury thermometers, and fluorescent lights. Materials banned from California's landfills must be disposed of properly. The household hazardous waste collection event at City Hall on Saturday, August 9 is the least expensive way for residents to properly dispose of hazardous items.



Consumers concerned about hazardous waste should use the least toxic products necessary for the intended purpose and never buy more than needed. Store chemicals in safe places away from children, pets, and fire sources. Long-term storage of toxic chemicals can be dangerous.

Unwanted and expired pharmaceutical products should never be flushed down the drain or deposited into the garbage. Daly City residents can safely discard unwanted medicines in a secure drop-off box at the Daly City Police Department, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information about California's statewide "No Drugs Down the Drain" campaign visit <http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org>.

Navy Ghost Blimp Mystery ... from page 1

The two-man crew radioed Moffett Field at 7:38 a.m. to report their position. They were four miles east of the Farallones. Four minutes later they radioed again. "Investigating suspicious oil slick. Stand by." That was the last radio transmission from L-8. More than three hours later, the blimp was spotted floating listlessly across Daly City. The L-8 gradually descended until it finally touched down on Bellevue Avenue. Nobody on the ground was injured, and the crash caused only minor property damage. The crew was never found.

One of Daly City's most memorable events remains a mystery. The L-8 was transported by truck back to Treasure Island where it was repaired and put back into service with Airship Squadron 32. When the war ended, the Navy returned the

blimp to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Goodyear kept the gondola in storage for many years before rebuilding it as part of the airship **America** in 1968. **America** was used to cover many of the top sporting events in the United States until it was removed from service in 1982 – forty years after the Ghost Blimp crashed in Daly City. Today the famous gondola is being restored at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida, where it will one day be displayed.

The television series *Unsolved Mysteries* included a segment on the Ghost Blimp in a 1983 episode hosted by Robert Stack. Daly City historians Ken and Bunny Gillespie are prominently featured in the segment along with footage of the Navy's salvage efforts on Bellevue Avenue. Twenty-five years after its original airing, the program recently resurfaced on YouTube (search Daly City Ghost Blimp).



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Mark your calendars ...

10th annual Make a Difference Day

— volunteers needed for this great event

Daly City is seeking volunteers to participate in the City's 10th Annual *Make a Difference Day*. This year it will be celebrated on Saturday, October 25. If you belong to a church group, service organization, or want to organize a neighborhood team, save the date and join thousands of volunteers across the country for the event heralded as the National Day of Doing Good. *Make a Difference Day* is an opportunity for residents to engage in volunteer projects in their neighborhoods and throughout the City. This is the single largest volunteer event in Daly City. If you or your group is interested in pre-registering for Make a Difference Day, call (650) 991-8127 or send an e-mail to makeadifferenceday@dalycity.org for registration instructions.



Fight the drought! Be a 'Water Saving Hero.'

California is officially in a drought. You can help — be part of the Bay *Water Saving Hero* campaign (www.watersavinghero.com). We can help you. The Daly City Water Department offers free water conservation devices, publications, as well as a clothes washer rebate program to help residents meet a voluntary 10% reduction in water usage. Water saving devices you can use include: **Water Miser 6-Position Garden Hose Nozzle** (saves water through peak efficiency settings - these nozzles won't break!), **Swivel Kitchen Faucet Aerator** (2.2 gallons per minute maximum flow saves water in the kitchen), **Bathroom Faucet Aerator** (1.5 gallon per minute maximum flow saves water in the bathroom), and **Swivel Showerhead** (greater force at low pressure - 1.5 gallons per minute maximum flow). Get clean while going green.

Contact the Department of Water and Wastewater Resources at (650) 991-8208 to receive water conservation devices, publications, or further information or send an e-mail to wdonnelly@dalycity.org.

Daly City Community Calendar

City Council Meetings

City Hall – 7:00 p.m.
2nd and 4th Monday of each month

Planning Commission Meetings

City Hall – 7:00 p.m.
1st Tuesday of each month
(except Election Day)

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

By Appointment Only
Call (650) 363-4718 to register
City Hall Main Parking Lot – 333 90th St.
Saturday, August 9
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fiesta de la Hispanidad

Doelger Center – 101 Lake Merced Blvd.
Saturday, September 20
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Fall Festival

Doelger Center – 101 Lake Merced Blvd.
Sunday, October 5
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Make a Difference Day

Citywide – Register as a volunteer at
www.dalycity.org
Saturday, October 25
9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mission Street Design Charette

War Memorial Community Center
Saturday, November 8
8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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Fog Cutter
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Daly City, CA 94015

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