



Fog Cutter

Your community newsletter
Vol. 9 No. 1 Spring, 2009

Historical notes ...

History Guild opens ... Daly City History Museum ... a glimpse of the City's past

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma officially opened the Daly City History Museum at a ribbon cutting ceremony held on March 15. The museum is located at 6351 Mission Street in the building that formerly housed the John Daly Library near the Top of the Hill. Volunteers from the History Guild spent months moving and cataloguing photographs, documents and artifacts that had been displayed in the mini-museum in the Serramonte Library.



Among the exhibits at the museum is a collection of equipment and memorabilia commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the Daly City Fire

—continued ... see **History Museum**, page 3

Budget strategies for Daly City ... Impact of the recession

... planning to protect key community services

CALIFORNIA cities, counties, and school districts are facing one of the most daunting economic challenges in history. The root of the problem is two-fold; revenues are declining while expenditures are rising. Unfortunately, Daly City's revenue sources are not recession proof. Despite a very conservative fiscal approach, Daly City's operating and capital budgets are out of balance. The resulting deficit is unprecedented in Daly City's nearly 100-year history.

Daly City depends largely on sales tax and property tax to fund basic government operations – everything from police and fire protection to parks and library programs. The downturn in the economy directly affects the City's ability to fund and deliver basic government services. The City has experienced a



sharp decline in both sales tax and property tax revenue. Retailers such as Mervyn's, Circuit City, and Linens -N- Things have filed for bankruptcy and closed their Daly City stores. The sales tax dollars generated by those retailers are gone. New car sales have plummeted in the past year, eroding another source of Daly City's operating revenue. Residential foreclosures and falling home values have caused a dip in property tax revenue. The precipitous drop in revenues must be offset by cuts to the City's operating budget.

It is difficult to deny that this nation is in the throes of an economic crisis of unimaginable proportions. California's governor and state legislators spent months trying to reach an agreement that would plug the gaping budget deficit. School districts are resorting to desperate measures to stay solvent. Counties across the state are contemplating layoffs and deep cuts to services. And in Daly City, the City Council is facing serious policy decisions in order to address the mounting deficit.

The City Council will be working diligently with City staff over the course of the coming weeks and months to ensure that Daly City's budget is balanced.

—continued ... see **Recession Impact** page 2

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Planning the future of housing in Daly City.

General Plan Housing Element

Community comment invited ... attend a workshop

The City of Daly City invites residents and other interested parties to attend one or both of the community workshops to discuss the City's Draft Housing Element. Workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Please see the box on page 4 for the times and locations of the two workshops. The Draft Housing Element, which is being written as part of the City's General Plan update, will identify the policies and programs the City intends to implement over the next five years to meet the housing needs of Daly City's growing population. The Draft must be reviewed and approved by the City Council with input from the public, the General Plan Steering Committee, and the Planning Commission.

These community workshops are intended as a follow-up to the **Envision Daly City** process completed last spring during which the City established a broad goal for housing as part of the General Plan Update process, together with some ideas that could be used to achieve this goal. Since that time, the City's General Plan Steering Committee has considered specific policies, tasks, and programs based on input gained from Envision Daly City process, all of which are compiled in the Draft Housing Element.

During the workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the City's objectives for allowing housing construction, as well as preserving and rehabilitating existing housing. Participants will also be invited to comment on the Draft Housing Element and provide ideas for additional policies and programs for consideration by the Steering Committee. Beginning May 1, the Draft Housing Element may be downloaded from the City's General Plan update website located at www.plandalycity.org.

Questions about the workshops or Draft Element should be directed to the Planning Division of the City's Economic and Community Development Department, at **(650) 991-8158**.



Recession Impact ... from page 1

They plan to carefully weigh all options regarding spending cuts and possible strategies to enhance revenues. It is nearly impossible to reduce expenditures without having an adverse affect on programs and services. Nevertheless, the City will strive to maintain and preserve all essential government services, especially in areas related to public safety. Keep in mind that Daly City is not alone in the current fiscal crisis. Municipalities throughout California and the world are facing the tough economic difficulties.

On the bright side, times of crisis often spur innovation. City workers are devising operational efficiencies to cut costs without compromising their safety or the quality of their work product. In the commercial sector of our community, more businesses are finding creative ways to function leaner and greener. Daly City has weathered more than one economic downturn in its storied history, and will undoubtedly emerge from the current recession a strong and healthy community with a positive future.

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

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Your community n

Actions to ease the impact of drought.

California faces severe water shortage ...

May be the worst drought in modern state history

CALIFORNIA is suffering through another serious water shortage. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared a water emergency, prompting concerns that following two consecutive dry years, the state could face the very real probability of its first widespread mandatory water rationing since the early 1990s. Some Bay Area water districts, including neighboring East Bay Municipal Utility District, have already imposed mandatory rationing.

"We may be at the start of the worst California drought in modern history," warned Lester Snow, director of the state Department of Water Resources. "It's imperative for Californians to conserve water immediately at home and in their businesses."

January, usually the wettest month, was one of the driest first months of the year on record. January routinely douses California with about 20 percent of the state's annual precipitation, but instead it delivered a string of dry, record-breaking sunny days in 2009. This is of particular concern for Daly City because approximately one-half of our water supply comes from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Hetch Hetchy reservoir system.

"Daly City residents are no less immune from the very real possibility of mandatory water rationing later this spring, despite having one of the best conservation track records in the Bay Area," said City Manager Patricia E. Martel. "The simple fact remains that all of us need to do our part now and not wait to renew our conservation efforts."

Water Efficient Landscaping Class

Learn how to beautify your landscape and use water more efficiently in the California Plants for Every Garden class. The class is FREE and offered on a first come first served basis. Call the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency at (650) 349-3000 or send an e-mail to Landscape@bawsca.org to reserve your space.

Class: California Plants for Every Garden

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Where: Doelger Senior Center – Room 5, 145 Lake Merced Blvd.



How you can help.

Save water ... and money

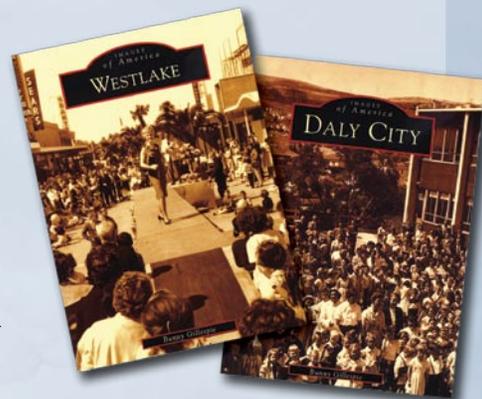
Daly City provides rebate opportunities for residents who upgrade their washing machines to Energy Star-rated high efficiency washers. The City's Department of Water and Wastewater Resources, together with PG&E, offers rebates up to \$200 to residential customers who purchase and install a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer. For more information and to view a list of qualifying clothes washers, visit www.waterenergysavings.com.

Residents can also save water and money by upgrading their toilets to new, high efficiency models that use 1.3 gallons-per-flush or less. Rebates of up to \$150 are available to Daly City residents through the High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program. For more information and to view a list of qualifying toilets, visit www.bawsca.org.

Daly City residents may receive FREE water saving devices by calling the Department of Water and Wastewater Resources at (650) 991-8200 or visiting www.dalycity.org.

History Museum ... from page 1

Department. The display is located in the center of the Ken and Bunny Gillespie Room and includes badges, photos, and a fully restored 1907 hand-drawn chemical cart. History Guild members named the room in honor of Daly City's longtime historians.



Bunny Gillespie published her second book chronicling the City's history. Her newest book, Westlake, is filled with hundreds of vintage photographs depicting Henry Doelger's renowned development. Westlake is Gillespie's follow-up to her 2003 book, Daly City. Both books are part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series and are available at the Daly City History Museum, local bookstores and libraries.



New ordinance to deal with ...

Stolen/abandoned shopping carts

— a problem for businesses and residents

DALY CITY businesses lose hundreds of shopping carts every month. Stolen and abandoned carts are found throughout the City on both public and private property. The retrieval and replacement of shopping carts costs local businesses thousands of dollars each year. While cart theft creates an economic burden for many businesses, local government agencies are often faced with the task of collecting errant shopping carts. Although abandoned carts create visual blight in neighborhoods, most cities lack the resources to continually retrieve stray carts.

The City Council recently adopted an ordinance in an effort to reduce the unlawful removal of shopping carts from stores and shopping centers in Daly City. The ordinance also facilitates the timely return of stolen and abandoned carts. While both the City and businesses discourage the removal of shopping carts from the store of origin, all carts should be clearly marked with a phone number so individuals can notify owners of the location of stray carts.

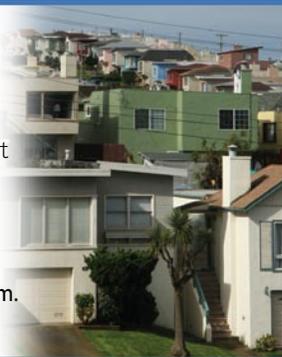
If you would like more information about this ordinance, please contact the Daly City Code Enforcement Office at **(650) 991-8260**.

Draft Housing Element Community Workshops

Interested in housing plans for Daly City? Participate in community workshops about the Daly City Draft Housing Element.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009... 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Teglia Community Center, 285 Abbot Ave.

Wednesday, June 3, 2009... 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, 333 90th St.



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

Bayshore Community Cleanup

Bayshore Community Center – 450 Martin St.
Saturday, March 28
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fun, Health, & Safety Fair and Daly City Parks and Recreation Day

Serramonte Shopping Center
Saturday, April 25
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

San Mateo County Jobs for Youth Awards/Fundraising Breakfast

Crowne Plaza Hotel – Foster City
Thursday, May 28
7:30 a.m.

Call (650) 301-8444 for more information

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

By Appointment Only
City Hall Main Parking Lot – 333 90th St.
Saturday, June 13
8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Make appointments online at
<http://events.smhealth.org/events>

Free Electronics (e-waste) Recycling Event

No Appointment Necessary
City Hall Main Parking Lot – 333 90th St.
Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fog Cutter
City of Daly City
Community Information Office
333-90th Street
Daly City, CA 94015

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