



# CARE NEWSLETTER

CUSTOMERS ARE THE REAL EMPHASIS

Spring

2005

## The Seventh Annual Four-Footed Fun Fair

By Linda Ford, Animal Services

*Extra! Extra! Read all about it here first!*

Animal Services is getting ready to hold their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Four-Footed Fun Fair. This year the event will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2005, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Turlock Fairgrounds. Come see the California Cowboys on stage, visit the games, the vendors, view the Neuter Scooter, the silent celebrity auction, and take in the yummy food! Bring your pets and join the contests and win a cash prize or one of many other prizes. See all the mascots mingle with the children.



Come celebrate "Responsible Pet Ownership" on their day, Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Turlock Fairgrounds. (All dogs on leashes - all cats in carriers please.)



Interested in having a booth? – Call Linda Ford at 209-558-8490 or 606-2523 for details.

## Lost 'n Found

By Cynthia Darmstandler, Ag Commissioner



Affectionately dubbed 'Patch', this one-eyed mixed pooch was recently found crouching under a parked car at Behavioral Health and Recovery Services on Scenic Drive. 'Patch' was reunited with his family the following day, due to a relay team effort by concerned County employees, coordinated by Linda Ford of Animal Services.

Turns out that 'Buddy' (his real name) had escaped from his owner's car amidst a serious accident on Scenic Drive. The owner had sustained a broken arm, a totaled car and lost dog!

The reunion, complete with mom, grandma and four children was a happy one! We learned that Buddy eats people food only and travels almost everywhere with his owner, often begging for biscuits at coffee shops. A quiet and mindful dog, Buddy lost his eye in an accident years ago.

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## Meet Your New Supervisors

### SUPERVISOR JIM DEMARTINI

By Anne DeMartini

Jim DeMartini has lived in Stanislaus County his entire life. He is a life-long farmer and a member of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. He grows 1400 acres of peaches, almonds, grapes, walnuts and row crops.



He raced go-carts in his younger days. Jim has always had a love for cars and owned several muscle cars through the years. Today his interest is in antique and classic cars. Jim's oldest car is a 1909 Locomobile, one of only two existing today. He also owns two Franklins. Jim is

presently restoring a 1921 DeMartini truck. DeMartini Truck Company (no relation to Jim) manufactured trucks in San Francisco from 1919 to 1932. His DeMartini truck is one of only seven remaining known to exist. Jim hopes to drive the truck in local parades after restoration has been completed.

Another hobby Jim has is raising tropical birds, particularly parrots. An outdoor aviary houses a variety of birds from all over the world. He raises four kinds of macaws as well as several varieties of parrots from Asia, Africa, Australia and South America. His collection of birds also includes African Crowned Cranes and emus. Besides being the newly elected Supervisor of District 5, Jim is also Chairman of the Republican Party of Stanislaus County. He is on the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association and a member of the Modesto Gateway Rotary.

Jim is married to Anne who is a trustee for Yosemite Community College District. She also plays English horn for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

### SUPERVISOR BILL O'BRIEN

By Bill Houk, Field Representative

Newly sworn in County Supervisor Bill O'Brien was born and raised in Stanislaus County. After nearly ninety days in office, Bill claims he is still "loving every minute of it".



Bill is married to his wife of nearly eleven years, Alicia. Bill and Alicia both from graduated Davis High School in 1990, and soon after Alicia starting working at O'Brien's Market. "I knew she was the one when I first saw her – we were in the soup aisle", Bill chuckles as he remembers the first time he met her. Bill and Alicia have two "wonderful" children, Alex age 9 and Samantha age 5. "Alex is in the fourth grade, and is doing exceptionally well in an accelerated learning class. Samantha started kindergarten this year, and is exceeding every expectation I had of her! My children amaze me all of the time."

Bill first got started in public service as a member of the Board of Directors for the Riverbank Chamber of Commerce. He wanted to give back something to the community, and thought what better way to get involved than to serve the business community. In 1998, as the City Council elections drew near, he thought to take his commitment of public service to the next level. "I am a relatively shy and quiet man, and elections take a lot of both physical and emotional work". The City Council elections turned out quite well for O'Brien, and in a field of 5 candidates, he took nearly 40% of the vote, out gaining the closest candidate by almost 3 to 1 votes.

Bill had served on the Riverbank City Council for two years as a Council member, when he challenged the two-term mayor for the seat in 2000. That was his closest race in which he has ever run. "It came down to only a couple of percentage points, and I was pleasantly surprised." In 2002, he was unchallenged in his re-election bid for mayor. "I guess I was either doing a decent job as mayor, or that I scared away any potential challengers."

In 2003, he spotted a potential opportunity to run for the Board of Supervisors. "As I pondered on whether to run or not, I figured that this may be the end of my political career if I lost." The campaign of 2004 was extremely difficult, and he had never before campaigned as hard. "I really thought I had lost the race, and even planned a really small election night party. I did the best I could, and was going to lose with pride. However, I really underestimated the voters desire for change."

When Bill isn't at the County office, he is working in the family business, O'Brien's Market, which has three grocery stores, two in Modesto and one in Riverbank. He oversees daily operations as well as human resources. When asked how he juggles all of his responsibilities, he replied "I don't know how I would do it without a cell phone."

In Bill's spare time, he likes to play golf. "There hasn't been a single round yet this year, but in April there will be at least one." O'Brien's Markets is sponsoring the Health Services Agency golf tournament in April to raise funds for the children's dental program. "HSA has always been near and dear to the O'Brien family." Health Services Foundation even dedicated a mammography room in memory of Anna O'Brien, Bill's grandmother.

"I know we have a lot of serious issues facing this County, but I do believe that we have a lot of very capable employees who will help the Board address them. Funding is the key to almost every issue, and we will continue to strive to stretch the dollars as far as we can. I do want to thank everyone who has helped me through this transition, and I look forward to great things!"

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Tina Von Stade, Child Support Services

**Planning your garden:** Choose plants suitable for the site (sun vs. shade, soil, etc.) Arrange plants according to their height. Arrange according to plant form and texture and according to flowering periods for constant blooming. Arrange in groupings by type and color considerations.



### Pre-planting care:

If you buy beddings plants, but cannot plant the same day, water packs or flats thoroughly and put them in the shade to prevent excessive wilting. Evenings of cloudy days are the best times to plant. If you have to plant during the heat of the day or on a sunny day, be sure plants are watered thoroughly immediately after planting.

**How to plant:** Annuals come in market packs, pop out packs, trays, flats or individual pots. Choose plants that are dark green, vigorous looking and short in height. If plants are in individual containers, gently separate plants keeping as much soil around the roots as possible. Plant the root ball below the soil line. Plant individual peat moss plants slightly below the soil line to keep the pot from drying out by exposure to air.

**Watering:** Bedding plant annuals are thirsty plants. Water them thoroughly to give them a good start. Thereafter, water whenever the soil begins to dry. Water early in the day. Don't be satisfied with just sprinkling the foliage, since plants will not receive enough water and moisture on the foliage for more than 24 hours encourages plant disease.

**After planting care:** To promote busy, vigorous growth and more continuous blossoming, pinch out the central buds of annuals such as tall snapdragons, zinnias and marigolds. The tops of plant, which tend to vine such as petunias, should be cut back to 3-4 inches when they are too tall. Fertilize every 3-4 weeks (1 pinch per plant or 1 lb. per 100 sq. ft of 5-10-5 fertilizer.)

**Vacation tip:** Cut your plants back before you leave and when you return they will be fresh, thriving and vigorous.

**Note:** The best time to plant vegetables is when there is no longer the threat of heavy frosts. For our area, that time is usually early April.

Flower photo source: Microsoft On-Line Clip Art

## FUN ART AND RECYCLING

By Carolyn Davila, Probation Department

Let's clean the clutter and take this time to reflect on how we can make our community a better place. One way to achieve this goal is to recycle. A life-changing habit! And don't forget to ask your kids – they probably have great ideas to help reduce waste in the

house. Recycle, separate cans, make a compost pile for that garden we plan to plant—make a plan of action. I have found several websites and numerous, innovative ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Restore.

**REDUCE** By buying quality products, they may cost a little more up front, but will last a lot longer than cheaper products. We can ask ourselves, “Is this something I really need or something I just want?” Buy in bulk if possible. Buy items with less packaging.

**REUSE** You can use an old t-shirt as a rag or dusting cloth. Use cloth towels instead of paper towels. Hold a garage sale for items you no longer use or have a need for. Some schools and non-profit agencies accept donations, which in turn help support programs within your community.



Feeling crafty or need a unique “ambience” idea for an outside, evening party? How about making a Friendly Firefly? I found this and other enchanting ideas at <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/fork6/1/bltrashtr.htm>

Photo from Better Homes and Garden web site.

#### What You Need

- 9x12 inch sheet of construction paper
- 16-oz. green plastic soda bottle
- Tape
- 2 chenille stems
- Pencil
- Tracing Paper
- Scissors
- Thick white crafts glue
- Pom-poms
- Fluorescent light stick (available wherever camping supplies are sold)
- Colorful construction paper

#### Instructions

1. Download the free pattern for this project from the website given above (downloading requires Adobe Acrobat software).
2. Fold the construction paper in half lengthwise and tear it along the fold. Wrap one half around the bottle top for the bug’s thorax and tape it in place.

3. Wrap a chenille stem around the bottleneck and twist it to make antennae. Cut the other chenille stem into thirds and glue the pieces onto the sides of the bottle for the legs.
4. Trace circle and wing patterns onto tracing paper. Cut out the patterns. Trace around the patterns on construction paper, cutting one circle face and two wings. Cut out the shapes. Glue the wings to the thorax. Glue the circle on the bottle cap for a face. Add pom-poms for the eyes. Let the glue dry.
5. Activate the light stick and place it inside the bottle.

When your kids are done playing with the fireflies, you can hang them in trees or on your patio for guests to enjoy during their visit.

**RECYCLE** Buy recycled products. Look for the recycling symbols when you shop. Use shredded waste paper or newspaper for packing material. Use wet, shredded paper in a compost pile.

Building a compost pile at your home is also a great way to recycle organic matter. Compost piles free up space at our local landfills and provide our plants and yards with nutrients. For a ‘recipe’ to make your own compost pile, check out:

<http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/ER/recyclingGuide.htm>

This site also has a list of local recycling centers for everything from glass and paper to old tires, lumber, and asphalt.

Another great idea for your garden (and recycling) is to cut the tops off milk or juice containers. You can drill holes in the bottom for water drainage, place soil in the top and plant your seeds or seedlings for starter plants. You can then use the ‘mouth’ of the cut top as a funnel for canning, oil changes, or as a ‘catcher’ for kids to play ball.

**RESTORE** Repair or refinish old furniture – a mosaic made with old or broken dishes might be a unique way to brighten up that desk or shelf.

## Paradise South “Weed & Seed” Project

By Concepcion Gayotin, Modesto Police Department

Weed & Seed is a neighborhood restoration project, combining the resources of many agencies and local residents to create a grassroots movement to “weed

out" crime and blight and "seed in" activities, programs and training that will keep the "weeds" out.

The designated area, as established by the Weed & Seed Steering Committee, is the area south of H Street and Paradise Road, east of Carpenter Road, north of the Tuolumne River and west of State Route 99. This project came to be known as *PARADISE SOUTH: GATEWAY TO CHANGE*.

Weed & Seed is a 5-year, community-based, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. "Weeding" consists of law enforcement's and prosecutor's efforts to weed out criminals who participate in violent crime and illegal drug activity through enforcement, adjudication, prosecution and supervision efforts. "Seeding" brings prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization services to the area. The Weed & Seed project in Modesto is fairly new with a recent application request to be recognized by the Department of Justice as a designated area. The various stages of the process of application reveal the following key facts about the project:

Steering Committee organization shows the scope of involvement within the community. Overseen by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the following organizations make up the Steering Committee: City Manager's Office, Modesto Police Department, local residents, Modesto Fire Department, Parks Recreation & Neighborhood, Sheriff's Office, County Planning, Probation, District Attorney's Office, Stanislaus County Department of Employment and Training, Stanislaus County Housing Authority, Sierra Vista Children's Center, The Bridge, American Red Cross, Redwood Family Center, Harvest of Hope, local businesses, United Way, and Modesto City Schools.

Selection of the designated area: With a population of 15, 418, this 2.1 square mile area consists of 41% Caucasian, 36% Latino, 11% Asian, 6% African American, and 2% Native American Indian. The Steering Committee selected this area because of 1) its high poverty rates; 2) its drain on city services – almost 60% of public safety response is concentrated in this area, which is only 8% of the total City of Modesto population and only 6% of the total land area. Restoring this neighborhood will spread city services more evenly throughout Modesto! 3) The

area is plagued by illegally dumped garbage, abandoned autos, graffiti and gangs, blighted conditions, and general failure to maintain properties.

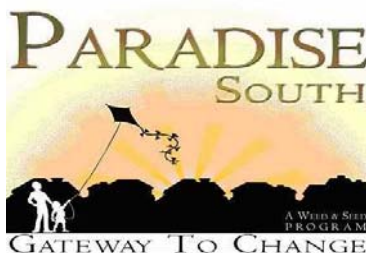
Community assessment showed 1) *problems* such as criminal activity, blight, lack of economic development, housing and infrastructure problems; and 2) *resources* such as social programs, schools, parks, safe haven, police stations, fire stations, and non-profit organizations. Therefore, the potential to improve and sustain restoration is tremendous.

Priorities are gangs/drugs/alcohol, infrastructure improvements, blight removal, youth/family focus, and housing.

Goals, objectives, and major tasks have been outlined by the Steering Committee in their Strategic Plan. They're too numerous to detail at this time. However, there are 6 major goals and objectives of Paradise South: Communication, Continuity of Service, Healthy and Safe Environment, Create and Instill Pride/Hope Ownership and Responsibility, and Education and Economic Development.

Implementation plans are ready to be initiated as soon as we receive official recognition as a Weed and Seed Area.

We'd like to ask you to join us in our efforts in Paradise South. For more information, please contact: Concepcion Gayotin at the MPD, 342-6105. Email: [cgayotin@modestogov.com](mailto:cgayotin@modestogov.com)



## EARTH DAY IN THE PARK FESTIVAL

April 23, 2005

By Dianne Parkinson, Dept of Environmental Resources



"As the founder of Earth Day, I believe it is a day for learning about America's national lands and their wildlife and how we can protect them by doing a better job of saving energy.... With your knowledge and support, the world will have clean air and water, healthy fish and wildlife, and beautiful places to visit forever." *Gaylord Nelson*

This year we celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Americans coming together to celebrate Earth Day, founded by Gaylord Nelson, former Wisconsin Governor, former United States Senator and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On April 23, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Graceada Park in Modesto, the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will participate in the Earth Day celebration at Graceada Park, by educating the public on important environmental issues to preserve our natural heritage. In addition to the booth being set up by DER, there will be food booths, free entertainment, a petting zoo, face painting and many other booths sharing the Earth Day theme with visitors at the festival. Please come out on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and in addition to being educated on our environmental concerns, enjoy the food and entertainment on what promises to be a bright and sunny day!

Photo of earth: Microsoft On-Line Clip Art

## Probation Department Open House

By Carolyn Davila



Chief Probation Officer Jerry Powers will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House at the Stanislaus County Probation Department on April 30, 2005 from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Open House will take place at the Juvenile Justice Center located at 2215 Blue Gum Avenue in Modesto.

Members of the community are invited to learn about Probations services, tour Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Court and see the many programs offered by public and private agencies to youth, adults and families.

An educational insight into gang awareness will also be provided. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mike Hamasaki, Probation Manager at (209) 525-4574.



Aging & Veterans  
Agricultural Commissioner

Carolyn Hill  
Cynthia  
Darmstandler

Animal Services  
Assessor  
Auditor/Controller  
Behavioral Health & Rec  
CEO – Risk Management  
Chief Executive Office  
Child Support Services

Linda Ford  
none  
Barbara Linthicum  
Linda V. Jue  
Barbara Cooper  
Claudia Krausnick  
Mary Ellen Horne  
Tina Von Stade  
Lena Rodebaugh

Clerk Recorder  
Community Services Ag  
County Counsel  
District Attorney  
Employment & Training  
EnRes (DER) Parks & Rec  
Health Services Agency  
Library  
Planning & Community Dev  
Probation

Monica Coryea  
Cynthia Homen  
Carrie Stephens  
Jennifer West  
Michelle Pressman  
Dianne Parkinson  
Ernie Gong  
none  
Roxanne Hubbs  
Carolyn Davila  
Linda Bradley  
Angie Halverson  
Gary Hayward  
John Elder

Public Works

Retirement  
Sheriff  
Strategic Business Tech  
Stanislaus Regional 911  
Treasurer/Tax Collector

none  
none  
none  
none  
none

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Google Image