

OPERATION SMOKE DETECTOR

On February 7, 2010 Marina Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire that resulted in one burn injury and one fatality. At this time it appears that the home may have had a smoke detector, however it is unclear if the smoke detector was functional at the time of the fire.

The majority of fatal home fires occur at night, when people are asleep. Instead of waking you, smoke and poisonous gases from a fire can quickly numb the senses and put you in a deeper sleep.

Your chance of dying in a home fire is cut nearly in half if you have a smoke detector to alert you to a fire. Smoke detectors (also called smoke alarms) save so many lives that all new homes built today require smoke detectors in each bedroom which are hard wired with battery back up.

Research by the National Fire Protection Association indicates that while 94% of American homes have at

least one smoke detector, more than 1/3 are inoperable because of dead or missing batteries. Nearly 1/2 of our nation's fire deaths occur in the 6% of homes with no smoke detector at all.

The Marina Fire Department with the assistance of the Marina Professional Fire Fighters Association is promoting Operation Smoke Detector. The Marina Professional Fire Fighters Association has requested and received a donation of smoke detectors from Wal-Mart. The Marina Professional Fire Fighters Association is in the process of requesting additional smoke detectors and batteries from local businesses.

The smoke detectors will be made available to residents of Marina. The only requirement is that you live in the City of Marina and own the home. Residents can come to the Fire Department located at 211 Hillcrest Avenue or contact the Marina Fire Department at 884-1213. The Department will provide one smoke detector for each level of your home. If you cannot install the smoke detector(s), the Fire Depart-

ment will assist as needed.

Renters: The owner of each dwelling unit shall supply and install smoke detectors as required. In apartments, the tenants are responsible for notifying the owner or manager if the tenant becomes aware of an inoperable smoke detector within his or her unit. In all cases, the smoke detector shall be operable at the time the tenant takes possession. If you rent, please contact the owner or property management if you have a smoke detector that does not work or is missing.

Smoke detectors give you time to escape from a fire. How your family responds in a fire depends on how well you've prepared. Plan escape routes in advance and know at least two ways out of each room, especially bedrooms. Your plan should specify a safe meeting place outside your home so that you can account for everyone. Practice this plan at least twice a year and change your smoke detector batteries when you change your clocks.

Salinas Rotary Clubs to Help Families and Reduce Violence

Five Salinas Rotary Clubs collaborate to support the Strengthening Families Program

SALINAS, CA - February 23, 2010 - "Families need tools that will strengthen the family unit, bring parents and their kids closer together and leave little room for gang involvement" says Jackie Cruz-Ortega, Salinas Citizen of the Year 2008, Volunteer for Strengthening Families.

In March of 2009 while attending a leadership training, five Salinas Rotary Club presidents discussed their desire for making a greater impact in Salinas by combining efforts to address a single community issue. After researching several opportunities, they selected the Strengthening Families Program as it addressed the region's greatest need - to help families raise healthy kids who do not get involved in gangs.

Strengthening Families staff and supporters will be honored Thursday, February 25 at the National Steinbeck Center. The event's program will include two participating family success stories.

The Salinas Rotary Clubs - Salinas, Salinas Steinbeck, Corral de Tierra, Salinas Northeast and Salinas Al-

isal, appreciate what each of the clubs contribute individually, but in the true spirit of Rotary, they are also interested in learning what they can accomplish together. Heeding the cries for help in light of the violence that litters the streets and news headlines daily, the presidents have been meeting regularly to determine what Rotarians can do for their community. They understand that they are not the answer, but they also understand they are in a very unique position to do something to help solve the gang problem.

After months of meetings and research, the clubs selected an organization that they are supporting. In light of their shared vision for all families in the Salinas Valley to have an opportunity to acquire the skills needed to develop a strong and healthy family, the clubs secured approval from their Board of Directors and they moved forward to help the Strengthening Families Program reach a level of self-sustainability. They believe that strong caring families leave little room for gang involvement. Helping this program grow, will be an important step towards gang prevention in the community.

Working with volunteers from the Strengthening Families Program, the Rotary coalition has:

- Developed a business plan

- Purchased needed technology
- Donated \$30,000 to hire support staff that will enable program expansion
- Assisted with the identification of new partners to improve sustainability

The mission of Strengthening Families is to strengthen the family unit, improve communication and promote healthy development of youth. The Strengthening Families Program promotes family values and relationships. Parents learn tools for effectively parenting teens and how to set limits and show love. Teens learn how to resist peer pressure and how to choose positive friends. Strengthening Families builds strong families via an evidence-based curriculum designed to reduce adolescent substance abuse and other problematic behaviors in youth 10-14 years of age and to improve communication and interaction among families.

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The Salinas Rotary Clubs / Strengthening Families Coalition is comprised of:

- Doug Brown, Corral de Tierra Rotary Club
- Jackie Cruz-Ortega, Strengthening Families
- Ken Feske, Partners for Peace
- Sharon Gish, Rotary Club of Salinas

Jazz Bash by the Bay

This music is for dancing! 6 dance floors, 8 stages, 14 Bands and 132 Shows

MONTEREY, CA - February 12, 2010 - World-class musicians, 14 featured bands and three youth bands will take to the stage during the 30th annual Dixieland Monterey "Jazz Bash by the Bay" to be held March 5, 6, and 7, 2010. Sets will take place in the Portola Hotel & Spa, the Monterey Conference Center and on Monterey Fisherman's Wharf. Festival hours are 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday, March 5; 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6; and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 7.

All-Event Badges are \$90; day badges are \$40 for Friday, \$55 for Saturday and \$40 for Sunday. Children under 13 are admitted free with an adult; high school students are also free. College students and military personnel badges are \$10 per day or \$20 for all-event badges with an ID. Group discounts are available. For badge purchases and further information call toll free 1-888-349-6879 or locally at 831-675-0298. Complete information, online purchases and performance schedules may be found at www.dixieland-monterey.com

Kicking off the festival, the Gala Swing Dance Party, featuring the 15 piece big band ClickTrax, will be held on Thursday, March 4th, from 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Portola Hotel & Spa. Tickets are \$20/single and \$35/couple, not included with any badge purchase. Payment may be made at the door.

There are two new groups this year: We3, a trio in the

Benny Goodman style, featuring Jeff Barnhart, Bob Draga and Danny Coots and Taking Stock with Jackson. Lead by Jackson Stock this group represents a full circle as Jackson's father Jake and his Abalone Stompers were among the groups playing at the first festival 30 years ago.

Popular San Francisco musicians, violinist-Zydeco player Tom Rigney and the swing sound of the Midiri Brothers Sextet will be back. Long-time crowd favorites include High Sierra Jazz Band and the Titan Hot Seven plus Eddie Erickson with BED are again on the lineup.

A not to miss Festival tradition are the free 9:00AM Sunday morning Gospel sets. This year Blue Street will perform in the DeAnza Room and Yve Evans will perform at the Steinbeck Forum.

The 18th annual Foundations of Jazz Clinic will be held Saturday, March 6 at 8:30 a.m. sharp in the Bonsai Room of the Conference Center. The clinic will be conducted by local jazz musician Eddie Mendenhall. This is open to all music students in Monterey County. 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Free. He will stress the basics of jazz and by the end of the session he will lead them all in a single set.

Again this year, Dixieland Monterey Jazz Festival will host the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), Central Coast Sections' annual "Jazz Festi-

val" featuring high school bands from four local counties. The groups will all perform Big Band music for 25 minutes before a panel of judges. Big Band music was selected for its ease of understanding of the fundamentals for students versus more contemporary jazz. Each group will receive both a written and tape recorded evaluation from the judges on their intonation, pitch, rhythm, brass, over-all-effect and preparation that will serve as a learning tool for the students and their teachers. The event is open to the public who are invited to drop in anytime from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Ferrante Room.

This year's Musician of the Year honoree is Jeff Barnhart, whose career spans more than thirty years of live performance on a national and international level. For more information about Jeff go to <http://www.jeff-barnhart.com>

Founded in 1980, Dixieland Monterey celebrates the roots of Classic Jazz, Swing, and Ragtime, and promotes the education of youth in the art of traditional jazz performance. Each year, enthusiasts from all over the United States and Canada travel to Monterey to enjoy some of the hottest traditional jazz and swing bands from the U.S. and around the world. For more information go to www.dixieland-monterey.com

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