



Aromas Grange

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A Designated "Action Grange" Newsletter for May/June 2005

Aromas Live! Gets Bigger and Better

The Aromas Community Grange seems to have launched a lasting tradition in the area with its "Aromas Live!" series. The difficult-to-classify event is part talent show and part interactive community venue for unique local performance artisans – Great fun for the whole family! The third "Aromas Live!" was a great success with the largest crowd yet. This Free event is just one of the ways the Grange is working to build community in our little town by bringing people together. The next show will be the week before Halloween. All are welcome and the seats fill up fast so mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22nd and come down early. If you want to assist or have an act in the next show give Rich Saxe a call at 726-3609 – there may still be a few spots left in the lineup.



A bevy of talented Aromasionians came together on April 2nd for the third "Aromas Live" event

Town Hall Meeting on Town Square Park New Date to Be Announced

Many Aromas residents showed up in Salinas, on the 10th of March before the Monterey County Parks Commission to offer testimony around their vision of our Aromas Town park. Some hoped that this hearing would result in the formation of a 5-member committee

of community members to advise the Commissioners as to Aromas resident's vision of their park.

The Commissioners decided not to form another committee. Instead, they chose to hold a Town Hall meeting at the Aromas Community Grange to discuss the future of the Aromas Town Square Park. The meeting was scheduled for May 26 but has been postponed because the Grand Opening of the new Aromas School Gym is that evening.

The Parks Department would like to see Aromas area residents come together and agree on a plan for the Town Square Park. If you want to be a part of this important decision, don't miss the Town Hall meeting. We will keep you posted when the new date is announced; we want everyone to be there.

Rancho San Juan development Informational:

Landwatch Monterey County will present an informational meeting on Monday evening, May 16th, at 7pm, here at the Grange hall. This North Monterey County development will be part of the referendum vote on the November ballot. The Rancho San Juan development is a large project that will have a big impact on Monterey County and it is important for Monterey County voters in Aromas to be aware of it. Please come and encourage others to attend this important event.

First Grange Service Award recipient is Michael Palmer

In honor of his many years of service to the Aromas Grange as a 4H volunteer, Michael Palmer was awarded the first Grange Service Award at the Friday 4H meeting. The award includes a \$500 gift.



Congratulations, Michael!

"Green Granges" to Meet Weekend of May 13-15 in Santa Cruz

A new movement of "Action Granges" are in the process of re-inventing themselves to truly serve the needs of their communities. For over a century the Grange has been a relatively conservative organization of farmers and rural residents. With the influx of new populations into areas that were formerly rural more Granges are now working to modernize themselves and revitalize the Grange movement in the United States. Our Aromas Community Grange was one of the first Granges in the new program and has become one of the preeminent Action Granges in the nation.

Do you think of the Grange as an organization that supports organic growing practices and progressive views from an increasingly diverse membership? If not then you have not heard of the "Green Granges." This fledgling movement of Granges will be meeting in Santa Cruz on the weekend of May 13-15.

If you are frustrated with the politics and lobbying efforts you see in our State Grange newsletter this gathering will give you a chance to make a difference.

Proposed agenda:

FRIDAY

8:00 pm: mixer with refreshments

SATURDAY

8:30 am: breakfast

10:00 am: overall agenda and strategy of gathering
State convention expanding progressive members and legislative committee

12:00 pm: lunch break and beach outing

2:30 pm: resolution breakout sessions

3:30 pm: return and report article-writing sessions

4:00 pm: state of home Granges: strategies for connecting home Granges with sustainable groups and community

6:00 pm: hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm: dinner

8:30 pm: music

SUNDAY

9:00 am: breakfast

10:00 am: wrap-up; next steps

12:00 pm: done

For more information or to carpool contact Rich Saxe at 726-3609.

Contra Dancing in Aromas

The Grange's next Contra Dance will be on Saturday, May 14th at 7:30 pm, with Keith Connes doing the calling and music by those fabulous Percolators.

The Aromas Hills Artisan's Annual Garden Tour coming Sunday, June 5, 10am-4pm

There will be an Art Faire and 4H marketplace at the Grange Hall, where you can pick up your brochure and Garden Tour map for just \$10. This year the Aromas Hills Artisan's Garden Tour will be featured in Sunset Magazine...Don't miss it!

Aromas Day is Coming Up!

This year Aromas Day falls on Sunday August 28th. The organizing committee had its first meeting last Thursday evening at 7 pm. Call James Kmetovic at 726-7183 if you would like be a part of this great community event and earn one of those coveted Aromas Day Staff T-shirts.

There is plenty to do and a great group of people to work with putting together the parade, the live music, games for kids, booth rentals, and a silent auction to be run during the Grange Breakfast to benefit the Grange Scholarship Fund.

The Aromas Sports Park Needs You

Incredible progress has been made toward making the dream of a sports park a reality for our little town, but there is much that still needs to be done. A lot of hard work by a small group of people has moved the process forward. The foundation now owns the land, and has filed their permits with the building department. Enough money has been raised to begin the work. It is time for this community to rally behind them and bring this project home. It will take all of us to make this fantastic ten-year-old Aromas dream come true for our families, friends, children & grandchildren.

Newsletter by Snail Mail?

Would you like to receive this newsletter in the mail as well as via email? We would be happy to send you a copy. Just click on the email link below and let us know. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you know who might be interested in learning more about the Aromas Community Grange and our activities. If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to join or learn more about the Grange, click below and email Stephen Johnson or call 726-7199.

saltydog@happydogfood.com

Give some of yourself back to your community!

Your School Bond Dollars at Work

The new Aromas School Gym will be ready for the graduation of this year's 8th graders on June 13th. The Grand Opening will be on Back-To-School Night, May 26th from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. We are excited to have this wonderful new facility for our students and community.

Report on the April 7th meeting of the Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force

On Thursday, April 7, the Waste Management Task Force met to discuss alternatives to building a new landfill in Santa Cruz County and voted to adopt a Zero Waste Resolution. The Zero Waste Resolution sets a goal of 75% waste reduction by the year 2010 for the County of Santa Cruz, with the ultimate goal of a completely closed recycling system that reuses all resources and generates zero waste in the future.

This could possibly eliminate the need for a landfill site on the Chamberlain Ranch property in the hills overlooking Aromas.

The first action that will be brought before the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors is the enforcement of all waste reduction and recycling ordinances already on the books. Testing will then be implemented to determine what kinds of solid waste are still ending up in the waste disposal stream so they can develop a plan for reclaiming and recycling them.

We will keep you posted...stay tuned.

Grange Breakfast Growing in Popularity

The Monthly Grange Breakfast is becoming more popular and exciting. With fresh organic vegetables for sale from the Happy Boy Farms market booth, new menu items, Artisans on display, and a gracious community atmosphere the Grange Breakfast is definitely the place to meet and mingle once a month in Aromas.



Upcoming Grange Breakfasts are on Sunday, May 22nd, and June 26th...Fourth Sunday, every month!



Grange Concert Series

On March 25th Aromas was fortunate to have singer/songwriters Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen kick off our 2005 concert series. Steve and Cindy played last year and we loved having them back. Proceeds benefited the Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Foundation. Thank you all for your support!

May Calendar of Events

- W/4 Aromas Hills Artisans: 7:00 pm
- F/6 Aromas 4H Mtg. 7:30 pm
- F/13 Grange Potluck & Bus. Mtg: 6:30 & 7:15 pm**
- Sa/14 Contra Dance with the Percolators and calling by Keith Connes: 7:30 – 10:30 pm
- M/16 Landwatch Mtg: 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- W/18 Community Foundation Mtg: 7:00 pm
- Su/22 Grange Breakfast: 7 – 11 am
- W/25 Aromas Business Owners: 7 pm
- Th/26 **Town Meeting POSTPONED**

June Calendar of Events

- W/1 Aromas Hills Artisans: 7:00 pm
- F/3 Aromas 4H Meeting: 7:30 pm
- Su/5 Aromas Hills Artisans Garden Tour: 10am 4pm
- F/10 Grange Potluck & Bus. Mtg: 6:30 & 7:15 pm
- Sa/11 Contra Dance with Stump Tail Dog & calling by Greg McKenzie: 7:30 – 10:30 pm
- W/15 Community Foundation Mtg: 7:00 pm
- W/22 Aromas Business Owners: 7 pm
- Su/26 Grange Breakfast: 7 – 11 am

Weekly Programs

- M W Sat Jazzercise: 5:30 – 6:30 pm
(Saturday in morning.)
- Tu Boy Scouts: 7:30 pm
- Th Yoga Class: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Newsletter comments or suggestions? Contact Greg at 726-7253 or <gregmck@earthlink.net