



# City of Nevada City Newsletter

January 2009

## A New Year Resolution

*"Be always at war  
with your vices, at  
peace with your  
neighbors, and let  
each new year find  
you a better man."*

**Ben Franklin**

**I saw them tearing a  
building down**

**A gang of men in a  
busy town**

**With a ho-heave-ho and a  
lusty yell**

**They swing a beam. A  
side wall fell.**

**I said to the foreman, are  
these men skilled?**

**As those you would  
have, if you were to  
build?**

**He laughed and said, oh  
no indeed**

**Just common labor is all  
I need.**

**Why I can wreck in a day  
or two**

**What builders have taken  
a year to do.**

**Now I said to myself, as I  
walked away**

**Which of these roles  
have I tried to play.**

**Am I a builder, who  
works with care**

**Measuring life by the rule  
and the square**

**Or am I a wrecker who  
stalks the town**

**Content with the labors  
of tearing down.**

## Second Unit Leniency Program Now in Effect!!!

On November 12, 2008, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2008-12, a leniency program for existing second dwelling units which are not recognized as being legal by the City. This ordinance becomes effective December 24, 2008. The City recognizes that second dwelling units provide a source of housing for many residents and, therefore, wants this inventory of affordable housing to be maintained. The purpose of the Second Dwelling Unit Leniency Program

is to provide fee reduction and fee waiver incentives for owners to legalize existing second dwelling units. In order to participate in the Second Dwelling Unit Leniency Program, an owner must file an application with the City Planner prior to **March 31, 2009**.

There will be programs available that include a financial incentive for the upfront payment of city fees due, as well as payment-plan and deferred payment options. For those property owners who are unable

to participate in either of the payment plans there is an option to voluntarily record a lien against their property and allow the fees to be paid the next time the property sells. And for those willing to deem their second units as "affordable" using the definition for California household income criteria, there is an option already on the books that allows **all fees to be waived**. We believe that many of the current renters will meet those low-income level requirements.

## City Solar Program

The City is happy to report that the solar program for the year 2008 is now complete. Solar Panels were installed at City Hall, the Swimming Pool and the Corporation Yard. The system, on a sunny day, now generates

energy to supplement the City's power needs. By installing solar panels, Nevada City is doing it's small part to help with our national consumption of energy. Also, the Hydro Electric power plant is currently under con-

struction at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and should be operating in early 2009. Staff will be evaluating savings during the next year and determine the future energy needs and potential solutions.

## Zero Tolerance for Graffiti

As Nevada City area's population has grown, there is an increase in property crimes including graffiti. Primary targets range from stop signs to bike trail under-crossings, bridges and sound walls.

Graffiti is generally a misdemeanor crime, although it may be a felony if damage exceeds \$400. The City of Nevada City has a Zero Tolerance policy for graffiti vandalism and will prosecute to

the full extent of the law including jail, fines, community service, suspension or delayed issuance of a driver's license.

In the Nevada City area, graffiti is most often the work of 15 to 20 year old individuals. By law, minors may not purchase aerosol paint containers or etching cream nor possess these materials for the purpose of defacing property in public places. The City may collect the expenses of removing graffiti

from the vandal or, in the case of a minor, from the parents.

***Citizens should call the Police Department (265-2626) if they see vandals in the act of applying graffiti. Residents should call the Graffiti Hotline (265-2496) to report graffiti after the fact.***

## City Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibility

**Section 12.04.060 of the City Municipal Code:** It shall be the duty of all owners and their tenants, of real property within the city whose property borders any sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk in a safe condition for its use by pedestrians and other members of the public. The duty created by the ordinance

shall include the duty to keep the sidewalk free and clear of all dirt, sand, gravel, filth, rubbish, ice and snow.

If, as the result of the failure of the landowner and/or tenant to keep the sidewalk maintained in a safe condition, any person while exercising ordinary care

to avoid the danger and who suffers damage to his person or property through any unsafe condition on the adjoining sidewalk, may have recourse for damages thus suffered against the landowner and/or tenant failing to maintain the sidewalk in a safe condition (Ord. 85-6 1985). Ref. 12.04.060

## 2008 WRAP award goes to Thomson Grass Valley Group

The Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) is administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. WRAP provides an opportunity for California businesses to gain public recognition for their outstanding waste reduction efforts and lets the community know your business takes waste reduction seriously. WRAP also provides businesses with examples of successful waste reduction techniques, which they may adopt as their own.

Thomson Grass Valley Group, is a global organization and a market leader, located in Nevada City. They offer a rich portfolio of award-winning solutions to the world's media and entertainment companies. Between January 1 & December 31, 2006, Thomson Grass Valley Group diverted 329,136 pounds of waste from the landfill. These numbers are derived from measurements of materials sold, donated to charities and/or employees, and given

to local businesses for reuse. Total estimated savings from the waste diversion program is projected at \$28,185.52. In the year 2006 the business continued with the worldwide product return program. This applies to all of their branded products, anywhere in the world.

This is the 8th consecutive year that Thompson Grass Valley Group has received the WRAP award in addition to their 1993 award.

## NEVADA CITY RECEIVES CLEAN OPINION IN OUTSIDE AUDIT OF FY 2007-2008 FINANCES

The City of Nevada City has received a clean, “unqualified” audit opinion in a comprehensive independent audit of its financial operations completed recently by the regional firm of Smith & Newell, Certified Public Accountants.

Smith & Newell conducted a thorough audit of the City’s financial statements for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2008, concluding that they “are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with

generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.”

City Manager, Gene Albaugh said, “an unqualified opinion” is the highest level of assurance that an audit firm can give on an organization’s financial statements.”

Albaugh praised the City’s finance staff, led by Director of Finance Catrina Andes along with Senior Clerk, Corey Shaver, Accounting Clerk Mary Lundin, Customer Ser-

vice Clerk Brenda Peters and City Department Heads in efforts to complete the audit in a timely manner saying the audit finding is “a sign of how seriously the City’s finance area regards its ability to meet outside financial standards.”

Copies of the comprehensive independent auditor’s report are available for viewing at City Hall.

For additional information, call the Director of Finance at (530) 265-2496.

### The City of Nevada City Whole-Town Yard & Garage Sale

**Saturday, May 2, 2009**  
**8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,**

**These will be the posted hours, but expect to see people here very early in the morning. Individuals and businesses may participate throughout the city.**



More information  
will be available in  
future newsletters.

### COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009



**Clean-up Day is a great opportunity for residents to do spring-cleaning. Use this day to clean unwanted items that remain after the Whole Town Yard Sale and get junk out of garages, to clean yards of unwanted clippings & tree trimmings and to properly dispose of bulk items.**

**Lets all work together to make Nevada City a cleaner and more fire safe place to live.**



### Mission Statement

The City of Nevada City is dedicated to preserving and enhancing its small town character and historical architecture while providing quality public service for our current and future residents, businesses and visitors.

#### How to contact City Hall:

Phone: 530-265-2496

Website: [www.nevadacityca.gov](http://www.nevadacityca.gov)

Fax: 530-265-0187

Mailing & Physical Address: 317 Broad St.



## Nevada City Veteran's Memorial Building Your Community Center

The Nevada City Veteran's Building, located in downtown Nevada City offers a wonderful space for any event.

*Weddings, meetings, yard sales, social events, fund raisers, trainings, recreation classes, retreats and much more.*

The location is fantastic, the price is right and with recent improvements to the building and grounds, the Veteran's Building is the place for your event.

For rental information contact Nevada City Parks & Recreation:

265-2496 ext. 129  
[www.nevadacityca.gov](http://www.nevadacityca.gov)  
317 Broad St.  
Nevada City, CA 95959



## A Great Valentine's Day Gift

Spend some quality time together, and let Foothill Theatre Company handle the entertainment! If you're in this relationship for the long haul (like, through July), get a deep discount by subscribing to all three shows!

### **Sylvia**

March 5 through April 12

Kate and Greg have a rock-solid marriage, until Greg brings home a girl he picked up in the park. The new girl is tough competition, even though she sheds, drools, chews shoes, sniffs crotches, and has fleas! This outrageous

comedy about a dog and her man is one of our most popular shows ever!

### **Bad Dates**

April 9 through May 16

Let's face it, girls, sometimes marriages don't work out. And then you have a choice: sit at home with your sullen, judgmental teenage daughter – or put on a fabulous outfit, and the perfect pair of shoes, and *get back in the game!* A sassy one-woman show, playing to sellout crowds nationwide!

### **The Andrews Brothers**

June 11 through August 2

The bad news: the Andrews Sisters are stuck in Hawaii, and can't possibly get here for their scheduled USO performance. The good news: we got three guys who can sing and dance, and don't look too bad in dresses. Don't miss this madcap, musical romp!

Call the FTC box office at 265-TKTS, or order online at [www.foothilltheatre.org](http://www.foothilltheatre.org)