

THE LUMINARY

Brisbane's Business and Community Journal

BIRITE FIRST TO COMPLETE NEW BRISBANE BUILDING EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

By: ADRIENNE ETHERTON, Sustainability Manager Analyst, City of Brisbane, aetherton@brisbaneca.org, (415) 508-2118



Aerial photo of BiRite Foodservice Distributors located in Brisbane, California, provided by business website.

BiRite Foodservice Distributors is proving that smart energy and water management pays off. Recently, BiRite completed an early compliance effort for the Brisbane Building Efficiency Program (BBEP) in November 2020. This Program was created in 2019 to help make local buildings more energy and water efficient and curb emissions driving

climate change. Most owners of local buildings 10,000 sq feet or more must benchmark their building and report results to the City annually starting May 15, 2021. By participating in the early compliance effort, BiRite was able to complete requirements ahead of time, take advantage of 1:1 support, and gain a better understanding of their

building resource use.

BiRite Foodservice Distributors is an owner-occupied food distribution center that has been in Brisbane since the late 1990s. The locally owned and operated company provides food service support to restaurants, catering, schools, and hotels

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2020 IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

By: Karen Cunningham, City of Brisbane Mayor, kcunningham@brisbaneca.org, 415-312-2662

I wish you all a prosperous and healthy New Year; I am holding out hope for the peaceful transfer of power during the Inauguration of the 46th President of the United States to our great Republic.

Looking forward in 2021, we must all work very hard to get everything back on solid ground; our People and our Businesses. The pandemic is raging and has taken an unfathomable toll on everyone and everything. We must all stand strong together.

As I have stated before, I will continue to work as hard as possible to keep ALL Brisbane growth and development decisions as local as we possibly can.

The many proposed plans and solutions offered by the regional and State governing bodies may well be due for self-correction, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With upwards of 50% of workers now able



2006 photo of Brisbane and CalTrain southbound train from City of Brisbane Facebook page. Photo by Mike Karlik

to work from home moving forward, this will, and has already mitigated some of the traffic congestion on our highways. As reported recently, U.S. air quality is the best that it has been in many years, plunging a

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CHAMBER CIRCLE MEMBERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BiRite Foodservice Distributors City of Brisbane DoubleTree by Hilton Golden State Lumber Homewood Suites by Hilton Integrated Resources Group Peninsula Clean Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recology South San Francisco Scavenger Co., Inc. Universal Paragon Corporation <p><i>The Chairman's Circle is a special group of members that have committed to support the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce through sponsorships. If your business would like to become a member of the Chairman's Circle, please contact Madison Davis, President/CEO at 415-467-7283 or e-mail madison@brisbanechamber.org.</i></p>
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PRESIDENT / CEO's Message

CAN EMPLOYERS REQUIRE COVID-19 VACCINES?

By: Madison Davis, Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, madison@brisbanechamber.org, 415-467-7283

As healthcare providers begin to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, some employers may wonder whether they can require their employees to receive the vaccination. According to Robin Samuel, an attorney with Baker McKenzie based in Los Angeles, employers can require employees receive the vaccine if failure to do so presents a threat to others in the workplace due to the virus "being rampant and easily transmitted" in the work environment. The employer must make exceptions for those who have disabilities and cannot be vaccinated and those employees

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SUPERVISOR'S Message

CANEPA ON BEING NAMED SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT: END COVID AND STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

By: DAVID J. CANEPA, San Mateo County District 5 Supervisor, dcanepa@smcgov.org, 650-363-4572

Below is the speech I gave after I was sworn-in as President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Tuesday Jan. 5.

Thank you to my colleagues for trusting me

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Mayor Karen Cunningham, continued from page 1

whopping 10% in 2020 alone (source NYT via Rhodium Group). And, with many people leaving the metropolitan areas for a more peaceful and rural work landscape, they are also vying for homes with some land around them and not high-rise, compact apartments. This all brings many interesting and changing possibilities to the way we shape our future growth.

SOME BRIGHT NOTES

I would like to reflect on the accomplishments and highlights of 2020. Kudos to our entire staff who pivoted swiftly and with great efficiency. The year in review:



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Mission Statement: The purpose of the Brisbane Chamber of commerce is to create an atmosphere in which business prospers and the community thrives.

The Luminary is printed using recycled paper and environmentally-friendly soy-based ink.

General:

- The City responded to the global social movement calling an end to police brutality and racial injustice with the adoption of a Resolution affirming the City's commitment to stand in solidarity with the Black community and condemn racism. The City again raised the Pride Flag for the entire month of June, and for the first time ever, raised the Black Lives Matter flag at City Hall, the Marina, and in the Community Park where a special, socially-distanced flag-raising ceremony was held on July 1st under the Gazebo.
- The City of Brisbane received the Reach Code Award for Innovation from Sustainable San Mateo County for adoption of local green building codes that will result in safer and more comfortable buildings, increase EV charging infrastructure, and reduce carbon emissions.
- The Open Space and Ecology Committee, together with Sustainability and Parks and Rec staff and South San Francisco Scavenger, hosted Brisbane's first Recycled Arts and Crafts Contest. Nearly 30 community members submitted their projects, highlighting reuse opportunities

and demonstrating that one man's trash can truly be another person's treasure!

- The City firmly opposed the California High Speed Rail Authority's proposal to locate a railyard in Brisbane, providing extensive comments, as did many of our citizens and other groups, and we are waiting now for those comments to be addressed in any Final EIR and planning documents for HSR.
- The Baylands continues to be a major project of the City. We have worked diligently this year in safeguarding the City's position on environmental and legal issues, including all aspects of density, cleanup/remediation, and the financial impacts of growth.
- With the pandemic and pivoting to virtual meetings, it became a high priority to problem solve the nascent buzzing in the background on YouTube and Ch. 27. That issue was resolved in mid-October with Communications staff working with MCTV to test and troubleshoot the issue from the Council Chambers. That allowed for more pleasurable viewing experiences when it came time for the 2020 State of the City and Virtual Veterans' Day Flag-Raising

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FINANCIAL Matters

BUSINESS OWNERS: YOU NEED YOUR OWN RETIREMENT PLAN

By: SVEN GEFFKEN, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, Sven.Geffken@edwardjones.com, (650) 355-1365

As a business owner, you can't afford to ignore your competition. You can't afford to miss out on the trends affecting your industry. You can't afford to alienate customers. And here's one more item to add to the list: You can't afford not to create a retirement plan for yourself.

Of course, you might think that, one day, you'll simply sell your business and live off the proceeds. But selling a business isn't always simple, and there's no guarantee you'll receive enough to pay for a comfortable retirement – which is why you should strongly consider creating a retirement plan now.

Here are some of the most widely used plans:

- **SEP-IRA:** You can contribute up to 25 percent of your compensation — as much as \$56,000 in 2019 — to a SEP-IRA. Your contributions are tax deductible and your earnings grow tax-deferred until withdrawn. This plan offers you significant flexibility in making contributions for yourself and your employees. Plus, as an employer, you can generally deduct, as business expenses, any contributions you make on behalf of your plan participants.

- **SIMPLE IRA:** In 2019, you can put in up to \$13,000 — or \$16,000 if you're 50 or older — to a SIMPLE IRA. As is the case with the SEP-IRA, your earnings grow tax deferred. You can match your employees' contributions dollar for dollar, up to 3 percent of compensation. If you work for yourself, you can combine employee and employer contributions, so if you use the 3 percent matching rule, and you earn enough to fully match employee contributions, you can put in up to \$26,000 per year (or \$32,000 if you're 50 or older). Alternatively, you could

contribute 2 percent of each eligible employee's compensation each year, up to a maximum of \$5,600, regardless of whether the employee contributes. Contributions to your employees are tax deductible.

- **"Owner-only" 401(k) plan:** If you have no employees other than your spouse, you can establish an "owner-only" 401(k) plan, which functions similarly to a 401(k) plan offered by a large employer. Between salary deferral and profit sharing, you can contribute up to \$56,000, in pre-tax dollars, to your owner-only 401(k), or \$62,000 if you're 50 or older. Like a SEP-IRA and SIMPLE IRA, a 401(k) provides the potential to accumulate tax-deferred earnings. However, you could choose to open a Roth 401(k), which can be funded with after-tax dollars. With a Roth 401(k), your earnings can grow tax-free, provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59-1/2.

Which plan is right for you? The answer depends on several factors, such as whether you have any employees and how much money you can contribute each year. But all the plans mentioned above are generally easy to establish, and the administrative costs are usually minimal. Most important, any one of them can help you build some of the resources you'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. To select an appropriate plan, you may want to consult with your tax and financial advisors.

In any case, don't wait too long. Time goes by quickly, and when you reach that day when you're a "former" business owner, you'll want to be prepared.

Mayor Karen Cunningham, continued from page 2

Ceremonies, which both took place in early November. With the November 12th Planning Commission Meeting, Communications staff again worked with MCTV to this time enhance the video aspect of meetings and events. This involved pivoting to streaming directly from Zoom, which allowed for an HD picture quality when viewing meetings and events on YouTube. Check out the difference on the City's YouTube channel: youtube.com/brisbaneca.

- Regulatory compliance included meeting CalRecycle's requirements to educate customers on mandatory organics recycling and mandatory commercial recycling, submitting the required Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan to Regional Water Quality Control Board to demonstrate how GI will be incorporated in the City over the next several decades, beginning development of an ADA transition plan to identify access barriers and a plan to correct them, complying with San Mateo County Environmental Health's requirement to develop a utility structure monitoring program at Sierra Point (which also included passage of a Prop 218 fee to fund this work), updating the Sewer System Management Plan (as required by State Water Resources Control Board to minimize the potential for sewage overflows), and beginning the implementation phase of the Brisbane Building Efficiency Program.

From our Parks and Recreation Department:

- Brisbane's Parks & Recreation department was one of the very first agencies in the District & State to launch their virtual recreation platform in response to the pandemic. The #smileBrisbane campaign sought to achieve much more than online class resources and activity ideas for Brisbane residents. #smileBrisbane is an initiative focused on continued service to residents intending to combat social isolation, engage the community, address food insecurity, support community health & wellness, and unify residents during this trying time. The Parks & Recreation department has received two awards from the California Parks & Recreation Society for the #smileBrisbane campaign and their solidarity poster series;
- The City's traditional Fire Hydrant Painting & Restoration event, which was moved to the Fall, allowed residents an opportunity to participate in a socially-distanced event while flexing their creativity muscles – the hydrants are absolute masterpieces in and of themselves;
- With support from Samaritan House and the Brisbane Lions Club, staff have distributed over 4,000 meals to seniors, and counting;
- They also successfully and safely reopened the Community Pool for lap swim and water aerobics and operate at 100% capacity every week;
- The LUNAFEST film festival, which was held virtually, raised more than \$24,000 and 13 young women pursuing careers in STEAM professions were awarded scholarships;
- Staff distributed Halloween treat bags, organized a virtual family campout, planned a fun and socially distanced Easter Egg Hunt, and led a reimagined Festival of Lights which included a car Light Parade through town for residents to enjoy from the safety of their homes, while enjoying with treats from their North Pole Parcels if they pre-ordered (they sold out!);
- The department has also offered childcare for essential workers and the broader community throughout this time with their preschool and afterschool elementary-aged "pod squad" programs.

From our Community Development Department:

- Obtained a funding grant for \$215,000 to assist in implementing state housing requirements;
- Staff implemented an enhanced and expanded range of online customer services including planning submittals and building permit processing from the City's new website. When most cities put website redesigns on hold, the City believed that a new website would be of great value to the community, knowing many residents would be likely flocking there for current City-related COVID information and resources. Please visit brisbaneca.org/LatestCovidNews;
- Pushed forward on the implementation of life sciences projects at Sierra Point, with Healthpeak's "The Shore" nearing completion

and the Phase 3 Genesis project breaking ground

- Staff continued engagement on Measure JJ/Brisbane Baylands implementation, including review of site clean-up plans;
- They also reviewed the High Speed Rail project to ensure that impacts to Brisbane are identified and mitigated;
- Continued administration of the City's Affordable Housing program and adopted regulations simplifying the permitting process of accessory dwelling units;
- Lastly, staff commenced work on General Plan Housing Element updates and continued negotiations with regional agencies to ensure that the City's future housing obligations are realistic and achievable.

From our Police Department:

- Completed a technology upgrade of their mobile car computers which now allows officers to write their reports in their vehicles, thus spending more time visible out in the community than in the station;
- Hired and trained their newest academy recruits and brought them on board without much delay and met their Peace Officer Standard and Training (POST) end-of-year requirements despite the pandemic (using Zoom as an alternative training method);
- Attended and prepared an Operation Plan in partnership with the event coordinators for a Black Lives Matter peaceful demonstration event at the Community Park to ensure safety for all attendees, which was well-attended and very peaceful;
- Sent officers on Mutual Aid requests to the raging fires in Pescadero and Santa Cruz where they assisted with residential evacuations;
- Participated in and led the Light Parade as part of this year's reimagined Festival of Lights;
- Collaborated with San Mateo County's Core Service Agency, the YMCA Youth Services Bureau, as well as the local Lions Club, by donating gifts from our Toys for Tots program for this year's Holiday Gifts/Food Distribution Program for residents that reached out for assistance during the holidays. Due to COVID this year, we could not host our Toys for Tots program as we have in years past.

From our Fire Department:

- Assisted and participated in the Statewide Fire Mutual Aid by deploying strike teams to the many major wildfire incidents throughout California, where they served between 14-21-day shifts;
- Continued to provide pre-hospital care advance life support paramedic lifesaving medical interventions;
- Achieved an average of five minutes and forty-nine seconds total reflex time, from dispatch, turnout and travel to arrival by a single fire company for all emergency incidents;
- Updated the evacuation plan for Brisbane, as well as coordinated with the county on moving forward with an online countywide electronic platform slated to be operation in 2021.
- Provided the community with resources on COVID-19, fire and home safety checklists, senior citizen fall prevention, and other health information via social media and the STAR;
- Continued safety inspections of land parcels through the "Vegetation Abatement and Management Program" as well as completed annual life-safety and fire code compliance inspections and plan check reviews;
- Recorded "Storytime at Station 81" videos during Fire Prevention Month (October) that provided viewers with a mini tour of the engines, bay, and included a firefighter reading a fun firefighting story and providing Halloween and kitchen safety tips.

From our Public Works Department:

In regards to major Capital Improvement Projects, Public Works:

- Completed the Pedestrian Safe Routes to Schools/Green Infrastructure Project with the help of grant funding from the City & County Association of Governments (C/CAG), which was a combined project that included efforts from our Complete Streets Safety Committee to provide designated walk routes for students, families, and other pedestrians to get around Central Brisbane,

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Supervisor David Canepa, continued from page 1

to assume the board's presidency during these extraordinary times. And thank you Supervisor Slocum for leading the county through one very difficult year.

As we are in the midst of the greatest health crisis in our lifetimes – I am honored and humbled. As painful as 2020 was for the world, it's presented an opportunity for us to reflect and think about where we are and where we are headed.

As COVID-19 ravaged the world and our county, it has exposed disparities that have existed in San Mateo County for generations. Ours must be a county where Daly City, East Palo Alto and Coastsiders residents are actively sought out for their point of view and their talents.

We are no longer a bedroom community when we are at the epicenter of the global economy. An economy strengthened by different points of view, different experiences, different races, and ages.

The more diverse in thoughts and experiences that we are, the stronger we will be into the future. It's great that some in our community feel connected to our county government. It's great that some feel they can pick up the phone and call my colleagues, the County staff, and get a response.

But it doesn't mean anything until everyone feels that connection and has that ability to truly partner with their county government. As the president of the Board of Supervisors, I want our community to know that I will make it my singular mission to ensure that you are at the table.

That outreach to your community is a priority, not simply a box that needs to be checked. We must embrace our diversity, as that is the path by which we become a leader for the region and the state.

I believe better days are ahead of us in 2021. Right now, our focus should be on saving lives as we undertake the greatest mass immunization effort in modern history.

And we need to ensure that we create an economy that works for everyone.

My message today is simple and clear. We must end COVID and we must stimulate the economy.

We as a County need to support working families through job training and partnering with community colleges. Community college should be free for all and the County must play a role in ensuring anyone who wants an education can get one. We must bridge the digital divide by ensuring every child in the county has access to the internet and technology needed in these changing times. We must support our entrepreneurs who will create new jobs in both traditional and emerging industries.

We must dream big.

Currently, Millions of doses of multiple COVID vaccines are being administered throughout the state to those most at risk. And make no mistake about it, no one will cut in line to receive the vaccine based on how deep their pockets are.

You will wait in line just as I do.

I, along with Supervisor Slocum will form a COVID-19 working group that will guide the rollout of the vaccine in a complete and transparent process.

And ensure that this economy works for all so that all of us in this community have the same opportunities in one of the richest counties in the United States.

And making sure we stimulate this economy and that it works for all of us, regardless of your ZIP code.

We must continue to protect our families by staying home, by avoiding gatherings and by wearing our masks.

I'd like offer special thanks to the health professionals and front line workers who have been there 24/7 assisting COVID-19 patients and for keeping our essential services moving.

So again, I am humbled and honored to accept this presidency. And thank you colleagues for your leadership during this pandemic.

Thanks also to my wife and son for loving and supporting me through a challenging year.

With you all by my side, I have the confidence and courage to remain hopeful that life will indeed return to normal. Our recovery depends on us working together, knowing that fills me with optimism. Because I have seen firsthand the power of our community and the change we are able to make each and every day.

Thank you and God Bless.

David J. Canepa currently serves as President on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.



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Mayor Karen Cunningham, continued from page 3

and implemented bio-retention basins that use native and drought-tolerant plants to help treat stormwater before it drains to the Bay as well as serve as a innovative flood prevention measure;

- Made safety improvements on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, which included modified striping plans and added rumble strips to prevent shoulder “run-offs” and median head-on accidents;
- Finished the Water Main Replacement Project, Phase 2, improving fire flow and water pressure for the upper streets;
- Installed a retaining wall on the 400 block of Kings, mitigating concerns for a failing slope;
- Finalized designs of Utility Station Shore Power – a plan to get ready for future public safety power shutoffs that exceed the designed run times for our utility stations’ backup power;
- Completed the new Brisbane Library.

In terms of major development review and oversight, Public Works staff worked with:

- Healthpeak to oversee project compliance, including their design and installation of offsite improvements such as a new sewer line in Sierra point Parkway, construction of new sewage lift station #4, and various intersection improvements.
- As for 3500 Genesis, it was confirmed that the project complies with requirements of the Development Agreement and Mitigation & Monitoring Reporting Plan.
- Out at 501 Tunnel, staff participated in a Bi-County review of the planned major remodel at the Recology facility.
- Staff also oversaw and confirmed compliance of bay mud import to that of Council’s requirements for import of this future Title 27 landfill barrier material.

So, in closing, given that 2020 was an unprecedented year at so many levels, our Staff was able to achieve an incredible amount of progress with so many accomplishments in hand. We have all done the best in almost impossible circumstances and I look forward to working with you all this year. As a collaborative manager, I always say to my staff and co-workers “I have some great ideas, but collectively, we have even better ideas”. So, please keep those ideas flowing and together, we will achieve so much more. Thank you all.

Madison Davis, President/CEO continued from page 1

that hold religious beliefs that prevent them from doing do. Secular or medical beliefs do not need to be accommodated by employers.

The business sector should be considered when asking employees to vaccinate. For example, those in healthcare, those that work with the elderly or sensitive groups, those in travel, retail, or other frontline work environments may have a higher risk of contracting or spreading the virus and thus, a policy may make sense. However, workplaces that can sustain remote working may not want to create a vaccination requirement. Instituting a vaccination policy has the potential to cause backlash from employees.

As COVID-19 progresses, we will likely see issues litigated regarding this matter. For example, an employee who contracts COVID-19 could sue their employer for not creating a safe and healthy working environment as required by OSHA. On the other hand, an employee could also sue if they felt the policy was an overreach and other safety precautions could be instituted instead. Either way, the decisions in these cases would be ground-breaking. Later this year we will likely have more guidance for employers on this matter.

**The information included in the article was compiled through research and from sources we deem credible. However, we encourage you to discuss a vaccination policy with your legal team prior to instituting one in your business as this article is not meant to offer legal advice.*



Stay Safe
Shop Local
Wear Your Mask

Save Jobs. Help Businesses.
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BLAST FROM BRISBANE'S PAST

By: MADISON DAVIS, President/CEO, Brisbane Chamber, madison@brisbanechamber.org, 415-467-7283

The following is an article from *The Bee-Democrat*, written on August 15th 1974.

IN THE DAYS OF "LITTLE RENO"

By: Dorothy Radoff

The Wheel of Fortune went spinning around Brisbane in 1935. Commuters found it embarrassing to hop off the Greyhounds. "All out for Little Reno!" Shouted the bus drivers.

The name was new. Our reputation as a gambling area was not. One year after the 1906 earthquake a whole lot of shaking still went on in the upstairs of a county-line saloon. A police raid of the "dance hall" netted two "dance-hall girls," twenty-five males, several pairs of still-warm dice and a roulette wheel.

A decade or so later the gambling fever wheeled down the road to "Beefsteak Bill's" (now the Safeway parking lot). Two of our pioneers, Ted Linde and Delbert Sweet, describe the saloon keeper as "fat and jolly." He sported a handle-bar mustache and wore a black Stetson hat. Draped across his beer-barrel belly was a gold watch chain from which a couple of gold nuggets dangled. Puffing on a cigar, the colorful character whizzed around the bumpy dirt roads in a little ole Tin Lizzy which he used during the first World War to bus workers from the county line to the South San Francisco shipyards.

At "Beefsteak Bill's" you could eat, drink, bet on the cock fights and share a few hearty laughs with the genial owner. Old-timers recall the time a couple of the would-be bandits over-estimated his easygoingness. Up from behind the bar leaped "Beefsteak Bill"-with a six-shooter.

During the roaring twenties a rickety old barn in back of the historical Seven Mile House was the scene of a Chinese gambling den. One night in 1922 Lady Luck deserted the players. Gunmen robbed them of six-thousand dollars and spun down the road in a red Stutz racing car.

Things began spinning around in the main part of Brisbane thirteen years later. County officials hit the jackpot early in 1935 when they raided three "road-houses" and found the cherries, plums, and lemons still whirling on the slot machines. While the proprietors faced gambling charges in Redwood City, the law's curiosity became aroused by an obscure, grey building tucked in the pocket of a sidehill opposite the Pacific Bone Coal and Fertilizer Co. (the little red brick office of the old "boneyard" still stands, located behind the Bayshore Sanitary District in Brisbane Industrial Park). Sheriff McGrath found the heavy doors securely barred with electrical locks. "Pull the light switch!" he barked to his deputies. The gamblers dashed out. The posse dashed in. They arrested three people and carted away fifty-dollars, a set of dominoes and a fan-tan outfit as evidence.

But the biggest Chinese gambling house ever operated in the county was uncovered several months later when police raided a "truck checking station" one mile north of Brisbane on the Bayshore Highway. Quicker than the "lookout" man could yell, "Cops!" The long arm of the law reached out and nabbed him. Then- a la Carrie Nation- the Lawmen swung their sledge hammers, smashed doors & windows and charged in. That night the jail bulged with eighteen gamekeepers and eighty "visitors."

Meanwhile, back on the main street of our little village, volunteer firemen rushed in where lawmen feared to treat. For several hours on the balmy June evening hundreds of suspicious citizens had milled around a hall rented by the Voters League (now the Hillside Pharmacy) and watched lines of people slink into the building. After county officials failed to take decisive action, an angry resident buzzed the Fire Department.

"There's a fire inside the old Voters League Hall," a male voice cried. "Hurry if you want to save the place!"

Clinking and clanging their way to the scene, the fireman bounded from their new truck and pounded on the hall's locked doors. They received no answer. That didn't stop our ingenious volunteers. They scrambled atop the roof and sprayed a torrential stream of water from a high-pressure hose down the ventilator. Doors flew open. Windows shattered. Out through the openings poured a deluge of water, two-hundred people, and the soggy remnants of fan-tan, pi-gow, chuck-a-luck and lottery games.

"Wassamatter with you guys?" A drenched gambler gurgled. "We were just having a dancing party!"

Rumors began floating around town the next day. Some folks thought the Voters League had sub-rented the hall to the gamblers. The League's president heatedly denied the charges. "Threats have been made against me and I demand an immediate investigation by the District Attorney."

At this point, the Enterprise got into the act. "The picturesque community of Brisbane," it editorialized, "which dots the northern slope of San Bruno Mountain with homes in as charming a natural setting as there is, has suffered untold woes from the adverse publicity. There is only one way to defeat a gambling outfit with enough money to buy its way in. That method was adopted by the Brisbane citizens themselves who used large straws of water to drive the gamblers forth. May they prosper!"

But neither streams, nor fines, nor raids, nor gloom of jail could stay these gamblers from their appointed rounds. Many a year rolled by before the Wheel of Fortune stopped spinning in Little Reno.

BiRite Foodservice Distributors continued from page 1

in the greater Bay Area. Their 235,000 square foot facility, built in 1980, is served by Peninsula Clean Energy. Nathan Barulich is the third generation business owner who has led many of BiRite's smart resource management efforts and participation in the Building Efficiency Program. Nathan, alongside his two brothers and father as co-owners, says that they see tremendous value in owning and operating the business while supporting the local community. His motivation to pursue smart resource management was doing what's right for the environment, for the company, and their finances. As a savvy business owner, Nathan's goal is to be self reliant as a company; the more variables he can control the better. Due to rising energy costs, he decided to install rooftop solar on the facility - a 1.6 megawatt system with a total of 4,500 solar panels - and add battery storage to offset peak demand charges and energy use. Nathan leveraged tax benefits and rebates, and encourages others to explore similar opportunities because the investment pays back faster than most realize.

Nathan benchmarked his facility using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) to comply with Brisbane's Building Efficiency Program. Benchmarking refers to the process of tracking performance against a standard; in this case dividing a building's energy and water use by square footage. ESPM is an online tool managed by the Environmental Protection Agency that helps measure and track resource usage and greenhouse gas emissions for buildings. Nathan found ESPM easy to navigate and intuitive. It took about a month to complete, and Nathan expressed gratitude for the one-on-one support. Although it was a relatively straightforward process, Nathan cautions that building representatives allow themselves time to navigate the collection of data from PG&E and troubleshooting with utility representatives, which can be time consuming. He's glad to have completed the compliance requirements early and looks forward to analyzing his building's energy performance.

Although the Brisbane Building Efficiency Program requirements apply to buildings 10,000 square feet or larger, the benefits of energy and water benchmarking can be realized for buildings of all sizes, and resource savings from upgrades contribute to a more efficient, safer, and comfortable environment in any building. For more information about the Program, resources to leverage, and compliance requirements, please visit Brisbane's Program website at brisbaneca.org/bbep and contact bbep@brisbaneca.org or (415) 347-2010.

TRASH TALK FOR THE NEW YEAR

With Chamber Member Teresa Montgomery, Sustainable Programs Manager at South San Francisco Scavenger Company

Q: What one thing can I resolve to do that will reduce waste?

A: The single most important thing you can do is think before you buy. We call this "pre-cycling." It means buying only what you need, purchasing items that are durable/repairable, and avoiding items that are disposable, over-packaged, and made from or packaged with materials that will quickly be landfilled.

Q: How can I make sure that 2021 is NOT the year of the raccoon?

A: Always keep the lids to your gray and green carts COMPLETELY CLOSED. If you have overflow, request a larger cart or arrange for a special pick up. If a lid is broken, request a repair or replacement. If your cart lids are always closed, and critters still get in and make a mess, request a free lid lock. Call or text us at 650.589.4020 or send an email to info@ssfscavenger.com. We will need the name on the account and address.

Have another question? Interested in more waste-related tips? Have tips to share?

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Use the Sort Smart Recycling Guide at ssfscavenger.com

BRISBANE School District News**WITH THE ARRIVAL OF 2021**

BY: RONAN COLLVER, Superintendent, Brisbane School District, rcollver@brisbanesd.org

With the arrival of 2021, all of us in the Brisbane School District are anxious to resume what we fondly refer to as “normal” education. I am not sure what the word normal means anymore as I believe that we will see many changes in our community at large once we squash out the coronavirus. Many of the skills that our educators, students and parents have learned during this time may translate well into our pedagogy moving forward. Our knowledge and use of technology have increased drastically these past 10 months and my hope is that we take the best of what we have learned and apply it once we return to full time in-person instruction.

Please visit [Blueprint for a Safer Economy \[http://bit.ly/cabluepse\]](http://bit.ly/cabluepse) and compare our number in San Mateo County to other regions by clicking on the interactive map. You will find that we are doing much better than other heavily populated counties in the State even though San Mateo County numbers are still increasing; mostly due to the holiday season that we just experienced. Please continue to wear a mask, avoid gatherings and maintain 6ft distance from others outside of your household. Our Region is still in a Stay-at-Home Order because of the lack of ICU beds in the hospitals and the Governor has issued this order to attempt to slow the spread of the virus so that our hospitals do not get overwhelmed.

When can teachers and students begin to return to school? Current guidelines from the State are clear that schools may begin their return to in-person instruction after the County is in the Red Tier for 5 days. BSD's current plan is to return once the County is in the Orange Tier; this will be revisited by the School Board on January 27th (note new meeting date). [CDPH Return to School Guidelines \[http://bit.ly/CDPHreturn\]](http://bit.ly/CDPHreturn).

You can find the [BSD Return Protocols Here \[http://bit.ly/BSDreturn\]](http://bit.ly/BSDreturn). You will find the complete protocols for a safe return to in-person instruction as well as sample schedules for all three schools once a return is deemed safe for staff and students. District personnel have worked very hard to compose these schedules and guidelines so that all of our students and staff are well protected.

Several parents have asked what the District's plan is for next school year. At this point with the constant changing landscape of the coronavirus, it is too early to know what next school will look like. My hope is that we will be through the other side of this pandemic and school will return to “normal”. I believe that we will have extra health security as part of our educational system for years to come. Registration for new students will begin on March 1, 2021. We will be introducing a new online registration platform and will share it out to the community as soon as it is ready.

The Brisbane School District continues to administer weekly COVID tests to all employees who are working on campus and monthly to those employees working remotely. Early detection is a key factor to reducing the spread of the virus. Three school districts in our County are piloting a COVID Antigen Test that can return results within 15 minutes. This type of testing will greatly increase our ability to have a safe return.

In San Mateo County, we are just finishing up administering a COVID vaccine to our health care workers in Phase 1A and will shortly begin educators in Phase 1B. Unfortunately, there are not enough vaccines available for all of the educators in the County and a priority list is being created. Priorities will be established based on those already working in-person, amount of community spread and amount of people an employee comes into contact with on a daily basis. More information from the California Department of Public Health regarding the vaccine distribution to the public can be found [HERE \[http://bit.ly/cvacpres\]](http://bit.ly/cvacpres).

Community members with a medical background such as a retired nurse or paramedic can sign up to help in case of a disaster; in this case, help distribute vaccinations. Please visit <https://healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov/> to get information or sign up for this service.

I am very impressed with our educators as they have gone through a complete transformation on how to educate children during a pandemic and I am very impressed with the resilience of our students who have had to learn a new way to be educated. Most of all, I am in awe of the families in our community. My children are adults now and I often try to imagine what life would have been like for my family if we experienced a pandemic while our children were still in school. It truly is amazing how families have responded to being thrust into being such an integral part of our education system. I applaud you and want to thank you for your incredible hard work.

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Our Community of Brisbane

5 WAYS TO HELP EACH OTHER DURING EXTRAORDINARY TIMES...

1. Share supplies or make an extra meal
2. Support Brisbane businesses by ordering take-out and shopping local
3. Help an isolated neighbor with an errand or housework
4. If you have a child at home, offer to look after a neighbor's child
5. Engage with your family- read, bake, play games!

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