SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

BY ALISON WILSON, Brisbane Chamber Editor/Marketing Director alison@brisbanechamber.org

Since 1914 family owned and operated, South San Francisco Scavenger Company (SSFSC) and Blue Line Transfer provide solid waste and recycling services. SSFSC focus is on maintaining a safe environment for employees and customers while reducing the negative impacts of collection and processing operations. Teresa Montgomery, Sustainability Manager, opened the interview saying, “We do more than haul trash from the community. We provide recycling and composting services, and document destruction.” She spoke about how SSFSC is a dedicated community partner working hard to create solutions and constantly looking for earth-friendly programs and practices to keep garbage out of landfills and assure compliance with local, regional and state goals and mandates. In closing she said, “We are constantly reinventing our services, hire experienced passionate people, stay ahead of the curve in operations, and lead with an entrepreneurial mindset.”

Bright Event Rentals (formerly Wine Country Party & Events) is a full-service rental company for life occasions and celebrations of any size in Northern California. They have locations in Healdsburg, Sonoma and Brisbane. Their business mission is to supply superior event rentals, deliver reliable, dependable on-time service, hire experienced passionate people, stay ahead of the curve in service, hire experienced passionate people, stay ahead of the curve in planning and marketing, and set industry standards.

Love Thach, General Manager, spoke to me about the Bright Event Rentals, a full-service rental company for occasions of any size. They provide the right product, the right quality, the right quantity, the right truck, the right location, the right time, and the right price.

Bright Event Rentals, Brisbane Village Shopping Center, City of Brisbane, DoubleTree by Hilton, First National Bank of Northern California, F. W. Spencer and Son, Golden State Lumber, GreenLeaf and Homewood Suites by Hilton.

groupBy KAREN LENTZ, Brisbane Elementary School District Board President, klentz@brisanesd.org

Group photo of Lipman Middle School 8th graders who reported on their visits to Brisbane Chamber businesses.

Dressed in their professional best, Lipman Middle School 8th graders gave presentations at this year’s Students in Business and Government luncheon on May 22nd. An important final project for their graduating class of 2017, the Business and Government project is a Chamber-assessed event that gives students the opportunity to visit local companies, learn about a variety of occupations, do research, and report back to the Chamber.

Bright Event Rentals at loading dock. Top left photo Holly Thach, General Manager, Partner of Bright speaking to me about the Bright Event Rentals, a full-service rental company for occasions of any size. Bottom left photo Gary Kasprzowicz, Operations Manager, gave me a tour of their facility in Brisbane speaking about the core values of Bright providing the right product, the right quality, the right quantity, the right truck, the right location, the right time, and the right price.

Bright Event Rentals, Brisbane Village Shopping Center, City of Brisbane, DoubleTree by Hilton, First National Bank of Northern California, F. W. Spencer and Son, Golden State Lumber, GreenLeaf and Homewood Suites by Hilton.

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IT’S OUR BUSIEST SEASON OF THE YEAR...
BY: MITCH BULL, Brisbane Chamber President and CEO mitch@brisbanechamber.org

C an you believe that the Memorial Day holiday is already upon us and is soon to be followed by the close of the school year? Wow, boys and girls, time flies. The school year is winding down, and the chamber and community will be honoring our local elementary, middle and high school students at the 23rd annual “Excellence in Education Awards” event on the evening of June 7th at the DoubleTree Hotel at Sierra Point. It’s our annual event to honor the academic achievements of some of our elementary, middle school, and high school students that are progressing on their academic and educational journeys. The fun starts at 7:15.

In looking at the academic, community service, and other extracurricular activities that these students have undertaken during their high school careers, it’s again heartening to see how involved they are in not just academics, but in interacting with their peers and giving back to the community. From environmental activism, to peer counseling, to coaching younger players in team sports, our students are continuing for the past few years to be our shining stars.

Recently there has been a definite shift to the sciences and mathematics when compared to years past. Science-based careers, such as Physical Therapy, Counseling Psychology, Biomedical Research and Pediatrics were in the mix of “future” areas of study and “hoped for” careers of our interviewers, but also were careers in areas such as Accounting, Engineering and Firefighting. While it easy for writers of columns to ruminate about the “downfall” of education with kids playing video games, we had a student who is planning to pursue a career in the “Video Gaming Industry” something that didn’t exist even 3 to 5 years ago!

The students that we interview continue to challenge the notions that our educational system is failing... These future leaders, scientists, teachers, counselors, researchers, engineers, lawyers, and mathematicians give the opinion that they are tuned into what is around them and they will be able to lead and perform admirably when “their time” comes. I know they will impact the future (and our future) in a positive way. It cannot go without saying that we at the chamber are very grateful for both the monetary donations to the scholarship recognition program, but also to the time that the volunteers spend on the interview and evaluation process. It truly does “take a village.”

I would also like to give a “shout out” to the Brisbane bicycle stawlarts who manned the “energizer stations” during “Bike to Work” day on May 11. The number of bicyclists traveling south from SF along Tunnel Road to points further south continues to increase each year. It’s great for the Bay area’s carbon footprint, as well as the aerobic exercise that comes with riding a bicycle on a consistent basis.

Earlier this week, we observed our Lipman 8th grade students as they gave their presentations at Mission Blue center in the annual “Students in Business and Government Day” job shadowing program. The students again did a very good job in putting together presentations on their experiences visiting businesses and governmental departments. For many, it was the first foray into “public speaking” and it was well carried off by all of the speakers. A “thank you” to all of the businesses and government agencies that participated in the program as well as to all of the chaperones, the instructors running the program, Julie’s Deli, and Recology, for again sponsoring the luncheon.

Lastly, a vibrant community has to have a diverse and vibrant business sector to ensure stable revenue for the community, and to be good corporate citizens who help to create an environment where everyone can benefit. Please remember to support our local restaurants and businesses.

We are interested in ideas of what you would like to see in future issues of the Luminary and want to hear your thoughts. E-mail us at: mitch@brisbanechamber.org, or send us a note at the chamber office.

GAS TAX!
BY: CURTIS RIE, Treasurer and Board Member Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, CPA Director – Finance, Parcel Murray, creel@parcelmurray.com

What did you pay for your last gallon of gasoline? Was it $3? My guess is that it was in that general price range. How much of that $3 went towards the government? It’s kind of hard to say and something most of us don’t really think about. We just get our gas and go.

Included in the $3 is a state sales tax rate of 2.25%. There is $0.05 of what the Board of Equalization calls, Prepayment of Sales Tax Rate. We currently have another $0.278 of Excise Tax. This information comes from www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sutax.htm.

www.salestaxhandbook.com/california/gasoline_fuel says that the tax rate on gas in California is 13% including the federal tax. On our $3 gallon, we paid $2.65 for the gas and $0.35 for taxes. The plan is to add another $0.12 of tax on each gallon so the tax rate will go up to 17.5%

But wait! According to the American Petroleum Institute, we pay $0.278 for State Excise Tax, $0.11 Other State Taxes, and $0.184 for Federal Excise Taxes. That totals $0.572 on each gallon.

That’s a little higher than 17.55. Now the state says they need another $0.12. A few years ago this information was posted at the gas station but I haven’t been able to find it for a long time. It seems this should be more straightforward.

Where does this money go? Why do we have so many cars on the roads paying these taxes but not enough funds to repair the roads? One might call this taxation without representation. Now I have heard our governor state that if this 12 cent tax is implemented, it would be ear marked for road repair.

My understanding of the term earmark is that relates to funding for special spending projects. That’s hardly a law or guarantee that the money won’t be used to fund some other especially interesting project. One might think that the existing taxes on gasoline might pay for the needed road maintenance if the money was actually used for those purposes. But one would have to pay attention and express an interest. Perhaps a tea party would help.
The delegation visited major innovation and science centers in Wenjiang District, Xindu District, Tianfu New Area and Shuangliu District of Chengdu. In depth communications were held and connections were built for further innovation and economic cooperation and development between cities in China and Silicon Valley cities, including Brisbane.

Throughout the conference, it was fascinating to learn about how other cities are innovating, and share ideas about local projects. As China has the world’s largest economy and is one of our country’s largest trading partners, all cities, including Brisbane, have much to gain by connecting with government leaders and businesses in China. By promoting business opportunities with China for our local businesses in Brisbane, we can help support the development of Wenjiang, China. In addition, our City is rapidly becoming modernized and improving their environmental track record, and we can share our policies and practices with them to encourage them to attain even higher standards.

The trip was organized by China Silicon Valley, a non-profit organization committed to promoting investment and business communication and cooperation between China and Silicon Valley. It was financed with the support of the local Chinese government in Chengdu. The trip was pre-approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), and resulted in no cost to the City of Brisbane or Brisbane Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of our visit to China, the City of Brisbane will be receiving a delegation of government leaders from Wenjiang District, Chengdu, China in late June, and we will introduce them to our local biotech companies, including Ultragynex Pharmaceutical, located at Sierra Point. We hope that there will be further opportunities for collaboration with the development of Wenjiang. There are more Brisbane businesses that are interested in doing business in China, that include Bi-Rite Foodservice Distributors and Purlcell Murray. We look forward to helping support local businesses in expanding their activities.

The trip to China was a great success, and most of all, it was an opportunity for international dialogue to learn about various cities and countries, and how we can move forward together in encouraging innovation.

With 41+ years of service and thousands of successful events, Bright provides experience and knowledge to create a successful party and event from the beginning to the end. Holly said, “Planning an event that all the steps come together with ease. Our goal is to make each event excellent in every way. To make it easy for our customers in visualizing their upcoming event, whether they are a first-time party planner or an event professional, we offer a planning guide that can be downloaded from our website http://brightrentals.com. The planning guide provides tips and tricks that covers the bases and helps avoid pitfalls that can lead to last-minute changes, extra costs, and added stress.”

Bright Event Rentals offers quality rentals, service, unique and handcrafted lines of furnishings, tables and chairs; individual crafted hedges, china, glassware, flatware, linens, flooring, equipment, barbecues, and accessories needed to create each event. I asked Holly to expand on what sets Bright apart from other event rental companies. She replied, “We offer a large range of event rentals to suit each client’s design style and goal; ranging from modern, rustic, mid-century and vintage. Our events run the gamut from elegant galas, weddings to backyard barbecues. I asked her to describe clients of Bright Rental Events. She replied, “We have worked with a myriad of people and venues ranging from parents, couples, singles, millennials, boomers as well as event planners, caterers, companies and venues to make their vision and event, such as corporate, fundraisers, festivals, weddings and backyard fun, a reality. It is key to recognize that all the steps come together with ease.”

Holly than said, “We are definitely a Green company. We are environmentally friendly. By being in the party rental business, we reuse our rental items multiple times which keeps disposable products out of the landfill. She continued, “We use LED lights, recycled paper, and installed a special water filtration system and drains for our laundry system to wash and sanitize dishes.”

Holly concluded the interview saying, “Our success is built on providing quality items, reliable service, and standardized inventory. We have built a team of passionate event professionals dedicated to safety, service, while creating new orders and changing the extra mile to create the event atmosphere each client envisions.” To find out more call (415) 570-0470, email sales-sl@brightrentals.com. Holly said, please let your readers know that our website, www.brightrentals.com has been revamped to allow customers to plan for their events; check pricing; create new orders and change the extra mile order in real-time; and to see new and existing products. Bright can be found on Facebook, Instagram Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest. Stop by and say hello.

Brisbane Chamber of Commerce
May 2017
Luminary / 3

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Here’s how to turn newspaper into a liner:

1. Fold paper as shown.
2. Fold the top corner down to the baseline to make a crease line. Unfold.
3. Fold the bottom left-hand corner up to the crease line just made.
4. Fold the bottom right-hand corner up to the opposite side.
5. Fold the top flaps downward.
6. Open out to crease liner for kitchen pail.

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**OF INTEREST**

**TOO MANY CHOICES**

BY: FREDDY BEAMAN, Board Member Brisbane Chamber of Commerce

President - City National Bank, freddy.beaman@cnbca.com, 415-272-7223

With social media and the many tweets we have today, we are completely overwhelmed with a lot of choices during our day to day activities. From our paths driving home to ordering a cup of coffee, life has become overwhelmed with lots of info. What's true and what direction we take is up on our paths driving home to ordering a cup of coffee, life has become overwhelmed with lots of info. What's true and what direction we take is up to us to decide.

This doesn’t have to happen in our banking relationship. Generally, we do business with people we trust and have forged these relationships over time, and every year I am impressed by our 8th graders’ poise, presentation skills, organization and team work. It is an opportunity for our students to explore, experience and be inspired. Suddenly our middle schoolers look ready for high school: we have mixed feelings of pride and wistful nostalgia as they prepare to leave us for new adventures.

We are grateful to the employees of our participating companies for giving of their time and very possibly making a lasting impression on our graduating 8th graders. And this project could not happen without the time and care given by our host will someday be Chamber members! We hope that many of the students you so generously hope that many of the students you so generously

**CALENDAR**

Brisbane is a vibrant city with many clubs, businesses, restaurants, and civic activities that enhance the community’s quality of life through service, education, leadership, and economic growth. To list your event in the Community Calendar, e-mail alison@brisbanechamber.org.

**MAY 2017**

Date Time Description

S M T W TH FS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

**JUNE 2017**

Date Time Description

S M T W TH FS

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

and make presentations for our government and business community.

This year, students visited BiRite Foodservice Distributors; City of Brisbane Government Services, Fire and Police Departments; City National Bank, Davis and Company Real Estate; Doubletree Hotel SFO Airport North by Hilton; F.W. Spencer and Son; KTSF Channel 26; Purcell Murray Company; Recology, Seton Medical Center; South San Francisco Scavenger Co.; and Universal Paragon Corp.

Working as a group, the students then developed a Google Slides or Prezi presentation for the Chamber-hosted luncheon. I have attended this event as a business owner, parent, Brisbane commissioner, and as a school board member: every year I am impressed by our 8th graders’ poise, presentation skills, organization and team work. It is an opportunity for our students to explore, experience and be inspired. Suddenly our middle schoolers look ready for high school: we have mixed feelings of pride and wistful nostalgia as they prepare to leave us for new adventures.

We are grateful to the employees of our participating companies for giving of their time and very possibly making a lasting impression on our graduating 8th graders. And this project could not happen without the time and care given by our professional grade teachers, Traci Nowakowski and Hilary Wald.
A CITIZEN’S PERSPECTIVE
BY: LISA SNYDER, slisa545@gmail.com

Dear Editor:

I am a Brisbane resident, and I am urging the City of Brisbane to work toward a plan for the Baylands site that includes a range of land uses, including low-income housing and housing for teachers, seniors and veterans. It’s the right to do, and it will reduce traffic. I’d also like to see office space, retail shops, and restaurants all near transit. And, of course, parks, trails and open space accessible to the public. This site is accessible to Muni, BART, Caltrain, SamTrans and the SSF Ferry – it is the perfect location for new jobs and new housing. We have a supply and demand issue, and by providing housing on the Baylands, we can make a difference in the regional housing crisis.

Environmental clean-up of the site is of course essential – it has been an eyesore and in need of clean-up for decades. And, that cleanup is important not just for the development that will occur on the site, but for all Brisbane residents and the region. But, that cleanup won’t pay for itself; only development of the site will fund it. I do not want to see this site remain desolate and off limits to the public – let’s clean it up through good design, a mix of uses, and, yes, housing near the Caltrain station.

As a community, it is incumbent the City Council and Brisbane voters to make a decision on one of the largest developable sites in the Bay Area that will a) ensure our city’s economic health for the future, b) meet our environmental and sustainability goals that define our community, c) complement our existing town, and d) that will align with regional goals and needs, and that includes housing. Our region is begging us to do the right thing here, and I want to be proud of my town for stepping up and being a leader and a strong example for other cities in the region.

HISTORIC 7 MILE HOUSE HOSTS COOK OFF FOR A CAUSE
RESTAURANT CHALLENGES CUSTOMERS TO BEAT THEIR FAMOUS FILIPINO PORK ADOBO
BY: PALOMA B. CONCORDIA, 7 Mile House, paloma@papalodown.com

On June 10, 2017 the historic 7 Mile House restaurant, sports bar and live music venue, will put their famous ‘Pork Adobo’ to the test and will be challenged by five other adobo recipes nominated by customers, for the first annual 7 Mile House - Adobo Cook Off For A Cause! All proceeds from the event will benefit Salupongan International, a grassroots organization providing educational resources for indigenous tribes in the Philippines. Tickets for the event are $25 and include all you can drink San Miguel Beer, all you can eat rice, adobo tastings, and one vote to choose your favorite.

“We’re fortunate to be in a position that we can provide organizations with the opportunity to raise awareness and funds for their causes. As a Filipina immigrant, supporting Salupongan for the adobo cook off allows us to share not only our food, but educate people on the human rights violations in the communities that the food and beer they’re enjoying originates from.” shares owner Vanessa Garcia. “We have also made ‘Immigrant’ hoodies to benefit Poder SF, hosted puppy adoption days with Mighty Mutts Rescue, and fundraising parties for others. We need to come together now more than ever as a community, and the best way to do that is with good food, drinks, and great entertainment. I’m proud to say 7 Mile House accomplishes that.”

The winner of the event will receive a party for six People at 7 Mile House, 2 Tickets to San Francisco Bay Cruises Adventure, 2 Tickets to Rocketboat Adventure, a commemorative plaque from 7 Mile House, and bragging rights for one year as 7 Mile’s Adobo Cookoff Winner! Get your tickets to the cook off early as space is limited and guaranteed to sell out.

Event Details: 7 Mile House, 2800 Bayshore Blvd. Brisbane, CA 94006
June 10, 2017 11am-1pm
Ticket Info: $25 entry fee - All you can drink San Miguel Beer, all you can eat rice, adobo tastings, and one vote to choose your favorite adobo.

* Link to purchase ticket - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7-mile-house-adobo-cookoff-for-a-cause-tickets-34590735822

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