



**DAN LAWRENCE
FROM THE CHIEF**

Many new laws take effect at the start of the New Year, covering everything from criminal justice to civil rights to education to health and safety.

One new law makes it an infraction for a person to smoke a cigarette, pipe or cigar in a motor vehicle when a minor is present in the vehicle. For the purposes of this law smoking means to have in one's immediate possession a lighted pipe, cigar or cigarette containing tobacco or any other plant. The law applies whether the vehicle is at rest or in motion.

Officers will not stop a vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether someone is smoking or not. Typically, a

New laws in '08

determination will occur when the officer actually sees a violation, or is investigating other traffic infractions such as speeding.

Another new law requires a person operating a bike during hours of darkness to utilize specified illumination devices (commonly referred to as lights) while riding on a highway, road, sidewalk or bikeway.

Before the new law, these lighting requirements only applied to bicycles operated on highways during hours of darkness. The new law also requires a white or yellow reflector on each pedal, shoe, or ankle visible from the front and rear of the bicycle from a distance of 200 feet.

Another new law prohibits the use or sale of any product that would impair the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by state or local law enforcement, or an electronic device operated in connection with a toll road, high-occupancy lane, toll bridge or other toll facility.

Finally, all drivers will be required to have a hands-free device in order to use a cell phone while driving a motor vehicle. This new law goes into effect July 1. In addition, the new law also prohibits anyone under 18 from operating a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even when equipped with a hands-free device or while using a mobile service device. The new law provides an exemption for the use of wireless telephones or mobile service devices for emergency purposes only. Officers will enforce this section if they observe a violation.

Remember to follow the law in the New Year. If you have further questions about these new laws, or others, please call the Clayton Police Department at 673-7350.

Dan Lawrence is Clayton's Police Chief. Please send your questions, comments or topics you'd like to see covered to DanL@cpd.ci.concord.ca.us

Letter to the Editor

*Trails and Landscape
Committee thanks Dan
Richardson*

We wish to publicly thank our former Chairman of The Trails and Landscape Committee, Dan Richardson, for his four years of dedication, determination and hard work. Over the course of the past four years, he has remained at the helm, while navigating two successive, advisory committees, through the uncertain territory of Clayton's expiring Landscape District. The first of these was the Blue Ribbon Committee, which was

then followed by the Trails and Landscape Committee. Ultimately, the Landscape District was replaced last June when Clayton voters passed Measure B.

We attribute our Committee's ability to remain focused and its devotion to the District, to Dan's diverse leadership skills and his genuine love for Clayton. The combination of his public service and landscape background has proven to be an invaluable asset in helping to define the Committee's direction. We are extremely grateful for his perseverance and for his unwaver-

ing support. Both of these were instrumental in our continual outreach effort to inform residents about the Committee's work and to raise the community's awareness of our public landscape district.

Indeed, he leaves behind huge shoes to fill. We wish him a well deserved rest and quality time with his close friends and family.

The Trails and Landscape Committee
Candace Bass, Chairman
Victor Geisler, Vice-Chairman
JoAnn Caspar
David Disend
David Johnson
Jerry Kosel
Kelly Marshall
Virginia Siegel
Bill Vineyard

Learn to be a licensed amateur radio technician with local classes

ANDRÉ GENSBURGER
Clayton Pioneer

If you have ever had an interest in learning to be an amateur radio operator, classes are now starting. Chuck Graham, licensed Amateur Radio operator and Clayton/Concord Sunrise Rotarian, is offering a class leading to a technician (entry level) FCC amateur radio license.

"Don't worry," Graham said. "You do not need to know Morse code anymore."

The classes are held in conjunction with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network and will last six weeks at the Salvation Army, 3950 Clayton Road, Concord.



Photo courtesy of Chuck Graham
CHUCK GRAHAM AT HOME WITH HIS AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT will be conducting amateur radio classes at the Salvation Army.

"While classes start on January 9," Graham said, "people can make up classes and start later."

To register or for more information, call Graham at (925) 689-7640.

For the lexophile

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

Mark Anderson



"Gym is fun, but I could do without all the bells and whistles."



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Getting rid of "toxic toys"

Recent concerns surrounding toxic chemicals in children's toys have focused on "phthalates" (pronounced THA-lates), a group of chemical compounds typically added to plastics to increase their softness and flexibility, and bisphenol A (BPA), a building block for polycarbonate plastic that is used primarily in shatter-resistant baby bottles. Phthalates are found in numerous industrial and consumer products, including plastic intravenous (IV) bags used in hospitals, fishing lures and nail polishes. One phthalate, diisononyl phthalate (DINP), is commonly used in the manufacture of soft vinyl products made for babies, such as bath books, rubber ducks and teething rings.

Studies have linked BPA to the disruption of hormone function in rats, and to increased breast and prostate cancer cell growth, early puberty and obesity in humans. Other studies have linked phthalates like DINP to rodent cancers and genital abnormalities, especially in males.

The city of San Francisco would have been the first U.S. jurisdiction to ban phthalates and BPA from children's toys and feeding products under a "Stop Toxic Toys" bill signed by mayor Gavin Newsom in June 2006, but lawsuits backed by chemical and toy manufacturers (and filed by a coalition including the California Retailers Association, the California Grocers Association and the American Chemistry Council) stalled the initiative, which had been set to take effect December 1, 2006.

Then on October 15, 2007, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law AB 1108 (also known as the California Toxic Toys Bill), making California the first state in the country to ban the use of phthalates from children's products. "We are thrilled that California is taking action to protect our kids from dangerous chemicals," said Dan Jacobson, Legislative Director for Environment California, which co-sponsored the legislation along with the Breast Cancer Fund. "This bill is so important because as children's minds and bodies go through the delicate processes of growing and developing, they are particularly vulnerable to chemicals that could affect proper development."

The European Union considers phthalates dangerous enough to ban them from children's products, and has ordered the removal of many variations from children's products and banned still others, including DINP, from anything that kids might put in their mouths. Environment California and other groups see the EU ban as evidence that alternatives to these plasticizers exist and must be explored in the U.S. "Many places in the world have to comply with restrictions on phthalates," says Rachel Gibson, an attorney for Environment California. "It's a mystery why we sell toxic toys to American kids."

Until more stringent regulations are passed, consumers can use the recycling codes on plastic products to determine content. If it's marked #7, it's polycarbonate plastic and contains BPA; if it's marked #3, it's polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and contains potentially harmful phthalates.

For more information contact: Environment California,
www.environmentalcalifornia.org/environmental-health/stop-toxic-toys;
or Breast Cancer Fund,
www.breastcancerfund.org/site/pp.asp?c=kwKXLDPaE&b=3486437.

HOW TO MAKE SHOPPING MORE "GREEN-FRIENDLY"

Although green-friendly goods are starting to show up just about everywhere, finding all the right products is still not as simple as a one-stop trip to the mall or major grocer. However, there are several reputable websites, mail order catalogs and storefront retailers that cater to the eco-motivated consumer.

Online shoppers need not steer their web browser any further than Gaiam.com. The company sells, via its website and a printed catalog, a wide range of green items—from phosphate-free detergents and organic cotton bedding to compact fluorescent light bulbs and backyard composting kits. In 2000 Gaiam acquired RealGoods, the nation's foremost retailer of "solar living" products, including solar water heaters, energy-efficient lighting and household battery chargers. Beyond mail order endeavors, the merged company also gets green goods out into mainstream retail outlets via partnerships with Target, Borders and others.

Another good one-stop shop for green consumer goods is Green Home, which sells thousands of environmentally responsible home products online. From bedding and table wear to paper goods and lunchboxes, Green Home has the green consumer covered. Green Home was founded by Linda Mason Hunter, author of *The Healthy Home: an Attic-To-Basement Guide to Toxin-Free Living*, because she was having trouble sourcing environmentally friendly home items. Green Home also publishes the online magazine *Living*, a repository of feature articles on various aspects of living a greener lifestyle.

If you're more inclined to browsing store aisles than websites, natural foods markets like Whole Foods and Wild Oats (now being acquired by Whole Foods) carry a large number of green lifestyle products on their shelves. These stores aren't just about organic produce anymore, and now stock everything from green detergents to cookware.

Looking for more durable kinds of goods? The best one-stop source for green building materials is Ecohaus (formerly the Environmental Home Center), which stocks and ships a wide range of building materials, household equipment and supplies, kitchen and bath fixtures, flooring, countertops and cabinets, paints, finishes, wall coverings and home energy systems. The company has three stores in Portland and Bend, Oregon and Seattle, Washington, and also sells online.

For those harder-to-find green goods, check out EcoSeek.net, which bills itself as "the Internet's first green product search engine." The site includes links to and in some cases reviews of more than 6,500 different green products from over 300 merchants. While it's no one-stop shop—users purchase individual items direct from individual merchants—it does make for some interesting browsing. Another good online stop is EcoMall, which lists thousands of socially responsible manufacturers and distributors of just about every type of green product imaginable.

For further information check out these websites:

Gaiam, www.gaiam.com; Green Home, www.greenhome.com; Ecohaus, www.ecohaus.com; EcoSeek, www.ecoseek.net; and EcoMall, www.ecomall.com.

ALLIED WASTE SERVICES

is a community partner providing solid waste and/or recycling services. Our 200 employees service 120,000 residential customers and 5,000 commercial customers in Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

OUR MISSION

is to provide high quality, comprehensive solid waste and recycling collection services for residential and commercial customers. We conduct our operations in a safe, ethical and environmentally conscious manner and dedicate our

resources to improving the quality of life within the communities we serve.



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