

## Upcoming Events

DEC. 8

### DESSERT WITH MRS. CLAUS

Visit Santa and have dessert with Mrs. Claus on Sat. Dec 8 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Clayton Community Library. The event is a family favorite with prizes, goodies and a photo with Santa. Donation is appreciated and free for children 12 and under. This event is also sponsored by the Clayton Business and Community Association.

DEC. 10

### PIONEER COOKIE CONTEST

The Clayton Pioneer's annual Christmas Cookie Contest Judging, 6:30 p.m. at the Library. Bring out your favorite Christmas cookie recipe, bake up a batch and join us for the judging and Christmas Party. All will share in the cookie bounty. Clayton's own Vintage

will provide live music and lead the carol sing. There will be games for the kids and it's rumored that Santa, himself, may stop by.

DEC. 31

### CLAYTON COUNTS DOWN

Celebrate New Year's Eve with the whole family this year at the annual Clayton Counts Down alcohol-free celebration at the Clayton Community Gym. Families will enjoy games and activities for all ages, crafts and delicious food and snacks. It's all possible through the generous support of sponsors and volunteers. The event, sponsored by the City of Clayton and the YMCA, begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, call the City of Clayton at 673-7300.

## Around Town

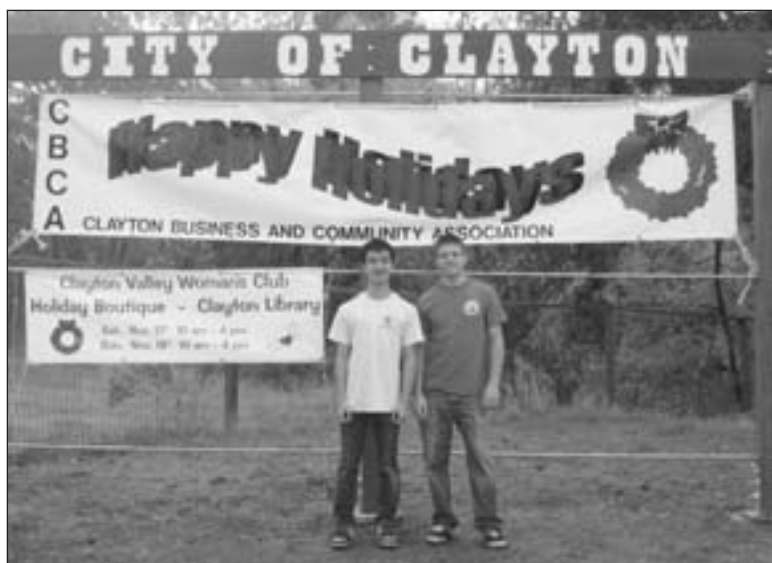
### Eagle Scout builds gateway sign for city

Kenny Iyoya, 16, son of Clayton residents Martin and Pam Iyoya, finished his Boy Scout Eagle Project last month.

His project called for the construction of a gateway sign on which the city can hang banners announcing city sponsored events.

Kenny came up with this idea a year ago in hopes that it would benefit and beautify the community. After passing the old sign countless times, Kenny thought the old metal posts needed to be replaced, so he drafted the plans with the help of his parents and Eagle counselor Mr. Peter Enright.

After making a series of presentations before his troop's parent committee, the Clayton City Council and Clayton Maintenance Department, Kenny gained approval to begin working on the sign. His project consisted of three steps; cut-



EAGLE SCOUT, KENNY IYOYA and fellow scout, Max Dittrich

ting, routing and staining the pieces of the sign, laying of the cement and installing the required brackets, and finally installing the posts and sign. Kenny, with the help of his family, friends, fellow Boy

Scouts and the Clayton Maintenance Department, put over two hundred man-hours into the project.

Kenny is a junior at De La Salle and belongs to San Jose Troop 611.

### Boy Scouts deliver candy to Blue Star Moms



When Webelos-Scorpion Patrol Unit, Cub Scout Pack #262, wanted to do a service project to earn a citizenship achievement pin, U.S. troops deployed worldwide became the beneficiaries of some "sweet" support.

Emily Schoffstall, mom of Benjamin, read in the Pioneer

that the Blue Star Moms were asking for assistance. When she called the Blue Star Moms, a group of military supporters in the Bay Area, she learned that they were assembling 4,000 packages of holiday cheer for U.S. troops. One needed item for the packages is individually wrapped pieces of candy—per-

fect timing for the young scouts to share their Halloween haul! The scouts responded enthusiastically—all were willing to give up much of their candy. They also agreed to obtain other needed items, like socks, hot chocolate, and snacks.

Kids can make a difference. What started out as a project to make a few packages of candy for the troops turned out to be a big taste of home for many lucky soldiers. Through the generosity of Mount Diablo and Pleasant Hill elementary school children, the PH/WC Mother's Club, and a donation from Walgreen's, over 1,000 zip-lock bags were filled with candy and encouragement to help rally the troops. Greeting cards from the students will add extra cheer.

The candy was delivered to the Blue Star Mom's who will pack a box of treats and good wishes for each soldier to be mailed in time for the holidays.

### Girl Scouts make holiday cards for troops



Diamond Terrace resident, Claire Lizotte and Girl Scouts Makenna Peterson, Delaney Weidner, Noelle Correa, Kayla Elwy and Jenna Weller.

Two Girl Scout troops in Clayton came together with the residents of Diamond Terrace to create homemade holiday cards for the Blue Star Moms group recently. Each of the cards made will be going into an individual soldier's care package that will be sent overseas for the holidays. Several hundred cards were made with special greetings for those serving our country.

Send your news of births, engagements weddings, anniversaries, special recognitions, etc. to [info@claytonpioneer.com](mailto:info@claytonpioneer.com).



## Tips To Trim Your Holiday Waste-line

*Did you know? Americans throw away 25 percent more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about one million extra tons per week. So, to help trim the trash while trimming the tree, here is a challenging checklist of simple things you can do to reduce waste while you eat, drink and make merry this holiday season. Source: [www.use-less-stuff.com](http://www.use-less-stuff.com).*

### YULETIDE PARTY GUIDE

**Turn down the heat** before the guests arrive. You'll save energy while the extra body heat of your guests will warm up the room.

For formal affairs, **consider renting** seldom worn party clothes or buying them from consignment shops. You can also rent dishes and glassware, making your party more elegant and eliminating the need to buy special holiday china.

After the party, don't throw away the leftovers. Put them in plastic containers or bags and send them home with guests.

*Did you know? At least 28 billion pounds of edible food are wasted each year — or over 100 pounds per person. Putting one less cookie on Santa's plate will reduce his snacking by about 2 million pounds.*

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Get outdoor light strands that are **wired in parallel**. These have separate circuitry so that if one bulb blows out the rest will keep shining. Remember, the smaller the bulbs, the lower the wattage.

**Consider switching to LED** lights this year. They use about 10 percent of the electricity that filament bulbs use.

**Bring your own camera** instead of using disposable cameras to capture holiday memories.

Faster film speeds, such as 400 or 800, reduce the use of flash and extend battery life.

**Use a digital camera** instead of film.

### LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING

E-commerce is the wave of the future. But remember, e-commerce is not necessarily waste-free. **Choose items that won't be excessively packed for shipping.**

If you're shopping by mail order catalogue, **remember to cancel the catalogues you don't need.**

*Did you know? If each household canceled 10 mail-order catalogues, the stack of canceled catalogues would be 2,000 miles high!*

### FUSS FREE GIFT GIVING

**BYOB** - Bring Your Own Bags!

**Try giving gift certificates** if you don't know what someone wants, or simply make a donation in his or her name to a favorite charity.

**Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff**, like a book about making crafts from reusable items, cookbook for leftovers, reusable tote bags.

For kids, **start a savings account or give stocks or bonds**. It's fun to watch money grow and it teaches children the value of financial conservation.

One person's trash is another person's treasure. Shop for gifts at antique stores, estate sales or flea markets

*Did you know? Stay close to home and shop in Pioneer Territory. You'll save gas and support your local businesses at the same time. If each family reduced holiday gasoline consumption by one gallon (about twenty miles), we'd reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons!*

### KID STUFF

When buying electronic toys and other portable items that are used regularly, **remember to buy rechargeable batteries** to go with them.

**Instead of wrapping gifts** for the kids, hide the presents, plant clues to where they're hidden and make the kids' search into a treasure hunt.

Get the kids to **make their own tree ornaments** out of things you already have around the house, or from materials they might find in the backyard: twigs, bark, flowers and herbs, pine cones, etc.

**Old clothes and jewelry** make a great dress-up box for kids.

**Tools and gadgets** make a great idea box for a young inventor.

### CARD SENSE

Our mailboxes burst this season with membership offerings and fundraising appeals, presents, gift catalogues and cards. What to do ...

**Send e-greetings** to family, friends and business associates who are on-line.

**Pare down** your holiday mailing list.

Be creative. **Make your own placemats or table decorations** instead of buying them. Cut old cards into shapes and press between two pieces of clear contact paper.

**Reuse packing cartons** and shipping materials such as peanuts, wood shavings, shredded newspaper and bubble wrap.

**Drop off extra packing peanuts** at Postal Annex+ in the Clayton Station or The UPS Store in the Vineyard Shopping Center.

*Did you know? The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high? If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.*

### WRAP IT UP

Or better yet, **think of gifts that don't have to be wrapped at all**: tickets to concerts, museums, or sporting events, gift certificates, house plants, or even gifts of your own time.

When giving oversized gifts like bicycles or CD racks, instead of wrapping them in paper, **just tie a bow around them**.

**Wrap gifts in old maps, newspapers, Sunday comics or fancy holiday gift bags**. Kids' art work is a perfect wrapping for presents to proud grandparents.

**Use brown paper grocery bags** to wrap small-to-medium size boxes that have to be mailed.

**Make the wrap a part of the gift**: Putting cookies in a flower pot or hiding jewelry in a new pair of gloves will keep your gift under wraps and the "wrapping" out of the trash.

*Did you know? If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet!*

### "TREE"-CYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

*Did you know? Boy Scout Troop 484 will pick up Christmas trees for Clayton residents on January 6. Have trees (no flocked or artificial trees) at curbside by 8 a.m. The service is free, but the Scouts would appreciate any donations. Put your check in a Ziplock bag and attach it to your tree or mail it to BSA Troop 484, 709 Tally Ho Ct. Clayton, 94517. The Scouts will collect the trees for Allied Waste who will send them to the chippers. Keep your tree out of the landfill and help support the scouts at the same time.*

## 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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