



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

[www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org)

Fall/Winter 2007

Issue 44

## Board of Directors

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## Poster Contest Prizes Increased for 2008!

**First Place: \$700   Second Place: \$500  
Third Place: \$300   HM (2): \$150**

The Oro Loma Board of Directors has unanimously voted to increase the amount of the cash prizes in the Oro Loma/Waste Management 2008 Poster Contest to the following: First Place \$700; Second Place \$500; Third Place \$300; Honorable Mention \$150. There will still be six grade groups (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12), and schools will continue to receive matching awards. Fifteen non-cash Certificates of Merit will be awarded in each grade group.

The Board made this decision in order to better support students and schools in the District, and in hope that the increased prizes will attract an even greater participation in the contest.

The Oro Loma/Waste Management Poster Contest is open to all students in grades K-12 attending a school in the District that uses Waste Management for recycling. Hayward schools in Oro Loma Sanitary District will again be eligible to enter the contest since Waste Management is now providing recycling services to the Hayward Unified School District.

*Prize increases will not have any effect on Oro Loma customer trash and recycling rates.*



The theme of the 2008 Poster Contest is: **Your World—Your Choice.**

Students are asked to consider how everything they do—from making choices of how and where to spend money, what to eat or drink, what to use, keep, or throw away—affects the world today and tomorrow.

Through their posters, they must show how their choices can contribute to a healthier, cleaner world or one that is more polluted and a poorer place to raise their children.

The 2008 Poster Contest is the fourteenth in a row that has been sponsored by Oro Loma and Waste Management. It kicks off January 14, 2008 and ends March 14, 2008.

Free poster paper with contest rules and an entry form on the back will be available on January 14th at District schools, Waste Management's Oakland office, and the Oro Loma District office on Grant Avenue. An entry form is also included in the Oro Loma 2007-2008 calendar, and one will be available for download at [www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org).

## Recycle Your Holiday Tree

- December 31, 2007 through January 11, 2008;
- Green trees only;
- Trees that are 6 ft. or under or are cut into lengths of 6 ft. or less;
- NO snow flocking, tinsel, or ornaments;
- NO tree stands or nails;
- Place tree next to your green cart on your regular collection day.
- Bulky pickup is suspended during the holiday tree pickup period.

**Note:** Flocked trees cannot be recycled. However, they will be picked up curbside at no additional cost December 31, 2007 through January 11, 2008, on your regular collection day.

Flocked trees will not be picked up curbside after January 11, 2008. To discard flocked trees after this date, cut them up and place them in your garbage cart.

After January 11, 2008, green trees will not be collected curbside. To recycle green trees after this date, cut them up and place them in your green cart. **For further information, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.**



## Free E-Waste Collection Event



Dispose of unwanted electronic devices safely and conveniently at a free e-waste event being held on February 9, 2008 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The event, held by ASL, Inc., is co-sponsored by Oro Loma and the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, and will take place in the parking lot of Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo. The event is open to everyone, including those who are not Oro Loma customers or residents of San Leandro.

Examples of e-waste include computers, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, disk drives, keyboards, mice, hard drives, fax machines, microwave ovens, VCRs, cables and cords, telephones, radios, shredders, stereo components, tape drives, optical drives and printers. E-waste is considered part of universal waste. Since February 8, 2006, it has been illegal in California to dispose of universal waste in the trash.



*Photos courtesy of CVSD*

## NEW! Plastic Bag Recycling Program

Oro Loma customers can now recycle plastic shopping bags and other plastic bags in their All-in-One recycling carts by following these steps:

- Recycle clean, flexible, stretchable plastic bags, such as grocery, dry cleaning, sandwich, bread, and produce bags, along with bubble wrap and thin packing plastic used to hold bulk items and magazines.
- Gather loose bags into one plastic bag and self-tie the bag. Do not use rubber bands, twist ties, or tape. Do not throw individual bags into the recycling carts, as they will blow away. **Bags must be bundled.**
- Deposit bundled bags into the recycling cart.

Recycling plastic bags will help keep the 19 billion plastic grocery and merchandise bags used annually in California from ending up in landfills or in places that threaten the environment.



## Free Oro Loma 2007-2008 Calendars Delivered

Free 15-month 2007-2008 calendars have been delivered to schools throughout the District. These calendars

feature winning posters in the Oro Loma/Waste

Management Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest. The calendars, which have been redesigned to better showcase the students' artwork, may also be picked up at the District office on Grant Avenue.

## Drop Boxes

Planning a really big cleanup? Need a drop box to hold it all? Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8700 to arrange delivery.

Also, remember that Oro Loma residents are entitled to two free bulky waste pickups per year. For information on what is accepted and how to arrange for your pickup, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8700 or go to [www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org).



## Need Trash and Recycling Service?

Are you new to the area and need residential trash and recycling services? Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 to set up an account.

## Please Retrieve Your Carts

As a courtesy to your neighbors, please remember to retrieve your trash, recycling, and green waste carts from the curb and store them on the side of your house or in your backyard. In particular, be sure your carts do not block pedestrian or vehicular traffic.



## Where Is My Sewer Bill?

Oro Loma customers do not receive a sewer bill. Instead, property owners are charged an annual sewer service fee on their Alameda County Secured Property Tax Statement. The tax statement is also where the State-mandated AB939 recycling fee is collected. Oro Loma customers will be pleased to know that there was no increase in 2007, and that their sewer rate is the lowest in Alameda County.



# P

## resident's Message

Oro Loma has always prided itself on its pledge to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Sewer rates in the District are once again the lowest in Alameda County. This is due in large part to the Board's decision to rescind a sewer rate increase scheduled for July 1, 2007. Oro Loma customers enjoy these low rates without any sacrifice in service. In 2007, the District officially completed the largest plant restoration project in its history, and a major sewer line upgrade.

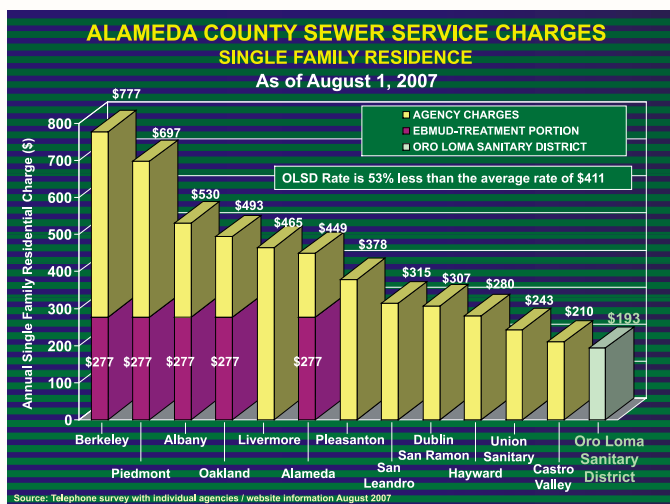
In July, a Waste Management labor dispute caused severe trash and recycling service interruptions in nearby communities. I am pleased to report that during this period, we were able to insure pickups continued largely uninterrupted in Oro Loma.

Oro Loma's long history of service to its customers would not be possible without the commitment of its Board of Directors. On August 13th, one of Oro Loma's most dedicated Board Members, Herbert G. Crowle, retired at the age of 92, after 13 years of service to the District.

Mr. Crowle received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from UC Berkeley and, at the age of 20, became one of the youngest persons ever appointed as a full-time faculty member. During World War II, Mr. Crowle served as a Naval officer with the U.S. Pacific Fleet and was awarded full medals and honors. In 1950 he became the first Director of Public Works of Alameda County, a post he occupied until 1977. During this time, he was able to secure \$100 million in federal funds for buildings, roads, flood control, and other County projects. After leaving the County in 1977, Mr. Crowle worked in the private sector until 1992. He was first elected to the Oro Loma Board of Directors in November 1994.

Herbert Crowle has now retired to San Diego to be close to his family. He is replaced on the Board by Timothy P. Becker, an environmental consultant.

With the holidays upon us and 2008 around the corner, I would like to renew our pledge to you, the Oro Loma customers, to continue to work for you, doing everything we can to "provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost."



## Washington Avenue Sewer Project Completed



The Washington Avenue sewer upgrade—the last leg of a major sewer project that began eight years ago with the Bayfair trunk sewer upgrade—is now complete. In total, approximately four miles of new 36- to 54-inch pipes have replaced existing undersized and antiquated sewers.

Laying the new pipes from Bayfair Shopping Center to the District's wastewater treatment plant on Grant

Avenue included tunneling under the I-880 freeway and Estudillo Channel. The new pipes are fiberglass-reinforced concrete, reinforced concrete, and clay.

The Bayfair-to-plant project was necessary to provide greater capacity to the sewer system and to insure that the District continues to meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations meant to safeguard San Francisco Bay. The project has been designed to withstand the capacity demands of a ten-year, 24-hour storm event without risk of overflow. The job was completed on time and within budget.



The engineering staff is also preparing for the next round of pipeline replacements. The focus of this ongoing project is on pipelines in poor condition, those that require heavy maintenance, and pipelines crossing the Hayward fault.



From the top: Pipe casings up to 60 inches were used to create a new crossing; A tunnel boring machine was used to excavate under I-880; New manholes were set to access the new sewer pipes.



**Oro Loma Sanitary District**  
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**Oro Loma 2008  
Poster Contest  
Prizes  
Increased!**

## Spotlight on Excellence:

**Oro Loma is pleased to welcome three new employees and announce the promotion of three others.**

### **Jason Warner—District Engineer**

Jason is a civil engineer and holds a professional engineering license. He first came to Oro Loma as Senior Project Engineer in March of 2004. In October of 2005, he returned to Delta Diablo Sanitation District, where he was also Senior Project Engineer. In July of this year, Jason rejoined Oro Loma, where he is now District Engineer, a position in which he reports directly to the General Manager. Jason is presently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration at Cal State East Bay.

### **Jim Pinkevich— Supervisor of Plant Operations**

Jim joined Oro Loma 17 years ago as an Operator I. Ten years later, he became a Plant Operator II. Over the years, Jim proved to be a dedicated, trustworthy, and creative employee, generating many ideas for improving plant operations and procedures. When an opening for Supervisor of Plant Operations occurred, Jim was promoted into that position. He brings to the job extensive technical knowledge, as well as a willingness to succeed.

### **Melody Knapp— Engineering Technician**

Melody began working for the District as an Engineering Technician in August of

this year. Before that, she was the Engineering Technician for the Castro Valley Sanitary District. Melody has experience in Auto CAD, plan checking, permit issuing, and lateral and mainline construction inspection. She also holds a California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Collection System Maintenance I Certificate.

### **Earl Miranda— Utility Worker Trainee**

Earl was selected out of a candidate pool of 171 applicants to become the District's newest Utility Worker Trainee. Born in Hayward, where he still lives, Earl brings with him 11 years of automotive experience from New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. in Fremont. In addition, he has extensive experience in the trucking industry, and holds a Class A California driver's license. And—if that were not enough—Earl plays in the Jibaro band, Latin Rhythm Boys.

### **Ray Green—Mechanic I**

Ray joined Oro Loma in March 2005 as a temporary worker in the Operations Department, hoping to get the opportunity to work with his hands. He advanced to a Utility Worker Trainee position when it became available. His interest in the mechanical field led him to study for and obtain a CWEA Grade I Certificate in Mechanical Technology, which helped him become the District's newest Mechanic I.

### **Rodney Smith—Plant Operator II**

Rodney was hired in December 2005 as a Plant Operator I, bringing with him over 10 years experience in information technology, an Associate Degree from Chabot College, a Certificate in Telecommunications and Network Engineering from UC Berkeley Extension, and an Operator-in-Training Certificate from the State Water Resources Control Board. During his two years at Oro Loma, Rodney acquired a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade III Certificate, and is now studying for his Grade V examination. He has just been promoted to a Plant Operator II position with the District.



*l to r: Jason Warner, Jim Pinkevich, Melody Knapp, Earl Miranda, Ray Green. Missing: Rodney Smith*