



NEP-TUNES



A Monthly Newsletter from Nepenthean Homes

A Caring, Full Service Foster Family Agency

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Richard Farlinger

Reminder: To all certified foster parents that any additional adults, whether family members or friends, having regular contact within a certified foster home must have all live scan (fingerprint) clearances (DOJ, Child Abuse Index, FBI) to be in compliance with State regulations.

Regular contact means daily, weekly, or otherwise scheduled contacts within the home. Community Care Licensing has advised that relatives of certified foster parents who are visiting may extend the visit to a limit of 30 days before live scan clearances are required.

Live Scan: Those clients who are 17 years old who are approaching their 18th birthday should prepare for live scanning on or shortly after their 18th birthday. This also applies to biological children of certified foster parents who remain in the home beyond their 18th birthday.

Penalty: The result of non-compliance with this requirement is a civil penalty levied by CCL that can be quite expensive for the agency and foster parent. If a civil penalty is levied it will be deducted from the certified home's monthly care payment and may initiate legal action against the home.

Please advise your social worker of any additional adults in the home and communicate any changes in the family home environment as soon as possible. If you have any further questions about this requirement please contact your social worker, supervisor, or Rich Farlinger at (916) 535-7782.

HAPPY



*To all our fabulous foster dads!
Sunday, June 21, 2009*

SUMMER WATER SAFETY

from the American Red Cross website
www.redcross.org

Editor's Note: The recent spate of drownings in the Yuba River and the lower American River highlight the need for vigilance for all foster parents when allowing children to swim in lakes or rivers. Children under age 13 should wear a life-jacket when around water.

School's out, pools are open and people across the country are looking for fun ways to cool down as summer temperatures heat up. As you head to the beach, to the pool, or to the mountains for a camping vacation, the American Red Cross encourages you and your family to keep safety in mind!

The Red Cross is brimming with water safety tips to keep your family safe this summer. The most basic: Learn to swim! Take some lessons at your local pool. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. And always swim with a buddy; never swim alone.

The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To enroll in a swim course,

contact your local Red Cross chapter.

General Water Safety Tips:

- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Obey all rules and posted signs.
- Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.
- Children or inexperienced swimmers should take precautions, such as wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) when around the water.
- Watch out for the dangerous "too's" – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Set water safety rules for the whole family based on swimming abilities (for example, inexperienced swimmers should stay in water less than chest deep).
- Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards, such as deep and shallow areas, currents, depth changes, obstructions and where the entry and exit points are located. The more informed you are, the more aware you will be of hazards and safe practices.
- Use a feet-first entry when entering the water.
- Enter headfirst only when the area is clearly marked for diving and has no obstructions.
- Know how to prevent, recognize, and respond to emergencies.

(Continued on page 3)

CAPITOL CITY NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (916) 704-7780
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

NO FOSTER PARENT TRAINING IN THE FAIR OAKS OFFICE IN JUNE!

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPCOMING FOSTER PARENT TRAINING NEWS FOR JULY.

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:

The next foster parent orientation meeting will be on **Saturday, June 6, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Fair Oaks office. Please call Rich Farlinger at (916) 535-7780 for directions. This meeting will answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

ATTENTION FOSTER PARENTS!

As you know, 12 hours per year of foster parent training are required to maintain your certification.

To help with this, Nepenthean Homes is now offering our 21-DVD Foster Parent College training set. These videos are available for viewing in-house at our Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices **ONLY**—we cannot offer home check-out.

You may call the offices to schedule a time to view the videos. Each DVD is 30 to 45 minutes in length. Viewing only gives you one hour training credit; viewing plus taking the test gives you two hours training credit. For more information and to schedule your viewing time, please call the Fair Oaks or El Sobrante office.

This is a great way to get your training hours easily. Even if you have already completed your training requirement, you may get extra hours or supplement your training knowledge. Foster families who are in the orientation process will also find this a valuable way to get information about foster parenting.

BAY AREA NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (510) 750-4769
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Wednesday, June 17, 2009**
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Topic: "Positive Parenting I"
Where: El Sobrante Office
Speaker: Kevin Smith, MA

ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING:

The Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) at Children's Hospital Oakland, in cooperation with Alameda County Social Services and Nepenthean Homes Foster Family Agency, presents **NO-FEE** foster parent trainings. The classes serve as continuing education hours by foster care agencies. Verification of attendance is given.

Date: **Wednesday, June 10, 2009**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: "The Impact of Violence on a Child's Developing Brain"
Speaker: CVC Staff

and

Date: **Wednesday, June 24, 2009**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: "Understanding the IEP Process, Start to Services"
Speaker: CVC Staff

Where: Children's Hospital Oakland, Center for the Vulnerable Child, 5275 Claremont Ave. and 5400 Telegraph, Oakland
(This building has two entrances—enter on either side.)

RSVP: Call Peggy Pearson at (510) 428-3783, ext. 5326. **IMPORTANT:** We cannot offer childcare at this time.

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:

If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Kevin Smith at (510) 222-2666. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

FOOTHILLS NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (530) 392-1597
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

UPCOMING AUBURN AREA FOSTER PARENT TRAININGS WILL BE HELD ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, PER CFH. PLEASE CALL THE FAIR OAKS OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR FOSTER PARENT TRAINING, AT (916) 535-7780. (REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 HOURS OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING PER YEAR TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION!)

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:

If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Mike Quinn at (916) 535-7780. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

CENTRAL VALLEY NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (209) 495-9492
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

NO FOSTER PARENT TRAINING IN THE MODESTO AREA IN JUNE! WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPCOMING FOSTER PARENT TRAINING NEWS .

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to view the Foster Parent College training DVDs, which are available in the Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices (see article on this page, column 1).

PLEASE NOTE: You may do a maximum of six (6) hours of online foster parent training with Foster Parent College. Please call Mike Quinn or Rich Farlinger at the Fair Oaks office (916) 535-7780 with your email address, to get set up for this **no-cost** training.

CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

NEVADA COUNTY:

Nevada County offers ongoing training twice a month, which includes Medic First Aid, BasicPlus CPR, AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and First Aid. Committing to additional time, the Medic First Aid Infant and Child Supplement can be included following Adult CPR/First Aid.

Date: **Thursday, June 18, 2009**

Time: 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Date: **Saturday, June 27, 2009**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' conference room
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA.

Fee: **\$30.00 (must be prepaid to confirm your reservation).**

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a snack and beverage. Please call Nikki Johnson at (530) 478-6400, x201 for more information.

"AQUA SAFE" WATER SAFETY TRAINING (Includes children's safety workshop)

PLACER COUNTY:

Date: **Tuesday, June 23, 2009**

Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Placer County CSOC
11716 Enterprise Drive, Auburn, CA

Speaker: Laurie Tyrell

RSVP: **Must RSVP by June 15** to (916) 781-6214 for materials, dinner, and childcare. **(NO LATE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED!)**

Limited space available. Meets required certification for foster parents (No Water Required).

ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING OFFERED:

PLACER COUNTY:

Sierra College Foster & Kinship Education Workshop:

Date: **Wednesday, June 3, 2009**

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Topic: "Reunification and Concurrent Families"

Where: Placer County CSOC
11716 Enterprise Drive
Auburn, CA

Speaker: Laurie Antuzzi

RSVP: **Must RSVP for childcare by June 1** to (916) 781-6214.

Date: **Saturday, June 13, 2009**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topic: "Life Skills; Making It Real" (A fun and interactive ILP youth and caregiver opportunity, co-sponsored with Unity Care Group)

Where: Sierra College Gateway
333 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville

RSVP: **Please RSVP by June 11** to (916) 781-6214 for lunch and materials. Sorry, no childcare!

The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc., presents:

Topic: "Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect"

Dates: **Wednesdays:**

- **July 15**
- **September 16**
- **November 18**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Child Abuse Prevention Center
4700 Roseville Road
North Highlands, CA

RSVP: **To register, please call Isela Murrieta at (916) 244-1959** or email to imurrieta@thecapcenter.org for more information. Sorry, no childcare is provided.

*COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE—
WORDS OF WISDOM & INSIGHT
FROM PRE-TEENS:*

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. —Ricky, age 10 (future diplomat)

(Continued from "Summer Water Safety" page 1)

Home Pools

- Never leave a child unobserved around water. Your eyes must be on the child at all times. Adult supervision is recommended.
- Install a phone by the pool or keep a cordless phone nearby so that you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Learn Red Cross CPR and insist that babysitters, grandparents, and others who care for your child know CPR.
- Post CPR instructions and 9-1-1 or your local emergency number in the pool area.
- Enclose the pool completely with a self-locking, self-closing fence with vertical bars. Openings in the fence should be no more than four inches wide. The house should not be included as a part of the barrier.
 - o The gate should be constructed so that it is self-latching and self-closing.
- Never leave furniture near the fence that would enable a child to climb over the fence.
- Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. Pole, rope, and personal flotation devices (PFDs) are recommended.
- Keep toys away from the pool when it is not in use. Toys can attract young children into the pool.
- Pool covers should always be completely removed prior to pool use.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom, and surface, as well as the surrounding pool area.



Birthdays this month!

BAY AREA:

Myron F. (Sims home).....5 on 6/1
Christal T. (Velasco home).....17 on 6/1
Christopher M. (James home)..16 on 6/15

AUBURN:

Guinevere F. (Echternacht CFH).3 on 6/5

MODESTO:

Justice R. (Vigil home).....8 on 6/29

WELCOME NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK:

FAIR OAKS:

- * Cartrell C.
- * Lilah C.
- * Champ D.

BAY AREA:

- * Alydia B.



FAIR OAKS:

- Play Station I games (new or gently used)
- Digital scale (to weigh children)
- Kids’ movies on DVD
- Computer CPU
- Computer software

MODESTO AREA:

- New or gently used laptop computer for Modesto teen

BAY AREA:

- Changing table
- Hand-held electronic games
- VCR

AUBURN AREA:

- Laptop computer



GOOD NEWS!



William W. of the John Tiong home reports that he received all As for the spring semester at McClellan Continuation High School . That’s fantastic, William! Thanks also to William for once again providing labor to the paint crew of the Fair Oaks office annex.

Joelisa F. of the John Tiong home is working one day a week at the Fair Oaks office, doing clerical and phone-answering duties. This is through a work program sponsored by her school. She’s doing a great job, too—way to go, Joelisa!

ATTENTION FOSTER PARENTS!

We recently received a limited number of free skating passes from Sunrise Rollerland. Passes do not include stake rentals. Call the Fair Oaks office for more information and to reserve tickets. You may also check online at www.sunriserollerland.com for information and a location map.

SCHOOL’S OUT—HAVE A GREAT SUMMER VACATION, KIDS!

NEPPY’S NOTABLES

June birthdays for staff:

Mike Quinn (Fair Oaks) on June 13

Nepenthean Homes is a private, non-profit Foster Family Agency that helps adults become successful foster parents. If you want to improve a needy child’s future by becoming a certified foster parent, please telephone:

** in Sacramento area, 1-800-439-8998

** in Foothills area, 1-800-479-8998

** in Modesto area, 1-800-696-0611

** in Bay Area, 1-800-564-2292

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