

Piedmonter

Posted on Thu, Nov. 25, 2004

EDITORIAL Great examples of community service

IT'S GREAT NEWS that the Piedmont City Council has endorsed Boy Scout Jack Seabolt's campaign to label all of the 330 storm drains in Piedmont: "No Dumping -- Drains to the Bay."

It speaks to the pride Piedmonters have for their scouts and youth, as well as the city's environmental efforts.

Piedmont was recognized by the California Integrated Waste Management Board recently for meeting a state-mandated goal of diverting 50 percent of its trash from the landfill. Piedmont's diversion rate is the highest of all cities in Alameda County.

Scout Jack Seabolt, who is working to become an Eagle Scout, is helping the city to further its environmental aims while acknowledging its role in the wider Bay Area community.

"Given that Piedmont is not installing storm drain filters, it is even more important that everyone in the city be frequently reminded that their storm drain flows go untreated into Lake Merritt," said Richard Bailey, executive director of the Lake Merritt Institute.

Kudos should also go to teddy bear enthusiast Anastasia Fullerton, the Piedmont Middle School who diverted lightly used stuffed animals away from trash bins and towards children living at Oakland's Lincoln Child Center.

Fullerton, 14, started the Cuddle Buddies program to collect both lightly used and new stuffed animals for the children, who have lived through physical and emotional trauma.

On Nov. 19, Anastasia and her mother Pam delivered over 500 stuffed animals collected from local residents, plus 100 new stuffed animals manufactured by Unipak Designs of Milpitas and donated by Polish, a Piedmont Avenue spa and salon, to the Lincoln Child Center.

More bears are being collected through Friday, Dec. 17 at Piedmont's three public elementary schools.

"I can't believe how this has taken on a life of its own," said Pam. "People are very, very enthused about it."

We urge all Piedmonters to share a bear -- or two -- over the coming weeks.

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