

Chamber Newsletter

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Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce

Program provides local businesses with free energy efficiency upgrades

A federal program is helping 1000 Northern Sacramento Valley businesses reduce their energy bills by replacing standard lighting units with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent models.

Businesses that qualify may receive up to \$500 worth of energy efficient lighting and other energy conservation measures at no charge or obligation. The program is part of the California Public Utilities Commission's Energy Fitness Program.

To qualify, a business must be a locally based, non-residential PG&E ratepayer who uses 100 kW (kilowatts) or less of electrical demand each month (you qualify if your PG&E bill does not have a demand

charge on it).

Recently, the Chamber participated in this program and had 33 standard incandescent, flood and decorative lamps replaced with compact fluorescent lighting. Additionally, the program provided the Chamber with an energy efficient fluorescent ballast and a programmable digital thermostat, all free of charge.

Rudy Marcozzi of Marcozzi Jewelers said his businesses received more than 60 new energy efficient bulbs and tubes through the program, all free of charge. "It's a wonderful program," Marcozzi said. "They came in and retrofitted several of my old fixtures, redid my ballasts so that they now use two tubes instead of

four, and replaced many of the bulbs in our chandeliers. They were very professional and clean and nice to work with."

Marcozzi said the new equipment provides his business with more light while using less power, which will save him money on his energy bills. More than 20 other Chamber members have participated in this program.

Once the equipment upgrades are complete, the program also provides each business with a monthly energy bill analysis, energy education and a list of other energy efficiency programs serving the north valley.

For more information, please call the Energy Fitness Program at 898-0609.

YMCA celebrates 90 years of community service and support

Community Support Campaign seeks to raise \$30,000

The Oroville YMCA celebrated the beginning of its 90th year serving Oroville's youth with an Open House at the Ehmann Home.

More than 70 people viewed scrapbook memorabilia, toured the Ehmann Home, sipped wine and accepted hors d'oeuvres from local girl scouts during the two-hour event.

Executive Director Amanda Speer

says the Oroville YMCA filled an important niche during its early days.

During the waning years of the Gold Rush, young men in Oroville had few opportunities for employment. Bustling saloons and a red light district were the dominating influences on many of these men, she says.

Sensing this need, Mr. Ehmann and several local businesses in

Oroville raised \$9,000 in just three days as seed money for the YMCA and its first director, Harvard-educated Fred Duckles, whom they secured on a three-year contract. Duckles stayed with the Oroville YMCA for nearly 25 years, Speer says, while developing the YMCA

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