

# COMMUNITY

## Classic Car Buffs Make Cruisin' The Boulevard An Annual Event

**M**y wife and I are huge 'American Graffiti' fans and it has been our dream to celebrate this 1973 timeless, coming-of-age movie, filmed by George Lucas right here in Petaluma, by producing a classic car show and downtown cruise," said John Furrer, President of the recently formed all-volunteer nonprofit, Cruisin' The Boulevard, Inc. That's what the Furrers and a group of their friends did last year as a benefit for Boys & Girls Clubs of Petaluma.

"The event was so successful and so much fun that we decided to make it an annual 'Petaluma's Salute to American Graffiti'", commented Furrer, who along with fellow board member Wayne Van Patten watched some of the movie being filmed back in 1972.

"We don't think Mr. Lucas had any inkling that this homage to his memories as a Modesto teenager would become the immediate success it did, much less that today, 33 years later, it would remain a very popular film not only here in the United

States, but now in many foreign countries as well," added Van Patten. "In fact, news and photos of last year's cruise appeared in a New Zealand auto magazine. In Europe, the movie is huge. Cars from the movie have appeared at shows in the UK and Germany. There's even a website dedicated to building an exact duplicate of the movie's '32 Ford Coupe. Recently we learned that 'American Graffiti' enthusiasts in both England and New Zealand plan to attend this year's 'Petaluma Salute', which is planned for May 20.

"After last year's success, we all sat down and said, 'Let's do it again'," he noted. "With so many valuable nonprofit organizations, community programs, and even schools and educators needing financial support, we decided to form our own nonprofit California public benefit corporation and invite community groups and schools to apply for funding." CTB directors have already chosen to support Petaluma People Services Center's Meals on Wheels, the Police Department's Bicycle Helmet Safety Program and a community heart defibrillator project with some of the funds raised at this year's show and cruise.

At this year's celebration,

### Calling All Chili Cook-off Entries

**E**ntries are now being accepted for The 9th Annual Great Petaluma Chili Cook-off, Salsa and Beer Tasting which will fire up on Sunday, April 30th, from 1 to 5 PM at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds in Petaluma. Forty challengers will compete for the People's Choice Awards and the VIP judges' decisions for the best chili (meat and vegetarian), salsa, and beer.

This popular event will take place rain or shine and

the group's board of directors is planning to have several "American Graffiti" stars present and two of the cars that appeared in the movie. "One of our goals is to reunite the entire 'American Graffiti' cast and director Lucas in 2008 for a 35-year Petaluma reunion. This is where it all began for many of the movie's stars, including Harrison Ford, Richard Dreyfus, Cindy Williams, McKenzie Phillips, Ron Howard and, of course, Lucas himself. We've got our fingers crossed that they'll all remember Petaluma's hospitality and hometown flavor and honor us with a special visit as we celebrate our city's 150th birthday," said Furrer.

On January 15th, Cruisin' The Boulevard will begin accepting entries for this year's May event. Only 200 1972 and older American-made cars and trucks will be accepted. Last year the event sold out 30 days in advance, so those who want to participate should act quickly. To obtain a "Salute 2006" entry application, or to find out more about volunteer and sponsor opportunities, call 707.763.6315, email [dadeeoooh@netzero.net](mailto:dadeeoooh@netzero.net), visit [cruisintheboulevard.com](http://cruisintheboulevard.com), or write Cruisin' The Boulevard, Inc., 1165 San Rafael Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954.

will feature music and entertainment along with unlimited tasting of chili and salsa. Beer tasting from some of Northern California's best breweries is an added attraction. Proceeds from the Cook-off will benefit the youth programs at Petaluma's historic Cinnabar Theater.

For information on the Chili Cook-Off or to download an entry form, go to [greatchilicookoff.com](http://greatchilicookoff.com) or call (707) 763-8920.

## Butter & Egg Days Parade Applications Available

**A**pplications to enter a float, band, novelty, or other unit in the April 29th, 2006, Butter & Egg Days Parade have been mailed to last year's participants and are available to all now by calling the Butter & Egg Days Hotline at 707.763.0344. They are also available as pdf's for download at [butterandeggs.com](http://butterandeggs.com).

The Early Bird Deadline to return a completed form for the lowest entry fee is Friday, March 3rd. To meet that deadline, the application and all supporting information (including any required insurance documentation) must be at the Petaluma Downtown Association office by 5 PM. Postmarks do not count. Early Bird fees are \$40 for non-commercial entries (nonprofits, service clubs, and individuals) and \$150 for commercial businesses. Regular fees are \$50 for non-commercial entries and \$250 for commercial businesses. School marching bands pay no entry fee if they apply by Friday, March 10th, when ALL entry forms are due.

After March 10th, applications will be accepted on a space-available basis only, and a late fee will apply. Late fees are \$100 for non-commercial entries and \$300 for commercial entries. After March 10th, school bands

will be required to pay a \$40 entry fee. A new rule for 2006 is that applications received without a parade script or fee will be returned. A full list of deadlines and fees is included in the application packet.

The theme for this year's parade will be "Petaluma: 100 Years of History/Celebrating the Carnegie Library's 100th Year".

Petaluma's Classic Revival temple-style library was opened in 1906, one of 36 temple-style classical revival libraries completed in California with Carnegie grants between 1903 and 1915. The building served as Petaluma's main library until 1976. When the new library opened in 1976, the Carnegie Library was restored and became the Historical Museum.

As always, all entrants will be encouraged to tie their parade entry to the theme. The parade committee suggests focusing on the library, Petaluma's history from 1906 to 2006, your organization's history, a song from a particular decade, or the importance of reading.

The Butter & Egg Days Parade is scheduled for noon on Saturday, April 29th.

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