

The Mercury News

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Pizarro: Community bands together to save Redwood City music programs

spizarro@mercurynews.com

Posted: 05/27/2010 11:49:23 AM PDT

Updated: 05/27/2010 09:48:23 PM PDT

The Redwood City community is rallying to save instrumental music programs for the city's 9,000 elementary and middle school students.

This week, the new owners of the Fox Theatre, Lori and Eric Lochtefeld, agreed to be the lead business sponsors of "Groovin' in the Grove," the Redwood City Education Foundation's daylong concert Saturday.

The event at Sequoia High School will feature more than a dozen Peninsula bands starting at 1 p.m. Four bands will play an evening concert at 6:30, finishing with Bay Area horn ensemble Bing and the Bingtones.

It's the first "Save Our School Music" event planned, with hopes of raising \$100,000 by June 8. Tickets, ranging from \$5 to \$50, are available at www.rcef.org/groovin.

CHARITABLE DUCKS: The third annual Silicon Valley Duck Race is coming up June 13 at Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos, with 15,000 numbered rubber ducks racing to make money for charity.

The race is a partnership among Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley and 14 other agencies. They raise money by selling sponsorships for individual ducks, which could win prizes for their sponsor depending on where they finish.

The 10 a.m. event includes a concert and family festival, with the duck race starting at 1:30 p.m. For details, go to www.siliconvalleyduckrace.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Chris Wilder might be the executive director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation, but he still couldn't contain his excitement about being inducted into Cupertino High School's Hall of Fame last week.

"It was amazing," said Wilder, a 1985 grad. "The spirit was at a level I don't remember."

The school's hall of fame was started in 1978 by Bill Boggie, who taught history for 41 years. There are 110 members and 11 honorary members (non-grads).

This year's class also included Rod Utley (Class of 1969), a cardiologist in Washington state; Steve Barr (Class of 1977), founder of Green Dot Schools and co-founder of Rock the Vote; and Nilofer Merchant (Class of 1985), CEO of Los Gatos-based Rubicon Consulting.

SEEKING NOMS: Bank of America is again looking for "Neighborhood Builders" and "Local Heroes" in Silicon Valley for its Neighborhood Excellence Awards.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday. Go to www.bankofamerica.com/neighborhoodexcellence for details and the nomination form.

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