



Independence Day the Piedmont Way



PIEDMONT'S 59TH ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, 2026 ★ 11 A.M.



Happy 4th of July!

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CITY OF PIEDMONT
120 Vista Avenue,
Piedmont, CA 94611



Welcome to the 59th Annual Piedmont 4th of July Parade

As Mayor, it is my great joy and honor to welcome you to Piedmont to celebrate the 4th of July and this year's theme, "Independence Day the Piedmont Way."

Our most beloved 4th of July tradition in Piedmont is, of course, the parade itself! We truly appreciate all the volunteers and community members who step up to make the parade a success year after year.

Whether you are waving from the parade or cheering from the sidewalk, this beloved annual tradition reminds us that shared experiences strengthen community.

No one knows this better than this year's Grand Marshal, Cora Wood! Cora has been the heart of our Piedmont Recreation Department (PRD) for the past 32 years. Cora and our PRD staff work tirelessly to support our community's special events and programs that create welcoming and joyful shared experiences for all.

We are also fortunate to have beautiful shared spaces to host our community events and gatherings. In the spirit of togetherness, please join the festivities in Piedmont Park after the parade, where you can relax and enjoy live music, food, and celebration until 3 p.m.

Thank you for being an important part of our celebration today!

Betsy Smegal Andersen
Mayor, City of Piedmont

Cora Wood to be July 4 parade Grand Marshal

Cora Wood, a long-time key Recreation Department employee, will be the Fourth of July parade's Grand Marshal this year. Wood has been working for the city for 32 years and has announced her retirement at the end of 2026.

While Wood is a modest person who prefers to avoid the spotlight, her service to the city, and her history growing up in Piedmont could not be overlooked for the honorary role this year in Piedmont's largest and most proud city event.

"It is an honor, and it is nice to be recognized, I do appreciate that. I'm not the one that usually likes to be on the front line. I like to be in the back, like the caboose pushing the train," she said with a smile.

The parade committee selected Wood to lead the parade on this historic 250th anniversary of the USA.

"Over the years, Cora Wood has worked with every department and has helped just about every resident in Piedmont and beyond. Simply put, everyone knows Cora. She is the warm smile that greets you when you walk through the doors of the PRD building, the cheerful voice on the other end of the phone, and the 'glue' who has helped make all things PRD feel a little more magical," said Supervisor Eva Pha-

len of the Recreation Department and a member of the July 4 parade committee.

"I've worked with this committee closely for so many years. I respect what they do; they've given up so much time and I know that they don't freely choose just anybody to be Grand Marshal," said Wood.

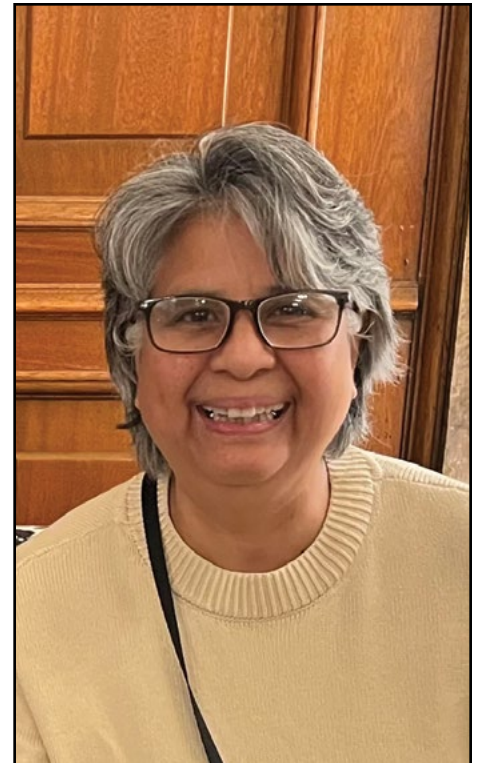
Wood grew up in Piedmont and first appeared in the parade with the Bluebirds and Campfire Girls when she was a Beach school student. The Rec Department's rich involvement with the parade has meant that Wood has been to or been a part of around 30 Piedmont parades.

Wood helped run the Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast for six years, when the Recreation Department inherited the event from the Montclair-Piedmont Rotary Club.

Wood will be on the judging stand this year to vote for the parade winners and she gave some clues to float builders on how to win her favor.

"I love the creative ones, and the neighborhood ones. I will vote for the floats that think outside the box," she said.

"Independence Day the Piedmont Way" is the parade theme this year, the 59th annual parade. Wood's involvement in so many past parades will ensure that this one has that special Piedmont touch.



Piedmont Recreation Department's Cora Wood has been named Grand Marshal of Piedmont's 59th annual Fourth of July parade.

Piedmont celebrates Dick Johnson's legacy

Twenty-four years ago, Piedmont lost Dick Johnson, the city's beloved banjo-playing founder of the 4th of July Parade. As chairman of the Piedmont Recreation Commission in 1965, the man everyone called Pear decided to start a parade.

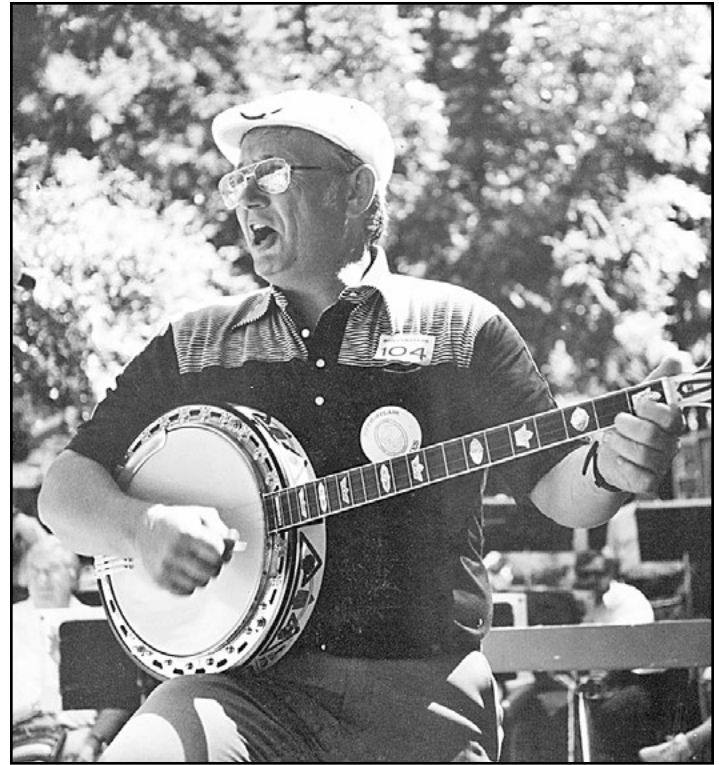
Residents of El Cerrito Avenue had been having July 4th celebrations, including mini-parades, for a few years under the leadership of Mary Ellen and John Sherry and Dorothy Carter. But the concept of a city-wide parade was pure Pear.

"He said it was too quiet in Piedmont in the summer, and something needed to be done," recalled the late Ed Bartlett, a close friend. "Pear came up with the idea of a parade. I told him it would never work – everybody's at Tahoe. It took off

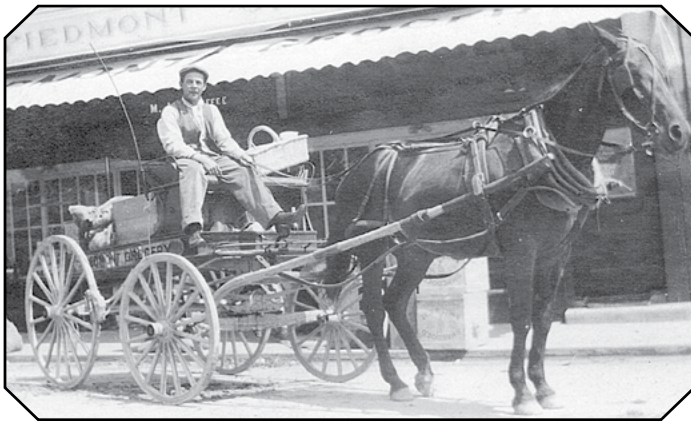
right away. That's the kind of person Pear was."

Johnson was highly regarded for his prodigious musical talent. He wrote, produced, directed and performed in dozens of shows at The Family Club, Claremont Country Club and the Athenian-Niles Club.

Every year on the 4th of July, his Yerba Buena Jazz Band rode by on the back of a truck, putting smiles on faces everywhere. The legacy of Dick Johnson is being carried out by his daughter, Kathy Kelleher, who is now chair of the Piedmont July 4 Parade Committee.



Piedmont Grocery



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An early photo shows the 4-wheel horse-drawn wagon used by Piedmont Grocery to deliver orders to families in Piedmont.



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Piedmont's New Orleans tradition

For the 22nd year, the Zenith New Orleans Parade Band will take a lead position in Piedmont's 4th of July Parade, with its parasol-toting, shuffle-

stepping Grand Marshal, Alan Carr, leading the way. Zenith, a Berkeley-based group, lays claim to being the most authentic brass band playing the music

of old New Orleans from the formative years of 100 years ago to the present.

Parade bands in New Orleans are still part of the musical tradition in the Crescent City, playing for funerals, parades, picnics and dances. All members of the Zenith band have been playing in similar jazz bands in the Bay Area for many years. Its Grand Marshal leads the way, proudly holding a fringed parasol, wearing a colorful sash, and doing a shuffle step down the length of Highland Avenue.

People dancing behind the band, sometimes swirling parasols, are known as the second line. Everyone is invited to join the second line. The Zenith New Orleans Parade Band has been a major attraction for many years at the New Orleans By the Bay production at Shoreline Amphitheater. It



Photo by Raymond Holbert

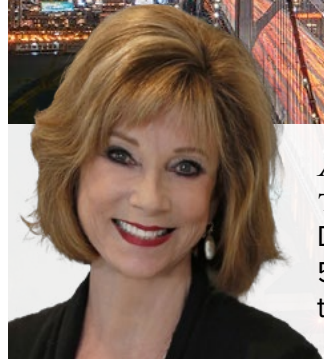
Alan Carr has assumed the role of Grand Marshal of the Zenith New Orleans Parade Band for his late father, Hollis Carr.

has been part of the Traditional Jazz portion of the Concord Jazz Festival for 18 years, and for the past eight years it has appeared at the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival. The band plays each year at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee in Old Town during June.



Photo by Ken DeCrosa

The Zenith New Orleans Parade Band opens Piedmont's 55th annual 4th of July Parade on Highland Avenue.



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Piedmont's Award-winning Community Band

The Piedmont Community Band is the city's only musical organization that can claim a single rehearsal during the year. They were the winner of the Highland Cup in 2006 as best entry in the Piedmont 4th of July Parade. The band is comprised of amateur and professional musicians who live in town and who can't resist the challenge of playing music while marching in formation.

Dressed in blue pants, white shirts and a red kerchief, they have been led for years by Ken Kawaichi, who, dressed as Emperor Norton, has the distinction of walking the length of the parade route backwards. The band is organized by Jane Reed and Greg Slatoiff.



Photo by Ken DeCrosta

The Piedmont Community Band led by Ken Kawaichi



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“Look at those funny men, Mommy.”

More than 56 years ago, KNBR disc jockeys Mike Cleary of Piedmont and Frank Dill challenged their Bay Area listeners to put on a parade, and Pleasanton was selected. It became the KNBR Good Times Parade, and anyone with a little red wagon could enter.

A Mariners group at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church entered with a Viking ship the first year, then came up with the idea of the tubby sailors carrying mops.

The group quickly became a comic marching group. Though many of the men were veterans of various branches of the military, there was a belief that slavish obedience to commands was counterproductive, so the Balloon Platoon was born.

Invitations soon came to participate in other communities' parades. In 21 years, the group has trooped in several bowl games, appeared at the Indianapolis 500, marched in the Christmas parade in London.

Though not bearing bagpipes, the Platoon went to Edinburgh in 2000 to participate in the Millennium Pipe Festival.

One spring the Balloon Platoon appeared



The Balloon Platoon, based in Pleasanton, has been a staple of the Piedmont 4th of July Parade for more than 14 years.

Photo by Ken DeCrosta

in the National Cherry Blossom Festival parade in Washington, D.C. The group meets rarely, only to decide which parade invites to accept. “We usually reject offers that are strict forward motion parades,” explained leader Hal Strunk. “The Marine Corps band does that really well – we do not.”

The age of Platoon members ranges from 21 to 80, and all are associated with the church in Pleasanton. As the Balloon Platoon passes by today, look for its special routines: Shake-n-Bake, pirouettes, carousels, big pinwheels, the Manual of Mops, and a 21 Mop Salute.

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Piedmont Highlander bagpipes a Piedmont tradition since 1932

Bagpipes in Piedmont have been a tradition since 1932 when football coach Glen “Brick” Johnson started the Kiltie Band at Piedmont High School. Today, the Piedmont Highlanders Drums and Pipes is a community band performing in parades and at special events throughout the Bay Area.

Band members wear a traditional Scottish military style uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders which wore MacKenzie tartan kilts. The band is now led by Pipe Major Ellison Dunlap, Jr., the elder son of the late Ellison Dunlap. The band regularly performs at the Scottish Highland Games at the Dunsmuir Estate in Oakland, on John Muir Day at the Muir Estate in Martinez, and in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin. It performs annually on Memorial Day at Mountain View Ceme-



Piedmont Highlanders Drums and Pipes, Piedmont’s hometown bagpipe band

Staff photo

tery. It has performed at the Tartan Day Games at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont and in the Celtic Festival in Fremont. It is the opening band at the Alameda County Fair Parade in Pleasanton.

The Piedmont Highlanders have played at Grace Cathedral on Armistice Day and at the San Francisco Giants ballpark at the opening game of the baseball playoffs.

The band has won ribbons as

best band in the Newark parade, at the Walnut Festival in Walnut Creek, and in the Annual Piedmont 4th of July Parade.

For additional information, contact Nancy Dunlap at 465-3699.



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Montclair to Piedmont - it's Barrelhouse Jazz

The Barrelhouse Jazz Band has been playing traditional (Dixieland) jazz in the Bay Area since 1972. Like the earliest traditions of jazz music, the Barrelhouse boys sprang from a church.

More than 50 years ago a small group of musicians at Montclair Presbyterian Church formed a traditional jazz band. The band's focus remains the West Coast brand of New Orleans-style jazz developed by San Francisco musician Lu Watters using a two-trumpet sound. The band loves to see people dancing to its music, something that brings out the best in the Barrelhouse musicians. The band often plays for church services in several denominations in the Bay Area, providing joy among the parishioners.

In addition to playing swing music and foxtrots for dance music, the band plays struts, stomps, blues and rags.

Band members are director Al Flood (clarinet & sax), Chuck McLain (trombone & vocals), pianist Margaret McElwain, Jim Lockie-Brown on banjo, Viki Jacobsen (bass sax), and Art Wood and Joel Jacobsen on trumpets.

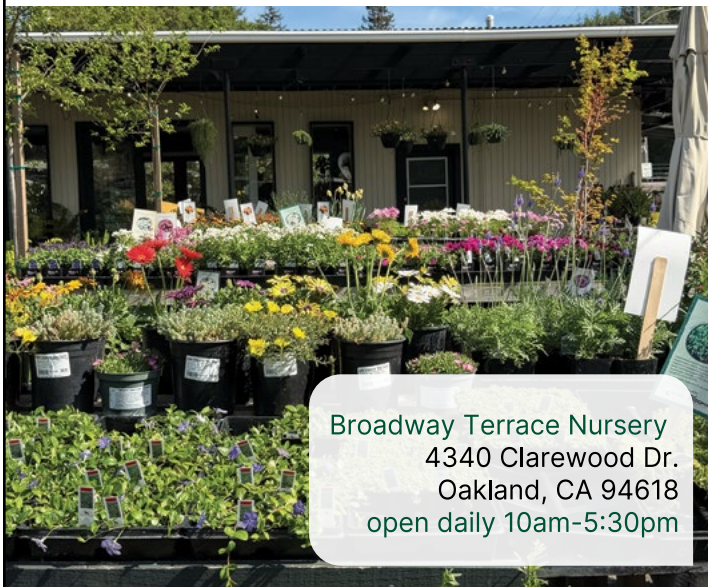


Photo by Ken DeCrosta

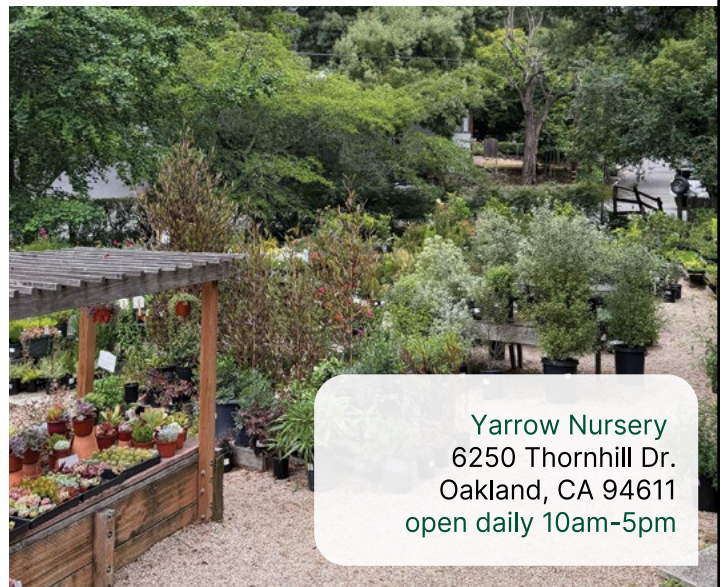
Barrelhouse Jazz Band rolls down Highland Avenue in the Piedmont 4th of July parade.

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Silicon Valley Pipe Band – the big boys from Saratoga

The Silicon Valley Pipe Band – formerly the Stewart Tartan Pipes and Drums – will take its place as a mainstay of the Piedmont parade. Founded in San Francisco in 1980, it moved to Saratoga and changed its name. It is considered by many as the premiere parade bagpipe band in the Bay Area.

It has played at events as diverse as the Bay to Breakers Run, Pacifica Fog Fest, San Francisco Flower Show, Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Portuguese Pentecost Festival in San Jose, and the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon.

It is a regular at San Francisco's St.

Patrick's Day Parade, Skylawn Memorial Day, and for many years has been part of the Piedmont's 4th of July Parade.

It has performed in sacred ceremonies at Grace Cathedral and Davies Symphony Hall, and members of the band have played for the Prince of Wales.





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4th of July

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Yacht Rockers to perform at Piedmont's 4th of July Parade

By Jake Lannon

Piedmont's 4th of July commission announced that the Yacht Rockers will be performing at this year's parade. The band is a Northern California-based yacht rock party band. They perform covers of all hits from the '70s and '80s. They're slotted to perform in Piedmont Park from 1 - 3 p.m.

The Yacht Rockers have over 40 years of combined experience. The band performs crowd favorites from artists such as Looking Glass, Christopher Cross, Hall & Oates, Toto, Boz Scaggs, Kenny Loggins, and more. The band has performed songs like "Brandy," "Ride Like the Wind," and "Baker Street" to "Margaritaville" and "Escape (The Pina Colada Song)."

Yacht Rockers perform at casinos, wineries, festivals, fairs, private parties, clubs, and corporate events, delivering a high-energy show. The concert is free for anyone attending the parade.



The Northern California-based Yacht Rockers



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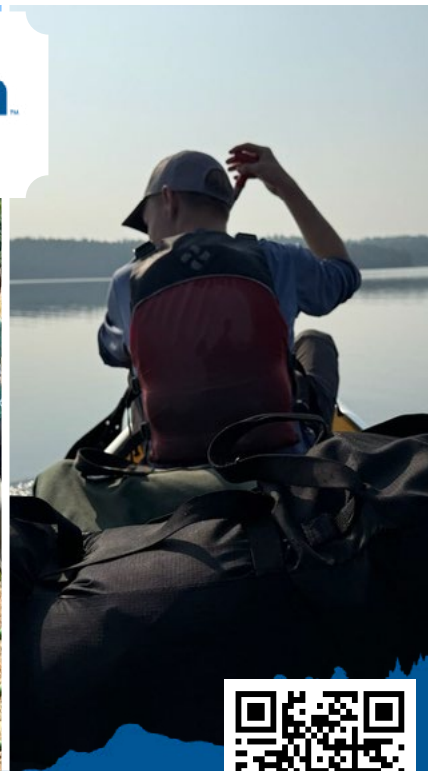
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In Piedmont, July 4th means a Cup, Saucer & Spoons

In 2003 at suggestion of Todd Kerr, the Piedmont parade received its first commissioned work of art, a whimsical two-handled metal trophy, 33 inches tall, mounted on a steel coil, created for the Piedmont parade by Berkeley sculptor Michael Christian.

Named the Highland Cup, it has been presented to the best entry in the parade for 22 years.

Six years later Oakland-based artist Aaron Geman was commissioned to create the Highland Saucer to complement the Cup. It is a mechanical sculpture featuring a steel saucer modeled after a section of a giant Monterey pine tree that fell during a winter storm in Piedmont Park.

With a Cup and Saucer, it was inevitable that a Spoon be added. The Highland Spoons, created by Oakland metal artist Alex Nolan, was unveiled in 2015 in honor of the parade's 50th anniversary. The one stipulation to the artist was that it had to be whimsical like its predecessors.

Each year the Cup, Saucer and Spoons are on display in the lobby of Wells Fargo Bank for two weeks prior to the parade.



Staff photo

The Highland Cup (left), Highland Saucer and the Highland Spoons are presented each year to the best entries in the 4th of July Parade.

Trophy Winners – Piedmont 4th of July Parade

2025

Highland Cup – Piedmont Makers
Highland Saucer – Piedmont Swim Team
Highland Spoons – Oakland Rotary Club #3
Best Spirit – Piedmont Recreation Department
Best Theme – John Solomon and Friends
Most Artistic – Piedmont High School Jazz Combo
Best Youth Entry – Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation
Best Animal Group – Grand Lake Veterinary Hospital
Best Band – Piedmont Community Band

2024

Highland Cup – Holly Place Key Line Station Float
Highland Saucer – Piedmont Makers
Highland Spoons – Oakland Strokes
Best Spirit – Wednesday Walkers
Best Theme – Linda Beach Preschool
Most Artistic – Piedmont Recreation Department
Best Youth Entry – Piedmont Mountain Bike Team
Best Animal Group – East Bay SPCA
Best Band – Barrelhouse Jazz

2023

Highland Cup – Piedmont Rec. Dept.
Highland Saucer – Food Fest
Highland Spoons – Piedmont Public Works
Best Youth Entry – Piedmont Mountain Bike Team
Best Animal Group – July 4th Dog Group (Pugs)
Best Community Entry – Piedmont Community Church
Best Band – Piedmont Community Band

Pre-Parade Awards

Best Theme – Grand Lake Veterinary Hospital
Best Spirit – Recreation Department
Most Artistic – Olcott-Kelleher Pillsbury float

2022

Highland Cup – Piedmont Recreation Department
Highland Saucer – Piedmont Community Service Crew
Highland Spoons – Girl Scouts
Best Spirit – 1915 Ford Race Car (yellow)
Most Artistic – Montclair Tutu
Best Youth Entry – Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation
Best Animal Group – Dynamite Dogs
Best Band – California Repercussions

2021

Highland Cup – Mason & Austin Gray
Highland Saucer – Camp Augusta (Phil Lorin)
Highland Spoons – Robert Dickinson (16 Sotelo)

2020

Highland Cup – Mason & Austin Gray
Highland Saucer – Barbara Addelman
Highland Spoons – Buffy Yeh & Neighbors

2019

Highland Cup - Camp Augusta
Highland Saucer – Beach School Crossing Guard
Highland Spoons – Piedmont Community Service Crew

2018

Highland Cup – Girl Scouts
Highland Saucer – Piedmont Free Orchestra
Highland Spoons – Blue Star Moms
Grand Marshal Award (New) – Mar-a-Lagoon
Best Community – Piedmont Mt. Bike Club
Best Band – Silicon Valley Bagpipe Band
Youth – Junior Warriors
Animal – Berkeley Humane Society
Pre-Parade Awards
Theme – Community Service Crew
Most Artistic – Piedmont Orchestra
Spirit – Camp Augusta

2017

Highland Cup – The Olcott and Kelleher Families (Hamilton)
Highland Saucer – Piedmont Center for the Arts (Celebrating the Arts)
Highland Spoons – Tap Dancing Christmas Trees
Best Community Entry – Piedmont Pride
Best Youth Entry – Ashley's Kids
Best Band – Piedmont Community Band
Best Animal Group – Dynamite Dogs
Pre-Parade Awards
Most Artistic – Carry the Torch (In celebration of important women in history)
Spirit Award – Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation
Best Theme – Camp Augusta

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Before the Parade

Places to go . . . Things to do

Pancake Breakfast

8:00-10:30 a.m.

Veterans' Memorial Building

401 Highland at Vista Avenue

Sponsored by Piedmont Community Service Crew,
a coed Venturing Scout unit

Zenith New Orleans Parade Band

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Morning music while entering and leaving the
Veterans' Memorial Building

Assembly of parade entries

10:30 a.m.

All units in the parade assemble on Mesa,
Monte, Park Way, Waldo and first block
of Highland Avenue at assigned sites.

Start of the parade

11:00 a.m.

Roland Lazzarotto officially starts the parade
at the corner of Highland Avenue and Park Way.
The parade route is on Highland Avenue,
ending on the far side of Piedmont Park.



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PIEDMONT INDEPENDENCE

Theme: Independence Day

Police motorcycle

Fire trucks

Scout Color Guard with flags

ZENITH NEW ORLEANS BAND

DIGNITARY CARS

Grand Marshal Cora Wood and family
Fire Truck

Mayor Betsy Smegal Andersen and Rob Anderson
1961 Thunderbird
Shelley Symonds

City Council member Conna McCarthy and Peter Craigie
1967 Ford Mustang
Martin Falarski

City Council member Lorrel Plimier and Michael Plimier
2006 Mercedes SL

**School Board President Ruchi Medhekar,
daughter Amalia, Liana & Siana**
Vehicle TBD
Tom Straus

School Board VP Michael Malone and family
2008 BMW3 convertible
Rachel Jaiven

School Board member Max Roman, wife Tory & twins
1954 Corvette
Jon Peters

School Superintendent Jen Hawn & Andrew Hawn
1974 Mercedes convertible
Jan-Petter Hargen

Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas & husband
Vehicle TBD

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY BAND
Jane Reed and Greg Slatoff

Piedmont Center for the Arts

Horseless Carriage Club vehicles

BARRELHOUSE JAZZ BAND
W.A. Rose Flatbed truck
Driver: David Hopkins

AC Transit

Oakland Women's Rowing Club

Oakland Zoomobile

Oakland Rotary Club #3

Piedmont Food Fest
Roger Tsai

Piedmont Mountain Bike Team

Dog Group – Pugs
Jennifer Poole

Piedmont Recreation Department Float

1920/1930 cars
1915 Pierce Arrow
Mike Barricks
1930 Chevy sedan
Bob Lentz
1930 Ford Model A
Shumway Family
1931 Ford Model A
David Hennigan
1934 Packard
Orin Kerr
1938 Aston Martin
Joe Hurwich

Grand Lake Vet Hospital Float
Elizabeth McDonald

SILICON VALLEY BAGPIPE BAND

Piedmont Swim Team

Piedmont Community Church

1950s cars
1953 MG-TD
Don Chander & grandson Nathan Lenz
1954 Corvette
Jon Peters
1955 Chevy Sedan
Carlton Chan

Claremont Vet Hospital
Jeep
Elizabeth McDonald with dogs

DAY PARADE – JULY 4, 2026

the Piedmont Way

PIEDMONT HIGHLANDERS PIPES & DRUMS BAGPIPE BAND

Ellison Dunlap, Jr.

Linda Beach Preschool

Piedmont Scouts

Fired Up for Freedom

First Mondays Reading Group

Walking on Wednesdays

Dick Carter

Oakland Strokes

Piedmont High School Jazz Combo

1960s cars

1962 Ford Falcon Wagon

Frank & Paula Silver

1964 Porsche 356

Diane & Ken Mockel

1965 Triumph Herald

Nick Parkin

1969 Mustang

Scott Kucirek

Oakland Yellowjackets Cycling Club

Piedmont Baseball & Softball Foundation (PBSF)

Balloon Platoon

Dougals Driver

WW II Flyers

1935 Rolls Royce

Guillermo Sanchez

Pickle Ball

Piedmont Makers

Prescott Circus

Art Deco Society

1939 Buick Phaeton Convertible, yellow

Rick Fishman & Laurie Gordon

Deco Belles

1922 Lincoln blue

Driven by Roger Chausse

Deco Belles

1934 Auburn, yellow

Jim Callahan & Gemmie Jones

REPERCUSSIONS MARCHING BAND

Park Gymnastics

E-Bike Group

Piedmont Anti-Racism & Diversity Committee

Daughters of the American Revolution

Claudia Falconer

RK Roofing

Late Model cars

1972 Ford Bronco

Frederic Kerrest

1972 Datsun 510

Len Warren

1973 Plymouth Road Runner

Stan Gibson

1979 VW

Stacy Isaacs

2001 Morgan

Garrett Clifford

2007 Lotus Elise

Mark Davidson

Piedmont Public Works



After the Parade

Bandstand in Piedmont Park

12:15 p.m.

Music by Yacht Rockers

Welcome and opening remarks

National Anthem

Amy McKenzie.

12:30 p.m.

Music by Yacht Rockers

Parade Awards Winners

Announcing winners of

Highland Cup

Highland Saucer

Highland Spoons

Mistress of the Microphone

Patti Edmonds, *Parade Announcer*

2025 Judges

Grand Marshal Cora Wood

Mayor Betsy Andersen

School Board President

Ruchi Medhekar

4th of July Parade Committee

Kathy Kelleher, *Chair*

Roland Lazzorotto, *Parade Starter*

Carolyn Bruck

Michael Bruck

Sarah Pearson

Marilyn Weber

John Tulloch

Carla Betts

Some thanks.....

- Thanks to Zuber Rathod and ZR Towing for the tow truck used as a parade reviewing stand for the judges and parade announcer.



Photo by Greg Spickard

A highlight of Piedmont's 4th of July Parade each year is the array of dazzling, museum quality antique cars and classic cars.



Happy 4th of July
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THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The *Piedmont Post* presents the birth certificate of the United States of America. Take time to read it as you celebrate America's own Independence Day with your children so they may share and understand its significance.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain [George III] is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction

foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

- For protecting them by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

- For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

- For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren.

- We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us.

- We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.

- We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence.

They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare.

That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,

And that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; And that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce,

And to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.



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453 SCENIC AVENUE
SOLD IN PIEDMONT

PBF partners with city to restore play area in Piedmont's Main Park

By Marilyn Weber

Following the removal of the unsafe swings in 2024, the Piedmont Beautification Foundation's (PBF) Fall Fundraising Campaign successfully focused on securing funds for the swing replacement. The redesigned area will feature state-of-the-art materials for enhanced durability and safety, including new safety matting to replace the existing sand and a redefined perimeter for the swing area.

To build on this momentum, the PBF Spring Campaign is now focused on creating a nature play area adjacent to the swings. This project will transform an underused section of the park into a vibrant outdoor learning environment featuring climbing logs, native plants, and hands-on natural play elements for children to explore. The project will install new swings and upgrade ADA access.

The PBF has worked since 1964, in partnership with the City of Piedmont, to create beautiful public spaces that foster a strong sense of pride and community. In addition to its many valuable contributions to parks, tot lots, schools, and recreational facilities, PBF also brings the community together to celebrate the Piedmont Lights Up ceremony every December.

PBF looks forward to sharing more updates as they work to improve the community's outdoor spaces.

To learn more about PBF's efforts to return the swings to Piedmont's Main Park, visit their website: <https://piedmontbeautificationfoundation.org/ways-to-give/>.



Nature Play Area hand-drawn illustration by artist Ana Gadish-Linares



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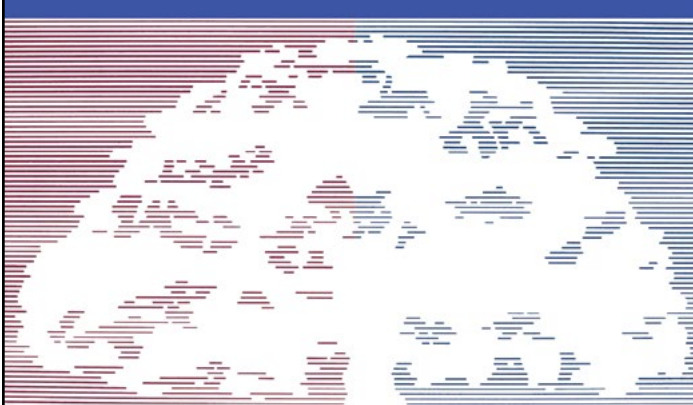
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Schedule and details at www.fairyland.org
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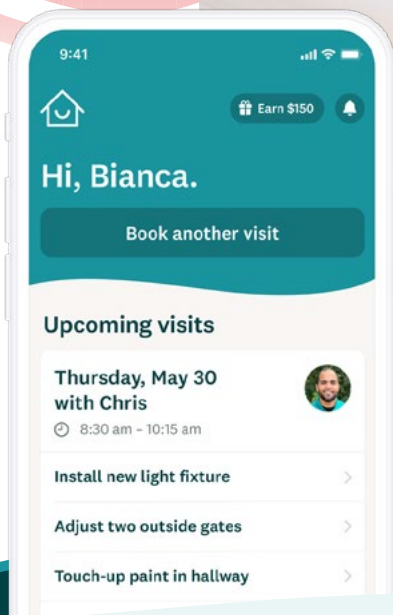
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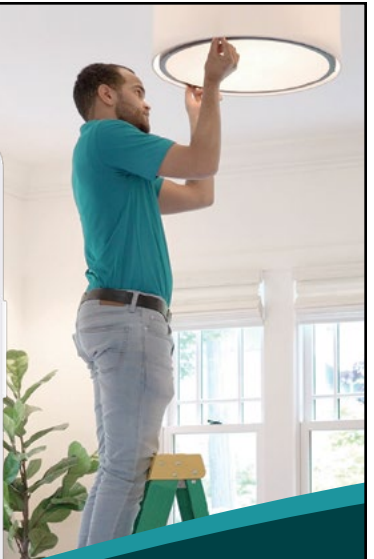


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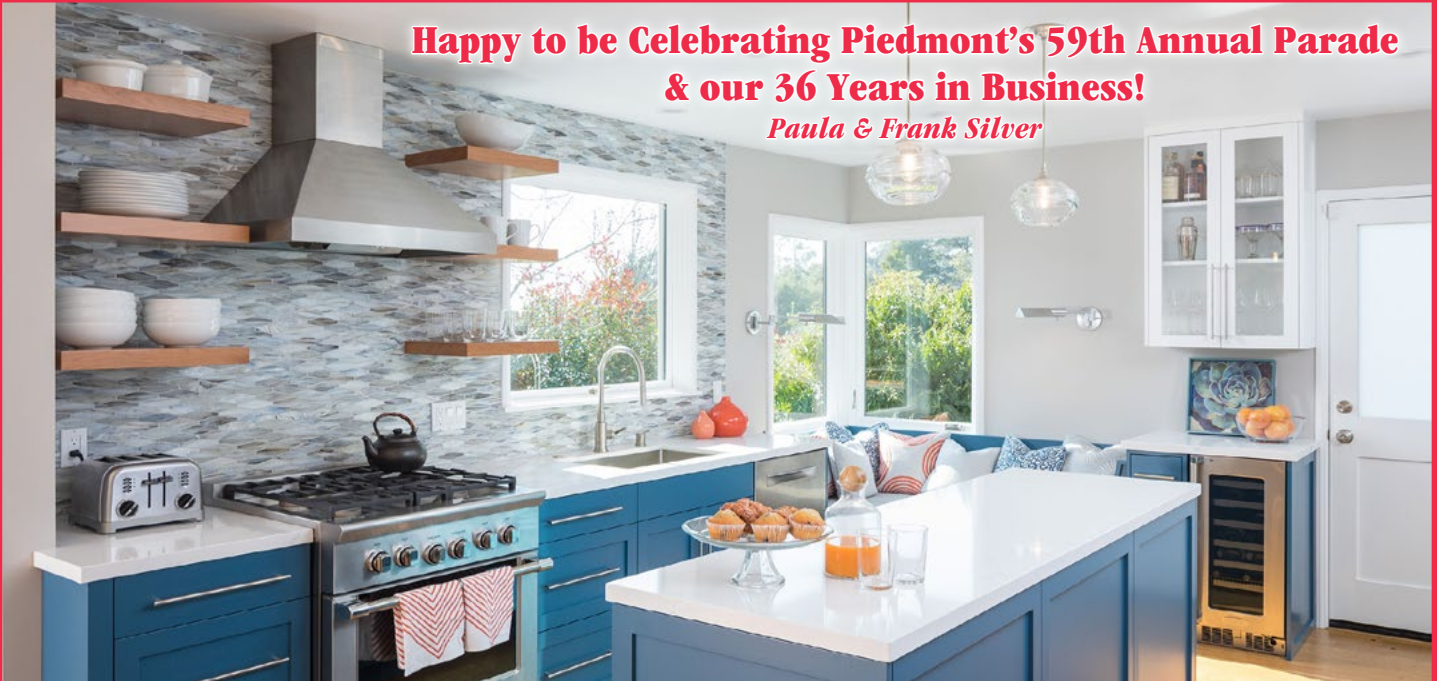
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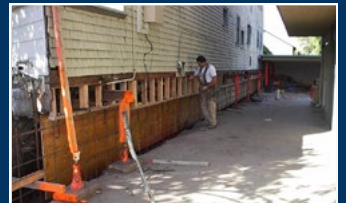


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Uncle Sam – tall man walking

No 4th of July Parade is quite complete without Uncle Sam striding down Highland Avenue dressed in a red, white, and blue suit. The city honors **Bruce Wolfe**, its longtime Uncle Sam, who died at the end of 2022. He cheerfully filled the role, dispensing more candy than advice to young parade viewers. He is greatly missed.



Photo by Ken DeCrosa



In celebration of Shirley Price, our all-time favorite parade celebrity



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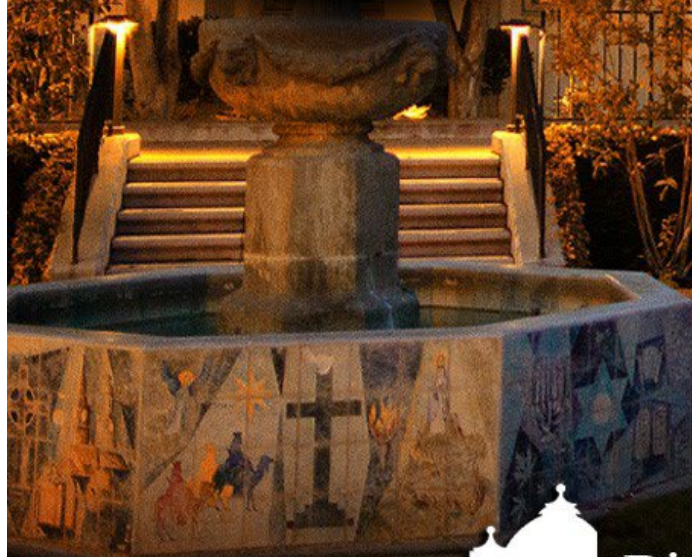
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