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PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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So Close, Yet a
World Away



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Rancho Cordova Awarded for Folsom Boulevard Project



The City of Rancho Cordova and project partners Mark Thomas & Company, Salaber Associates, and Y & C Transportation Consultants celebrate the APWA award. Pictured L to R: City Senior Engineer Albert Stricker, City Manager Ted Gaebler, Adrian Engle with Mark Thomas & Company, Mayor Linda Budge, City Management Analyst Robin Borre, Public Works Director Cyrus Abhar, Bob LoRusso with Salaber Associates, City Senior Engineer Kathy Garcia, and Dan Yau with Y & C Transportation Consultants. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Folsom Boulevard Beautification and Enhancement Project in Rancho Cordova has been named Project of the Year in the Transportation Category \$10 Million to \$30 Million by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The 3.5 mile project, completed in 2012, spans Folsom Boulevard from Rod Beaudry Drive to Kilgore Road in Rancho Cordova. Improving all modes of transportation was a key component of the project that also aimed to beautify the boulevard and drive economic development opportunities in the area.

Soon after incorporation in 2003, the City of Rancho Cordova began reinvesting in Folsom Boulevard - its "Main Street." The boulevard holds

historical significance as it once served as a route for Pony Express riders in the 1860s and subsequently acting as Highway 50 until the new freeway was built in the 1970s.

"The Folsom Boulevard Project brought a community feel back to Rancho Cordova's main street for residents and businesses," said City Senior Engineer Albert Stricker. "Cityhood provided the opportunity to reinvent the boulevard, and our City Council and staff leadership steered the project to completion."

Construction of a sidewalk along the south side of the boulevard and four new signals aimed to increase walkability on the corridor and access opportunities to light rail stations. Resurfaced streets and the addition of bike lanes and bike detection areas at signals

create a safer ride for drivers and bikers alike.

The City's proactive effort to tap into Community Design Grants and Safe Routes to School funding stretched traditional local, state and federal dollars to construct all phases of the project. A Safe Routes to School grant, for example, provided a safer walk to school for students at Kinney High School through installation of a high visibility crosswalk and sidewalk.

The investment in transportation infrastructure jump started economic growth as well. Notably, the Los Rios Community College District will begin construction of a satellite campus next year on Folsom Boulevard across from the Mather Mills light rail station.

"The award is a testament to a nine-year project that

accomplished one of our first objectives of cityhood," said Rancho Cordova Mayor Linda Budge. "We have restored beauty and pride to an old state highway that was a huge swath of concrete through our City, opened up opportunities for private investment, and constructed the first sidewalks on the south side since the Sacramento Valley Rail Way was built in 1869! It is very rewarding to see people enjoy being able to move safely along Folsom Boulevard. This is truly a 'complete street'."

The City will continue to pursue further grants to revitalize other areas along Folsom Boulevard. If you are interested in more details about the project, contact Stricker at (916) 851-8713.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova

County Budget in the Black

Special Sacramento
County Report

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Following years of reductions, Sacramento County's fiscal outlook is looking up for the second year in a row. After reconciling accounts and making adjustments to June's \$3.6 billion proposed budget, the County is in the black. Savings from controlling expenditures have contributed to a surplus of \$32.5 million that is available to augment critical services and pay past debt.

"I'm happy to report that we have discretionary funds to invest in our community and to address the Board's service priorities," said County Executive Bradley J. Hudson. "Because the departments held the line on expenses we're beginning to recover from the impact of the 'Great Recession.'"

Of the \$3.6 billion, less than a half billion is actually discretionary, and we can decide how to spend it, Hudson added. "I am recommending the resources be allocated across a variety of programs to optimize the use of the funds, while paying back loans and building up our contingency funds. Many of these programs were cut to the bone during the recession and had to be restored."

Of the \$32.5 million that is available, some of the recommended changes include:

- Contingency Funds: \$2.2 M
- Loan Repayment: \$11.7M
- Sheriff: \$4.9 M
- Investment in services, including parks, code enforcement, supervision of drug offenders, District Attorney, Public Health to address communicable diseases and Animal Care: \$4.5 M
- Health and Human Services to backfill state budget cuts: \$6.5 M

"We're not out of the woods yet," Hudson added. "The next few years will continue to be rocky as the economy continues its slow recovery." Ongoing fiscal challenges include increased pension costs, negotiated salary and benefit obligations, repaying \$59 million in past internal borrowing, and replacing funding taken by the State for the Affordable Care Act, said Hudson. "We also need to backfill about \$21 million in one-time resources used to balance previous budgets."

"It's important to take the long view, and we're going to need four to five percent annual growth in discretionary revenue over the next five years to stay fiscally healthy; last year's growth was less than one percent," Hudson added. "We'll continue to focus on streamlining services, increasing efficiency through the use of technology and holding down costs."

The budget hearing will be on Tuesday, September 10, beginning at 2 p.m., and will feature presentations from the County Executive, Sheriff and other departments. The hearings are held in the Board of Supervisor Chambers at 700 H Street and are open to the public. They may also be watched live on Metro Cable Channel 14.

The Board of Supervisors approved the budget on September 10, 2013.

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VFW Post Hosts Honor Event

By Bill Martin

SACRAMENTO REION, CA (MPG) - The Veterans of VFW Post 6158 and the Ladies Auxiliary of Fair Oaks, in collaboration with the American Legion Post 383, and the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Association will host a full day celebration, paying tribute to Veteran POW/MIA military personnel and their families, on Saturday, September 14th at VFW Center Township Post 6158. Also in attendance at this special day of celebration will be honored guest, Congressman Ami Bera, M.D.

The full day event is open to the public and all Veterans are cordially invited to attend. Bring the entire family and start the fun and festivities with a full breakfast from 8:00am - 11:00am for only \$6. POW/MIA military personnel eat free. Then

move on to family fun with a bounce house and canopy for the kids, complete with coloring and other cool kid activities. All patrons can partake of the enter-to-win raffle and prizes, a bake sale, Corn-Hole and Horseshoe games, cash drawings and much

more. Check out the UH-1 Helicopter Static Display as Dreams and Drivers Car Club transforms the Post parking lot with amazing classic car beauties as part of the full day Car Show. Live music will fill the air all day long too,



as several local bands join headliners, City Cats to keep the day lively. Rejuvenate during the day with a relaxing chair massage at one of the many chair locations provided by the Veterans Holistic Healthcare foundation of America.

All motorcycle riders are invited to join the Combat Veteran Riders on a Poker Run the day of the event. The registration fee is \$20.00 for a Single Rider and \$30.00 for Doubles, and includes a free hot dog or hamburger meal, or upgrade to tri-tip for only \$5.00. Registration begins at 9:00am, with all riders departing the Post by 10:30am. All riders will be back in plenty of time to join in all the festivities and special ceremony. The BBQ starts at 2:30pm, with hot-dogs and hamburger meals for \$5.00 or Tri-Tip for \$10.00.

VFW Post Hosts Honor Event

Continued from Page 1

There will also be a corn-on-the-cob booth and home-made baked goods. All proceeds from food sales and all other activities during the full-day celebration of our POW/MIA Veterans will be going to support fellow Veterans in need.

This special event was made possible through the kindness and generosity of VFW Post 6158, Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 6158, American Legion Post 383, Mr. Gordon Smith, Mind, Body and Soul Healing Center, Dignity Memorial Homeless Veteran Program, Vietnam Helicopters Pilots Association, Veterans Holistic Healthcare Foundation of America, Folsom Harley Davidson Motorcycles, Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, Mr. Rob Schimp, Sam's Club, Folsom Pool and Spa, Dreams and Drivers Car Club, Guri VJ's Real Estate, Greenback Equipment Rentals, Action Military Surplus, Fire Department District #32, and Wal-Mart. A heartfelt thank you to all these tremendous people and businesses that are helping us to honor our MIA/POW Veterans, including Congressman Ami Bera and his staff.

Dignity Memorial Homeless Veteran Program will pick up our POW/MIA military personnel and families, and drive them to Folsom Harley Davidson, where they'll relax in the lounge,

while awaiting the special motorcade escort to VFW Post 6158. The Guests of Honor will be driven in Dignity Memorial vans adorned with the official POW/MIA flags and emblems. This honor motorcade will have the California Highway Patrol taking the lead and the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association riding under colors, bringing up the rear. The motorcade will run from Folsom Harley Davidson to VFW Post 6158 in Fair Oaks. As the motorcade arrives at the Hazel Avenue Exit off Highway 50, this is the start of a one lane barricade all the way down Hazel to allow for honored passage of the motorcade. Event attendees will be on hand to welcome the motorcade at the VFW Post, located at 8990 Kruitof Way in Fair Oaks, between approximately 1:30 to 2:00pm.

This event is to pay tribute to our brave POW/MIA veterans, and to remind us; their fellow Americans, of the personal sacrifices these men and women made so that we may have the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today. We must never forget, nor take for granted, all that these incredible Veterans did for each of us. Most Veterans who actually survived capture, suffered through brutal torture, enduring physical and mental anguish each and every day. POW and MIA's were treated with total disregard for basic humanity, barely existing in sub-human living

conditions, with little-to-no light or food...all, while we ate and slept soundly on the other side of the world. This is your personal opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices these fellow Americans made for you and your family.

We invite everyone to attend our special tribute to these remarkable American heroes throughout the day of celebration and honor on Saturday, September 14th. We encourage those who cannot attend to make the effort to stand on the side of Hazel Avenue between 1:30pm and 2:00pm to offer a wave or salute to the motorcade, showing these remarkable Veterans that YOU have not forgotten.

The official honor ceremony is scheduled for approximately 2:00pm with color guard provided by Boy Scout Troop 310 and the Veteran Riders Club. Congressman Ami Bera will honor these POW/MIA personnel and their families with a special certificate acknowledging their service and sacrifice in defense of our country.

Please mark your calendar today to join us on Saturday, September 14, 2013, to honor our POW/MIA Veterans all day starting at 8:00am until well after sunset. VFW Post 6158 is located at the end of the road at 8990 Kruitof Way, in Fair Oaks. For raffle donations, directions, or more information, please call VFW Center Township Post 6158 at 916-966-1663.

Bera Calls for Infrastructure Investment

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-7) called for investment in Sacramento County infrastructure recently, after touring several local transportation projects with representatives from the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Operating Engineers Local 3, and Laborers Local 185. The tour featured recently completed, active, and planned transportation projects near or along Highway 50 in the Rancho Cordova area.



Congressman Ami Bera

"Our infrastructure in Sacramento County is in dire need of improvement," said Bera. "In our region, nearly 3.4 million trips are made over structurally deficient bridges every single day and the deteriorating state of the levees is also extremely serious. These improvements need to be made, but not only will they keep our families safe, they will also put Californians back to work and reinvigorate our economy."

Bera highlighted the Partnership to Build America Act of 2013 (HR 2084), as a smart way to make these kinds of needed infrastructure upgrades. A bipartisan bill Bera has co-sponsored, the Partnership to Build America Act, would help pay

for our fast-deteriorating infrastructure like roads, bridges, and levees, without increasing the nation's debt or raising taxes. Instead, it gives companies that bring foreign earnings back to America a tax savings if they invest in a new, U.S. infrastructure fund. If passed, it would create significant American jobs in the short-term and help U.S. competitiveness in the long-term.

The sites Bera visited included:

- Hazel Avenue at State Route 50 Interchange
- Estimated completion 2018 – 50 percent unidentified funds
- Hazel Avenue Phase 1 – American River Bridge
- Completed 2010 – 39 percent federal funds
- Hazel Avenue Phase 2 (Madi-

son Avenue to US Highway 50)

- Estimated completion 2015 – 68 percent federal funds
- SACOG programmed \$10m in regionally-controlled federal funds towards this project.
- Hazel Avenue Phase 3 (Madi-son Avenue to US Highway 50)
- Estimated completion 2017 – 65 percent unidentified funds
- Fair Oaks Blvd Safety Improvements Project
- Completed 2010 – 90 percent federal funds
- Watt Ave @ US 50 Interchange
- Estimated completion 2014 – 12 percent federal funds
- SACOG programmed a total of \$18.4m in funds towards this project a combination of regionally controlled federal funds and State Bond funds.
- The project was also an example of a strong partnership between SACOG, SacDOT, and the Sacramento Transportation Authority to prepare a final funding package.
- Watt Ave Light Rail Transit Grade Separation
- Completed 2009 – 61 percent federal funds

Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. represents Sacramento County. For more updates on Rep. Bera visit <http://www.bera.house.gov>. Source: Office of Ami Bera

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Assembly Select Committee Pursues Revitalizing Established Communities



Senator Ken Cooley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) – Wednesday, August 28, Assemblyman Ken Cooley chaired the first hearing of the

Assembly Select Committee on Community and Neighborhood Development. The ten member, bi-partisan committee heard from policy and administrative experts who spoke about the impacts of suburban sprawl on our metropolitan areas, and funding needs to help revitalize our aging communities.

“As metropolitan areas grow, it’s important that we do not forget about the needs of our older communities, and help keep them desirable places to live that can attract jobs and private sector investment,” said Cooley. “We moved to our neighborhood because we liked what was there.

Now, some of our older areas are faced with quality of life challenges that stand as barriers to community revitalization.”

During the hearing, Bill Fulton, Planning Director for the City of San Diego and past Mayor of Ventura, noted that infrastructure and amenities in communities that most people would consider newer are nearing 20 years old.

“State infrastructure bonds and redevelopment funds have helped aging communities improve themselves, but are becoming more difficult to get,” Fulton said. “Community facilities, like parks and libraries, need to meet certain expectations in order to make

older communities desirable. Without funding to maintain and revitalize them, they often fall below that level of what the community wants.”

Juan Matute, Director of the UCLA Local Climate Change Initiative, highlighted the challenges older cities and first tier suburbs face with a greater need for community development funding and fewer tools to stay competitive with new neighborhood developments.

Matute presented a recent paper highlighting that financial tools in the local government toolkit have evolved across the last 40 years and concluding the tools currently

in the toolkit have not kept up with today’s desire for more compact, less auto-dependent communities.

The loss of redevelopment agencies in California in 2012 removed a vital tool from local governments’ toolkit. Although some tools still remain—including general obligation bonds, infrastructure financing districts and assessment districts—local governments in California lack a dependable financing mechanism that can be consistently used for infill, infrastructure, and redevelopment.

“People want to see their neighborhoods improved, and aging communities are depending

on us to figure out a solution to shape the next half-century of revitalization for established communities,” said Cooley. “I think we realize that not every tool is good for every community. We have to set politics aside and give California’s cities and counties the financing tools they need to attract private investors and spur the redevelopment that’s good for them.”

Assemblyman Ken Cooley represents the 8th Assembly District.

Source: The Office of Ken Cooley

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Never, Ever Forget

Commentary by
Paul V. Scholl, Publisher

The Call

It was a very deep sleep. After working a long night and into the early morning hours, I was out hard.

The telephone kept ringing and ringing. "Hello".

"Are you watching the TV? You are not going to believe what's happening."

They knew I traveled often to New York City to teach classes, going there three to four times a year for week-long trips. They knew I had many friends and students there.

The first televised scenes were absolutely awful, knowing how many people in my life lived near the scene and worked within just a few blocks of the Twin towers.

As I watched the atrocity unfold with the rest of the world I thought I was watching friends being burned to death. I thought I was watching people I loved and cared for deeply being crushed under the weight of those falling buildings.

As with the rest of the nation, the thoughts were that there are ten of thousands of people in those buildings right now! That they weren't filled with workers that morning is in itself a miracle.

Days went by wondering who had been killed or in the very least deeply affected by the act of war. Unable to reach anyone by telephone, it was sit, and wait, and pray.

Some of my friends were emergency workers and were on the scene at Ground Zero. It took months for them to even be able to talk about it. They were never the same, with "life" being taken out of them. Those



One last look of the Twin Towers and the New York City skyline from the Staten Island Ferry just a few months prior to 9/11. Photo by Paul V. Scholl

relationships are all but gone.

In May of the following year I made one more trip to New York to offer my grief counseling services to any and all friends and students. We had a few group sessions where the impact of that day was as certain as an Upper Eastside rush hour.

For about two years prior to

9/11 I had recurring dreams where I was in a large city, covered in soot and smoke and could feel the rumbling of the street under me. I was helping someone who was traumatized from an accident or something. I had thought it was a future scene from being in San Francisco after a big earthquake. That seemed plausible, as I

had been through a number of California quakes, including the last big one in 1989. I must have had the dream two dozen times, the same dream, over and over.

After 9/11 those dreams stopped. It was then I realized I had witnessed the horror through the eyes of my friends months in advance.

One of my friends, John, a steward on one of the Staten Island ferries, met with me for lunch many years later in downtown Sacramento. He was on his way to moving permanently to Seattle. To hear his story of being on the ferry in the middle of the bay watching the towers as they fell was beyond moving. He just couldn't take living in the City anymore.

This day in history seems now to be a footnote. To me, it's personal. It was the day the world changed forever, and not for the good. It is one of the driving forces that leads me to bring commentary to the readers of my newspapers that hopefully educates them to what is really happening in our country and what is being done by our government to restrict the populace of our great nation. All in the name of terrorism.

Our country is asleep. SAFE is killing us. The patriot is the enemy and the enemy is glorified. The game continues. There is more than one "blue pill".

We stop looking for the truth

a change from this path of a rotting nation and become better neighbors, co-workers and friends.

9/11 should be an annual wake up call for every Ameri-



Grieving New Yorkers and visitors honored the fallen at the memorial walls surrounding Ground Zero over the following months. I read through every name on the list searching for the names of friends. A miracle, not one was listed. Photo by Paul V. Scholl



The bravest of the brave. Photo by Paul V. Scholl

because we want to finish the next level of some stupid video game. We stop looking for the truth because our favorite team is on T.V. in five minutes.

We stop looking for the truth because if we find it we will have to deal with it. We will actually have to become personally responsible and force

can to re-dedicate themselves to bettering our community and our nation for ourselves, our loved ones, and the future Americans yet unborn.

We have a greatness within us. 9/11 should not be a distress call, but a wake up call from a long and very deep sleep.

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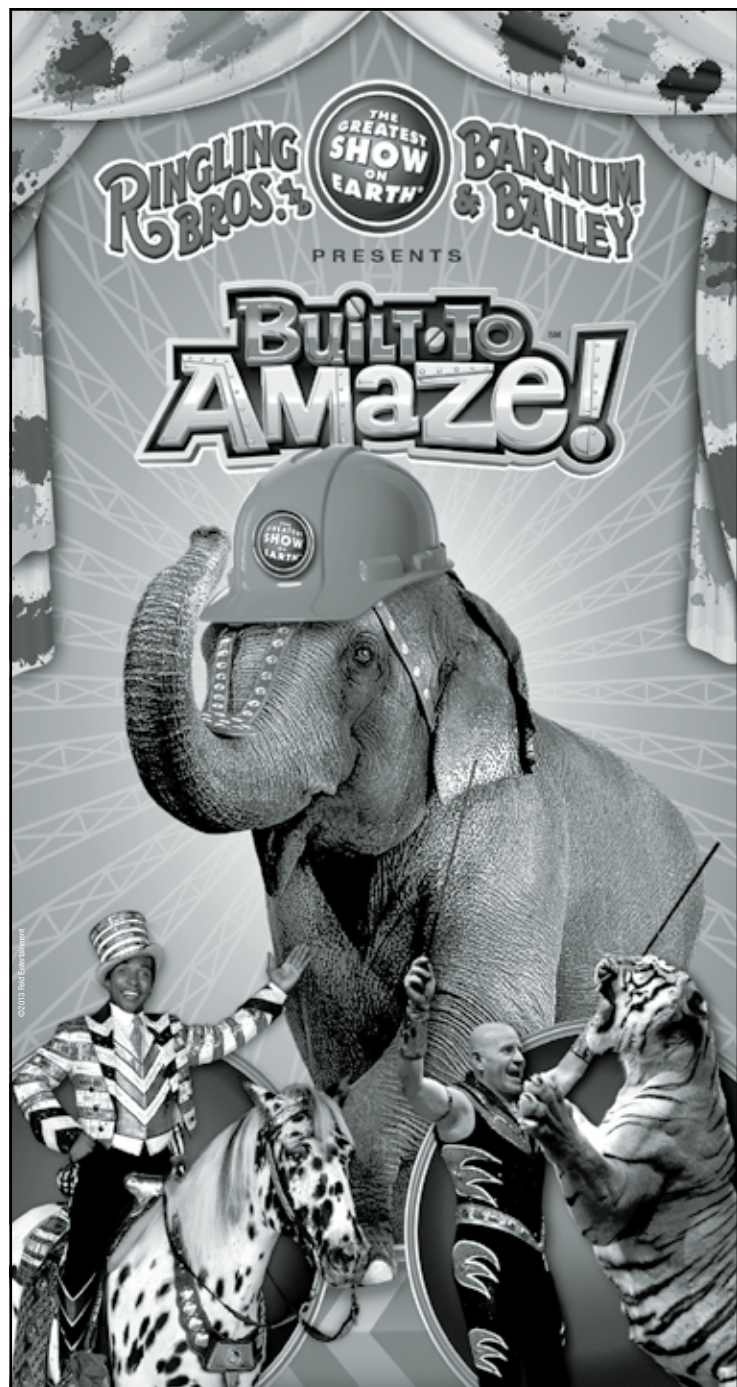
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By Rancho Cordova Resident Bob McGarvey

“Step on a Crack ...”

owners paying for sidewalk repair in front of their homes. As I said in last week’s column, there are some cities that have already applied such ordinances, and the California Streets and Highways Code sections 5610 and 5611 actually went into effect in 1941. But after studying the information we received, listening to the people at the meeting, receiving phone calls and emails, and discussing the various options, we decided to table the item with no set time for the future. Thank you for letting us know that you are paying attention . . . as usual.

RANCHO CORDOVA, Ca (MPG) – Until around the time of the industrial revolution, sidewalks didn’t actually exist in most cities. But, at least we know which came first: the sidewalk before the crack.

When did not stepping on the crack become so important? I don’t know, but you were probably very young when you first learned about its importance. That quickly turned some walks down a street into a game to see if you could reach your destination without “breaking your mother’s back.” There were others, of course, who would walk on as many cracks as possible to defy fate. I did a little research (very little), but haven’t found the origin of the superstition and probably never will. The only thing I am sure of is that stepping on a crack didn’t have anything to do with the decision of your City Council to table the item about who will pay to fix City sidewalks.

It was quite interesting how many news media attended our City Council meeting last week when we talked about property

shows that there were 3.3 new cities every year in California. Since January 1993, there have only been 12 new cities in the whole state because of the revenue neutrality tax that went into effect in 1993. Rancho Cordova was the newest city in California in five years because of the legislation that was added to another bill as a rider during the last hour of the last day of legislation in 1992. What cracked after 1993 were the many voices of the people who also wanted their communities to become cities.

The legislation that the State has been able to push through over the years continues to negatively affect local control of cities. To mention just a few of the takeaways: after the revenue neutrality tax stopped most incorporations, the State has removed redevelopment, took vehicle license fee revenue from the few cities that were able to incorporate, and SB 7 was passed through the State Senate and Assembly which will undermine the constitutional authority of the State’s charter cities. While Rancho Cordova is a general law city and SB 7 “only” affects charter cities today, the State’s continued “cracking” the rights of the people will only open the door of State control even more. We all need to keep our eyes open as to what the State plans to do next to negatively affect local control.

From Councilman Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time.



POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Cynical, argumentative, frugal, cautious.

crave novelty and easily become bored by the usual routine.

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH: Ambitious, competitive, visionary.

SNACK CRACKERS: Contemplative, thoughtful, logic rather than intuitively oriented. Decisions are reasoned and not based on emotions.

PRALINES ‘N CREAM: Loving, supportive, avoids the spotlight.

CHEESE CURLS: Formal, always proper, conscientious, principled. The cheese curls lover maintains high moral ground with their family, work, and romantic partners.

JAMOCA (i.e. coffee): Scrupulous, conscientious, moral perfectionists.

MEAT SNACKS: Gregarious, social. The meat snack lover is at their best amidst the company of others.

CHOCOLATE CHIP: Generous, competent, a go getter.

RAINBOW SHERBET: Analytic, decisive, skeptical.

ROCKY ROAD: Engaging, good listener, aggressive.

I’ve got to tell you when he asked me what flavor I liked best, it was difficult since I love every ice cream flavor conceived. I did succumb to the Rocky road or the straight chocolate, but I think the Rocky road fits me best. But then I love vanilla as long as I can slather on the chocolate syrup and whip cream!!! So, on to the world of snacks. We all love ‘em. Here are the ones he asked me to ponder.

POTATO CHIPS: Those who love potato chips are ambitious, successful, high achievers.

TORTILLA CHIPS: A perfectionist, always with the highest expectations of themselves.

PRETZELS: Lively and energetic. Those who prefer pretzels

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Can a mere sniff make a difference that is? What would you say if I told you that without your sniffer, there would be virtually no taste? Sounds freaky doesn’t it, but it’s absolutely true! And now, you can take it a step forward with what you crave, and how it predicts who you are. Dr. Alan Hirsch, neurologist/psychiatrist and neurological Founder of the Smell and Taste Research and Treatment Foundation in Chicago, shares information that can really tell us about us in “What Flavor is Your Personality” and “What is Your Food Sign.”

I don’t know about you, but I am a real ice cream buff, so I thought it would be fun for Dr. Hirsch to give us some stats on the flavors. These are the flavors with which they have done research. So pick out your favorite flavor, and discover your personality traits!!!

CHOCOLATE: Self-absorbed, dramatic, lively, charming, flirtatious, seductive, gullible.

VERY BERRY STRAWBERRY: Dependent, nonthreatening, follower more than leader.

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Riley Reviews

COMEDY LOOMS LARGE FOR FOX NETWORK SERIES IN FALL TV SEASON

A Special Article by Tim Riley

"Dying is easy. Comedy is hard." This maxim has been around for some time, and it bears a lot of truth about the difficulty of launching successful comedy series on network television.

Peter O'Toole's washed-up actor Alan Swann uttered these words in the 1982 film "My Favorite Year." The famous quote has been attributed to many, from Edmund Kean to Groucho Marx and Joseph Stalin, though the murderous Russian tyrant is an unlikely source of humor.

New comedy series are a big part of the landscape for the FOX network this fall, and yet when speaking to TV critics during the recent press tour, Kevin Reilly, president of Fox Entertainment, had not much to say, other than to answer critical questions about "Dads."

In fairness, Reilly did lump the comedy "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" with the mystery-adventure drama "Sleepy Hollow," noting how "surefooted these two shows are right now, right out of the gate."

Well, this was a rare occasion when a TV network executive was not engaging in hyperbole or deception. The aforementioned

shows may be two of the best new series on the schedule.

Part of the FOX strategy is to create a strong comedy block on Tuesday nights, leading off with the half-hour new series "Dads" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" during the eight o'clock hour and ending with returning comedies "New Girl" and "The Mindy Project."

Unlike the practice of the other major networks to launch new series during the traditional Nielsen week starting September 23rd, FOX begins a week earlier, so look for the new Tuesday night comedy block to premiere on September 17th.

The spirit of "Barney Miller" lives within the new comedy "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," set in the police workplace where a diverse group of colleagues get a new captain, Andre Braugher's Ray Holt, with a lot to prove in a far-flung district in the New York borough of Brooklyn.

Evident from the pilot episode, the key to the mayhem in the Brooklyn precinct is Andy Samberg's Detective Jake

Peralta, a gifted investigator with the best arrest record among his colleagues, but also a carefree goofball studiously oblivious to the usual norms.

A stickler for rules and regulations, Captain Holt's arrival as the commanding officer at the Nine-Nine precinct puts a crimp in Detective Peralta's jocular style, attempting to force him to now follow standard decorum and even wear a tie to work.

Samberg is hilarious in his efforts to not-so-subtly undermine authority while continuing to be an outstanding police officer, and his eagerness to nab crooks is fueled by a dogged competition with his comely colleague, Detective Amy Santiago (Melissa Fumero).

The ensemble comedy features interesting characters, such as Joe Lo Truglio's Detective Charles Boyle, a brilliant but bumbling workhorse who pines for the abrasive, opinionated Detective Rosa Diaz (Stephanie Beatriz), with whom he stands no chance at all.

Chelsea Peretti is the eccentric and self-absorbed civilian officer manager Gina Linetti, and the always wonderful Terry Crews is Sergeant Jeffords, a linebacker of a man who lost his nerve after his wife had baby twin girls named Cagney and Lacey.

I predict "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" is FOX's new comedy hit, but Kevin Reilly spent precious time at the press conference defending some offensive aspects of "Dads," another comedy from the creators of "Family Guy."

Seth Green and Giovanni Ribisi are two successful guys in their mid-30s whose lives get turned upside down when their inappropriate and pain-in-the-neck patriarchs move in. Gifted

actors Martin Mull and Peter Riegert, playing their dads, may not save this show from early demise.

Another comedy, not scheduled until later in the fall season, is "Enlisted," an irreverent military-themed comedy (shades of "M.A.S.H.") about three brothers on a small Army base in Florida and the group of misfits who surround them.

Geoff Stults is the natural born leader, Sergeant Pete Hill, who was on a path for a huge military career until one mistake overseas got him booted stateside, where his two younger brothers are stationed.

With its goofy, sarcastic sensibilities, "Enlisted" looks like a potential winner. It may even shape up to have some of the Army humor reminiscent of "Sgt. Bilko," the great vintage TV series starring Phil Silvers, not the middling Steve Martin movie of the same title.

The FOX team gave us a military cap emblazoned with the title of the show, but this small gift has not affected my judgment on "Enlisted." I just tell you this as a matter of full disclosure.

Now that we have run down the list of new comedies, let's focus on a show of a different nature, one that Kevin Reilly rightly described as a winner "right out of the gate."

That show, to premiere on Monday, September 16, before being moved to a Friday night slot, is "Sleepy Hollow," a modern-day version of Washington Irving's classic novel in which Ichabod Crane is resurrected and plunged 250 years into the future.

In the FOX version of "Sleepy Hollow," Tom Mison's Ichabod

Crane is a Revolutionary War hero who is brought back to life in the contemporary world of the Hudson Valley, where things are different than envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

Revived alongside Ichabod Crane is the infamous Headless Horseman who is on a murderous rampage in the present-day Village of Sleepy Hollow, creating a major catastrophe for the local police force.

Of course, no one believes Ichabod's tales of America's past and dire warnings about the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, but young cop Abbie Mills (Nicole Beharie) has had her own supernatural experiences and she teams up with Ichabod to embark on a mission to stop evil.

Judging by the pilot episode, "Sleepy Hollow" looks like it will draw a fan base of the younger male demographic and those who enjoy supernatural mysteries and adventure.

Waiting in the wings for a midseason replacement is "Almost Human," a science-fiction action-packed police procedural set 35 years in the future, when police officers are partnered with highly evolved human-like androids.

Karl Urban plays a detective who survived a horrific attack and wakes up after a 17-month coma to find he can't remember much, is outfitted with a prosthetic leg and suffers from mental atrophy and depression.

Nevertheless, instead of being on disability, he rejoins the police force, though he must be partnered, much to his displeasure, with a robot.

I have not seen a pilot of this show, but I am already thinking "Robocop." We'll wait and see.

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