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Cordova Recreation & Park District Honored with Awards



From left to right: Mark Johnson, past President of CARPD Board of Directors, together with CRPD Board members Vice Chair Brian Danzl, General Manager Patrick Larkin, CRPD Board Chair Michael Yearwood and CRPD Secretary Rick Sloan. Photo courtesy of CRPD

By Cady Nagy-Chow

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) received two large district Awards of Distinction at the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts' (CARPD) Annual Awards of Distinction Banquet on May 24, 2019. In addition, two of CRPD's Board of Directors members were sworn in to hold positions within the association.

CRPD's Mather Sports Center received the nod for Outstanding Renovated Facility for the newly-refinished, Sacramento Kings-branded gymnasium. A project made possible by multiple partnerships, CRPD identified an opportunity for Mather Sports Center that would increase the facility's sustainability and aesthetic. The upgrades, which included a refinished gymnasium floor, new lighting, new bleachers and new basketball hoops, benefitted

not only CRPD's youth sports programming (i.e. adding the Youth Jr. Kings Basketball League) but also enticed local sports clubs to rent the facility, increased open gym attendance, improved energy usage and enhanced the safety of all visitors.

Throughout the project, CRPD worked closely with the County of Sacramento, the Good Tidings Foundation, the Sacramento Kings Community Impact team, Kaiser

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SacRT Earns Security 'Gold Standard Award'



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) honored the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) with the prestigious Gold Standard Award. The Gold Standard Award is the top recognition TSA can give to a transit agency for achieving top scores during an annual review of 17 categories of security and emergency preparedness elements. Photos courtesy of SacRT

By Jessica Gonzalez
**Sacramento Regional
Transit**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA
(MPG)** - The Transportation

Security Administration (TSA) honored the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) with the prestigious Gold Standard Award at a meeting

of the transit agency's Board of Directors meeting last week. TSA Federal Security Director Sid Hanna presented the award to SacRT's General Manager/CEO

Henry Li.

The Gold Standard Award is the top recognition TSA can give to a transit agency for achieving top scores

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**Join the
Shriners
Hospital Walk
for LOVE™**

By Catherine Curran,
**Shriners Hospital
for Children**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There are walks, and then there is the Walk for LOVE™, a celebration of family, friends and community organized as a benefit for Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California. On Saturday, June 8, walkers of all ages will gather at the Northern California Shriners Hospital, 2425 Stockton Boulevard, for the 3rd Annual Walk for LOVE — a 1.5-mile fun walk and community celebration.

T-shirt pick-up begins at 8 a.m. The walk begins at 9 a.m. Fezzy, the official hospital mascot, and a host of Shriners will lead participants along a course dotted with entertainment stations that loops through the medical center campus. This year's event includes a 5k race for those who prefer a longer, more competitive venue.

After crossing the finish line, the celebration continues with a family festival that includes a complimentary barbecue, music, entertainment and a special teddy bear clinic for kids lovingly dubbed as Fezzy's Rescue Squad.

"The Walk for LOVE is organized to celebrate the care provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children and to thank the community for embracing our mission. We are grateful to the many individuals from all walks of life who support our hospital through volunteerism and monetary donations. The Walk for LOVE is a reflection of a caring community united by the belief that people can make a positive difference in the lives of others," said Alan Anderson, Director of Development at the Northern California Shriners Hospital.

Register online at <https://donate.loveto-therescue.org/event/walk-for-love-northern-california/e230399>.

For more information call: 916-453-2018. ★

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Walmart Opens First Stand-alone Transportation Office in Sacramento

By Kim Ericksen, Elevate Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Walmart is opening the retailer's first-ever stand-alone transportation office in Sacramento in a bid to recruit up to 130 experienced truck drivers for its private fleet.

The office, which opened a temporary location on April 1, will service stores and distribution centers in northern California, southern Oregon, and east to Reno, Nevada. Drivers at this location will qualify for the company's recently announced driver pay increase. Walmart drivers can earn an average of \$87,500 in their first year of employment with an all-in rate of nearly 89 cents per mile.

Walmart has more than 65 transportation offices throughout the country, but Sacramento will be the first that is not co-located with a distribution center. The permanent location will be located in the McClellan Business Park and will have a drop yard. The office will have 85 trucks and 100 trailers.

"We're excited to open a facility in Sacramento where there is a deep pool of talented, experienced truck drivers," said Uni Cerezo, regional transportation manager of the Sacramento transportation office. "Walmart continues to explore how we can operate more efficiently and serve our customers' changing needs, and this office will serve an important customer market for us."

Walmart plans to accept internal Walmart transfers



L-R: Derek McCowan, James Hulbert, Richard Prescott, Uni Cerezo (GM of the Sacramento Office), Peggy Biro, and Steve Harper. Photo courtesy of Walmart

and recruit externally. To qualify to drive for Walmart, a driver must have 30 months of commercial driving experience in the last three years and a clean safety record for the past three years. For details and to apply, please see www.drive4walmart.com.

Those drivers hired to staff the Sacramento transportation office will differ from others in the industry in that they will start and end their weeks in the same location and have home time each week. Other perks and benefits of driving for Walmart extend well beyond the competitive per/mile rate and activity-based pay. Some of the reasons truck drivers say they enjoy working for Walmart include:

Great benefits. Walmart drivers have access to company benefits on the first day and can earn as much as 21 days of Paid Time Off (PTO) in their first year;

Predictable home time. Walmart operates on a weekly schedule, so drivers know when they will

be home and on the road. We use a bidding process two to three times a year to set their schedules, so drivers know where they stand on work-life balance;

Walmart is one of the safest fleets operating with contemporary well-maintained equipment. At Walmart our drivers drive and earn money rather than waiting for a truck to be fixed. Walmart offers quarterly safety bonuses and a safety incentive and recognition programs. The American Transportation Association has awarded Walmart the Safest Fleet in the Over 250 Million Mile Division for the past 5 consecutive years;

Transportation offices all over the country. Walmart operates more than 70 transportation offices throughout the U.S.;

No-touch freight. Walmart truck drivers don't unload trucks;

Safe parking. Walmart drivers park in well-lit, safe parking in Walmart stores, Sam's Clubs and distribution centers across the country. ★

The Elephant in the Room

Commentary by Doug Brewer

Last year the California State Supreme Court issued a ruling on whether a person working for a company is classified as an employee or independent contractor in a case now commonly called the Dynamex decision. In the Court's ruling, they changed the criteria for determining if a person is an employee or could be considered an independent contractor from what was called the Borello standard to an overly simplified but problematic ABC test.

The ABC test makes perfect legal sense in the simplistic way it segregates employees from independent contractors but does not consider the economic or social impact of doing so. Our "progressive" legislature likes the ABC test as a means to capture the revenue from the 2 million plus independent contractors in our state impacted by this ruling. Employee unions also like the decision as it affords them the opportunity to organize and represent greater segments of private sector employees. Through all the rhetoric and attention to the Dynamex decision, few leaders are focused or aware of an as yet, undiscussed, cost.

Our Country prides itself as a land of opportunity, a place where if you work hard, you can realize your dream of owning your own business. History is full of examples of individual success coupled with collaboration and cooperation with others. The creativity and entrepreneurial spirit these individuals exhibited continues to be held in high regard.

The State Supreme Court's Dynamex ruling, the resulting discussion and most of the proposed solutions for the Dynamex decision threatens

this entrepreneurial spirit. It also undermines our core values of opportunity and independence. Individuality, unconventionality and creative life management are not supported by turning independent contractors into employees. Further, these values are not encouraged, usually suppressed and often punished when exhibited by employees.

Assembly Bill 5, (Gonzalez), does just that. It doesn't make much difference if surgeons, insurance agents or other industries are selectively excluded. The Elephant in the Room is how the current approach to codifying the Dynamex decision, effectively undermines the hopes and dreams of a large class of individuals in our economy. These individuals include seniors supplementing their incomes, stay-at-home parents contributing to household finances, entrepreneurial students in college reducing student loan costs, and those who support themselves in the gig economy while developing that one amazing Idea.

For a brief moment, there was a ray of hope and redemption for our legislature, found in Senate Bill 238 (Groves). The bill proposed to use the Federal standard to define employment using criteria more definitive than the Borello standard making it difficult for the employers to game the system and retains independent contractor status for the many individuals across our economy. Unfortunately, SB 238 failed passage in the Senate Labor and Employment Committee on a partisan vote.

If AB 5 is approved in the Assembly as is anticipated, the members of the State Senate, including State Senator Richard Pan, who serves as a member of the

Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, will have an opportunity to fix Dynamex to benefit employers, individual Californians and the state's economy. The lives, livelihood and economic future of hundreds of thousands of Californians who are independent contractors who want to remain so are not being addressed in the current approach to solving the problem our State Supreme Court created with the Dynamex decision. The current way this problem is being legislated is clearly not the balanced, thoughtful, or comprehensive approach this subject matter deserves.

In the rush to implement our State Supreme Court's decision regarding how an employee is defined in our State, our legislators haven't created a solution; they have merely crafted an alternative definition. This alternate decision pleases some select special interests but in doing so, eviscerates our nation's core values of opportunity, independence and creativity.

The five local chamber of commerce organizations that comprise UCAN – the United Chamber Advocacy Network, urge Senator Pan and his colleagues to amend AB 5 to include language from SB 238 and allow small businesses, start-ups and non-profits the ability to contract for work directly associated with primary business activity, allowing flexibility to manage workforce in good times and bad.

Douglas Brewer, Chair, Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee Member, United Chamber Advocacy Network (UCAN) Steering Committee

For information, visit www.amgroup.us/ucan. ★

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SacRT Earns Security 'Gold Standard Award'

Continued from page 1

during an annual review of 17 categories of security and emergency preparedness elements. The review evaluates several aspects of a transit agency's operations including: the security plan; security training; drills and exercise programs; public outreach efforts; and background check processes.

"SacRT's designation as a Gold Standard Award winner puts the agency in the top tier of transit agencies, recognizing its hard work and unwavering commitment to security," said Sid Hanna, TSA Federal Security Director in Sacramento. "TSA looks forward to a continued partnership with SacRT and applauds its continued focus on the security of its customers."

"The safety and security of our passengers and employees is our top priority every day," said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. "We are honored to have been recognized for our work and we will continue to strive for the highest level of excellence in the years to come."

"I applaud SacRT for prioritizing safety and security in recent years during their

historic transformation," Congresswoman Doris Matsui said. "The TSA Gold Standard Award is recognition for implementing best in industry security practices and for emphasizing the customer experience first."

"I am delighted that SacRT is being recognized for its commitment to transit security and emergency preparedness," said Congressman Ami Bera. "This prestigious award reflects SacRT's implementation of security programs that benefit the Sacramento community."

TSA has oversight of 6,800 public transit agencies in the country. Every year the TSA assesses a select number of transit agencies nationwide for evaluation through its Baseline for Security Enhancement (BASE) program. A select few achieve scores high enough to receive the Gold Standard Award.

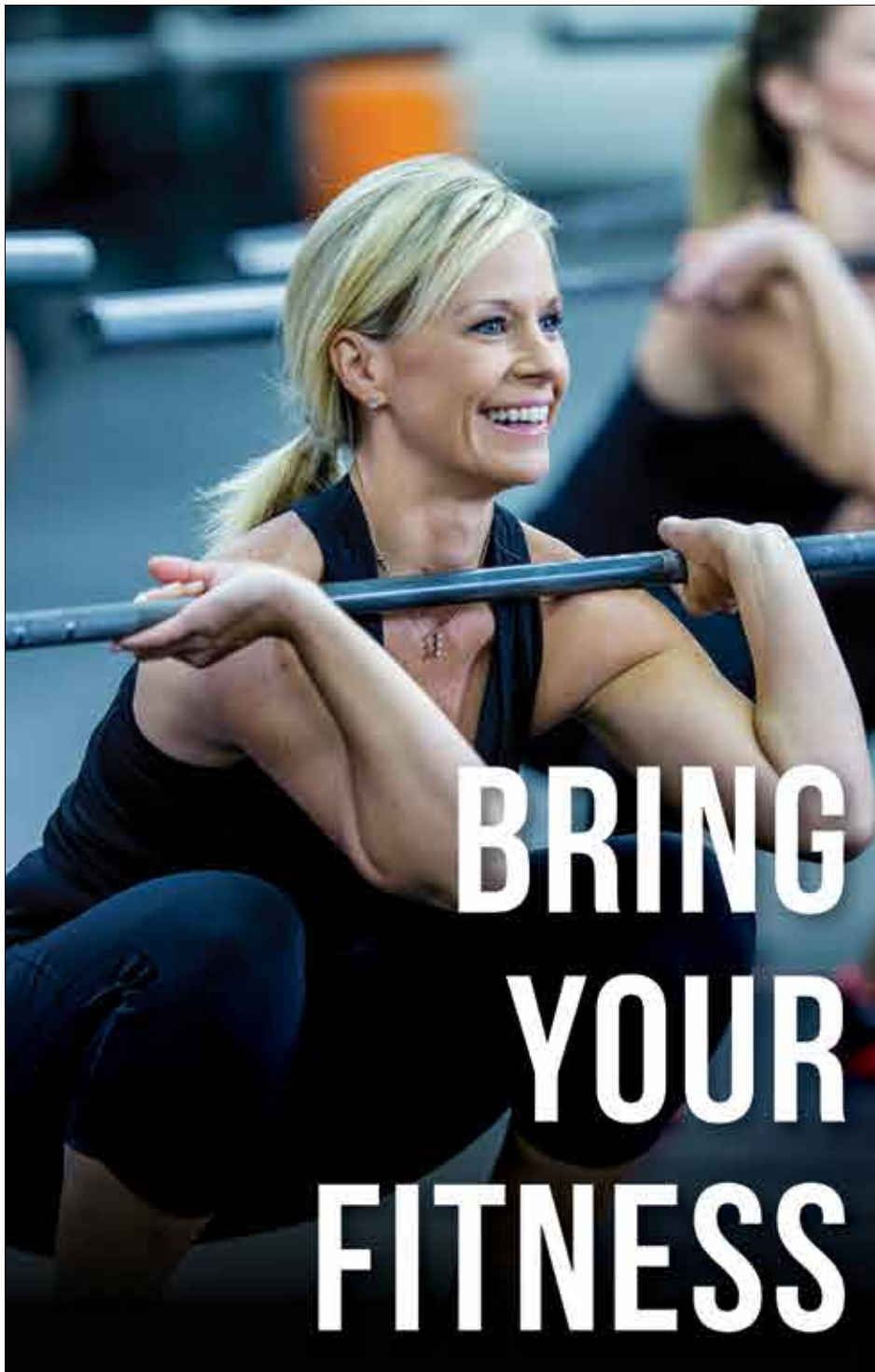
In the most recent round of BASE evaluations, TSA reviewed 92 transit agencies. SacRT scored an exceptional 98% on its assessment. This is the first time SacRT has earned the Gold Standard Award.

SacRT operates

approximately 70 bus routes, including fixed-route, dial-a-ride and microtransit, 43 miles of light rail and ADA paratransit services. It serves a 400-square mile area throughout Sacramento County, which includes service in the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove. Sacramento buses and light rail trains operate 365 days a year. SacRT's entire bus and light rail system is accessible to the disabled community.

SacRT was one of seven transit agencies nationwide to be honored with the award during the most recent evaluation phase.

Other agencies that received the Gold Standard Award are North County Transit District in North County San Diego, Calif.; Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority in Pinellas County, Fla.; Denver Regional Transportation District in Denver, Colo.; MetroLink St. Louis in St. Louis, Mo.; Regional Transportation Commission Washoe in Reno, Nev.; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington, D.C. ★



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Paying Tribute to the Fallen



Remembering all those who came before us in conflicts and wars past. Photo by Rick Sloan

By Shelly Blanchard, Cordova Community Council

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - An audience of 400 paid tribute to American men and women who have given their lives in defense of the country during a moving Memorial Day Observance held at the VA Medical Center at Mather Monday.

A group of 30 veterans were honored with the dedication of memorial bricks, which will be installed at the Veterans Memorial Plaza, located in front of the medical center - an annual tradition. They will join more than 2,000 which have now been placed at the plaza.

Hosted for the 13th straight year by World War II veteran Robert Burns, Lt. Col., US Army (Ret.), the gathering was an emotional mix of music, tributes and friendly rivalry among veterans from different

service branches.

But if they could not agree upon which branch was superior, the audience was in complete agreement about the purpose of the day: paying homage to Americans who have died in service of their country over the generations. U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, D-Elk Grove, and a host of city dignitaries took part in the observance, as well.

"We are so fortunate to be living in the United States of America, the most wonderful country on earth," said Burns. "We honor those who have protected our freedoms, giving generously to our nation. Some gave all. And remembering them is what Memorial Day is all about."

Robert Martinelli, Col., USAF (Ret.), a 30-year veteran who spent three tours of duty at Mather AFB, including as commander of the 323rd Flying Training Wing, and presiding over the closure of Mather in 1993,

delivered an emotional keynote. Tracing a century of service at Mather, which was opened in response to World War I, closing at the end of the Cold War and continuing to serve the nation today, Martinelli also outlined the pride and dedication of those who served at Mather. His comments drew a standing ovation.

The Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band provided a musical backdrop with pieces dating back to World War I through the Vietnam War, with plenty of patriotic music, as well. Bagpipers Bill Adam and Bill Welch helped close the program with "Amazing Grace."

The Memorial Day Observance was produced by the Cordova Community Council with the help of a community-based volunteer committee, Cordova High School Jr. ROTC cadets and assistance from the Veterans Administration Northern California Health Care System. ★

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By David Dickstein, Gold River resident

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - If I were a ruggedly handsome TV news reporter instead of an OK-looking print journalist, at this very second I'd break into your guilty-pleasure viewing of ABC's "The Bachelorette" with this special report:

"We intrude on Hannah's fantasy suite date for breaking news you'll only get from KGRM. A teacher and seven of her students have been ambushed and are being held hostage inside a terrorist organization's compound in Southeast Asia. The imperiled group is from Gold River Discovery Center, which makes the children Miners and minors. Due to their age, we cannot share their names at this time. One rhymes with "Stylin", which is kinda cool. The grown-up has been identified as sixth-grade teacher Kristen Hall. I've been told that moments after parents dropped their children off at the Nimbus Winery, Miss Hall thought it would be fun to take the students on a sightseeing trip through the Asian jungle. Not only is she a newlywed who, if she's going to vacation in Asia, should do so with her husband, but we're told she knew

'Fool's Gold' Gold River Teacher, Students 'Ambushed'

the chance of her students facing grave danger on this trip was 100 percent. All I can say is, what the @#%\$!?! Reporting live, this is David Dickstein."

18 Minutes Later ...

"We interrupt Hannah's breakdown over yet another bachelor not in it for the right reasons to bring you more exclusive details on that hostage situation 7,900 miles away. KGRM has learned that the captors belong to a terrorist group called The Fallen. They're infamous for playing Hungry Hungry Hippos when bored, but not playing nice-nice. In fact, The Fallen abducts civilians several times daily except Mondays when the compound is closed. Hold on ... yes? ... right, got it. This just in... On the condition that he be kept anonymous, a witness named Jarick Collins, who lives in Rancho Cordova at 12401 Folsom Blvd., has told my producer that a band of camo-wearing soldiers took the teacher and children hostage on the belief they were threats to accomplishing their mission to overthrow the government. Which government that would be is a mystery because no one has told us where in Southeast Asia we are. Well, that's the latest. Reporting live, this is David Dickstein."

11 Minutes Later...

"We break in on



Gold River Discovery Center students and teachers get briefed on their upcoming adventure, which quickly goes haywire. Photo by David Dickstein

Hannah's two-on-one date with Luke and Jed to bring you the latest on that hostage situation. I've just been informed that the bad guys have given Miss Hall and her students an hour to live. That is, unless they manage to thwart the would-be assassins by using their collective wit, charm and rope-swinging skills to escape before it's too late. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families, many who are expecting to pick up their kids within the hour. Live from New York, it's Saturday night! Just kidding. Reporting live from a jungle somewhere, this is David Dickstein."

1 Hour Later ...

"Sadly, I bear two pieces of bad news. First and foremost, Hannah sent Luke home in tears after their

hometown date. Something about loving him, but not being in love with him. In other news, the teacher and seven children are presumed dead. Bummer they couldn't escape by the hour deadline. I've learned that only 33 percent of hostages safely flee in this situation, so failure was more likely than success. But in this reporter's opinion, the Gold River eight should have done better considering the high API score of their school and the best teacher in the world showed up for moral support, not that I'm biased or anything toward Mrs. Dickstein. I've just been handed a note that says the escape attempt was compromised. For one thing, the signaling device around one kid's neck didn't work. Also, a locked door that was supposed to have

opened after a code was cracked didn't, causing a compound worker to make an embarrassing surprise appearance. Unfair as that is, the captured civilians were given clue after clue via closed-circuit TV and failed nonetheless. So, it's a sad ending for the kids, the teacher and heartbroken Luke. Live from the tropical corner of unhappy and unhealthy, this is David Dick ... Wait! Wait! What's this? I see a woman who matches the description of Miss Hall coming out of a room along with one ... two ... three ... four ... five ... six ... seven children! They're all alive and well! It's a Miner miracle!"

Back to Reality

Well, I'm sure by now you've figured out three things: 1) I'd make one heckuva TV news reporter; 2) The lives of Miss Hall and those seven children were never in jeopardy; and 3) None of this took place in Southeast Asia under duress, but an escape room in town, and everyone had a super-fun time.

On a recent Sunday, I joined my wife, her teaching partner and seven GRDC students at Red Door Escape Room in Rancho Cordova. The adventure fulfilled Miss Hall's silent auction commitment with generous families that successfully bid on the item at the school's annual crab feed.

Promising to write a column on the experience, I charmed the community-spirited Red Door management into donating a private booking, a \$231 value. What was supposed to be seven kids working as a team to creatively and logically think their way out of a series of rooms within an hour became a gloriously chaotic free for all. By day, Miss Hall and Mrs. Dickstein would never dream of doing the children's classwork for them, but put them in an escape room under the pressure of an unforgiving clock and it's all about "having the kids be successful."

I'd love to leave you with a happy ending - that these bright and enthusiastic children escaped the medium-level "Prison Break" room on their own. But I can't. The kids were doomed from the start, requiring nearly 40 minutes to break out of the first of five rooms. And even that required the longer arms of a supportive adult to knock a key off a Oops! Better not ruin the fun if you take the "Prison Break" challenge. Good luck if you do. Escaping captivity is never easy, as seven awesome kids and two lovely Gold River teachers/former hostages can attest.

David Dickstein can be reached at davidickstein1@gmail.com ★

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By County Supervisor Sue Frost

GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

Holding Your Tax Dollars Hostage

Through the generosity of the *Gold River Messenger*, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Gold River.

Earlier this year, Governor Newsom announced that he was going to make housing his top priority, and called for 3.5 million new homes to be built in California within six years. I believe this is a laudable top priority, and have previously written about the great need in our region for more housing. To start with, Governor Newsom wisely announced \$500 million in awards to cities and counties that meet new, short-term housing goals. I believe the enticement of these funds can propel real change, and I hope Sacramento County will win some of this money.

Unfortunately, Governor Newsom coupled this “carrot” with an extremely dangerous “stick”, in the form of withholding gas tax money from cities and counties that don’t meet the regional housing targets set by the state. This has shaken virtually the entire state, as 97% of California cities and counties (including Sacramento County) are not hitting their housing targets. This plan has a

fundamental flaw in logic because it ties gas tax money to production goals, when counties are only accountable for planning. We should, and do, encourage housing through the land use process, but the decision whether to build more housing comes largely from factors outside our control. We cannot force builders to build, nor can we force financial institutions to lend the builders money.

Even when projects have been approved, lately we are seeing production slowed down because the builders cannot find enough carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc. to do the work, in part because the state has seemingly abandoned vocational education. Too few schools have a “shop class”, and too many children have been told that college was the only route to success, when in reality jobs working in the trades can often pay more than jobs that require a college education.

Beyond that, I believe it’s wrong to threaten our gas tax road funding, especially after voters went to the polls last November and voted to keep the gas tax. I’m not sure the gas tax repeal would have failed, had voters known the funding could be taken away for something entirely out of their control.

Our roads cannot bear even a small reduction in funding. As I wrote about earlier this year, even with the gas tax in place, the County needs an additional

\$15-20 million yearly just to maintain the roads at the current level, or an additional \$50 million yearly to get them to a standard people would describe as “good.”

If Governor Newsom is serious about wanting to build 3.5 million new homes in California, beyond incentives he needs to look at the high cost of construction. It is extremely expensive for a builder in California to conform to the unique regulations contained within the California Environmental Quality Act, and the enormous California Building Code grows larger each year. These regulations are part of the reason that a home in California is 2.4 times more expensive than a comparable home in Texas.

There are potential solutions to this housing crisis, but threatening counties like Sacramento for a problem out of our control ignores the root of the problem, and is ultimately doomed to fail.

Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sacounty.net

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks and Rancho Cordova. ★

Cordova Recreation & Park District Honored with Awards

Continued from Page 1

Permanente and SMUD to uplift this accessible, sustainable and safe community athletic space.

Furthermore, Lincoln Village Community Park’s Fitness Course was the recipient of the Outstanding New Facility award from CARPD. This course demonstrates a 21st century ethic of resource allocation, providing a myriad of opportunities that serve the needs of a diverse and growing community. CRPD’s Park Planning & Development team demonstrated outstanding design and cost efficiency in this project, essential criteria for the award.

Since the fitness course opened in early 2018, it has

been praised by community members and professional associations alike. Resident Google postings on the park give it a score of 4 out of 5 stars and members of the Neil Orchard Senior Activities Center claim it’s their favorite way to exercise outside of the instructed programs CRPD offers.

Some of those who praise these projects include CARPD’s Board of Directors. As individuals who represent faithful and honorable service to the park and recreation field, CRPD’s Board Secretary, Rick Sloan, who served as President-Elect for CARPD’s Board during the 2018-2019 year, was sworn in as President of the Board for 2019-2020, while

Vice-chair for CRPD’s Board, Brian Danzl, was elected to the CARPD Board of Directors.

Both Sloan and Danzl were honored and delighted to receive these nominations and look forward to further serving the recreation and parks industry.

The California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) is a 501(c)(6), nonprofit whose goals include providing support and education to recreation and park districts throughout the state of California. This association uses its annual banquet to recognize excellence in the field and acknowledges achievements of leaders in the industry. ★




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Women Veterans Alliance Hosts Fun Run-Walk-Ride

By Rachael DiCicco, FSB Core Strategies

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Saturday May 18th, the Women Veterans Alliance hosted its annual Fun Run Walk Ride for Armed Forces Day to bring awareness to women who have served. In addition, the run raised money for Women Veterans Giving to assist women veterans in starting or expanding their business, and to fund their attendance at professional conferences.

“It is our mission at Women Veterans Alliance to create a community of local women veteran groups—a group that may not have received much recognition for serving our country,” said Melissa Washington, Founder of the Women Veterans Alliance. “This Fun Run helps us raise money and awareness, as well as to show support for our military on Armed Forces Day.”

The Fun Run began with an opening ceremony that featured a presentation of colors and National Anthem followed by a fly over from Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento. Assemblyman Kevin Kiley presented certificates to the Top Individual Fundraisers, Maya Washington and Lisa Lambert and Team Fundraiser, the Bad Ass Marines.

“It is an honor to be here to support the Women Veterans Alliance on a day as important as



Melissa Washington, Founder of the Women Veterans Alliance and Assemblyman Kevin Kiley presenting Maya Washington with an award for top fundraiser. Photo courtesy Rachael DiCicco, Ford Motor Company

Armed Forces Day,” said Assemblyman Kevin Kiley. “What this organization does for our community and Women Veterans is truly extraordinary and I would like to thank all of the amazing women who have served our country.”

Following the Opening Ceremony, runners began the race through Orangevale Community Park while being led by the 2019 Ford Ranger.

The Women Veterans Alliance was established in 2015 to raise awareness of the number of women who serve our country, something that often does not receive much attention. Over 2 million women

veterans have served our country and this number is rapidly growing. In addition, over 200,000 are currently defending our freedom at home and abroad.

The Premier Network helps to connect over 2 million Women Veterans (and our supporters) globally for the purpose of sharing our gifts, talents, resources and experience. To create a community to equip, empower and encourage each other with knowledge, resources, mentorship and career opportunities for women that have served our country to discover and fulfill their greatest potential. ★



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