



First Truck or Treat Draws Families to Stonehouse

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RIVER VALLEY TIMES

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NOVEMBER 10, 2023

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A Hotbed of Halloween Happenings

Colbert Drive Transforms For This Spooky Holiday



A burning skeleton and giant spider loom over a home on Halloween night. The owners are Justin and Nicole Williams. Photos by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Halloween is always a big happening in Rancho Murieta – and this year was no exception.

Although trick-or-treaters can be scarce in some neighborhoods in the North, that isn't the case in

the South with its younger population.

One neighborhood in particular is known as the Halloween Capital of Rancho Murieta. Located along Colbert Drive, it also encompasses the neighboring streets of Topspin way, Bent Grass Court, Linksman Court, and Jigger Court.

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Hadleigh Bunnell and her mother Emily Bunnell love the selection of candy.

Wilton Fire Seeks to Sell Acreage at The Ranch

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - With 2 ¼ acres deeded for a fire station when The Ranch Equestrian Estates off Clay Station Road was being developed about 25 years ago, the Wilton Fire Protection District (WFPD) Board is now trying to sell the property.

Director Betty Hite provided an update from the Real Estate Committee when the board held its monthly meeting on Oct. 18. She and Director Ron Fiorica are on the committee, which has been researching all district-owned properties. Hite said it was driven by deciding whether they want to anything with the acreage at The Ranch.

Hite said when JTS Communities was developing the property, the homebuilder deeded 2 ¼ acres to WFPD as part of mitigation for the project because of the expected increase in call volume.

Director Obe Brown said JTS was also required to build a fire station. "But they skated out in technicalities," he said.

Nor did the homebuilder follow through with developing another 500 acres, which would have warranted a fire station, Brown said. Sacramento County also was supposed to build a park on a parcel set aside for that purpose, he said.

WFPD boards determined years ago that it wasn't practical to build a firehouse at The Ranch when the district was providing good service to the subdivision from its manned main station at Dillard and Wilton Roads and from unmanned Station 84 on Orange Road.

Hite said if the district were going to spend any resources on a fire station, it should go towards building a new one across the street from the main firehouse that is 55 years old. (Sacramento County Regional Parks has set aside seven acres at Dillard Ranch for a future fire station.)

Since the subdivision acreage was only to be used as a fire station, Hite said she met with "legal eagles" at Sacramento County to explore options for selling it. They included Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume and his staff and staff from the county's real estate and assessor's office.

"According to the real estate lawyers at the county, we have to declare it as a

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Water Study Meeting Draws 160 to the Country Club

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A second town hall meeting to update residents about a study that is forecasting water needs over the next 20 years drew about 160 attendees to the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Nov. 2. The meeting didn't attract any young people.

The community's water supply is a concern in Rancho Murieta because of upcoming development, drought, climate change, and potential state curtailments of Cosumnes River diversions.

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) held the meeting to explain the findings from the second phase of the Integrated Water Master Plan. It examined water demand – how much water is currently being used and projected water usage in the future.

The first phase of the IWMP documented the community's water supply. The third phase will look at options and scenarios under different conditions.

The consultants released three water demand figures at the meeting. The existing demand for water stands at 1,716 acres a year. The projected future demand at full build-out of development is projected at 1,575 acre-feet. The total for both would be 3,290 acre-feet a year at full build-out. One acre-foot is enough to cover a football field with a foot of water.

Whether CSD will be able to meet future demands will be addressed in the third phase of the IWMP. Water supply studies conducted in 2006, 2010, and 2016 concluded that CSD has an adequate water supply.

Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation by CSD Operations Director Michael Fritschi and two consulting engineers. The first was Lisa Maddaus, who owns a California Engineering firm in California, and helped work on the 2010 study. The second was Dan Scalas from Adkins Engineering of Klamath Falls, Ore. He conducted the sonar survey of the Calero and Chesbro reservoirs that determined that both held less water than originally believed, especially Calero.

Stephen Booth, who is a CSD director, served as the meeting facilitator. Ten audience members commented or

posed questions following the presentation.

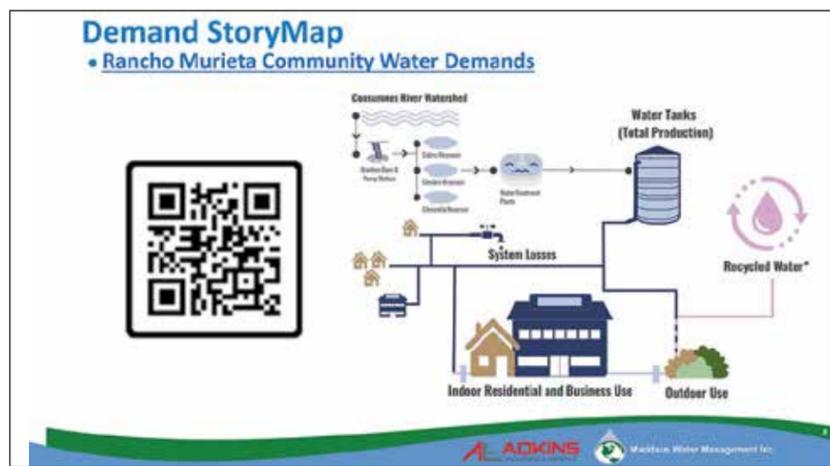
Fritschi briefly reviewed the local, state, and federal laws that apply to the water supply including the district's water rights. He also noted that the district will be subject to more regulations under the state water code when CSD reaches 3,000 connections and is defined as "an urban water supplier". CSD was at 2,822 accounts as of October.

Scalas told the crowd he and Maddaus were using two modeling tools. He is working on a Hydraulic Model, using

gallons per minute, which will allow him to determine what kind of infrastructure improvements will be needed in the future, primarily tanks, pumps, and pipes.

Scalas said Maddaus was using a Shared Vision Model (developed by the Corps of Engineers) that uses acre-feet per month. He likened the water balance to a checking account. "How much water do we put into and how much water do we take out of it," he said. "That in a nutshell is what Lisa is doing."

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A graphic illustrates the demands on the Rancho Murieta water supply. The slide was part of a presentation about the second phase of the 2023 Integrated Water Master Plan, which was explained at a town hall meeting on Nov. 2. Residents can scan the QR code in the slide to download a copy of the presentation. Photo Courtesy of The Rancho Murieta CSD



Audience member John Merchant is given extra time to comment about the water study. Photo by Gail Bullen

Colbert Drive Transforms into A Hotbed of Halloween Happenings

Continued from page 1

Neighbor Scott Adams, who uses a counter to track the trick-or-treaters coming to his home, said 656 showed up this year “But I think there were more kids at all the houses across the street,” he said.

Adams began counting in 2015 when 502 kids showed up. “It went down to 146 kids in 2020 due to COVID, but since then the numbers have been growing,” Adams said. “We had 567 kids last year.”

Adams said all of his neighbors are “really into Halloween and are prepared with lots of candy. Some of the houses have elaborate decorations, which the kids love.”

By the time it was dark, Colbert and the adjoining cul-de-sacs were lined with golf carts and carts

belonging to residents from elsewhere in the community and outside guests who wanted to hang out with the critical mass forming in the neighborhood.

Ranging in age from tots to teenagers, the beautifully costumed trick-or-treaters went from door to door collecting candy. Some households also had special treats for the parents such as Jello shots and Fireball whiskey drinks.

While the younger children were always accompanied by their parents, many of the older kids were allowed to roam with their friends and siblings.

In the meantime, some of their parents and other adult friends were socializing. Dozens gathered in the back of open garages set up with tables, chairs, and often a fire pit,

complete with delicious snacks and even chili at the Gumm house.

One of the adult gatherings was at the home of Carrie Gazda, who said 14 parents were using her garage as a home base this year. “We all eat pizza and hang out and let the kids run,” she explained.

A couple of doors down, Jeremy Price, who lives in Citrus Heights, was minding the candy bowl for his friends while they were out trick or treating. His family has been visiting their Colbert Drive home on Halloween for five years.

“This is really a step back in time,” Price said. “Because if you think about it, nowadays people don’t feel safe trick or treating, but in this community, they do.” ★



Colbert Drive becomes Rancho Murieta’s Halloween Central as it draws a crowd from inside and outside of the community. The streets were lined with cars and golf carts after dark.



Eight-year-old Sierra Jaramillo shows Carrie Gazda her scary rabbit. Gazda transformed her garage into a home base for 14 parents to hang out and eat pizza while their kids were trick or treating.



Guided by his dad Romano Matic, Mateo Matic navigates the sidewalk in his little car.



Dressed in their scariest best are, from left, Wyland Tumlinson, Ally Abernathy, Emmy Abernathy, and Colton Tumlinson. Photos by Gail Bullen



Beau Pierson doesn’t know what to think about two witches - Carol Pato, left, and Jill McAuliffe.



Dressed as a turtle, Cooper Lee-Lauduski is intrigued by the danger warnings in a front yard.

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MEMORIAL

GREG NELSON • 10/11/64 – 9/17/23

Greg Nelson passed away at the age of 58 on Sunday, September 17 in Rancho Murieta. He was born on October 11, 1964 in Long Beach California and spent his youth in Long Beach, Hawaii and Saudi Arabia. He graduated from Baylor Prep school in Chattanooga Tennessee and attended USF. Greg spent most of his career in sales and was the owner of the Rancho Murieta Business Center from 2006 – 2018.

He leaves behind his mother Liz and step-father Dick Stenstrom, father Larry Nelson, step-mother Cindy, step sons Michael and Stewart Smith and his daughter Halie and her husband Nick and his beloved grandchildren, Silas and Charlie.

A Celebration of Life for Greg will be held on Saturday, January 27 at 2:00pm at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Please join the family in remembering the good times with Greg.

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Thingamabobs, Phobias and Snakes...Oh my

Still unable to see anything, my wife and I tipped the cumbersome appliance to find that washing machine transmissions aren't friendly environments for your average carbon-based life form.

Now I warn you that if you are blennophobic – afraid of slime – you should really give up on this column because our corn snake looked more like corn syrup – or maybe creamed corn. Take your pick.

But most especially if you are olfactophobic – afraid of smells – like the washing machine repairman who came to our house with his shirt pulled up over his face, you needn't read on.

His only suggestion was that we call a biohazard team. The problem is that those teams have been known to bankrupt small cities.

So I determined to do this toxic cleanup myself. Armed with cleaners, disinfectants, sponges, paper towels and plastic gloves, I opened our washroom door and blasted the room in a "cover fire" of deodorizer.

Holding my emetophobia in check – fear of vomiting – I entered the toxic zone and was quickly driven back by my old nemesis – a gag reflex on a hair trigger.

Bolting from the room, I came to a hard stop in front of my wife who was wearing the look most husbands know. It was the same "You're worthless!" look we get when the keys we've lost are in our other pocket.

"I'll do this," she said, "but you'll need to get this

machine into the backyard where I can work on it."

"No problem," I said. An hour later, the machine sat in the open air which diluted the smell enough for me to remove the motor, transmission and some other thingamabobs I didn't recognize.

True to her brag, my wife spent the next few hours disengaging the remains of the snake just as the sun began to set on the horribly long, hot day.

It had been a day of confronting our fears, including the pet owner's worst fear – that of losing their pet. Nevertheless, each of us somehow found the courage to push aside our fears and accomplish what some had said couldn't be done.

When I think of all the things that scare me in this world, I'm grateful that our spiritual beliefs can be a great source of courage. The Christian apostle, Paul, wrote that "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

As for the washing machine, I was struck with a severe case of mechano-phobia – fear of machines. Fortunately, I pressed past my chrometophobia – fear of spending money—and paid a repairman to put those thingamabobs back in place.

Buy my latest book, "Tell It To the Chaplain" on my website, Amazon or by sending me \$20. Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715 or write 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★

October Blood Drive is a Monument for RM Resident



The worship area at the Rancho Murieta Community Church is transformed into a donation center for the Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive on Oct. 23. Photos by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The last quarterly Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive was especially meaningful for resident Vanessa Silva, who moved to the community last June.

"This is my first time donating since I beat cancer," she said. "It's a big monument for me to donate again now that I am back to normal."

Silva was one of 73 participants in the Oct. 23 blood drive that was sponsored by the Rancho Murieta Women's Club and held at the Rancho Murieta Community Church. Vitalant, which is the local blood bank, collected 64 pints of blood.

Silva previously lived in the Bay Area and began donating years ago to get over her fear of needles. "Then I made it a habit," she said.

Several years ago, Silva was asked if she would consider the lengthier process of donating platelets instead of whole blood for the first time. After being told the platelets were "truly needed by cancer patients," Silva wanted to do that.

"The ironic part is that I got diagnosed with cancer two weeks later," she said.

Doctors told her that she had an extremely aggressive type of



Vanessa Silva, on right, goes through the screening process to donate blood for the first time since she beat cancer. Vitalant nurse Olivera P. checks her blood pressure.

breast cancer – AAA Negative – that only affects 10 to 15% of patients. The tumor was two to three inches in size. Because of the kind of cancer, her doctors ordered 16 rounds of chemotherapy to stop the tumor from going and spreading.

"That shrunk the tumor down to basically nothing, so I was able to undergo a lumpectomy," she said.

The surgeons also took out seven lymph nodes, which all tested clear. "I still have issues with my right arm, but it is not bad," Silva said. "I'm just happy to be here and happy to help."

Silva also went through 30 rounds of radiation, four months of chemotherapy pills, and one year of immunotherapy that ended last year.

Silva said she was a part-time Rancho Murieta resident for a time because

her boyfriend lives in the community. She moved in with him in June.

"Now I am living the dream in Rancho Murieta," she said. "It is such a great community. Everyone is very accepting and kind."

Silva said it wasn't easy when she was going through cancer treatment in the Bay Area. "I felt so isolated because I was pretty much by myself. A lot of my friends had moved away," she said.

Silva doesn't believe she would feel that same isolation in Rancho Murieta, even beyond the support she would get from her boyfriend. "I hopefully will never have to go through cancer again," she said. "But I feel there is such a sense of community with people here. They would just rally around you so that I wouldn't be afraid to go through it again." ★

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First Truck or Treat Draws Families to Stonehouse

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A Halloween event known as Trunk or Treat unfolded for the first time at Stonehouse Park on Oct. 28.

The Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee sponsored the event in partnership with the Rancho Murieta Corvette Club and the Classic Cars Club.

RMA Director Renee Bechtold, who chairs the Recreation Committee, estimated the attendance at 175 people. "A large number of people, especially the children, were in costume," she said. "We also had 13 beautiful cars, many of them decorated."

Enjoying the perfect weather, the youngsters went from car to car to add to their candy collection and to admire an assortment of skeletons and creepy creatures that only seem to come out at Halloween.

Nor did their parents have to worry about lunch because the committee served 150 hot dogs along with chips, water, popcorn, and 130 trick-or-treat bags.

The committee also awarded prizes to Alan Chase and Theresa Sousa for having the best-decorated cars.

Bechtold said the event went so well that her group plans to hold it again next year. "We expect it to be even



The Phillips family, from left, Ryder, Cooper, Blake, and Katie, take in the first Truck or Treat event held at Stonehouse Park on Oct. 28. The Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee sponsored the early Halloween event in partnership with two car clubs. Photos by Gail Bullen



Posing for a photo are trunk-and-treaters, from left, Reese McNamara, Quinn McWayne and Elie Heavenston. Seated on the left is Theresa Sousa, who tied for best-decorated vehicle.



Dressed as Racer X, Alan Chase surveys his Mustang that he has decorated to the max. He tied for first place prize for his efforts.

bigger and better," she said.

Dave and Nancy Smith and their two sons, Daniel and Stevie,

were among the attendees. "I think it is really awesome that the car clubs came out for this, and the way they have



Unaware that chocolate isn't good for dogs, Leo eyes the candy bar held by Arwen Muehlenhaupt. Leo was dressed as a taco.



Maverick Owen holds up his bag to get a treat from Maleficent (Araceli Brazzle).

decorated their trunk is very cool," he said. "It also provides another nice opportunity for my kids." ★

Wilton Fire Seeks to Sell Acreage at The Ranch

Continued from page 1
surplus property because we are a public entity," she said. "There also are notifications that go along with that, and we have to let the county know first in case a county agency wants it."

Hite said WFPD must also notify the California Department of Housing and Community Development "because they would have to first right of refusal to build a homeless shelter on it."

Once the state notifies the district it doesn't want to use the property for a homeless shelter, then WFPD will be free to put it on the market.

Hite said she met with a couple of real estate people to figure out how to do that. "I've also gotten the name and contact information for a guy who does appraisals on this specific kind of property," Hite said. "It's a kind of odd thing to do an assessment on because it's not really residential, and it isn't really commercial."

Hite said after she told Board President Joe Guardino, who couldn't attend the meeting, that the appraisal would cost \$400, he asked her to make the motion to have it done. Her motion passed 4:0.

Hite told the board that when she met with Hume and the county staffers they asked what the district would do with the acreage once it could be sold. The land is contiguous to the large parcel set aside for a park.

"I thought it made sense for us to maybe offer it to

the homeowners association so they could build a clubhouse knowing that someday the county might build a park," she said.

The county staffers told Hite they liked the idea and indicated a park could be built at The Ranch in eight or 10 years "although I don't know if that is real or not," she said.

In other business, the board voted to spend an additional \$12,500 to install a new digital sign in front of the main fire station. The board previously approved spending up to \$20,000 for the project. But after firefighters dismantled the old sign, they didn't find what they expected. Hite sent pictures and measurements of the result to the sign company in Florida.

"They had developed a sign for us they thought would just sit on our pedestal and hook up to our 50-year-old electrical system," she said. "Surprise. Surprise. That isn't going to happen."

Brown said work is needed to make the new sign work. But it can be powered from a pre-existing switch on the corner of the firehouse.

Hite said the new sign can be programmed from the fire chief's cell phone or from the office using software. "So in the middle of a flood, someone can change that sign immediately and remotely," she said. "We are doing it for you guys."

"We are doing this for public safety," Brown added. ★

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Final Dillard Ranch Master Plan is Outlined at Wilton Meeting

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - A proposal to develop the historic Dillard Ranch in Wilton into a rural park that doesn't look like a park reached a milestone when Sacramento County Regional Parks (Parks) announced the final draft of the master plan at a public meeting held at the Wilton Community Center on Oct. 17.

The relatively short question-and-answer session drew about 35 participants. The majority of audience questions had to do with parking and the designation of acreage for a new fire station.

Parks Director Liz Bellas told them that the next step will be a review of the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

"That's the environmental report (EIR) that is required for us to bring the plan forward to the Board of Supervisors for them to adopt it," she said. "We don't have a good, firm timeline...But we are pushing them to get it (the EIR) done as soon as possible."

Later in the meeting, Bellas confirmed that \$200,000 in county funding has been designated for the Dillard Ranch with \$150,000 of it thanks to former Supervisor Don Nottoli. However, that is far less funding than will be needed for the park development that will take place in stages. However, having an approved master plan will make it easier to apply for grant funding, Bellas said.

The master plan shows the majority of the site development will take place on 10 acres on the corner of Dillard and Davis Roads. It will include the rehabilitation of the ranch house for an interpretative center, the rehabilitation of an old barn for public uses such as 4-H meetings, and



The Dillard Ranch Master Plan map shows how the historic ranch is being developed into a small Sacramento County park that will remain rural and agricultural. Photos Courtesy of Sacramento County Planning Documents

the construction of a small arena, animal pens, a restroom, two small parking areas, paths, and fencing.

Another seven acres have been set aside to allow the Wilton Fire Protection District to build a new firehouse across Dillard Road from the current station. Parks will continue leasing the remaining 71 acres for agriculture and will work with the Sloughouse Resource Conservation District on ideas to advance groundwater sustainability at the site.

The county acquired Dillard Ranch in a trade with the Cosumnes Community Services District in 2018. Parks hired consultants to assess the natural resources on the site and to prepare a historic and cultural resources report for the property. The two reports and a virtual tour of the property were posted online before Parks held its first public meeting on July 28, 2021. The strongest reactions at the first meeting were "Keep it rural" and "Don't call it a park."

Parks incorporated the comments into a conceptual plan that was released in January 2022 and garnered future comments at a virtual public meeting held online on Feb. 22, 2022.

The finalized site drawing for the Dillard Ranch was posted to the website on May 11, 2022. On Sept. 25, Parks announced that the 254-page master plan had been completed and scheduled the Oct. 17 public meeting.

Recreational Supervisor Amber Veselka, who manages the Wilton Community Center, has been the contact for the Dillard Ranch. She helped Bellas answer the audience questions at the recent meeting.

Bellas told the audience that all of the public comments had been taken into consideration when the master plan was developed. "You wanted to see a working ranch to showcase what an agricultural community is all about," she said. "You also wanted to make sure we set aside five to seven acres for a future fire station."

Bellas said the plan also addresses other public comments such as the need to protect the historic buildings on site, to ensure spaces for the Wilton History Group and its historical artifacts, and for youth-based organizations. Nor did residents want any sports fields, additional traffic and noise, or any more development than was necessary.



Rehabilitating the ranch house for use as a historical interpretive center by the Wilton History Group is to be a top priority when development begins. Photo Courtesy of the Wilton History Group

some horse trailers.

Several residents worried that a future event at the park could cause overflow traffic parking on Davis Road, and one asked if open space behind the arena could be used for additional parking. Bellas said the county Department of Transportation could provide signage on Davis Road and that open space behind the arena could be used for overflow parking.

Another resident said she thought that parking for about 47 vehicles in two lots was just right. Bellas said the plans for parking were opposite to the "Field of Dreams" movie - "If you build it, they will come"

"If you don't build it, they can't come," the audience member responded.

Another attendee asked about the ultimate decision-makers for Dillard Ranch. Bellas said that Parks would make decisions on applications for events at the ranch. "If you are asking who is approving the master plan and the overall use of the site from the master plan perspective, that is the Board of Supervisors, Bellas said.

As for designating seven acres of the Dillard Ranch for a new fire station,

Bellas asked Wilton Fire Board member Betsy Hite to explain why.

Hite said the current fire station is 55 years old. While still adequate for current uses, it lacks a dormitory although firefighters work 24/7. Nor does it have an equipment bay for mechanical work in-house or room for additional communication equipment.

"We don't have the money to construct a new station at this point," Hite said. "We just wanted to have a placeholder so in the next few years, we would be able to plan on building one."

--Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, who also attended the meeting, was asked to comment at the end. "I just want to say that Taylor Swift is going to be extremely disappointed that she won't be able to book the amphitheater," he said. "But we have heard your concerns."

The Dillard Ranch Master Plan and Site Map can be accessed on line by searching for Dillard Ranch at Sacramento County Regional Parks. For more information, contact Amber Veselka at VeselkaA@SacCounty.net. ★

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Wilton Man Injured in Shooting

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - A Wilton man was hospitalized after he was shot in the arm in the 12000 block of Blake Road about 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office listed the incident as an aggravated assault on its online crime map.

On scene deputies told Channel 40 that the victim's injuries weren't life-threatening. They also said the

victim and suspect might know each other, and the crime scene was a "bit tucked away," according to the television story.

Postings on social media reported that a helicopter and many police cars and fire trucks responded to the scene. They also said deputies were looking for a Dodge Charger.

The River Valley Times asked Sgt. Amar Gandhi for me details about the crime, but he said the sheriff's office wasn't releasing any more details. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fourth annual RM turkey pickup stated Nov. 15

Three Rancho Murieta Association residents have slated their fourth annual food drive and turkey pickup to benefit the Amador Interfaith Food Bank on Wednesday Nov. 15 between 9 and 11 a.m. Text your address to Tom, Danny, and Renee. Leave your donations on your porch, and they will pick them up. Donation suggestions include turkeys, boxed stuffing, any canned or boxed fixings, and even diapers and formula. The food bank also has requested peanut butter for the kids. Tom is at 916-467-2757. Danny is at 916-801-7300. Renee is at 916-952-3093.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting slated Friday, Nov. 24

Featuring the red-coated celebrity, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will unfold on Friday, Nov. 24, at Stonehouse Park. The Optimist Club and Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) have been sponsoring the event for 21 years. After arriving at 6 p.m., Santa Claus will lead a countdown that culminates with the illumination of the Christmas tree and holiday figures. Santa Claus will ascend his throne to listen to Christmas wishes. The Optimists will serve cookies, hot chocolate and the ingredients for S'mores. Several fire pits will be available to toast marshmallows.

RM holiday home tour slated Dec. 8

What could be better than Christmas in Rancho Murieta? The Rancho Murieta Woman's Club Holiday Home tour, of course. Join us Friday Dec. 8 between 10 a.m. and noon at the Rancho Murieta Country Club to pick up your program, wrist band (entry ticket) and to enjoy a light breakfast of mini quiches, fruit, bite size pastries, coffee, tea and your choice of one free Bloody Mary or Mimosa. The Holiday Home tour will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features three beautiful homes in the South and three in the North. The cost is \$30

per person. The reservation forms are available at the RMA building or contact Cindy Shamrock at 916-354-1918 or Barbara Armstrong 916-541-1884. Reservations and payment are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, 11/27. The event is open to all Rancho Murieta residents & their guests. Gentlemen are included.

Kiwanis slates See's Candies fundraiser

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta will once again be selling See's Candies beginning Nov. 18, 2023. You will have two ways of purchasing your favorite items - in-person or online. You will find us at the same in-person location as last year, next door to Town & Country Realty in the Bel Air Shopping Center. Look for our blue Kiwanis flag. We will be open every day from Nov. 18 to 26 except for Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 23, and Friday to Sunday, Dec. 1 to 3, Dec. 8 to 10, Dec. 15 to 17, and Dec. 22 to 23 if not sold out. Our hours will be noon to 4 p.m. We will accept cash or credit cards. Online purchases can be made through our website. We offer free delivery to residents in the North, South, Gardens, and the Village. Orders placed by 5 p.m. will be available for delivery the next day. For more information or to purchase online, please visit our website at www.rmkiwanis.org. You can also contact the co-chairs Jeannette Edwards at (408) 515-2636 or Patti Maffei at (415) 519-1043. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser.

Wilton Winter Festival slated Saturday Dec. 2

The annual Wilton Winter Festival will be held at the Wilton Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 2. Girl Scout Troop 2060 will serve breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The P.A.C.E. program at Dillard School will serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The parade will begin at noon with nearby roads closing at 11:30 p.m. After the parade, Santa will listen to Christmas wishes at the community center. Vendors also will sell crafts and holiday goods. For more information

email ParksEvents@SacCounty.gov, phone 916-875-6205, or check the Wilton Community Center Facebook page. The event is sponsored by the Sacramento County Parks & Rec Council Area 4B.

River Valley Garden Club Sponsors Smokey the Bear Contest

All students in grades one through five at any school are invited to participate in a poster contest sponsored by the River Valley Garden Club. The contest is about Smokey the Bear and needs to state somewhere on the poster - "Only you can prevent forest fires". Please contact Berniece Jones at 916-354-2873 to get poster paper and more information about the contest. We will deliver poster paper and contest rules to anyone who wants to enter. The contest ends Nov. 1. Prizes will be awarded for each grade level. The first place prize is \$20 and second place is \$10. All first prize winners will be entered into the state level competition. River Valley Garden Club is affiliated with National Garden Club, Pacific Region, and California State Garden Clubs.

Sheriff's Office to Host RM Meeting on Nov. 15

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office is inviting all Rancho Murieta residents to attend a community meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 60 at the RMA Building.

Kiwanis Seeks Sweats for Vets Donations

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is once again asking for monetary donations to its Sweat for Vets program. This is 14th year of helping veterans who are hospitalized at the Sacramento VA Medical Center in Mather. Please make your check out to Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta Sweat for Vets. Cash donations and Walmart gift cards are also welcome. Mail donations to Kiwanis at P. O. Box 855, Rancho Murieta, or put them in a drop box at the RMA building. If you have any questions call Diann Swan at 916-343-0656. Thank you for your support of this program. ★

SECURITY LOGS

The following is a summary of activity for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Department for the following dates. Note: these log entries are condensed. For full security log details, go to the CSD website at www.rmcsd.com. A quick link to the security logs is on the home page.

RP = Reporting Person

GOA = Gone on Arrival

UTL = Unable to Locate

BOLO = Be on Look Out

NFI = No Further Information

QOA = Quiet on Arrival

HBD = Had

Been Drinking

storing found clothing in a warehouse.

- RMA rule violation, 12:17 p.m. one of the lakes, patrol contacted a person who was listed as a permanent guest in the computer although he said he was a resident. Warning issued. He returned home. Patrol told his mother that her son had to be listed as a resident to have full access to the community.

Oct. 25

- Two extra patrols.
- Unattended vehicle, 1:42 a.m. Stonehouse Park, citation issued.

Oct. 26

- Two extra patrols.
- Stop sign enforcement, 8:31 a.m. Murieta South Parkway, two citations.
- Vandalism, 11:52 a.m. Murieta Village, red letters painted on the wall.

Oct. 27

- Burglary, 2:15 p.m. Village storage, the fence was cut, but no property was stolen
- Accident, 6:48 p.m. South Gate, RP said the gate arm came down on her car.
- Animal complaint, 8:18 p.m. Chestro Circle, barking dog, patrol observed dog barking but was unable to contact owner. Finally reach the homeowner, who was out of town and unable to control the dog.

Oct. 28

- Two extra patrols, 1:55 a.m.
- Stop sign violation, 6:27 p.m. Colbert Drive, one citation.
- Noise complaint, 10:55 p.m. Guadalupe and Terreno Drive, loud party outside. Asked resident to relocate party inside house and shut down outside music.
- Noise complaint, 11:26 p.m. Rio Oso Drive, larger gathering in the driveway. The resident asked to turn off the music and relocate the party inside.

Oct. 29

- No log.

Oct. 30

- Three extra patrols, 12:38 a.m.
- Parking enforcement, 2:43 a.m. two streets on the south, two citations.
- Stop sign enforcement, 7:36 a.m. Murieta South Parkway.
- Outside agency assist, 11:23:15 p.m. SSO asked for assistance, A pilot reported laser pointed at his aircraft from ground five miles southwest of Murieta Airport. Unable to assist because the location was outside Rancho Murieta District. SSO advised.

Oct. 31

- Four extra patrols.
- Parking enforcement, 4:12 a.m. two houses in the north, two citations.

- Animal complaint, 7:54 a.m., Nueva Drive, the patrol didn't hear a dog barking.

- Stop sign enforcement, 7:54 a.m. Murieta South Parkway, three citations.

- Welfare check, 9:05 a.m. Country Club, disoriented resident with dementia, contacted his wife and transported him home.

- Gunshots, 9:40 p.m. location not listed, UTL.

Nov. 1

- Four extra patrols.
- Parking enforcement, 3:234 a.m. two streets on the south, two citations.

Wilton Fire

- Twenty-five medical aids between Oct. 17 and Oct. 31.

Oct. 21

- Roadside fire, 6:33 p.m. Dillard and Riley Roads.

Oct. 22

- Accident, 2:27 p.m. Dillard and Cosumnes Road.
- Commercial vehicle fire, 2:58 p.m. 9995 Sunflower lane.

Oct. 24

- Smoke investigation 12:30 p.m. Alta Mesa and Walmort Roads.

Oct. 25

- Unknown fire type, 8:40 p.m. Alta Mesa and Blake Roads..

Oct. 26

- Structure fire, 12: 26 p.m. 11655 Twin Cities.
- Illegal burn, 1:12 p.m. Dillard and Peach Roads.

Oct. 27

- Accident, 10:25 a.m. Highway 99 south of Dillard Road.
- Illegal burn, 10:56 a.m. 8686 Spart Lane.
- Structure fire, 8:08 p.m. 11811 Kirkwood Street,
- Accident, 10L3 p.m. Dillard Road and Highway 99.

Oct. 28

- Illegal burn, 8:49 a.m. 12218 Keating Road.
- Internal alarm, 9:13 a.m. 12900 Shoefler Road.
- Accident, 7:34 p.m. Wilton and Dillard roads.

Oct. 30

- Fire alarm, 10:34 a.m. 12900 Shoefler Road.
- Grass fire, 9:37 p.m. 14197 Flagstaff Drive.

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

Oct. 16

- Larceny, 10:30 a.m. camp in 8600 block of Rawhide Lane.

Oct. 22

- Aggravated assault, 12400 black Road, 5:32 p

Oct. 28

- Theft, 8 a.m. 10300 block Blake Road, aggravated assault. ★

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- ✓ Opening Day 3/23/24
- ✓ Register by 12/31/23

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Water Study Meeting Draws 160 to the Country Club

Continued from page 1

To illustrate her analysis of the existing water demand Maddaus used graphics tracking data between 1994 through the end of 2022. She said her group collected historical billing data by lot type, verified the number of accounts and water uses, and analyzed historical demand trends such as the two droughts and COVID.

Maddaus said the breakdown of water users is 82% residential, 13% businesses, and 5% parks and other. She explained the "other use" includes seepage from water pipes, which always happens in pressurized water systems.

Maddaus said they concluded that the existing demand on the water system is 1,716 acre-feet per year.

When projecting future water needs, Maddaus said her group looked at projected development down to the lot level using maps supplied by the district, employed census data, analyzed indoor versus outdoor demands compared to historical demands and made adjustments to account for climate change and the advent of accessory dwelling units.

Maddaus said they are projecting a water demand increase of 1,547 acre-feet per year at full buildout of development. However, that number could be affected by the completion of the hydraulic model and a review of future use of recycled water. (Currently, all of the CSD recycled water is used to irrigate the golf courses.)

Maddaus also briefly addressed the district's conservation programs that

essentially already meet the requirements for an urban water supplier even though CSD isn't one yet. She said she didn't adjust the water demand by conservation.

Combining the existing demands of 1,716 acre-feet with a projected demand of 1,574 acre-feet would bring the community's water demand at buildout to 3,290 acre-feet.

Maddaus said the next phase would be a scenario-based sensitivity analysis for balancing existing and future water supplies and demands. Many "What If" questions will be used to develop the different scenarios.

Scales provided more details about the hydraulic model that will be used to plan for needed capital improvements to meet current and future water system deficiencies. He showed two maps with green, red, and blinking lights showing water pressure to model current and future conditions.

Audience questions

Booth then opened the meeting for public input by asking audience members to speak at a lectern and to limit their comments to about two minutes. However, Booth said he was kicking off the session with John Merchant. Booth said he was giving him 10 minutes to speak "based on the high volume of people who asked to let him speak on their behalf."

Here is a summary of some of the comments. Some had to do with the first phase of the study, which has been

completed, and the third phase of the study, which is currently in progress.

• John Merchant. He is a past CSD director and currently is vice president of Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces. (SOLOS). Merchant said much of his concern about the community's water supply stems from recent studies that have shown "that historical data are no longer a reliable guide to future conditions."

Merchant doesn't have a problem with the process being used to develop the current IWMP, but he wants to ensure that it uses accurate data. He is satisfied with CSD data showing how much water runs through its water plants, but he questioned the CSD billing numbers being used to determine the gallons per capita use per day given the district's past difficulties in invoicing customers. He also questioned how Maddaus used census data for her calculations.

Merchant also doubts whether the district's water rights give it access to some water in Clementia Reservoir in the event of drought (as was stated in the first phase of IWMP)

Merchant later came back to the microphone to say he doesn't oppose development.

• Carol Anderson Sullivan Ward. She is part of Rancho Murieta Properties, which is planning to develop the Rancho North subdivision. She also has developed the equestrian center and the hotel. Ward said she and her former husband, the late John Sullivan, built their first

house in the community and raised their family in Rancho Murieta.

"We are being made out to be rotten people because we are developing things. We are not," she said. "This community has my heart and soul and my pocketbook. And I have some great partners here."

Ward said more rooftops and people are needed to keep the community going. She also said some of the numbers being presented to the community (about not having enough water for development) haven't been validated and aren't true. When she and her partners bought the Rancho North property, they were supposed to be able to build 1,200 homes. "But we didn't think that was right for the community and are planning about half of the number," she said.

Ward said they drilled a well on her ranch for use as an emergency water supply. "We are doing everything we can to make this a success and to make it a place that we love."

• Janis Ekhard. She said she has been very outspoken about past CSD studies "mainly because of their overly aggressive assumptions and data inaccuracies" and provided examples. She also questioned the census data Maddaus used in the demand phase and asked the consultant if she would update it.

Maddaus said they used the best available data and used 2.36 people per house for some of the smaller lots but had applied. 3.36 for the largest lot sizes.

Ekhard and Maddaus

also went back and forth about how much conservation would be required in a drought. Maddaus said conservation "would be completely revisited." Booth also confirmed that conservation would be addressed in the next phase of the IWMP.

Eckard then addressed Fritschi, asking him about a previous comment in which he stated he had to supply developers with the water they wanted for their houses. "How can the residents trust the viability of this study and trust you will protect their health and welfare and property values," she said.

After Fritschi answered, Booth told Ekhard she had made her point, and he wouldn't allow further debate. "There are contractual obligations under the Financial Service Agreements (FSAs) to provide water to future development," Booth said. "That assessment is part of how the consultants are determining the future needs."

• Tom de Regt. He is a Rancho Murieta Properties partner. Noting that his group contributed one-third of the water treatment expansions (\$4 million), he said "I just want everybody to understand that this family in this investor group is local, and they aren't going to anything they can't be proud of."

• John Van Doran. He is an attorney, a SOLOS member, and sits on the RMA Board. He said he contacted CSD district counsel, Andrew Ramos, to see if the district was legally obligated to supply water under the FSAs. But he was

eventually shut down by CSD Board President Tim Maybee who told him that access to legal counsel was determined by the board and the general manager. Booth said the FSAs were too complex to be addressed that night but that an answer would be posted on the FAQs on the district website.

• Cheryl McElhane. She is the SOLOS president and a past RMA board member. She said she couldn't understand why an urban water district plan wasn't being developed at the same time as the IWMP, predicting it would cost a lot more money.

Booth said CSD had asked for a combined bid to do both studies. However, didn't proceed with the urban study because of the cost factor. "It was an economic decision," he said.

• Six other audience members also asked questions about evaporation, calculating storage in the reservoirs using flashboards, an emergency water backup supply, and using Clementia water for firefighting.

Two StoryMaps explaining the findings from the first two phases of the IWMP are posted on the CSD website and can be accessed from the home page. The online webpages summarize the data using Geographical Information System (GIS) technology. The web pages also incorporate interactive charts and grants to tell the story of the region's water history. The audio from the Nov. 2 town hall also is available online. ★

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Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club Celebrates its Past Captains



Honored at a Rancho Murieta Women's Club tournament and lunch on Oct. 24 are, from left, Georgella Burnette-Ellis, Patty Favero, Margaret Niederberger, Diane Raggio, Sally Davis, Liz Stenstrom, Doris Hanson, Judy Candlish, Marilyn Laver and Melinda Frost. Photo Courtesy of RM Women's Golf Club

By Lynn Baugher

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Every year the Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club (RMWGC) celebrates its captain and past captains with a special golf tournament and luncheon. RMWGC started in 1975, and the annual Captain/Past Captains Tournament was initiated a few years after that, so the club has a long tradition of honoring its leaders.

The 2023 celebration was on Oct. 24, as 45 members, including our current captain and five former captains, competed for golf prizes, and four more former captains joined the group for lunch. It was a perfect warm and sunny fall day for golf, and the

winning team in the first flight included Patty Favero, Marlene Duncan, Sue Frost, and Diane Edwards. For the second flight, it was the team of Judy Leezer, Mary Ann Amburn, Darlene Delmore, and Peggie Miller-Gear.

The luncheon was followed by a ceremony honoring our captains. Each lady received a red rose and words of appreciation for her service. Honored for their year of service were: Georgella Burnette-Ellis (2023), Patty Favero (2019), Margaret Niederberger (2001), Diane Raggio (2009), Sally Davis (2004), Liz Stenstrom (2007), Doris Hanson (2005), Judy Candlish (2013), Marilyn Laver (2008), and Melinda Frost (2010). ★



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