



**Kiwanis Club Presents
Fourth Annual
Farm-to-Fork Dinner**

PAGE 3

**There is Only
ONE KING,
Jesus Christ**



RIVER VALLEY TIMES

41ST YEAR • ISSUE 20

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton

OCTOBER 24, 2025

**SEE
INSIDE**

**SEWER AND WATER
OVERHAUL NOW
ESTIMATED AT \$9 MILLION**



PAGE 4

**DISTRICT ADDRESSES
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**



PAGE 7

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S
COMMENTS SPARK
ONLINE CRITICISM**



PAGE 7

Summerfest Celebrates 25th Year



The Zipper and Ferris Wheel were among the most popular rides when Summerfest unfolded at Stonehouse Park between Oct. 2 and 4. It marked the event's 25th anniversary.

**Story and photos
by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Summerfest celebrated its 25th anniversary with a lively carnival and country fair that took over Stonehouse Park from Oct.

2 to 4. Although rain threatened the festivities on Thursday, it cleared in time for the sponsor gala, and beautiful weather prevailed on Friday and Saturday. Summerfest is Rancho Murieta's second-largest community event of the year, surpassed only by the

Fourth of July celebration. Sherry Carrillo, president of the all-volunteer committee that has organized Summerfest since 1999, said she's amazed by how the event has endured and grown over the years. "I mean, it started with a chili cook-off and a rock wall, and now it is a

carnival that is well loved by the entire community," she said. "I have little kids saying, 'Thank you. This is my favorite holiday.'" Setting up a full-fledged carnival inside the gates makes Summerfest both unique and extremely convenient for residents. The *Continued on page 11*

Water-Plant Reimbursement Will Hurt Business, Developers Say

**Story and photos
by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Already reeling from a new requirement to build a third water treatment plant before water meters can be issued, the developers of the Residences subdivision were dealt another blow at the Oct. 15 Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting: a second condition that could halt their project and potentially bankrupt them. The new demand concerns River Canyon Properties' alleged failure to reimburse other developers who advanced funds to cover the development share of a new water treatment plant built in 2014.

After the district issued will-serve letters in 2024, construction began on three homes in the first phase of the 198-lot subdivision, and grading was completed for phase two. After more than an hour of oftentense discussion, the board and the developers agreed to convene a meeting of key stakeholders as soon as possible to address all outstanding issues affecting the Residences.

CSD-Developer Meeting
Contacted Oct. 19, Keil said the private meeting was scheduled for the next day and that the district's team would include Board President John Merchant, Director Bill Gere, Interim Operations Supervisor Travis Bohannon,

District Counsel Patrick Enright and Engineer Joe Domenichelli. The developer team would include Keil, partner Doug Veerkamp, Engineer Mike Robertson, and Carol Anderson Ward and Tony Velez from Rancho Murieta Properties, which owns the most likely sites for a third tank.

FSA 670 Reimbursement
Although the Residences subdivision appeared on the Oct. 15 agenda as an action item, no background materials were included in the board packet. At the meeting, Interim General Manager Amelia

Continued on page 6



Speaking at the Oct. 15 Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting, Residences developer Doug Veerkamp testifies that the uncertainties posed by the district could bankrupt his 43-year-old business.

Board OKs \$8 Dues Increase, Gate Projects



**By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Amid a slowing economy and higher everyday expenses, Rancho Murieta Association members will likely feel some relief when they open their 2026 dues notice. The association's monthly assessment will rise by \$8.

The increase will cover higher operating costs and the addition of 1.5 new staff positions aimed at improving community security and safety. The 4.8% hike raises monthly dues from \$165.50 to \$178.50, supporting the association's \$5.1 million operating budget for next year.

Although directors also approved a security upgrade for the South Gate entrance during budget deliberations on Oct. 14, the project will not affect dues. General Manager Rod Hart said two existing funds will cover the \$117,152 cost, while reserve funds will finance a separate, long-delayed renovation of the South Gate entrance.

Hart presented the preliminary 2026 budget in September, calling for a 3% dues increase - about \$5 per month - to cover \$145,589 in added expenses from higher wages, benefits, insurance, chemicals and utilities, along with a reduced equity charge. The board later held a special meeting to consider additional funding requests from the Recreation, Maintenance, Compliance and Ad Hoc Perimeter Security committees.

The Recreation Committee requested \$5,000 to enhance next year's July 4 celebration, marking the nation's 250th birthday.

The added cost will be largely offset by a \$4,000 reduction in newsletter funding, since actual expenses have been closer to \$2,000 rather than the \$6,000 budgeted. The net cost is \$1,000, with a dues impact of just 13 cents.

The Maintenance Committee proposed hiring a part-time employee to assist with fuel-reduction work next summer at a cost of \$30,000, adding \$1.03 to monthly dues. The Compliance Committee *Continued on page 5*



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRSRTD STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARMICHAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 350
OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

District Employee Lauded for 15 Years of Service

Rancho Murieta Community Services District employee Cory Xavier is recognized for 15 years of service during the Oct. 15 board meeting, where Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder presents the award. Photo by Gail Bullen





Rancho Murieta, a 3,500-acre country-club community, is an oasis of emerald fairways and manicured greens, built along the scenic banks of the Cosumnes River. It encompasses five lakes, greenbelts, rolling hills and stately oaks.

rmhl.acceleragent.net • 7281 Lone Pine Drive, Suite D102, Rancho Murieta, CA, 95683

Karen is a Presidential Award Holder with the Masters Club of the Sacramento Association of Realtors for over 39 years.

This is the most prestigious award given.

Thank you to all of our clients in 2025 for another successful year.

BRE #00670687



Rancho Murieta's Top Realtor for 45 Years and counting.

*Source: MLS for residential, Not including "Residential Income"

**Karen Hoberg,
Broker/Owner
(916) 947-6910**

clean power promise



The Clean PowerCity® movement is happening. Hundreds of thousands have taken action to join the charge, drive electric, make clean power choices at home and work and save money with SMUD rebates. Together, we're creating Clean PowerCities, while we keep our promise to deliver world-class safety, reliability and some of the lowest electricity rates in California. To learn more and join the charge, visit **CleanPowerCity.org** today.



Kiwanis Club Presents Fourth Annual Farm-to-Fork Dinner



Key Club members from three local chapters line up before the dinner service begins. Twenty-two teenagers volunteered as the evening's wait staff.



Kiwanian Jeannette Edwards, co-chair of the organizing committee, explains how the Turn About program came about.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta hosted its fourth annual farm-to-fork dinner Sept. 27 on the Rancho Murieta Country Club lawn, treating guests to a locally sourced feast that raised funds for Turn Around Scholarships benefiting high school seniors who have overcome personal hardships.

Executive Chef KC Brown once again led the kitchen, preparing a four-course dinner highlighted by a mocha-rubbed bistro filet.

"You could cut it with a fork, and it melted in your mouth," said guest Vernon Wallace. "KC did a great job on everything. The shortcake was also over the top." His wife, Linda Wallace, added, "We always take something home, but there won't be any leftovers tonight."

He also explained why they paid \$80 per ticket.

"The primary reason is where the money goes. The meal tops it off, but helping kids with these scholarships is the No. 1 priority."

Co-chairs Carol Prinzo and Jeannette Edwards started the fundraiser in 2022 after attending a Kiwanis board meeting to pitch new community events. Edwards, who brought the idea from her former club in Campbell, proposed raising money for Turn Around Scholarships. Prinzo suggested combining the idea with a farm-to-fork dinner.

"That's how it was born," Prinzo said.

The cause quickly became personal for Prinzo "because it is for the child who has been left behind," she explained.



Kiwanian Carol Prinzo, co-chair of the dinner organizing committee, holds up the table program describing the Turn Around Scholarship, featuring photos of four seniors who received awards last May.



The photo depicts one of 14 hand-crafted centerpieces created by volunteers to adorn each table.

"These are kids who would never qualify for a traditional scholarship, but at some point, they turned it around and graduated with at least a 3.0 GPA."

In just three years, the Rancho Murieta Kiwanis Club has funded 13 scholarships for Elk Grove Unified seniors, with proceeds from this year's dinner providing four more awards next May.

The first two dinners were held at Lake Clementia, a beautiful but impractical site,



Guests linger after enjoying a farm-to-fork feast presented by the Kiwanis Club on the event lawn of the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Sept. 27. The event raised funds to support high school seniors who have overcome adversity but do not qualify for standard scholarships.

Prinzo said. Moving the event to the country club last year "took such a burden off our shoulders."

Past President Bill Kenney opened the program at this year's dinner. He recognized the organizing committee and introduced guests from the Kiwanis regional leadership.

He also praised the 22 Key Club teens from chapters in Rancho Murieta and Pleasant Grove and Sheldon High Schools, who served the meal.

"They are here on their Saturday night," he said. "This is how they raise their funds for their own projects."

Edwards said the origin for Turn Around Scholarships was at the East San Jose Kiwanis Club. Many members were educators who had seen students overlooked for traditional awards despite improving their lives and grades.

Edwards witnessed the program's impact. One former recipient "messed up his life with pot" but went on to graduate from San Jose State and open a restaurant; another young woman, once living in a runaway home, became a doctor.

"It just shows what we can do if we give these kids a nudge and some encouragement," Edwards said.

"The clubs in Folsom and Lincoln have also adopted the program," Edwards added.

Following the dinner, Edwards and Prinzo submitted the following statement for publication:

"Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta would like to thank the community, the Rancho Murieta, Pleasant Grove High School, and Sheldon High School Key Clubs; the Country Club; the RMA Maintenance team led by Danny Taylor; the Farm-to-Fork Dinner Committee; and all the many volunteers who helped make our Turn Around Scholarship fundraiser such a success.

"It was a lovely event in a beautiful setting - a beautiful evening with fabulous food. We so appreciate everything you do to support our efforts to help the kids in our community. Thank you."

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com and on Facebook. ★

RANCHO MURIETA AIRPORT

(916) 354-9889

20 minute drive from Folsom and El Dorado Hills

1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 3,000 Sq. ft.
Boutique Garages and Shop Space

FEATURING

- Epoxy floors available
- Roll up and man door
- LED lighting
- 200 amp 3 phase power
- Pre plumbed for bathrooms
- Insulated
- Fire sprinklers

Share with a friend or relative

- Great for indoor RV/Boat Storage or Extra Garage Storage
- Internet Ready

Conveniently located at Rancho Murieta Airport

RANCHO MURIETA

RV & BOAT STORAGE • SELF STORAGE

STORAGE PRICING	
SIZE (WxL)	PRICE (\$/mo)
8 x 8:.....	\$127.00
8 x 10:.....	\$143.00
8 x 20:.....	\$212.00
8 x 40:.....	\$287.00

RV & BOAT PRICING	
SIZE (WxL) ...	PRICE (\$/mo)
11 x 20:.....	\$150.00
11 x 25:.....	\$155.00
11 x 30:.....	\$165.00
12 x 40:.....	\$185.00
12 x 50:.....	\$200.00

Office Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm
(Gate Hours 6am-7pm Daily)
24 Hour Video Surveillance • 50' Wide Drive Aisles
Dump Station • Propane Sales

7443 Murieta Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 • Visit us at www.rmairport.com
SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • BATTERIES

GIPSON GOLF CARTS

AUTHORIZED DEALER
EZGO
A Textron Company

NEW LOCATION
7000 Alameda Dr.
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683
(over the hill at the driving range)

Zack Bowden
(916) 806-0920
zackbowden@gipsongolfcarts.com
www.gipsongolfcarts.com

Propane Available at Rancho Murieta Airport

only \$3.65 per gallon

Sewer and Water Overhaul Now Estimated at \$9 Million

Story and photo by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

Originally projected to cost \$3 million just 10 months ago, the preliminary estimate to replace Murieta Village's aging water and sewer lines has now climbed to \$9 million.

Engineer Joe Domenichelli delivered the sobering update during the Oct. 2 Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee meeting.

A year ago, the district authorized \$100,000 for Domenichelli to prepare the project's preliminary design. His report reflected the cost of replacing deteriorating infrastructure installed roughly 50 years ago when Murieta Village was built.

The project envisions replacing all backyard water mains and reconnecting every home to new water lines located in the streets, where modern standards now require them for easier access and maintenance. The sewer system, meanwhile, will need additional mains and laterals to replace those currently running behind or beneath homes.

"That will be quite a bit of pipe replacement,"

Domenichelli said.

Domenichelli broke down the \$9 million estimate into several categories: about \$1.1 million for general costs such as bonding, insurance, permitting and demolition of abandoned infrastructure; \$3.3 million for water mainline construction; \$2.2 million for sewer installation; and \$894,000 for pavement restoration after trenching. A 20% contingency – roughly \$1.5 million – brings the total to \$9 million, which he described as "quite, quite a large cost."

To help control expenses, Domenichelli proposed reusing six existing sewer mains if inspections show they remain in good condition.

"We could TV the sewer lines, and if they look adequate, we could use some of the main lines," he said.

Even older pipes that aren't ideal could serve as casings for a plastic liner, "which would make it much more efficient and last longer." He estimated that these steps could reduce the construction cost from about \$7.5 million to \$6 million, "which is still a big number," he acknowledged.

Committee member Randy Jenco asked Domenichelli about breaking the project into phases.

"It's always been assumed that we would do this in stages, because it would be too much to bite off in one fell swoop," he said. Domenichelli said phasing will be addressed as planning continues.

Chief Plant Operator Travis Bohannon, filling in for Operations Director Eric Houston, asked that the discussion be continued at the committee's next meeting on Nov. 4 to allow additional staff input.

Referring to Domenichelli's suggestion to videotape the sewer lines, Jenco also asked Bohannon to begin looking for a contractor who could perform that inspection.

Bohannon said he knew of three vendors who could provide bids but offered another option. He noted that the district's contractor, EDCO, has already begun inspecting the district's water and sewer lines and suggested having EDCO inspect the Village lines to determine their condition.

"Instead of going to, say, Area Two, we could have them do the Village," he said. "But if we want to do it separately, we would get a bid process together."

"I'm in favor of sending them over to the Village in lieu of something else that isn't as high a priority as this," Jenco responded.



Engineer Joe Domenichelli explains his preliminary design for replacing the aging sewer and water infrastructure in Murieta Village at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvement Committee's meeting. The graphic behind him shows the existing water mains.

Former General Manager Mimi Morris and Houston briefed Murieta Village residents on the system's condition last December, telling them the existing configuration – with many water and sewer lines running beneath homes – presents ongoing problems.

"Your current configuration is a ticking time bomb," Morris told 60 residents attending that meeting.

Houston estimated the

total project cost at \$3 million. He and Morris also explained that homeowners would be responsible for installing new service connections from their homes to the district's system, estimated at about \$5,000 per lot. The district plans to place a new water meter at the end of each driveway and new sewer cleanouts on the opposite side.

To reduce the financial strain, Morris said the district would contract with a single vendor to build

the service lines, allowing homeowners to spread costs over three to five years. She said the board would also explore additional ways to ease the financial impact on Village residents.

Morris noted that a retrofit of the Village water system had been included in the district's 2021 Capital Improvement Plan.

"Over \$850,000 was allocated for the project, and somehow it never happened," she said last year.

UBER OR LYFT ACCIDENT?

GUENARD & BOZARTH, LLP

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

www.gblegal.com

(916) 714-7672

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what's happening
in your local area at...

THERIVERVALLEYTIMES.COM

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES

November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of October 6

You can return your ballot

- By Mail
- At an Official Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting October 25)

You can find a full list of Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide or online at www.elections.saccounty.gov

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

My Voter Portal (MVP)

- Check your registration status
- View your political party preference
- Update your language preference if other than English
- Track your Vote by Mail status
- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View your voting history

Scan the QR code or visit myvoterportal.saccounty.gov

Projects, Reserves, Pickleball on Association's Agenda

Story and photo by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Although the 2026 budget and its impact on member dues were the primary focus of the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on Oct. 14, directors also reviewed progress on current and completed projects, dampened hopes for additional pickleball courts and approved a report confirming the association's strong reserve position.

(See the separate story about the budget and the dues increase.)

Projects

As is typical at the annual budget workshop, General Manager Rod Hart reviewed a list of current and completed projects throughout Rancho Murieta.

Hart said the maintenance team is installing

post-and-cable barriers at the Stonehouse softball field to prevent unauthorized access. Upcoming work includes replacing the shade structure at the Lake Clementia playground and repairing sections of the concrete pathway.

The major renovation of the Rancho Murieta South entrance and water feature is also moving forward, with bids now under review. (See the budget story for more details.)

Several other projects are scheduled to begin soon, including the replacement of the Stonehouse Park restroom and a contractor-led inspection of the community's wooden bridge. Installation of a new shade structure at the spray park is expected in the spring.

Completed projects include roof replacements at the gazebo and restroom at Gazebo Park and new scoreboards at Stonehouse Park. Both dog parks

received new shade structures, and a new concrete pad was added at the north dog park.

Hart noted that the maintenance crew recently wrapped up a tree mitigation effort that saw 128 new trees planted, many near Lake Clementia and in the areas separating Stonehouse Park from the maintenance yard and the new Residences subdivision.

The annual concrete and asphalt repairs to community streets were also finished, along with the installation of new street and stop signs, additional LIDAR cameras and extra posts to allow for camera relocation as needed.

At Laguna Joaquin, the old block retaining wall has been replaced with a stronger concrete structure. The pump station there has also been upgraded with new controls and pumps to ensure reliable service throughout the community.



Bob Kauffman, president of the Pickleball Club of Rancho Murieta, receives disappointing news at the Rancho Murieta Association budget meeting on Oct. 14.

Pickleball

During public comments, Bob Kauffman, president of the Pickleball Club of Rancho Murieta, asked for an update on the club's proposal to add three courts. He noted that members had already raised \$10,000 toward the project.

Hart and the board responded that the

expansion would be costly and could not be considered for at least two or three years because of higher-priority projects now underway.

Reserve Study

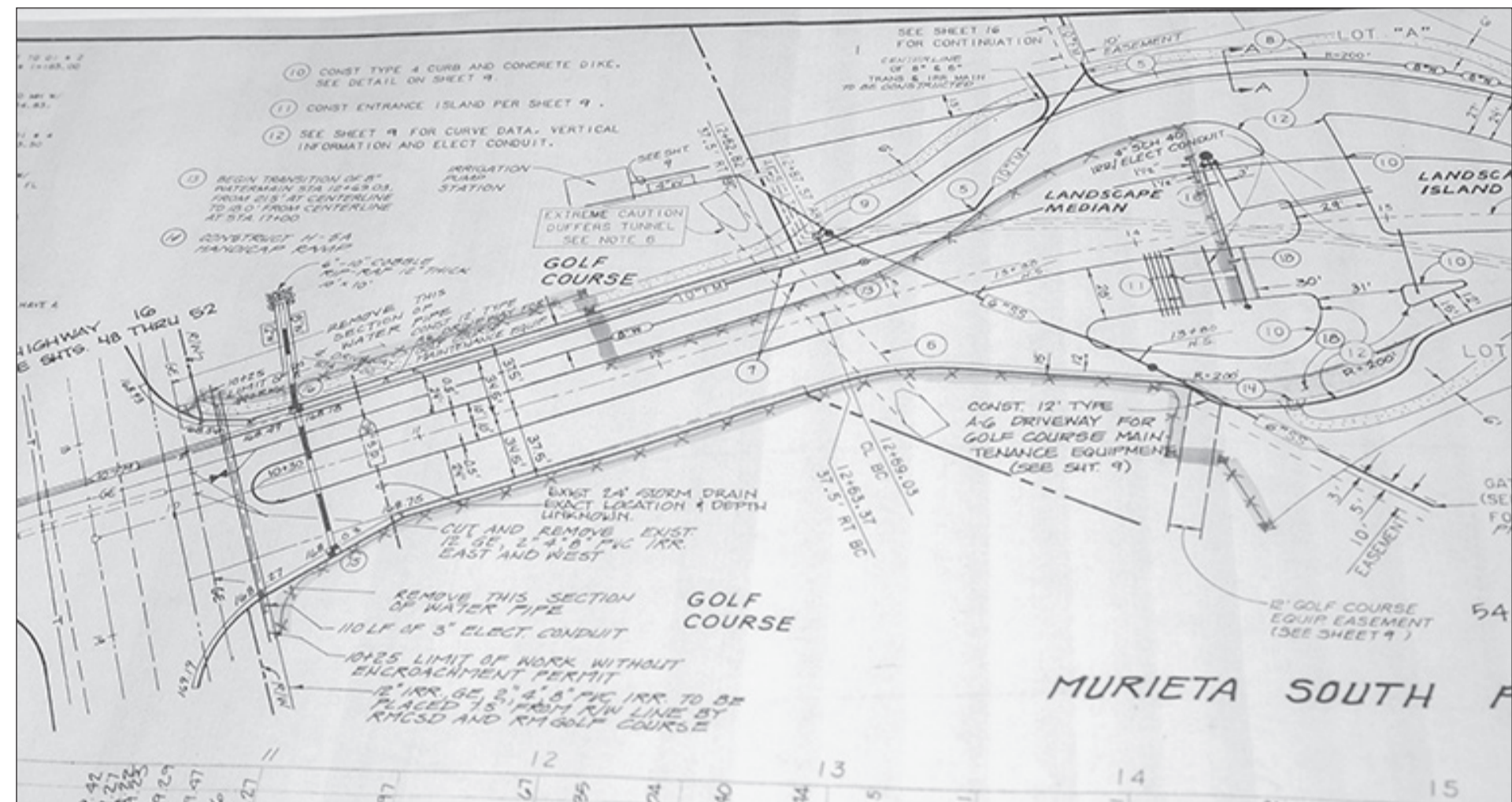
In other business, the board approved the updated reserve study for 2026. Because the

association's reserves remain in strong condition, directors voted not to increase the monthly contribution, which will stay at \$69,000 next year.

The report indicates the association's infrastructure is 84 percent funded.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

Board OKs \$8 Dues Increase, Gate Projects



A planning document shows how the South Gate will be fortified with new security measures. The Rancho Murieta Association Board approved the new project in a budget meeting on Oct. 14.

Continued from page 1
recommended converting a part-time position to full-time for \$56,000, with a \$1.92 dues impact, allowing compliance officers to spend more time in the field.

The Ad Hoc Perimeter Security Committee outlined plans to strengthen security at both entrances with new ornamental fencing, gate controllers and pedestrian gates. Using outside labor, the project

was initially estimated at \$486,724, which would add \$16.70 to dues. Hart said in-house labor would reduce the cost to \$117,152 for the South Gate and \$155,011 for the North Gate.

The committee recommended completing only the South Gate portion in 2026, funded by \$98,000 from the Improvement Fund and \$52,000 from the Exclusive Use Fund.

"Because we are using funds already in our bank account, we don't have to increase dues this year for this project," said Director Chris Childs, who co-chairs the committee with Director Tom Reimer.

Board President Patrick O'Hern said perimeter gaps allow trespassers to "come and go as they please," adding that "this not only creates safety issues for our residents, it taxes security and compliance time."

Hart said the South Gate work will coincide with a long-planned renovation of the entrance using in-house labor and \$150,000 in reserves. The project will repair the fountain and archway and make other

improvements.

"The members are starting to get impatient about getting that project done, so that is a big one for us to start off with," he said.

O'Hern said he hopes cost savings from using in-house labor for the renovation work will allow remaining reserves to be used for additional perimeter fencing improvements.

O'Hern and Hart also supported the added compliance and maintenance positions. O'Hern said the compliance staff has been "overwhelmed with administrative work" stemming from violations, many tied to Lidar speed cameras. Converting the part-time position to full-time, he said, would allow officers to focus on enforcing vehicle and architectural standards. He also supported adding a part-time maintenance worker to handle vegetation clearance.

"Fire prevention has become not only a critical safety issue but has dramatically increased insurance rates," he said.

Hart added that the extra maintenance funding would free up higher-skilled employees for other essential work.

The board voted 6-0 to approve the additions and the overall 2026 budget. Director John Van Doren was absent.

Following the meeting, Hart told the River Valley Times that the metal fencing and other security enhancements planned for both entrances should keep unauthorized e-bikes out of the community. But he emphasized that completing the South Gate project next year remains the priority, even though most trespassers currently enter through the North Gate.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



6.75% Initial APR

5 Year FIXED RATE

CHECK THE EL DORADO ADVANTAGE:

- ✓ FIXED RATE for 5 Years ✓ Local Processing & Servicing
- ✓ No Closing Cost on Qualifying Transactions; Except for Appraisal/Evaluation Costs
- ✓ Have Funds Available for Current and Future Needs
- ✓ Home Improvement, Debt Consolidation, College Tuition
- ✓ Interest May be Tax Deductible (Please consult your tax advisor)



EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK
Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com

RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661
ELK GROVE • 9003 Elk Grove Blvd. • 916-685-3936
SHELDON • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

Member FDIC
NMLS ID 479256



Se Habla Español

The initial Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is currently 6.75% for a new Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and is fixed for the first 5 years of the loan which is called the draw period. After the initial 5 year period, the APR can change once based on the value of an Index and Margin. The Index is the weekly average yield on U.S. Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years and the margin is 3.50%. The current APR for repayment period is 7.625%. The maximum APR that can apply any time during your HELOC is 15%. A qualifying transaction consists of the following conditions: (1) the initial APR assumes a maximum HELOC of \$200,000, and a total maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) of 70% including the new HELOC and any existing 1st Deed of Trust loan on your residence; (2) your residence securing the HELOC must be a single-family home that you occupy as your primary residence; (3) if the 1st Deed of Trust loan is with a lender other than El Dorado Savings Bank, that loan may not exceed \$300,000, have a total maximum Loan to Value (LTV) of 65% and may not be a revolving line of credit. Additional property restrictions and requirements apply. All loans are subject to a current appraisal or property evaluation. This cost will be disclosed in your commitment letter and paid at loan closing. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Rates, APR, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply. A \$525 early closure fee will be assessed if the line of credit is closed within three years from the date of opening. An annual fee of \$85 will be assessed on the first anniversary of the HELOC and annually thereafter during the draw period. Ask for a copy of our "Fixed Rate Home Equity Line of Credit Disclosure Notice" for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms.



Thank A Veteran TODAY

Water-Plant Reimbursement Will Hurt Business, Developers Say



Former Director Steve Booth urges the board to hold a district-developer meeting as soon as possible.

Continued from page 1

Wilder provided an overview of Facility Services Agreement 670 and how it applies to the Residences subdivision.

The FSA was created in 2014 as a cost-sharing agreement between the district and developers to fund the construction of a new water treatment plant. Under the agreement, developers who had projects ready to build at that time contributed money upfront, while those who developed later were required to reimburse the early contributors through the district once their projects moved forward.

Wilder said the reimbursements must be made before the district issues will-serve letters, which allow developers to connect to the community's water system. For the Residences subdivision, she said, that obligation totaled \$1,966,182.

Wilder also explained that a shortfall agreement from 1991-1995 requiring developers to fund infrastructure had been folded into the FSA. It requires Residences to pay an additional \$5,900 per equivalent dwelling unit: about \$1.17 million.

While acknowledging that the district's accounting records are incomplete,

Wilder said she had no record of Keil paying any reimbursement.

"We should not have issued will-serve letters."

Keil responded that he had paid an invoice of more than \$350,000 and said the matter had not been raised with him before the meeting.

"This was all sprung on me," he said. "There was no advance warning of what we are going to talk about tonight."

Keil also said he felt unfairly portrayed publicly.

"I'm sick of being labeled a 'grifter' or a 'greedy developer' on the internet because of past discussions at district meetings," he said. "To have this pulled out and put out here in this forum is another example."

Water-Meter Letter

The discussion also covered a Sept. 16 letter issued by District Counsel Patrick Enright stating that the district would not issue water meters for the Residences unless River Canyon agreed to a framework for constructing a third water tank. The letter was not publicly disclosed until Oct. 2 and 3 district meetings. Keil called the condition "extortion."

Except for Merchant, other board members said

they had not known about the letter.

Veerkamp's Plea

Considerable discussion about both water meter requirements followed, with board members, Keil and several residents weighing in. The most striking testimony came from Doug Veerkamp, who joined the Residences project as the infrastructure contractor and later became a partner in River Canyon Properties after the death of former partner John Sullivan.

Veerkamp said he and his family have been in business for 42 years and have completed numerous projects in Rancho Murieta and elsewhere. He said they chose Rancho Murieta because of its strong reputation and community assets, investing more than \$15 million so far, with another \$12 million to \$15 million planned for phase two of the Residences subdivision.

Veerkamp expressed deep frustration over the ongoing uncertainty surrounding water-meter commitments and the shifting requirements for development.

"I've never in 42 years in business run into a bigger mess," he told the board.

"Please, don't make me regret investing in Rancho Murieta," he said. "I can't wait until we're all done and then we don't have water meters. I'll be bankrupt. I'll be done. My whole life savings, my retirement will be gone and wiped out."

Calls for a Meeting

As consensus grew around the need for a district-developer meeting, Director Maybee and former Director Steve Booth — who often disagreed when they served together — both urged that it happen quickly.

Booth said he was tired of reading about the accusations going back and forth.

"Mr. Keil deserves to have a meeting as soon as possible," Booth said. "Let's get everyone who needs to be in the same room."

Who Authorized Letter

Director Tim Maybee first raised the question of who had authorized Enright's third water tank letter early in the meeting.

Enright said he issued it after receiving a Sept. 10 email from Keil's attorney threatening to sue (because the district had not approved the improvement

plan for phase two.) After buying some time from the other attorney, "I was able to consult with everybody, but I was the one who sent the letter," he said.

When the River Valley Times asked later whether the addition of a new water-meter condition without direction from the full board might violate open-meeting laws, Enright said it did not.

"The decision was made primarily by staff and the Ad Hoc Committee," he said. "Could it have been more transparent? Yes. I wish I would have sent it to all five board members."

He added that the letter's purpose was to start a discussion about the need for a third tank, saying it may have sounded "too legalistic" because it was written to another attorney.

Merchant has mostly been the sole member of the Ad Hoc Committee guiding staff since the departure of the general manager. Director Gere,

who joined unofficially after his appointment to the board, said at the Oct. 3 meeting that he had not been informed about the letter.

Other Business

In other business, the board covered a wide range of topics during the nearly five-hour meeting. They included conflict-of-interest complaints filed against three directors, recognition of an employee for 15 years of service; staff updates on finance, utilities, security and IT; formation of a water working group; and a dispute over responsibility for replacing drainage culverts that are failing under a road at the equestrian center. That matter was tabled.

The board also approved expenditures for infrastructure repairs and improvements along with new body cameras for the security department.

This story is at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Trunk or Treat Halloween Event Oct. 25

The Rancho Murieta Association will host its annual Trunk or Treat celebration at Stonehouse Park on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free, family-friendly event offers an alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. Members of local car clubs will hand out candy from the trunks of their classic vehicles, and residents are encouraged to join in by bringing decorated golf carts. The Rancho Murieta Association will serve grilled hot dogs and distribute treat bags to children.

Blood Drive Slated Oct. 27

Vitalant will hold its next Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive from noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way.

The event is sponsored by the Rancho Murieta Women's Club and the Knights of Columbus. Appointments can be made online at donors.vitalant.org using blood drive code SMFM053 or by calling

Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Walk-ins will be accepted as space permits.

Donors will receive a 10% off coupon for El Gallo Mexican Restaurant and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 El Gallo gift card, donated by Carole Thames of Town and Country Real Estate.

Vitalant also will hold

a separate drawing for a \$10,000 gift card.

Eat well and drink plenty of water before donating, and bring a photo ID. For eligibility questions, call 877-258-4825 or visit vitalant.org.

Growing Edible Plants is Garden Club Topic

Lorina Cajias, owner of Lorina Edible Gardens, will be the speaker when the River Valley Garden Club meets Oct. 28 at the RMA Building.

The doors open at 6 p.m. with refreshments and a raffle. The program begins at 7 p.m. The first meeting is free to non-members.

Cajias will discuss her innovative approach to growing vegetables, herbs and spices to then turn them into delicious foods, teas and seasonings.

Kiwanis Seeks Sweats for Vets Donations

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is once again asking for monetary donations to its Sweats for Vets program, which runs through the end of December.

This marks the 16th year the club has helped veterans hospitalized at the Sacramento Veterans Administration Medical Center in Mather. Checks should be made payable to Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta-Sweats for Vets. Cash donations and Walmart gift cards are also welcome.

Donations can be mailed to Kiwanis at P.O. Box 855, Rancho Murieta, or

placed in the drop box at the Rancho Murieta Association Building.

For questions, contact Diann Swan at 916-354-0656. The club thanks the community for its continued support of local veterans.

Colbert Drive to Close on Halloween

Every year more than 400 children and families join in Halloween festivities on Colbert Drive.

To ensure everyone's safety, Cobert Drive will be closed from Murieta South Parkway to Jigger Drive from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Residents are asked to park their cars elsewhere or to hurry home before the street closure.

Resident Nancy Clevenger obtained permission from the Rancho Murieta Association and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District for the street closure.

Wilton Bingo Set for Nov. 1

Wilton Bingo is held the first Saturday of every month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, Nov. 1 in the Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m.

All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group.

Veterans Day Celebration Slated Nov. 11

The community is

invited to a Veterans Day celebration honoring all past and active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces on Monday, Nov. 11 at the Rancho Murieta

Association Building.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and a brief program will begin at 10 a.m. The event is presented by the Auxiliary of the Rancho

Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which is planning festive decorations and will provide coffee and donuts for attendees. ★

Transform Your Writing Dreams Into Reality

Oct 25 Writers' Conference

CALLING ALL WRITERS

Your breakthrough moment awaits. Whether you're ready to breathe life into that dormant manuscript or finally start the book that's been calling to you, this is where your writing journey accelerates.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Holiday Inn Hotel | 9175 West Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove

WHAT YOU'LL MASTER:

- Narrative nonfiction that captivates readers
- Memoir writing that inspires and moves
- The essential sound of compelling storytelling
- Pro marketing and self-promotion strategies that work
- Cutting-edge AI tools for writers
- Foolproof editing techniques

Learn from NorCal Publishing Powerhouses: Award-winning authors Gini Grossenbacher, Joan Griffin, Jordan Rosenfeld, Shawn Langwell, Karen Trinkaus, and Dr. Lally Pia will share the secrets behind their success.

KEYNOTE: Award Winning Filmmaker and author Chris Hennessy reveals "How to Cultivate Literary Agents and Publishers" – the insider knowledge that can change everything.

EVENT DETAILS:

- 8 AM - 4:40 PM (Registration & breakfast from 7 AM)
- Network with industry pros during lunch break
- Just \$60 – an investment that pays dividends

REGISTER NOW: <https://egweg.org/conference2025>



Sponsored by Elk Grove Writers Guild.
Contact: loyholder77@gmail.com

DON'T JUST DREAM ABOUT BEING PUBLISHED. MAKE IT HAPPEN.

FOLLOW US

for Local News and much more!

River Valley Times

Facebook: @therivervalleytimes

District Addresses Conflicts of Interest

Story and photo by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Conflict of interest complaints against public officials became a topic in more ways than one at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting on Oct. 15.

When the agenda item “Conflicts and Biases” came up, District Counsel Patrick Enright gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the California Fair Political Practices Commission evaluates complaints alleging conflicts of interest by public officials.

During the discussion, it was revealed that former Director Steve Booth had filed an FPPC complaint against Director Randy Jenco. A second complaint, filed against Board President John Merchant and Director Linda Butler, was confirmed after the meeting by developer Bob Keil.

Both complaints contend that the three directors should recuse themselves from board discussions about a possible moratorium on future development.

Sept. 17 Meeting

A potential conflict involving Jenco was first raised publicly at the Sept. 17 board meeting, when audience member Richard Gehrs addressed the board before discussion of the moratorium agenda item. Gehrs said there was a perception in the community that Jenco had a financial conflict because he

had recently purchased the Granlees property, which could be subdivided and developed in the future.

Enright said no action would be taken on a proposed moratorium at the meeting.

“We have been reviewing the issue, and we are going to address it by next month’s meeting,” he said.

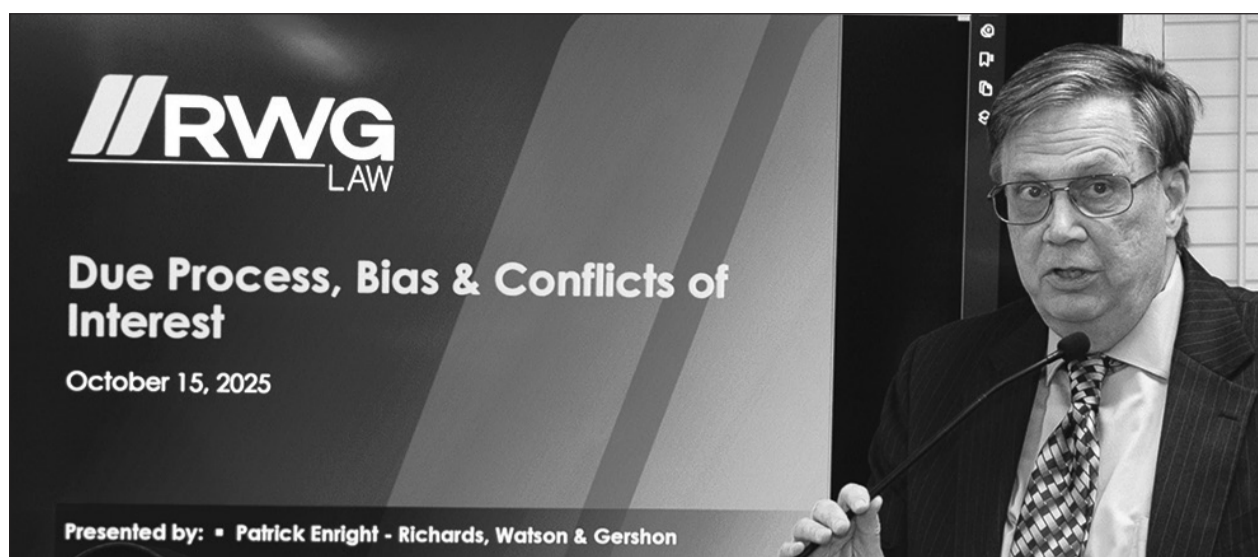
Later in the meeting, Booth questioned whether Jenco should participate in any discussion about a moratorium or even the Integrated Water Master Plan, given that he could subdivide the 11-acre property “which I think, by definition, makes him a potential developer.”

Jenco rejected the suggestion, noting that Enright had already reviewed a possible conflict in a different context involving a drainage easement on his property. He said he had no conflict of interest despite what he described as “wild speculation on social media.”

Oct. 15 Meeting

When Enright made his ethics presentation at the Oct. 15 board meeting, he did not say whether a determination had been made regarding Jenco’s potential conflict. Instead, he outlined the factors considered when assessing a financial conflict of interest under the state’s Political Reform Act, enacted by California voters in 1974.

At the conclusion of Enright’s presentation, Booth stepped to the podium and said he had filed the FPPC complaint against Jenco the previous month, in connection with board discussions about a possible



District Counsel Patrick Enright explains how the California Fair Political Practices Commission evaluates complaints involving conflicts of interest for public officials. He spoke during the Rancho Murieta Community Services District meeting on Oct. 15.

moratorium on water hookups.

Booth gave a detailed explanation of his concerns, noting that Jenco could seek provision of potable water that would substantially increase the value of his property if it were subdivided. He said the FPPC had notified him that it would take longer than the usual 14 days to decide whether to open a formal investigation.

Referring to Enright’s comment that an FPPC decision could take up to two years, Booth said his concern was with what might happen in the meantime “about how much damage could have been done to the community’s interest in the future.”

Booth said the situation created both “an appearance of impropriety and an appearance of conflict,” adding, “I think the board should take that very carefully into consideration before it allows Mr. Jenco to participate in decisions about water.”

Enright told Booth that it would be up to the

individual board member – not the board as a whole – to determine whether he had a conflict of interest. He also noted that Jenco’s property already has a water account with the district.

Jenco defended himself, saying he understood the importance of avoiding even the perception of bias.

“It’s important that there is no perception of interest on the board, to make sure the community feels the board is doing the right thing,” he said.

He described Booth’s complaint as “very theoretical,” adding, “I’ve been volunteering in this community for 40 years, and this is the first time anyone has ever accused me of not doing the right thing for the community.”

Jenco also questioned why another board member, John Merchant, had been listed as a witness in Booth’s complaint. Merchant told Jenco that it was “absolutely not true” that he had volunteered to be a witness. Booth confirmed that was accurate, explaining that he had

named individuals who might have relevant information without consulting them first.

Jenco apologized to Merchant, who accepted the apology.

Second Complaint

Merchant said he and Butler were also named in a second FPPC complaint alleging they should not participate in discussions about a development moratorium because of their involvement in circulating a petition urging the board to impose one.

“At least in my complaint, they were careful enough to say I was actively involved in it before I got on the board,” Merchant said.

Audience member Roger Formanek told the board he had prior experience with an FPPC complaint when he served as general counsel for an 11-member state commission. He said the FPPC issued an opinion within two weeks in that case, likely because the commission was handling a project worth tens of millions of dollars.

As for the two complaints against district directors, Formanek said he was speaking as a community member, adding, “No one is comfortable seeing this adjudicated in a public forum.” He said the appropriate way to resolve the issue is to obtain an opinion from the FPPC.

Contacted after the meeting, developer Keil confirmed he had filed the second FPPC complaint against Merchant and Butler.

“They shouldn’t be allowed to vote on the moratorium because they have a bias that can’t be overcome,” he said.

During his presentation, Enright had explained that conflicts of interest under the Political Reform Act must be financial in nature.

“They’re not concerned about biases and other types of issues that may be raised,” he said.

Enright also clarified, “Campaign statements do not disqualify a council member from voting.”

This story is at theriver-valleytimes.com. ★

District Director’s Comments Spark Online Criticism

New Water Group Forms

Story and photo by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Of the more than 45,000 words spoken during the Oct. 15 Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting, just 176 sparked a social-media critique of Director Randy Jenco that drew 74 responses.

The criticism stemmed from a question raised by Eileen Shephard during public comment. She asked Jenco about a statement he made at the Sept. 17 meeting.

“You guaranteed the audience there was water for all. I would like to know where it is,” she said.

Jenco’s Sept. 17 remark came during a discussion about declaring a moratorium on development. Addressing the board, he said, “We’ve got to get going on finding water.

There is more water out there, I guarantee it.”

At the Oct. 15 meeting, Jenco struggled to answer Shephard’s question about guaranteeing water, initially saying he hadn’t made that statement at the prior meeting. When she pressed him, he responded, “I have been very clear: I think everybody can attest to this. I have said, ‘No, there is not enough water for the planned development.’”

After Shephard continued pressing him, Jenco said she may have heard wrong.

Two days after the meeting, resident Richard Gehrs posted on Nextdoor about the Shephard-Jenco exchange, saying he was “flabbergasted.”

He added that he found Jenco’s recent statements “illogical and irrational.” Gehrs also shared audio snippets from both meetings.

Two prior well studies

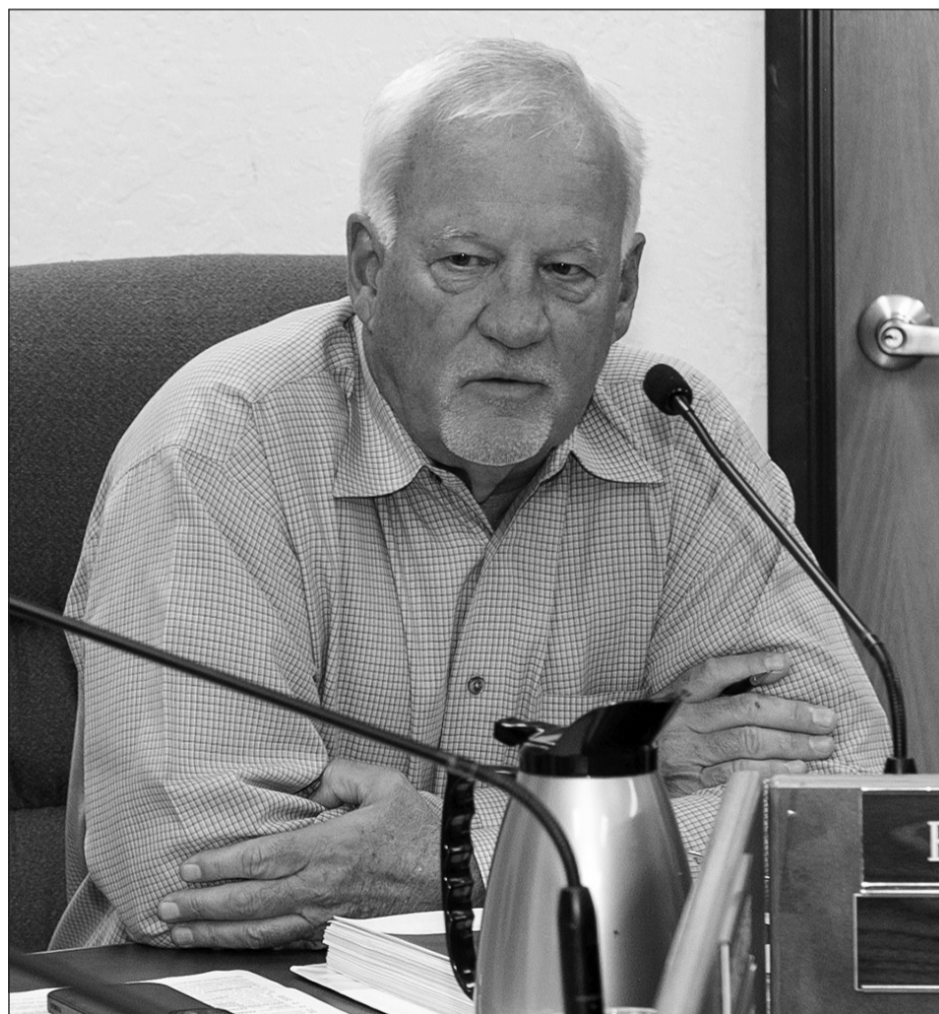
have determined that the community has some groundwater. However, whether the quantity or quality is sufficient for a secondary water supply has not been determined. The board recently contracted with Water Systems Consultants to help answer these questions.

Water Group

In a related development at the Oct. 15 meeting, the other board members approved Jenco’s proposal to form a “Water Vision” working group that would include himself, a staff member and developers. The group will work with Water Systems Consultants to identify potential future well sites, most of which are located on developer-owned land.

During public comment on this topic, developer Carol Anderson Ward expressed strong support for finding a backup well-water supply.

This story is at theriver-valleytimes.com. ★



Director Randy Jenco answers questions at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District meeting on Oct. 15.



Mengenan Sun is a 2025 Cosumnes Oaks High School graduate. Photo courtesy of PG&E

Student Receives \$10,000 PG&E Scholarship

PG&E News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The PG&E Corporation Foundation announced that 54 students from hometowns across Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) Northern and Central California service area will receive 2025 Better Together STEM Scholarships.

Among the awardees are Mengnan Sun of Elk Grove, who received a \$10,000 scholarship. Sun is majoring in environmental engineering at Stanford University and is a 2025 graduate of Cosumnes Oaks High School.

The PG&E Corporation Foundation is sponsoring scholarships of \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500. These charitable donations come from PG&E shareholders, not PG&E customers.

The scholarships are awarded to students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines. STEM education fosters ingenuity, creativity, and experimentation leading to innovations and technological advancements that can have global impact.

“I’m very grateful for the PG&E Better Together STEM Scholarship

because it lifted the financial burden of my family and gives me the chance to continue my STEM studies in college,” said Sun. “It’s also a recognition of my passion for STEM and motivates me to keep working hard and to give back to my community in the future.”

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated participation and leadership in school and community activities, and financial need.

Since 2012, the Better Together STEM program has awarded over \$7.8 million to accomplished students. ★

SECURITY LOGS

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 rmcsd.com.

Oct. 6
1:38 p.m., Resident Complaint: Caller reported two juveniles possibly trespassing near Wood Bridge by De La Cruz. Gone on arrival.

2:25 p.m., Report of a gate arm incident: Contractor of the Residence development collided with North Gate visitor gate arm; driver did not stop and proceeded into community. Vehicle: late model black Ford F250. Attempted to locate vehicle at the Residence development; unable to locate. Gate arm did not sustain any major visible damage and appears to be in good working condition. Unknown damage to the contractor's vehicle.

Oct. 7
2:51 a.m., Reported illegal fireworks heard in area of Del Cerro Drive. Area quiet on arrival. Patrol remained in area and heard nothing.

Oct. 9
9:34 a.m., Sgt. Arino responded to a call regarding a white van located in front of Starbucks. Made contact with a male subject after knocking on the vehicle several times, awakening the occupant. Subject stated he pulled over last night to sleep. Subject was then advised parking is for customers. Subject then left the area without incident.

Oct. 11
10:17 p.m., Blue Chevy pickup with five occupants at Riverview Park after hours. Vehicle departed upon patrol arrival with no further incident.

11:27 p.m., Disturbance reported in construction area near Stonehouse. Complaint of noise and trespassing. Patrol cleared area by driving all streets in the construction zone. Subjects gone on arrival.

Oct. 12
12:29 a.m., Noise complaint about two dogs on balcony, Pescado Circle: Dogs barking upon arrival. Unable to contact resident by phone. Informed reporting party to contact Sacramento County Sheriff's Department if needed. Noise complaint citation issued.

1:18 a.m., Vehicle found in Gazebo parking lot after hours with three juvenile occupants. Citation issued.

Oct. 14
12:20 p.m., Officer Davis arrived at Lago Drive Park 3 and made contact with resident, who made complaint of man with a phone in back area of property. After Davis cleared property, noticed a package left in back of property. Davis concluded Amazon delivery likely had left package. Resident was relieved.

6:30 p.m., report of traffic collision, Jackson Road at Stonehouse Road. Passenger vehicle struck pickup in driver door. Upon arrival Sac Metro Fire 59 on scene. Patrol assisted with traffic control. CHP arrived at 7 p.m. Jackson Road clear 7:45 p.m.; traffic resumed at about 8 p.m., One hospital transport by Fire 59.

8:55 p.m., Follow-up on

gate-arm incident, Murieta Parkway left turn, occurred at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8. Traffic camera footage revealed black Porsche Cayenne, registered at Puerto Drive residence, while traveling through the gate during left-hand turn, broke a reflector post. Vehicle did not stop and proceeded into the community without notifying North Gate office of the accident. On Oct. 14, about 8:30 p.m., patrol contacted driver at his residence and advised of the incident. Resident admitted driving a black Porsche Cayenne that caused the gate reflector damage on Oct. 8. Approximate vehicle damage amount \$3,700, front driver door; vehicle already was sent to the repair shop; unable to obtain any photos of the vehicle damage.

9:30 p.m., Report of multiple vehicles at Lake Calero after hours. Upon arrival, patrol located one unoccupied Infinity, a VW and Toyota pickup at the lake. Contacted drivers of the vehicles, advised of back-area regulations and requested to leave area. All complied without incident.

Oct. 15
8:41 p.m., RMA Rule Violation: Park Hours. Resident vehicle, Lake Calero hill after hours, past sunset. Vehicle unoccupied, driver unable to locate. Citation issued.

Oct. 17
11:42 a.m., Responded to a call regarding solicitor in the area of Callaway Drive. Sgt. Arino canvassed the area as well as Murieta South Parkway, Colbert Drive and Bermuda Court, finding no subjects matching the description given. Gone on arrival. ★



Affordable Airport Rides from Rancho Murieta. On Time, Every Time!

Gold Country Rides is your go-to airport transportation service in Amador County. We offer safe and convenient rides to the **Sacramento and Stockton Airports**. Skip the hassle and enjoy stress-free travel every time.

As a trusted driver and community member, Bruce understands the importance of dependable transportation—especially in a rural area like Amador. **Gold Country Rides** is dedicated to ensuring you have a reliable option to get you to the airport on time, every time.

Veteran owned and operated, so you know you can rely on **Gold Country Rides to get you there!**

Book your ride today and enjoy peace of mind for your travel plans.

Book 24 Hours in Advance. Availability is Limited.

Book online: goldcountryrides.com

or email: Goldcountryrides@gmail.com

Trust Bruce to Get you There!



Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-685-5533

Concrete

SONDROL CONCRETE
25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs, Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work. *Written estimates.* Lic. # 778034
916-955-1083

Home Improvement

ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR
Elk Grove, CA
•Electrical •Plumbing
•Fencing •Fans •Decks
•Doors •Windows •Tile
Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting
•Lighting •Concrete
•Sprinkler Repair
•Framing and more!
All phases of home repair & any construction needed- Big or small. Quality work guaranteed! Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murieta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. & Surrounding Areas
CSLB#1134987
Bonded & Insured
(916)287-6164

Junk Removal

MS Hauling
•Junk Removal
•Garage Cleanouts
•Yard Debris
•E-Waste
Mention this ad and receive 15% off!
Call (916)207-5702
License # 778034

Perez Landscaping & Concrete
•Concrete Finishing/ Stamping
•Landscape installation and Design
•Sodding, •Planting
•Irrigation •Retaining Walls
•Yard maintenance.
Free estimates. For more info. call **916-834-2352**
email: Elverperez@att.net
Lic #14-00016214

3DR CONCRETE
All your concrete needs. Bobcat services, driveway repair. Comm & Res.
Lic # 968987 insured
(209)570-7304

Yard Sale? Garage Sale?
Advertise it in your local community newspaper
Call (916) 685-5533

Landscaping

CREATE YOUR PARADISE

Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/ Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/ commercial
American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987
American Construction & Property Maintenance Company
WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD
(916)612-0776
Lic#690968

BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE
Artificial Turf | Fencing
Retaining Wall | Concrete
Drainage | Irrigation
Planting | Tree Trimming
209-251-9387
LIC# 1108441

YARD CLEAN UP
Sod installation
Landscape installation
Lawnmowing services
Fence repair
Call for free estimate
916-271-7265

Visit: mpg8.com

Automotive

Elk Grove

Shell
Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop
Committed to Customer Satisfaction
Specializing In:
• Oil Changes
• Smog Repair
• Smog Inspection
• Safety Inspection
• Transmission Service
• Brakes
• Wheel Alignment
• Check Engine
• Light Diagnosis
• Tires
• Tune-Up
• Batteries
• 30, 60, 90K Service
• Brake & Lamp Station
Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796
8901 Elk Grove Blvd.

OFFICIAL LAMP ADJUSTING STATION
SMOG CHECK
OFFICIAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION

Roofing

JIM MOYLEN ROOFING
1981 License # 407605
A+ Rating with BBB.
Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.
Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday
916-531-2793 Cell
Tile Repairs

Painting

Shelton Painting, Inc.
• Repaints: Exterior & Interior
• Dry Wall Repair
Free Estimates
(209) 745-7897
3 Generations of Quality Painters
#908019
We accept Visa & Mastercard

Roofing

ROUTT ROOFING
Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs
We Hand Nail for Quality!
Free Estimates
916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588

Since 1975
Lic.#302302

Roofing

PREMIER ROOFING INC.
LIC# 1097848
Se Habla Espanol
• ROOF REPAIR
• ROOF MAINTENANCE
• COMPLETE RE-ROOF
• NEW ROOFS
• GUTTER CLEANING
CELL 209.810.6233
209.745.7565
1premierroofing@gmail.com

Roofing

SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
• NEW ROOF INSTALL
• TEAR OFF & REROOF
• ROOF REPAIR
• OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL
• DRY ROT REPAIR
• SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL
• GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL
• GUTTER REPAIR & INSTALL
• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL
• CUSTOM COLORS
FREE ESTIMATES!
916-719-8288
RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR
LIC# 1072137

Tractor Work

MAC Industries DIRT WORK
•Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types
•Laser Grading & Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage-All Types
•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushhog
•Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations
•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation
•Drainage •Rototilling •Disking
License #919198 & Insured
Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019

Services Available
Driver with wheelchair accessible van available. Help with shopping or other activities.
Call George at 916-470-7169
6 am - 10 pm

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call (916) 685-5533

Thank A Veteran TODAY

Visit: mpg8.com

CALL A PROFESSIONAL

PURCHASE • REFINANCE FIXED RATE LOANS

15 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan

RATE **5.000%** APR **5.30%**
180 Monthly Payments of \$7.91 per \$1,000 Borrowed

30 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan

RATE **5.750%** APR **5.93%**
360 Monthly Payments of \$5.84 per \$1,000 Borrowed

Check the El Dorado Advantage:

✓ No Application Fee ✓ No Prepayment Penalty ✓ Local Processing and Servicing



EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK

Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

ELK GROVE • 9003 Elk Grove Blvd. • 916-685-3936

RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661

SHELDON • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

Se Habla Español

Maximum loan \$650,000.00, primary or vacation residence. 20% minimum cash down payment on purchase. 25% equity required on refinance. Other loans available under different terms.

LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com 800-874-9779



John Taylor

Farmers Insurance Agent/Broker

14650 Cantova Way, St. 204
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683
jtaylor3@farmersagent.com



For All Your
Insurance Needs
— In Business
Since 1984



License #: 0678249

Call today for a policy review and quote!

(916) 485-3236

916-402-6021 (Cell)

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month	1-year	2-year
4.25 % APY*	4.05 % APY*	3.90 % APY*
Minimum deposit \$10,000	Minimum deposit \$10,000	Minimum deposit \$10,000

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Linda Sobon
Financial Advisor

2360 East Bidwell St., Suite 102
Folsom, CA 95630
916-673-6549

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10/16/2024. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867K-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



KAREN HOBERG
(916) 947-6910

karen@rmhl.net Lic. #00670687

EXPERIENCE • KNOWLEDGE • RESULTS



DEB BRITTAN TEAM
unlocking your dreams
IN RANCHO MURIETA

**COMPLIMENTARY
HOME STAGING**

just mention this ad

**(916)
932.6693**

RanchoMurietaHomes.com



Deb Brittan

REALTOR®
&
RANCHO
MURIETA
RESIDENT

DRE# 02056360

Need to Advertise?

Let Lezet help you get the word out

Office: (209) 745.1551

lezet.vidauri@MPG8.com

Elk Grove Citizen The Galt Herald RIVER VALLEY TIMES

Please call 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays

RIVER VALLEY TIMES

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse
and Sacramento County.

It is the intent of the *River Valley Times* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *River Valley Times* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *River Valley Times* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the MPG is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to *River Valley Times*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *River Valley Times* is published twice monthly. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

River Valley Times is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to:

Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Do You Need **MPG**

Your Legal Ads
Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place
your legal advertising!



916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

CALL A PROFESSIONAL



AZTEC SOLAR INC.
JACK STANGER
 SOLAR ENERGY EXPERT
Electric • Hot Water • Pool Heating
 (916) 853-2700 • (916) 802-1830
FREE ESTIMATES
 LC# 550110
 jack@aztecsolar.com • www.aztecsolar.com



ANDRADE
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Residential & Commercial
 Repair • Maintenance • Replacement
Tune Up
Andrade Heating & Air Conditioning
 (916) 747-9882
 License #955437

*"We truly believe honesty is the best policy."
 -AJ & Jen Andrade*




CALL Jessie –
FREE ESTIMATES
BEST PRICE Stump Grinding & Tree Service
 209-210-0625


25 Years Experience!
CRAMER CONCRETE, Inc.
 Driveway • Patio • Walkway • Pool Decks • Concrete Removal
 Stamped • Salt Finish • Exposed Aggregate • Colored • Broom Finish
 Call a trusted Murieta/Wilton Contractor
 References available in your neighborhood
FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES
Glen Cramer (916) 871-2561
 www.cramerconcrete.com
 BBB Lic# 686244



Quality Service At Competitive Prices!!!
 We currently provide pest protection for over 500 homes in your community!!
Call Today and Compare!
 Be sure and ask about our Murieta Special!!!
916-354-0209
 Rancho Murieta Residents Owned & Operated
 "Particular Homeowners Deserve Apex"



Honor Thy Elders...
 Senior Living Transitions, LLC
 • All Care Facilities
 • Independent Living • Respite
 • In Home Care Providers
 • Companion • VA Aid
 • Medical Alert • Estate Planning
 Gerontology Degree
Caryl Abshire, LNHA
 Over 25 years experience
 www.HonorThyElders.com
916 320-3631



"The Low-rate Leader for Purchase & Refinance Loans"
Bruce Boal 916
 California Home Loans 417-2001
 RM resident over 20 years! NMLS# 1070092




New Home BUILDING SUPPLY (916) 455-3057
 "Since 1949"
 5310 Franklin Blvd. • Sacramento
 • We have all the hard-to-find sidings
 • Quality lumber for any size project
 • Competitive pricing
 • Variety of deck materials
 • Local Steving family owned & operated



Mr. Handyman
 Home Improvement Professionals
 Professional • Safe • Reliable • Fully Insured
 (916) 487-8655
 www.mrhandyman.com/arden-arcade
 SENIOR DISCOUNTS!

We Express Excellence in Auto Repair
 All Insurance Claims Welcome
Auto Body EXPRESSIONS Inc. Written Lifetime Warranty
 I-CAR, AAR, ASE
685-5078
 9734 Dino Dr., Elk Grove
 www.autobodyexpressions.com




PAYROLL and HR Support \$299 a month
 Only available for businesses with up to 10 employees
 We specialize in small and mid-sized businesses. Offering comprehensive and intuitive payroll and HR solutions.
PINNACLE EMPLOYEE SERVICES
 HR | Payroll | Benefits
 DIRECT DEPOSIT
 QUARTERLY TAXES FILING
 PAYROLL TAXES PAY
 ACCRUAL TRACKING
 FILING AND REPORTING
 PAYROLL APP
 HR COMPLIANCE
916-760-7227

Grow your business here!
Call (209) 745-1551 to advertise with us today!
River Valley Times
 Messenger Publishing Group


Summerfest Celebrates 25th Year



Bailey Rowley, 7, reassures her raccoon friend that all is well as they take a spin on Friday, Oct. 3



Tricia Kennedy beams with excitement after realizing she has a Bingo. To her left is Jessica Bressington and to her right, Justin Hayduk.



The Wipe-Out draws thrill-seekers throughout the weekend.

event featured rides ranging from a merry-go-round and swirling strawberries for younger children to high-velocity attractions like The Zipper for older kids and adults. Along the midway, attendees of all ages tested their skills at a dozen carnival booths, where friendly workers eagerly helped them win colorful prizes.

Summerfest also featured three nights of live music, a lively Bingo game, a poker tournament, a cornhole tournament, a trivia contest, a wine and beer garden, and food trucks offering a variety of dishes, from street tacos to desserts.

Carrillo said the idea is to have something for everyone because Summerfest is truly a community event.

The three-day celebration kicked off Thursday with a wine and dinner gala themed "Dance Like It's 1999," drawing about 500 sponsors and their guests.

"My heart was happy to see all the people who embraced the fun theme. More people dressed up than ever," Carrillo said.

For the first time, the committee brought in a live band for the gala: Fast Times Dance Party. "We did it for our 25th anniversary, and we really wanted to thank our sponsors," Carrillo said. "The costs have increased so much that we couldn't do this

event without them. They keep the ticket prices down for everyone, and that is huge."

Raley's served as this year's title sponsor for the fourth consecutive year. More than two dozen companies and families joined as additional supporters. Diamond-level sponsors included Sacramento County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez, Rancho Murieta Homes and Land, Notaries to You, Retirement Security Centers, LGI Homes, The Residences at Murieta Hills, Angel Wing Vineyard, the West Coast Foundation, the Murieta Inn and Spa, and Zeta Broadband.

Summerfest also depends on more than 100 volunteers to make the event possible. In a win-win arrangement, local organizations provide volunteers who earn \$10 an hour for their designated cause or charity.

The Pleasant Grove High School Wrestling Team made up the largest group of volunteers. "They are such good kids," Carrillo said. "They brought sleeping bags and slept at the maintenance yard with

their parents so they could work on their biggest fundraiser of the year."

Carrillo also praised individual supporters, highlighting Travis Glunt, who grew up in Rancho Murieta, and his partner, Quade Cole. The pair drives from Utah each year just to volunteer for the event.

Although Summerfest has always benefited from a strong partnership with the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department, Maintenance Manager Troy Schaffner and his team went above and beyond this year when rain threatened Thursday's events.

Carrillo said the make-or-break time was 3 p.m., when organizers had to decide whether to move everything inside the tent because of the downpour. She also worried that some rides might have to close as they began sinking into the baseball field. Fortunately, the rain stopped in time.

"The RMA Maintenance team rallied behind me, and every one of them helped roll out the fields, making sure they weren't getting ruined," she said. "Every time I looked at them, they were still

running around, soaking wet, helping us like crazy."

Carrillo also praised the RMA Recreation Committee, which schedules one of its four annual bingo games to coincide with Summerfest.

"It really brings in a huge crowd, and it is so much fun," she said.

She said the cornhole tournament "was super successful," drawing a big audience after the committee hired a professional company to run it.

"We are not professional cornholers, so it was nice to have them," she said.

The poker tournament also benefited from professional support, with dealers from a Lodi casino handling the cards and keeping the action organized.

Carrillo said the band that performed on Friday was one of the best yet. Although Adam Aldama & the Aces is a Bruno Mars tribute band, the musicians mixed things up in the second set with dance hits from other artists.

"So there was music for everyone," she said.

DJ Louie Giovanni returned on Saturday for his second year, and his high-energy sets kept the grassy dance floor packed all night. Carrillo said everyone told her they want him back again next year.

Brass Ring Amusements

returned for the fourth year, bringing its popular carnival rides that delighted guests of all ages. Teens lined up for thrill rides like The Zipper and the Wipe-Out, while younger children – often joined by parents or grandparents – flocked to the giant slide, the Dragon roller coaster and the merry-go-round.

Summerfest also featured activities beyond the main carnival to enhance the overall fun. Attractions included bungee jumping, archery tag and a wading pool where kids encased in giant bubbles rolled across the water's surface.

Carrillo took the stage at the gala to emphasize that this year's event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the volunteers and the "incredible" board. Alongside herself, the board includes Kim Doughty, Jake Killian, Chloe Carrillo, Makayla Oei, Desiree Harper and Nona Gunnell.

She gave special recognition to Mike Martel and Sid Williams, who have served on the committee since 1999.

"They, along with other early visionaries, dreamt up this annual event," she said. "It's hard to imagine it would become such a great success."

She also thanked the sponsors.

"Because of your

support, we've brought things like the splash park, baseball fields, pickleball courts, the lacrosse field and dog park lights," she said.

"A huge thanks to our title sponsor, Raley's, for all they bring to the event, and to Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez for supporting our neighborhood," she added.

Carrillo also acknowledged the RMA Maintenance crew, saying, "You all rock. Thank you."

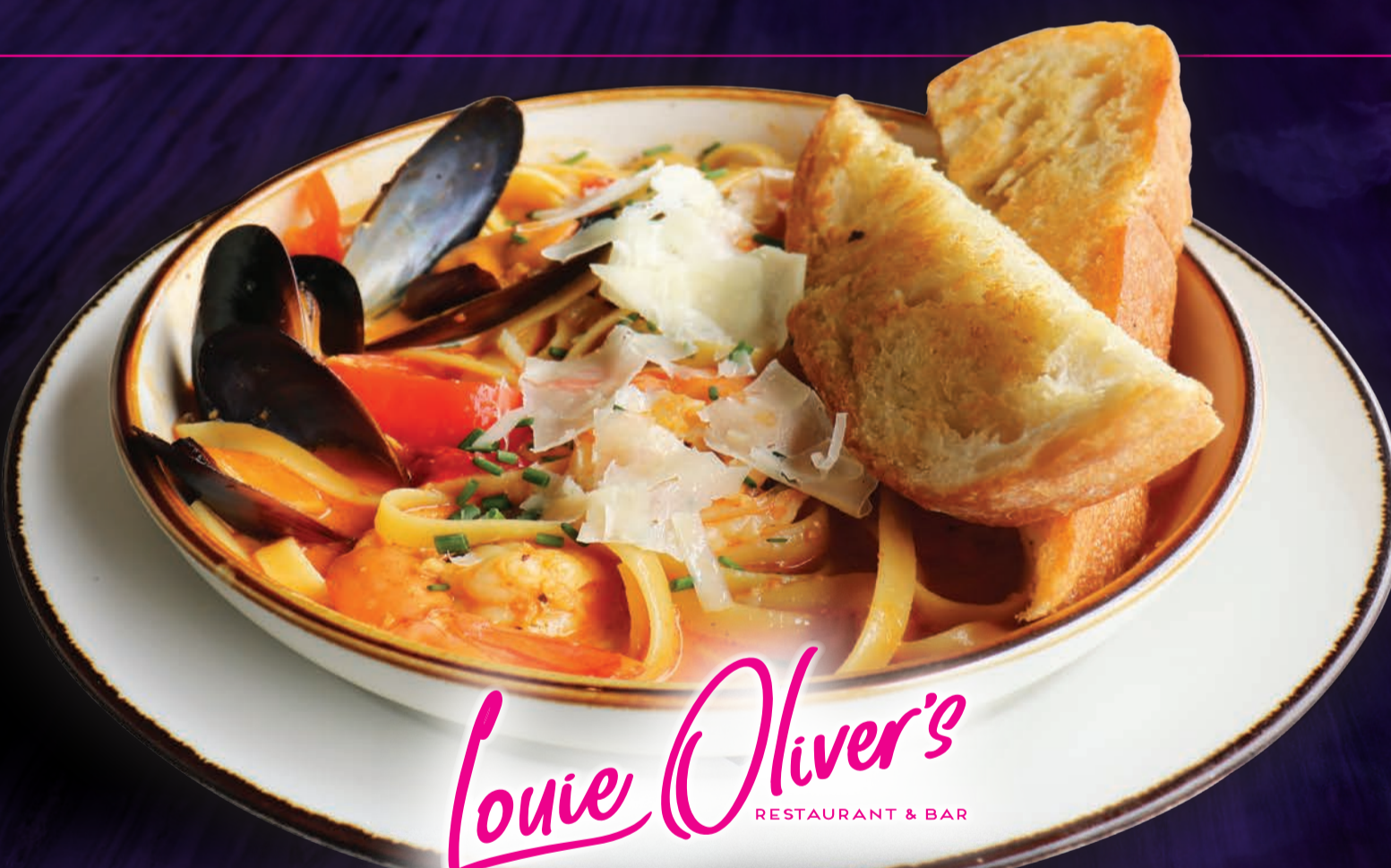
Interviewed after the event, Carrillo said the Summerfest Committee works year-round to bring the celebration to life.

"Except for Mike (Martel), who is retired, we all work and then we do this," she said.

"You really, really have to love our community to be on the board because it's a love-hate relationship when you're so exhausted," she added. "But when I walk around the midway on Saturday night and see all the smiling faces, it's like, 'I'm going to do this again next year.'"

Summerfest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. More information can be found on its website at summerfest-ranchomurieta.org.

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com and on Facebook. ★



Louie Oliver's
RESTAURANT & BAR

SMALL CASINO

BIG FLAVOR

just 30 MIN AWAY

Harrahs
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
IONE, CA
4640 COAL MINE RD.



Must be 21 years of age or older to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start®. 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). See official rules at Caesars Rewards Center.

Hey California!



Special Election NOV 4th

Most Californians vote early.
Join them!

DON'T DELAY. VOTE TODAY!



Drop Box



In-Person



Vote-By-Mail