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- CIMBL to Clean Up Baseline Road in Roseville Area Saturday (1/7/03)
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Recycling Your Christmas Tree

December 30, 2003

When Christmas is over, make sure your tree doesn't end up in a landfill. Trees can be composted and make fine garden mulch. Compost it yourself at home, or take it to one of the following drop-off sites to be ground into mulch. Recycling your tree is **free** at any of the sites listed below.

"Christmas trees bring the beauty of nature into our homes for the holiday season. When the season ends, it's only appropriate we recycle our holiday trees, rather than dump them in a landfill," said Placer County Farm and Home Advisor Sharon Junge. "There are several convenient places to recycle a tree. It makes good sense."

Christmas tree recycling locations:

Auburn

- January 3rd at Auburn City Fire Department -Maidu Station #3
- December 26th through January 11th at Auburn-Placer Disposal Service
- December 26th through January 11th at Poppy Lane Christmas Trees

Loomis

• December 27th, 28th and January 3rd and 4th at Del Oro High School

Rocklin

- December 30th through January 7th at Twin Oaks Park
- December 30th through January 7th at Johnson Springview Park

Granite Bay

- January 3rd, 4th at Wilma Cavitt School
- January 3rd, 4th at Miners Ravine Park

Meadow Vista

• January 1st through January 13th at Meadow Vista Tree Farm

For more information about the tree recycling program, contact Auburn-Placer Disposal at (530) 885-3735. For more information about composting, contact the Placer County UC Master Composter "ROTLINE" at (530) 889-7399, or visit the Master Composter, on the Placer County UC Cooperative Extension Web site (http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener252/).



County Offices in North Lake Tahoe Close Early

December 29, 2003

Placer County business offices located in North Lake Tahoe closed at 3 p.m. today due to inclement weather. Emergency services such as those provided by the Sheriff's office will remain available. Public Works crews will continue to plow snowy roads and respond to local needs.

It is anticipated that County offices will be open during normal business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 30, however calling ahead is recommended.

Most Health and Human Services offices are already closed this week due to budget and workload constraints, however emergency response services will still be available by calling 1-888-886-5401.



Newly Scheduled County Flu Clinics

December 16, 2003

Placer County Health and Human Services is sponsoring three flu shot clinics for individuals in high-risk groups, in Roseville, Auburn, and Lincoln.

The county has received only a small amount of flu vaccine. The clinics will be to provide those at high risk with immunizations. Based on an update from the national Centers for Disease Control on Friday, December 12, "high risk" is defined as people in these groups:

- Individuals age 65 or older
- Adults and children with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney problems or blood disorders.
- Infants and children ages 6 months through 23 months.
- Children and adolescents age 6 months to 18 years who receive long term aspirin therapy.
- Women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the winter flu season.
- Healthcare workers and caregivers who come in close contact with individuals at high risk for flu complications.

The clinic schedule:

- Roseville Wednesday, December 17, from 10 to 11 a.m., in the county Community Clinic at 1130 Conroy Lane, Suite 402, in Roseville
- Auburn Friday, December 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 11577 E Avenue in the DeWitt Center, in Auburn
- Lincoln Friday, December 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Lighthouse Counseling and Resource Center, 630 Sixth Street, in Lincoln

Cost of a flu immunization is \$15. Please bring exact change or a check for the immunization.

Health officials encourage these steps to help avoid getting the flu:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly.
- Avoid contact, whenever possible, with those who may have the flu.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough, to protect others.

For further information on the flu, visit these Web sites:

- Flu Fact Sheet Placer County Health and Human Services
- California Department of Health Services Flu-related News Releases
- Flu Fact Sheet Federal Centers for Disease Control



Vehicle License Fees Backfill a Source of Concern

December 12, 2003

In the wake of the State budget crisis, Supervisors will hear an update Tuesday on the economic impacts to Placer County that will result if the State fails to backfill the vehicle license fee revenues.

Board members will also receive a report on expanding a voluntary county work furlough program that the Health and Human Services department piloted earlier this year as a cost-saving measure. Officials will be asked to consider making the program available to other county staff. These discussions will take place at 11:05 a.m. during the December 16 Board of Supervisors meeting in Auburn.

In other budget-related items, the Board will consider approving a budget revision reflecting the loss of \$500,000 in Rural Counties grant funding to the Sheriff's Department as a result of actions taken by the State since the adoption of the County's final budget.

Like other counties across California, Placer County is waiting to see if the State will follow through on backfilling VLF fees in order to protect local services. Placer County anticipates losing about \$15 million each year the backfill does not happen.

"This loss of revenue would have a catastrophic impact on the County's budget, would result in significant reduction in community service levels, and probably would result in the loss of County jobs," said Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer.

"Since this revenue represents about 10 percent of the General Fund's operating budget, literally every department in Placer County would be severely impacted by the loss of these funds if the State fails to appropriate the VLF backfill to local governments."

In California, vehicle license fees have been collected since 1935 instead of a local personal property tax on vehicles. Revenues are distributed to cities and counties.

In 2001, the Legislature reduced the VLF fee by 67.5 percent. Under the provisions of the reduction, cities and counties continued to receive the same amount of revenue as under prior law, with the State General Fund "backfilling" (replacing) the difference so they didn't lose money.

During the State budget crisis, Governor Gray Davis increased the fee to its pre-2001 level. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger rescinded the increase, calling on the Legislature to protect the revenue base of local governments.

This action, coupled with the loan to the State for the first three months of backfill could result in a \$15 million loss to Placer County this year and in future years. During the last fiscal year, VLF funds represented 22 percent of Placer County's general purpose revenues, and funded critical county services and programs in areas such as law enforcement, emergency services, libraries and health and human services programs.



Health & Human Services Reduces Hours Temporarily Due To Budget Cuts

December 12, 2003

Placer County Health and Human Services is temporarily reducing the number of hours most offices are open to the public during the holiday season as one of many cost reductions made necessary by state budget cuts. Two facilities are also reducing their hours beyond the holiday time frame.

The closure times have been selected to minimize the impact on clients. In all cases plans are in place to provide emergency services, residential care and mandated services when offices are closed, however people may need to wait longer for routine services.

"Our goal is always to provide the best possible service to the community, and we would prefer not to take this difficult step," noted Ray Merz, HHS Director. "However, we have eliminated 21 permanent staff positions and left another 70 unfilled to help cover a \$5.5 million shortfall caused by state budget cuts.

"Reducing the hours we are open to the public helps us to better manage with fewer staff and provides our staff with some protected time to catch up on their heavy caseloads."

No staff are being asked to take involuntary leave. During the closures, most staff will be working, while others may be on voluntary leave.

If in doubt about whether an office is open, residents are advised to telephone before coming. Planned office closures are as follows:

• Most HHS offices will be closed to the public from Dec. 22 through Jan. 4. There will be some exceptions. For example, Adult System of Care will be open Dec. 22 and 23 for some client services. During the holidays, Human Services offices in Auburn, Penryn, Tahoe and Roseville will operate from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to provide assistance, but be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2.

- The HHS Community Clinic at Kings Beach will be open Dec. 22 through Dec. 31, but closed Dec. 25-6 and January 1-2. Beginning Jan. 12, it will also be closed to the public on Mondays.
- The Women/Infant/Children (WIC) nutrition program at North Lake Tahoe will be open Dec. 29-30, but otherwise closed Dec. 22 Jan. 4.
- The Environmental Health Office in Tahoe will be closed to the public from Dec. 25 Jan. 2.
- Animal services will be more limited during the holidays, but essential public safety services and shelter services will continue.
- The vital statistics office will provide limited services during the holidays, but no public counter services.
- Beginning Jan. 9, all Adult System of Care offices except residential facilities will be closed to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

"We have many contingency plans in place to deal with crisis situations, and staff on duty at all hours to assist should they be needed," Merz stressed. "While I regret the need for these closures, in the long run I believe they will help us to provide better services while living within a reduced budget."

As always, the County's 24-hour emergency response service for children and adults in crisis can be reached by calling 530-886-5401 (or toll free 888-886-5401). The number also works in the Tahoe area.



Board of Supervisors to Meet Earlier than Usual Tuesday

December 12, 2003 (Updated 11/23/04)

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will start a meeting earlier than usual Tuesday, Dec. 16 because of a longer-than-expected agenda.

Tuesday's meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the county's Auburn Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Ave. Board meetings normally begin at 9 a.m.

Tuesday's agenda includes an update on how Placer County could be affected by the state's failure to allocate backfill funds to offset the loss of vehicle license fee revenue that normally would be distributed to California's cities and counties.

A copy of the **Board's summary action** is available on the county's web site.



Marijuana-Related Lawsuit Dismissed

December 5, 2003

A federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Steve and Michelle Kubby against several county officials has ended. The Kubbys filed their suit after Mr. Kubby's conviction on drug charges. They subsequently moved to Canada.

A federal judge dismissed most of the lawsuit last year. Recently Michelle Kubby agreed to dismiss remaining portions of the suit and Federal District Court Judge Morris England signed the order to dismiss. The Kubbys sought monetary damages, but received nothing from the lawsuit.

"Mr. and Mrs. Kubby had filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the County and people in the justice system who were simply doing their jobs," declared Brad Fenocchio, Placer County District Attorney. "The Kubbys' civil suit has finally and completely resolved for exactly what it was worth: nothing."

"I am pleased that this case has finally been resolved," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "We always believed the case had no merit, as this outcome has demonstrated."

In 1999, the Placer County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the Kubbys for cultivating and possessing marijuana for sale and conspiracy, and for possessing controlled substances based upon a search of their Olympic Valley home. The jury convicted Mr. Kubby of the possessing controlled substances, but failed to reach verdict as to the marijuana and conspiracy charges. The Kubbys claimed that they used marijuana for medical reasons.

After Mr. Kubby's conviction, he failed to turn himself in to the Placer County jail to serve his sentence. Instead, he and his wife fled to Canada and filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the County of Placer; Sheriff's Deputy Mike Lyke, who prepared the affidavit which led to the drug conviction; Sheriff Ed Bonner; District Attorney Brad Fenocchio; former Supervising DA (and now Superior Court Judge) Eugene Gini, and Deputy DA Christopher Cattran. Mrs. Kubby joined the civil lawsuit.

The Placer County Counsel's Office defended the County and all individuals sued by the Kubbys. Based on the sworn statements by those individuals, Federal District Court Judge Morris England dismissed the case summarily in favor of the county, without a jury trial, except as to a minor claim by Michelle Kubby. In November, Judge England signed the Kubby's dismissal with prejudice as to Ms. Kubby's remaining claim, meaning that the Kubbys cannot refile their complaint.

"They never pursued their case," said Deputy County Counsel David Huskey, who handled the litigation for the County. "Judge England did the right thing because there was no evidence of any wrongdoing by anyone associated with the arrest and prosecution of the Kubbys."



Public Workshop to Review Draft Dry Creek Watershed Plan

December 5, 2003

The Placer County Planning Department and the Dry Creek Watershed Council will hold a public workshop to discuss the public review draft of the Dry Creek Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan. The workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2003, at the Granite Bay Library, at 6475 Douglas Boulevard in Granite Bay.

The Dry Creek Watershed encompasses much of southwestern Placer County, including Rocklin, most of Loomis, Granite Bay, and a large section of Roseville.

The Council will use the plan to address three key and interrelated attributes of the watershed, water quality, floodplain management, and habitat restoration. The plan will help guide land use planning and development in the Dry Creek watershed. It will evaluate and make recommendations about recreational activities and facilities, water supply protection within the watershed, and public education about the watershed and its needs and uses.

The Dry Creek Watershed Council is a group of interested parties concerned about the environment integrity of the Dry Creek Watershed. Members include several agencies and organizations, such as Placer County, the Trust for Public Land, the National Park Service, the California Recreation Trails Committee, and the Dry Creek Conservancy. Individual citizens and businesses are participating council members as well.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting and provide comments on the plan. The plan is available in print at the Granite Bay Library, and at the Planning Department, at 11414 B Avenue, in the DeWitt Center, in Auburn. The plan is also available on the county Web site.



Board Honors Activists Through Commemorative Coin Program

December 3, 2003 The Placer County Board of Supervisors honored seven outstanding community activists Tuesday by presenting them with commemorative coins created for a new citizen-recognition program. The recipients are:

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- Alex Ferreira, a local rancher who served on the Board of Supervisors for 24 years;
- Larry Hillberg, a Colfax resident credited with saving the lives of two hikers last summer;
- Aldo Pineschi Jr., a well-known community activist in Roseville whose efforts helped convince the county to provide services for autistic residents and their families;
- Chief Ray Vega of the Newcastle Fire Department and his wife Sharon, a firefighter and emergency medical technician who is in charge of the department's emergency medical services program;
- Kathie Marynik, a long-time Granite Bay resident who is a volunteer at the Granite Bay Service Center operated by the Sheriff's Department; and
- Sam Malhotra, owner of Lakeside Beverages in Granite Bay and a contributor to many community causes.

At the urging of 4th District Supervisor Ted Gaines, the board created the program last year to recognize outstanding citizens who have long track records of community service, have performed heroic acts or participated in little-known, but commendable feats.

"For this particular program, we're looking for individuals who have not been recognized for their acts of heroism," Gaines explained during the meeting.

Somewhat larger than a quarter, the commemorative coins feature the county seal on one side. On the other side is the word "hero" and the image of an eagle with a star and sun rays in the background. J. Randal Smith, an Auburn native who is a nationally known artist, designed the second side of the coin. His design won a competition coordinated by

the Arts Council of Placer County.

Supervisors distributed the first batch of commemorative coins to seven community activists earlier this year.

Background on Tuesday's recipients

Aldo Pineschi Jr., District 1

"Aldo is the guy at every worthwhile function, usually heading it, who gets there early, works like crazy behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly, and is usually the last to leave," 1st District Supervisor Bill Santucci explained. "He shuns public recognition, so I'm sure he is suffering right now."

Santucci listed a small sampling of Pineschi's community activities, noting he served on such groups in Roseville as the Charter Review Committee, Fourth of July Fun Run & Parade Committee, Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and Citizens for Responsible Planning.

"He never hesitates to take on any job and he does this in spite of the heavy workload he always carries," Santucci explained. "Everyone knows that, if you need help, call Aldo."

Alex Ferreira, District 2

A member of a well-known Placer County ranching family, he still operates a ranch near Lincoln with wife Bonnie.

Ferreira made a successful election bid for the 2nd District seat on the Board of Supervisors in 1970 and held the seat until he voluntarily retired in 1994.

He currently is serving his second term as an elected member of the Placer County Water Agency's board of directors.

Throughout his government career, he has championed agriculture and done his utmost to help preserve farming in the face of Placer County's growing urbanization.

"Personally, I could never have asked for a better mentor and friend," 2nd District Supervisor Robert Weygandt said.

Ray and Sharon Vega, District 3

The former has served the Newcastle Fire Department since 1955 and took over as chief in 1968. Wife Sharon has been equally involved in her roles as a firefighter and emergency medical technician.

"Ray's attention to detail; his direct involvement with department personnel and their training, advancement and safety; his hands-on mechanical skills and his continuous involvement make him an outstanding individual to receive this award," 3rd District Supervisor Harriet White said.

"In addition to Sharon's many household responsibilities as wife, caregiver, mother and grandmother, her countless volunteer hours dedicated to the Newcastle Fire Department are truly remarkable."

Kathie Marynik, District 4

A Granite Bay resident since 1968, Marynik is a frequent volunteer at the Sheriff's Service Center.

Her work included writing crime reports, fingerprinting citizens and sending out as many as 30 letters a week to homes with security systems that have triggered false alarms. The letters offered helpful hints on how to avoid false alarms in the future.

Supervisor Gaines noted Marynik has contributed about 2,300 hours as a volunteer.

"We really appreciate your volunteerism in the Granite Bay community," he told her.

Sheriff Ed Bonner also thanked Marynik, saying her dedication and devotion make her a role model for other volunteers.

Sam Malhotra, District 4

The Roseville Chamber nominated Malhotra, citing his generous support of community causes.

"He has done a number of things in the community," Supervisor Gaines said. "It's a long list."

Beneficiaries of Malhotra's involvement and contributions include BloodSource, a blood bank based in Sacramento; the Child Abuse Prevention Council; the weight-training facility at Granite Bay High School; Sierra College Foundation; American Heart Association; Placer SPCA; and Eureka Schools Foundation.

Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gerig of the Roseville Chamber noted Malhotra often donates products from his business to community fund-raisers and hosts many events at the business.

Larry Hillberg, District 5

An avid hiker who has walked the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada, Hillberg was on the Steven's Trail near Colfax on a 100-degree day last July when he heard a woman calling for help.

He found a Sacramento woman sitting next to the hill exhausted and dehydrated. Hillberg gave her his Gatorade, then ran back up the trail to summon help and get more Gatorade.

Running back down the trail, he offered the woman a second drink and then continued down the path to help the woman's friend, a diabetic who was in danger of passing out.

Hillberg stayed with the second woman until paramedics arrived about 25 minutes later.

"His efforts saved the lives of those two women," 5th District Supervisor Rex Bloomfield said.



Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council Has Vacancy for a Secretary

December 3, 2003

The Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council has a vacancy for a secretary.

Placer County officials currently are taking applications from residents interested in filling the position. Applicants should live within the area served by the MAC.

Its service area includes unincorporated areas located west and north of the city of Lincoln.

West of Lincoln, the MAC's service area is bounded by the Placer-Sutter county line on the west, Wise and Waltz roads on the north, Lincoln Airport Road on the east and East Catlett Road on the south.

Boundaries of the service area located north of Lincoln are:

- On the west, a line at the eastern edge of the Sheridan area that runs southward along Porter Road and the north-south section of Karchner Road;
- On the north, Placer County's boundary with Yuba and Nevada counties;
- On the east, a line that generally runs north to south just east of Mt. Pleasant Road; and
- On the south, Highway 193.

The county Board of Supervisors will fill the vacancy. MAC secretaries are contract employees who work for the board. Secretaries are paid \$100 for each meeting they attend.

Serving as MAC secretary also is a chance to serve one's community while staying up to date on county events. Secretaries are responsible for mailing out agendas, taking minutes and related duties.

The county's 13 advisory councils advise the board on issues of public interest in unincorporated areas.

The Rural Lincoln MAC meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in Mt. Pleasant Hall.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Pereira at the Board of Supervisors office, 530-889-4010.

Application forms are available on the county's web site.



Board of Supervisors to Review Draft Noise Ordinance December 2

November 26, 2003

Placer County's draft noise ordinance will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 during a meeting in Auburn.

The meeting will take place in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave. A copy of the draft ordinance is available on the county's web site.

Last spring, supervisors expressed interest in considering a noise ordinance after receiving numerous complaints about neighborhood noise issues. They asked a staff committee to research how other communities had addressed the issues and to hold public forums in North Lake Tahoe, Loomis, Auburn and rural Lincoln.

Supervisors appointed a Noise Ordinance Task Force to analyze noise issues and review a draft ordinance, and hired a noise consultant to provide technical expertise.

Task force members could not reach consensus on certain issues, such as motor bikes and gunfire. At the Dec. 2 meeting, county staff will present the board with a draft ordinance and a range of potential alternatives for handling motor bikes and gunfire. The draft ordinance generally exempts many noises from regulation, including children playing, school activities, safety and warning devices such as car alarms, emergency responses, agricultural operations and normal business operations.

Other activities would also be exempt, but subject to some time-of-day limitations, including lawn mowing and other property maintenance, golf course maintenance, use of construction or repair equipment and repair of motor vehicles.



Building Appeals Board Has Spot for Representative of Disabled

November 20, 2003

The Placer County Building Appeals Board has a vacancy for a representative of physically disabled residents.

Responsibilities of the nine-member board include hearing appeals of building code interpretations made by the county building inspector. The board also generally serves as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on all issues related to the construction industry.

Meetings typically are scheduled as necessary to hear appeals. The Board of Supervisors will fill the vacancy for the representative of physically disabled residents. No deadline has been set for submitting applications, but supervisors hope to fill the vacancy soon.

For application forms or more information, call the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office at 530-889-4020.

Application forms are available on the county's web site (www.placer.ca.gov/). Hit the "departments" icon on the county's homepage and then "committees and commissions." Scroll down the page until the instructions for viewing, filling out and printing applications appear.



Officials Plan for Winter Snowstorms that Tie Up Interstate 80

November 18, 2003

Local government officials are asking for the public's help in dealing with the long lines of traffic that form on Interstate 80 during blustery, snowy winter weather.

Colfax area residents can help by avoiding the traffic backups as much as possible. One way is to take county roads home when the freeway is closed or traffic restrictions are in place. Officials advise residents to settle on alternative routes now, rather than wait until they're about to be caught in traffic snarls, and to make sure they have snow chains and other equipment they might need.

Truckers can help by waiting out snowstorms at the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn, rather than parking along the freeway or county roads.

Motorists in general can help by obeying without question when they're asked to turn around during snowstorms.

Several local government agencies met recently to coordinate planning for the freeway closures and delays that snowstorms will bring. On hand were representatives from the Placer County Public Works Department, Board of Supervisors, Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol and California Department of Transportation.

The main topic of conversation was the Applegate interchange, the spot where eastbound traffic often is halted due to accidents or poor visibility.

CHP Commander Rick Ward announced recently that he intends to have a "snow team" at the interchange again this winter.

"The snow team is a group of officers who will be assigned to the highway closures at Applegate each time the highway is closed," he explained." This will ensure consistency and increase efficiency."

Other CHP officers will patrol surrounding roadways looking for parking violations and directing truckers back to the fairgrounds in Auburn.

The CHP created the snow team two years ago. The program has significantly reduced the volume of complaints the agency receives from motorists.

For Colfax area residents, the best way to avoid storm-related eastbound backups is to watch the electronic message sign on the freeway east of Bell Road. Caltrans uses the sign to let motorists know the freeway is closed or traffic restrictions are in place at Applegate.

The best bet for motorists headed for Colfax area homes is to leave the freeway and take county roads.

In cases where traffic restrictions are in place, but Colfax area residents are being allowed to continue on the freeway as far as their homes, residents may want to avoid traffic backups by leaving Interstate 80 before they reach Applegate and using county roads before getting back on the freeway at Applegate

Generally, the CHP looks for identification or other evidence to verify that motorists live in the area. The Colfax Chamber of Commerce sells stickers to residents looking for a quick, easy means of identification.

Authorities emphasized that using county roads before getting back on the freeway at Applegate isn't a foolproof option, noting that motorists seeking to re-enter the freeway still may get caught up in traffic.

That's because the top priority in such circumstances is keeping traffic that's backed up on the freeway moving. Local residents sometimes have to wait awhile until the CHP gets a chance to halt traffic and let residents re-enter the freeway.

Area residents also need to remember there will be times when all eastbound traffic has to turn around at the Applegate exit.

Authorities urge motorists to obey without question, noting that traffic backs up on the freeway each minute a CHP officer must spend talking to a driver.

Last year, Caltrans began posting Sierra Nevada road-condition updates on Interstate 80 electronic message signs as far away as Dixon and Fairfield. The hope is that many Bay Area motorists will postpone trips to the Sierra Nevada if they know the freeway is closed ahead or lengthy delays await them.



Supervisor Bloomfield to Host Coffee Klatch in Colfax Tuesday, Nov. 25

November 17, 2003

County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will give a Power Point presentation titled "New Directions for Placer County" during a coffee klatch to be held in Colfax Tuesday, Nov. 25. The meeting will take place at noon in the Colfax Library, 2 Church St.

During his presentation, Supervisor Bloomfield will discuss such topics as open space conservation, affordable housing, air pollution and the proposed Capital to Capital Trail. He also will be prepared to address issues raised by the public.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can sip coffee while discussing county issues with him. The meetings give residents a chance to voice their opinions and Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

Supervisor Bloomfield represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

He encourages Colfax area residents to attend monthly meetings of the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings take place in the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall, 22 Grass Valley St. West. The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or <u>by visiting the board's web page</u> at www.placer.ca.gov/bos.

Supervisor Bloomfield invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



Thanksgiving Can Be Bad for Your Pet's Health

November 17, 2003

Placer County Animal Services reminds all pet owners not to give in to those pleading looks from Fido or Fluffy when the turkey and other goodies are being prepared or placed on the Thanksgiving holiday table. What is feast to humans can mean serious injury or even death to a dog or cat. Fowl bones can lodge in the throat or splinter in the stomach and too many goodies can make your companion animal ill.

So your dog or cat won't feel left out during the holiday festivities, Placer County Animal Services advises giving Fido nylon bone as a treat, and for Fluffy, treats made especially for cats. If you cannot resist those yearning looks from your dog or cat, be sure any treats of turkey or chicken given them are free of all bones. Just be careful that your companion animal doesn't overindulge.

With a few precautions, Thanksgiving can be a safe and happy holiday for the entire family, including the family companion animal.



Flu Shot Clinic Planned for Lincoln

November 17, 2003

Placer County Health and Human Services is sponsoring a flu shot clinic in Lincoln from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, November 24.

The clinic will take place at the Lighthouse Counseling and Resource Center, 630 Sixth Street. Cost of a flu immunization is \$10. County Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Burton is reminding residents that getting a flu shot through a private physician or a county clinic can help prevent illness.

"Flu vaccine protection reaches full effectiveness three weeks after the shot, and lasts for six months," said Dr. Burton. "People who have cardiopulmonary conditions and other chronic diseases should consult their primary care physicians about the best timing.

"Simple hygiene practices, such as washing your hands often can also help reduce your chances of getting the flu, while covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze can help protect others."

Placer County has also planned flu shot clinics at the Multipurpose Senior Center in Auburn, 11577 E Avenue, on Wednesday, Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon, and at the Rocklin Sunset Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd., on Thursday, Nov. 20, also from 9 a.m. to noon.



Planning Commission To Hold Hearing on Foresthill Plan Monday

November 14, 2003

The Placer County Planning Commission will hold a special meeting in Foresthill Monday, Nov. 17 to conduct its first official review of a proposed update of the Foresthill Divide Community Plan.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison St.

At the meeting, county staff will present details of the plan to the commission and commissioners will be given a chance to ask questions. The balance of the meeting will be set aside for public comments.

During its presentation, county staff will briefly discuss a draft environmental impact report on the proposed community plan and public comments received so far on the draft EIR. The deadline for commenting on the EIR was to be Nov. 3, but the county has extended the deadline until 5 p.m. Dec. 3, responding to requests from the public for more time to make comments. It is expected the commission will hold one or more additional public hearings before making its recommendations on the plan to the Board of Supervisors.

The plan is an update of a Foresthill community plan adopted in 1981. The new plan will guide the physical, social and economic development of the 109-square-mile Foresthill area for the next 20 years.

The draft plan has sections dealing with population and housing, land use, community design, public facilities, parks and recreation, transportation and circulation, natural resources, cultural resources and air quality. Copies of the proposed plan and draft EIR are available on the county web site.



Holiday Food Preparation Safety Tips

November 12, 2003

The Placer County Health and Human Services Department provides this list of food handling safety tips for everyday food preparation, and especially for holiday celebrations.

Illness-causing bacteria like Salmonella and Campylobacter can be present in foods when you buy them, like meat and poultry. They can cause illness due to insufficient cooking, inadequate cooling and improper food handling practices.

"By following these tips Placer residents will be able to spend their holidays enjoying special times with friends, family, and neighbors rather than in the doctor's office dealing with a food related illness.." said Placer County Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Burton.

Keep hands and food contact surfaces clean; wash them often.

- Always wash your hands with warm, soapy water before and after handling raw foods, after using the toilet, after changing diapers and after handling pets. Dry hands with a clean, single-use paper towel. People with cuts or skin infections on their hands should not prepare food.
- Thoroughly clean all work surfaces, utensils and dishes with hot soapy water, and rinse with hot water before and after each use. Wash knives, cutting boards and meat grinders thoroughly (in the dishwasher, for example) before using them for other foods.

Keep foods separate; don't cross contaminate.

- Always wash fruits and vegetables in clean sinks, and keep fruits and vegetables away from raw meats, poultry, eggs, fish and any other raw animal product.
- When tasting food, don't dip a spoon into the pot. Put a small amount of the food in a small dish and taste it with a clean spoon.

Refrigerate foods promptly.

- Refrigerate or freeze turkey and other meats right after purchase. Prevent meat juices from spilling on and contaminating other foods or surfaces both at the market and at home. Keep your refrigerator or cooler at 41 degrees or colder.
- Thaw a frozen turkey in the refrigerator in its original wrapping. Plan ahead it may take two to four days to thaw a moderate-sized turkey this way. If you need to thaw the bird more quickly, put the frozen turkey in a watertight wrapper and cover it with cold -- not hot or warm water -- until the meat is pliable. Change the water every half-hour.

Cook foods to proper temperatures.

- Rinse the turkey thoroughly in cold water and drain well before cooking.
- Cook your stuffing separately. Put your turkey immediately in a preheated oven set no lower than 325 degrees. Turkey and other poultry should be cooked to an internal temperature of 180 degrees to kill possible bacteria, and the stuffing must reach 165 degrees. Always use a meat thermometer to be sure meat is thoroughly cooked. To measure the temperature accurately, stick a thermometer in the thickest part of the turkey thigh, but not against the bone. Turkey meat is thoroughly cooked when the hip joint moves easily and the juices run clear -- not pink. Steaks and roasts should be cooked to at least 145 degrees, and ground meat should be cooked to at least 160 degrees.
- When leftovers are eaten hot, they should be heated to at least 165 degrees or until hot and steaming throughout.
- Stir or turn foods cooked or reheated in microwaves occasionally to be sure all parts of the food are thoroughly cooked. If using frozen meat, first microwave the meat until completely thawed, then follow by cooking. If microwaving is not possible, then allow at least one-and-a-half times the usual cooking time to ensure that the meat is sufficiently cooked throughout.

Refrigerate leftovers.

- Turkey should be refrigerated one of two ways: within two hours after it is cooked; or right after cooking, the turkey should be de-boned, sliced or pulled into pieces no more than 2 1/2 inches thick and refrigerated in shallow containers. Store the meat, stuffing and stock in separate containers in the refrigerator or freezer.
- Do not eat leftover meat that has been refrigerated for longer than four days or eat leftover stuffing or gravy that has been refrigerated for longer than two days. You may eat properly wrapped leftover meat you've frozen for one to three months.
- Keep all cream, custard and meringue pies, and any other foods with custard filling, refrigerated, except when being served.

For more information, contact the Food and Drug Administration Food Information and Seafood Hotline - (800) 332-4010, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline - (800) 535-4555. Another good source of information is the Partnership for Food Safety Education's "Fight BAC" (bacteria) Web page, at www.fightbac.org/.



Officials to Meet with Property Owners about Foresthill Plan

November 10, 2003

Foresthill property owners will get a chance to meet individually with Placer County officials Monday, Dec. 1 to discuss a proposed update of the Foresthill Divide Community Plan.

Both Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield and Planning Director Fred Yeager will be on hand for the meetings. They will take place between 1:30 and 5 p.m. in the Foresthill Community Center, 24580 Main St.

Appointments will be required.

"The Dec. 1 meeting will be a chance for property owners to sit down with us individually, and let us know what their thinking is on the future of their properties," Supervisor Bloomfield explained. "We want the plan to truly be a community plan, and we need to know what property owners have in mind to make that happen."

Foresthill residents already have had several opportunities to comment on the proposed plan. Comments also will be taken when the plan comes before the county Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for review. The proposed community plan is an update of a Foresthill general plan adopted in 1981. The new plan will guide the physical, social and economic development of the 109-square-mile Foresthill area for the next 20 years.

The draft plan has sections dealing with population and housing, land use, community design, public facilities, parks and recreation, transportation and circulation, natural resources, cultural resources and air quality. A copy of the draft plan is on the county's web site (www.placer.ca.gov/planning).

To schedule an appointment or get more information, property owners are invited to call the Board of Supervisors at 530-889-4010.





County Adoption Placement Partnership a Success, a Celebration

November 10, 2003

The five-year Placer Kids partnership between the non-profit Sierra Adoption Services and the Placer County Health and Human Services and is a big success for Placer County children. Permanent adoption placements have increased from 8 in Fiscal Year 96/97 to 59 in Fiscal Year 02/03, more than a 600% increase.

To celebrate that success, Placer Kids is hosting Adoption Day 2003 on Saturday, November 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse at 101 Maple Street, in Auburn. The public is invited, especially people who may be interested in adoption.

Adoption Day will feature activities and fun for all ages, with free hotdogs and goodies, face-painting and children's games, and live music by Francie Dillon. Several adoptions will be completed, and there will be information on Placer Kids and the county adoption process.

"It's been a wonderful experience for the department and the Courts to see the increase in permanent placements for children," said Placer County Superior Court Commissioner Colleen Nichols. "The Placer Kids partnership has made all the difference. We're now much more efficient in making use of our very dedicated staff's skills."

Every day in Placer County, up to 500 children are living away from their parents either with a relative or with a foster family. Many of these children are over 8, and there are often sibling groups. While those alternatives can be good temporary solutions when children are removed from their homes, experts agree a child does best in a permanent, loving home. Sierra Adoption Services has a strong track record in placing children with special needs.

Whenever possible, child care professionals try to reunite children with their families in safe, stable homes. When that isn't possible, adoption is the best alternative to give a child a good start in life. Since July, Placer Kids has 17 adoptions completed or well on the

way.

The Placer Kids program matches children and families in several types of arrangements, always putting the needs of the child first. Families can choose to provide long-term foster care, shelter care on an emergency short-term basis, or adoptive care. The program provides training in foster or adoption skills, family assessment and matching services, and after-placement support.

For further information on Placer Kids, contact 530-887-9982.



Bureau of Labor Statistics Reports County Increase in Employment Biggest Among Large Counties

November 7, 2003

A recent news release from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Dept. of Labor has noted that Placer County experienced the biggest over-the-year percentage increase in employment among the largest counties in the U.S.

A complete copy of the news release is available online.

"We are exceptionally pleased that the results of our many years of efforts to attract investments and primary wage earner jobs to Placer County has paid off with national recognition," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Rex Bloomfield. "The true test of any economic development effort is what happens in the middle of the recession; it's not when times are good. So we are especially pleased to see Placer County recognized as the best in the US at the height of the current economic downturn.

"This really demonstrates our success not in just one area, but our countywide effort to have jobs for our residents and the kids who are growing up here," Bloomfield noted.

The growth in jobs has occurred in various parts of Placer County, ranging from the fast-growing cities in south Placer County to the high Sierra ski resorts of North Lake Tahoe.

In the fast-growing valley cities of south Placer County, there have been new businesses, major expansions in the service sector, expansions by local hospitals and jobs in the construction industry. Major upgrades at world-class ski resorts at North Lake Tahoe have created jobs in high Sierra communities.

County Takes Clean-Air Actions, Hoping Others Will Follow Suit

November 7, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors took three steps this week aimed at reducing local air pollution, hoping that other counties and cities in the Sacramento region will follow suit.

Tuesday's unanimous board action make Placer County the first local government in the region to approve three ozone-reduction initiatives that are an outgrowth of a Sacramento Ozone Summit held in Roseville a year ago.

The board acknowledged air pollution can't be reduced significantly by Placer County acting alone, but can be curtailed dramatically if other counties and cities take similar initiatives.

"The ordinance and policies, if adopted in the region, will take out three tons of pollutants per day," Board Chairman Rex Bloomfield said. "What we're trying to do is clean up the air for the public, but do it in a manner than works for the county."

The board action commits the county to:

- Adopting an ordinance that generally will require large commercial vehicles and diesel construction equipment to limit vehicle idling to no more than five minutes per hour. The county will post signs and undertake educational efforts as part of a drive to gain voluntary compliance. Enforcement generally will be in response to complaints.
 - The ordinance will contain exemptions for emergency and public safety vehicles and for the normal operation of equipment.
- Purchasing low-emission vehicles for the county fleet and retrofitting existing vehicles whenever possible. The last action builds upon an existing commitment by the county's Public Works Department to convert its vehicle fleet to low-emission vehicles.
- Establishing contracting procedures that provide incentives for contractors to use low-emission vehicles or alternative clean-air approaches. Alternative approaches could include using alternative fuels, renting low-emission vehicles or curtailing activity on Spare the Air Days.

The last policy won't go into effect until a majority of the other local governments in the Sacramento region have similar policies. That provision seeks to avoid a situation where contractors choose not to do business with Placer County because it is the only local government or one of just a few that have such contracting policies.

The policy would be used for contracts that are valued at least \$250,000 or require the use of five or more off-road diesel-powered engines on a site at a given time.

Contractors interested in converting their equipment to cleaner, lower-emission vehicles can apply for assistance through a Clean Air Grant Program operated by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District.

"I think that's an important component of this whole thing," said district Air Pollution Control Officer Tom Christofk after Tuesday's board action.

He reported the district will have a minimum of \$750,000 available for grants this fiscal year. The district has provided more than \$2 million in grants to eligible projects over the past three fiscal years, and over 46 percent of its total budget is committed to funding clean-air projects. The application process for 2004 will get under way in January.

Last year, projects included retrofitting several trucks for small businesses and cost-sharing for a new low-emission refuse truck.

Held at Bloomfield's urging, the October 2002 summit considered how local cities, counties and air pollution control districts can form a united front in the battle against air pollution.

After the summit, a working group composed of representatives from cities, counties, air districts and businesses began drafting three model ordinances that local governments could adopt to help reduce air pollution. The ordinance and policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday are based on those model ordinances.

In June, the Placer County air district's board of directors unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the model ordinances.

In the coming months, other counties and cities in the region will be asked to take similar action. Placer County officials consider such actions potentially a key part of the region's drive to meet a 2005 deadline for attaining federal ozone standards.

Excessive ozone and other air pollution have been linked to asthma, heart disease, cancer and lung disease.

At Tuesday's meeting, representatives from California Air Resources Board (ARB), Cleaner Air Partnership, American Lung Association and Sierra Club applauded the board action.

"This doesn't solve everything, but it's a very good set of next steps," Chief Executive Officer Jane Hagedorn of the American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails told the board. "And you lay out the leadership challenge to the region."

"What we're really talking about is the health of our citizens and the impacts on them from the air pollution, and ozone is an important component of that," said Gary Honcoop, a manager in ARB's Air Quality and Transportation Planning Branch.

The Placer County initiatives are targeted primarily at heavy-duty vehicles that are the biggest polluters. According to the Placer County air district, heavy-duty on-road and off-road vehicles account for only approximately 4 percent of the region's vehicles, but produce 50 to 60 percent of smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions.

Low-emission vehicles already in Placer County's fleet include hybrids that have both gasoline and electric motors, vehicles that run on compressed natural gas and small electric vehicles that generally are used to transport county employees around the DeWitt Center and other county property.



Dedication Ceremony To be Held for Squaw Valley Park Saturday, November 15

November 7, 2003

Placer County officials and community leaders will gather Saturday, Nov. 15 to celebrate the opening of Squaw Valley Park.

The celebration will take place from 11 a.m. to noon at the park, which is at the intersection of Squaw Valley Road and Highway 89. The festivities will include a dedication ceremony and reception.

The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

"The opening of this park is an event worth celebrating, and I hope the public will join us for the dedication ceremony. It is the culmination of 10 years of working with just about every governmental agency imaginable," Supervisor Rex Bloomfield said. "I applaud county staff and community members who have put so much energy into making this happen."

The 30-acre park features:

- Two playgrounds, one for children up to 12 years old and another for older youths;
- Several family picnic areas;
- A trail staging area and trail that connects to the Western States Trail and will link up to the proposed Capitol to Capitol Regional Trail, which will run from Sacramento to Carson City, Nevada's capital; and
- A paved bicycle trail that connects Squaw Valley Park to an existing bike trail leading to Lake Tahoe.

The final phase of the park will be completed next spring when a synthetic turf is installed. The turf will allow the field to be used for much of the year and be easier and less expensive than regular grass for the county to maintain.

During the Nov. 15 celebration, Supervisor Bloomfield will recognize a special member of the Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council whose efforts and dedication helped make the park a reality.

The Board of Supervisors adopted resolutions recently thanking Rep. John Doolittle for proposing and Sen. Barbara Boxer for strongly supporting legislation that allowed Placer County to acquire the park site from the U.S. Forest Service.

The county's costs were \$272,000 for the land and approximately \$3 million for construction. Squaw Valley Park received strong support from the Board of Supervisors, as well as the Squaw Valley MAC, Placer County Parks Commission, and North Lake Tahoe Resort Association.



Stormwater Advisory Group To Meet in Auburn Wednesday, November 12

November 4, 2003

The Placer County Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet in Auburn Wednesday, Nov. 12 to continue discussing the potential content of a stormwater ordinance the county is drafting.

The meeting will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room CEO 1 at the county's Auburn administrative center, 175 Fulweiler Ave. The public is welcome to attend. The committee will not discuss the state's conditional waiver for agricultural discharges during the Nov. 12 meeting.

The committee will make recommendations to the county on a five-year stormwater management plan that is required under the federal Clean Water Act. The management plan details steps the county will take to reduce stormwater pollution.

Pollution from stormwater runoff can include oil, antifreeze, gas, soaps, and other materials that reduce the quality of water in local creeks, streams and rivers. Reducing stormwater pollution is an important way to help safeguard the county's clean water supply.

The stormwater ordinance will include regulations aimed at preventing the discharge of pollutants into local waterways.

More detailed information about <u>the committee and the stormwater management plan are available online</u>, or by phone at 530-889-7503, or by email request to stormwater@placer. ca.gov.



Noise Ordinance Draft Is Available Online

November 3, 2003

The Placer County Noise Ordinance Task Force has completed a draft noise ordinance that the group will recommend to the Board of Supervisors. It is now posted for review online at www.placer.ca.gov/noise. Residents may also obtain copies through the Board of Supervisors office, 530-889-4010.

The public is encouraged to review this draft ordinance. There is still time to provide comments before the ordinance is reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, likely in December.

The Board decided to consider a noise ordinance after residents approached them about noise problems in their neighborhoods.

To understand community thinking prior to drafting the ordinance, county staff placed information on the county web site, promoted and hosted public forums in Loomis, North Lake Tahoe, Lincoln and Auburn; developed an email address (noise@placer.ca.gov), and received letters. Ten noise ordinances from other counties and cities were also reviewed.

"Residents told us they have noise concerns with roosters, boats, radios, loud music, dirt bikes, leaf blowers, construction and numerous other things," noted Allison Carlos, Principal Management Analyst in the County Executive Office. "Others have expressed concern that a noise ordinance shouldn't prevent property owners from riding their bikes, working on their property, playing music, or owning animals."

"To their credit, Noise Ordinance Task Force members were able to generally agree on most draft provisions," Carlos said. "They asked staff to continue research on others. Our goal remains the same: finding the balance which best serves the community."

The task force includes 15 residents representing diverse opinions appointed by the Board, and staff from code enforcement and environmental health. The group hired a noise consultant and held five meetings to help draft the ordinance.

The draft ordinance generally exempts many noises from regulation. These include such things as normal residential noises like children playing, school activities, safety and warning like car alarms devices, emergency response, agricultural activity, normal existing commercial operations, and gunfire on private property, as long as it's non-repetitive.

Other activities would also be exempt, but subject to time-of-day limitations, including property maintenance, golf course maintenance, use of construction or repair equipment with factory-installed muffling devices and infrequent repair or reconstruction of motor vehicles.

The draft ordinance also calls for sound level standards and identifies special noise disturbances for motor vehicles and commercial shooting ranges, and adopts motor boat standards at Lake Tahoe consistent with Nevada regulations. There is also a process for exceptions.

Staff was asked to explore possibilities on how to regulate motor bike or all-terrain vehicle use, including whether it should be allowed only on parcels of a certain size, or during certain hours, or whether the activity should take place a minimum distance from the property line. The task force also asked staff to make a distinction between gunfire provisions for residential versus business uses.

Violations of the noise ordinance, if approved, would be considered infractions and could include issuance of an administrative citation and fines beginning at \$100. The noise ordinance would be applicable to locations in the unincorporated areas of Placer County, but not the cities.

News media will be notified when the Board of Supervisors plans to review the draft ordinance. This information will also be available on the web site, www.placer.ca.gov/noise. Residents may continue to offer suggestions on the ordinance by mail or by email.



Supervisor White To Meet With Constituents in Loomis Wednesday, October 29th

October 21, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will hold an informal coffee klatch Wednesday, Oct. 29 in Loomis to discuss county fees and other issues with the public. The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the Loomis Library, 6050 Library Way.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout her district to answer questions about county government and listen to what constituents have on their minds. The meetings also give her a chance to update people on county projects and programs.

She represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

Supervisor White encourages Loomis area residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council. It generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month in the Loomis Library.

To confirm times and dates of MAC meetings, look on-line at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or call the board office at 530-889-4010. S

upervisor White welcomes e-mail at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. The public can reach her by telephone at her home office: 530-885-0722.

Residents also are invited to make appointments to meet her in her office at the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.



Volunteers Needed for Granite Bay Community Park Project

October 17, 2003

Placer County Parks is looking for volunteers to work on the Granite Bay Community Park. There will be two volunteer workdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26, to help landscape the park. Volunteers will plant over 1,500 trees and plants in the area surrounding the ball playing fields.

The park is located on the corner of Barton Road and Douglas Boulevard. Community members have already contributed time and resources to help build the park. The volunteer work on the upcoming weekend will save \$15,000 in labor. The money will be used instead to build the baseball/soccer playing fields.

If you can volunteer for this project on either or both days, even for a few hours, please call John Ramirez, the Placer County Parks Administrator, at 530-889-6807, so he can arrange work parties.

Volunteers will be needed to plant one-gallon to fifteen-gallon container plants, move plants, drive support stakes, or serve refreshments. Minors are welcome to participate and will need authorization from a parent or guardian, on a form provided at the park.

Volunteers should wear work clothes and gloves appropriate for heavy garden work. They are also encouraged to bring shovels, post-hole diggers, picks, or similar gardening tools. All personal equipment should be clearly marked for identification.

When completed, the Granite Bay Community Park will represent a major achievement in community effort and partnership with Placer County. The park will feature two multi use baseball/soccer playing fields, a large covered picnic area, two playgrounds, and a restroom/snack bar facility.



Mechanical PRoblem Causes Spill: Avoid Swimming in Creek

October 17, 2003

Due to the failure of a chlorine pump, approximately 70,000 gallons of undisinfected effluent was released from the Sewer Maintenance District No. 3 Treatment Plant into Miner's Ravine Creek in South Placer County between 3:00PM on Thursday and 8:00AM on Friday.

The treatment plant, located about 300 feet north of Dick Cook Road on Auburn Folsom Road, treats wastewater from approximately 650 homes. The flow of undisinfected water was stopped immediately when the problem was discovered Friday morning. The faulty chlorine pump has been repaired and the plant is now functioning normally.

Although the discharged effluent had undergone the treatment and filtration process, final disinfection with chlorine to kill remaining bacteria had not yet occurred.

Placer County Public Health officials are recommending that residents avoid the creek water in Miner's Ravine Creek. "As a routine precaution, children and pets should not be allowed to play in the water, and anyone who touches the water should wash their hands," said Dr. Richard Burton, Public Health Officer.

"The water should not be used as an irrigation source until we document that bacterial levels have returned to normal.

"As a reminder, all creeks routinely contain some naturally-occurring bacteria, and should never be used as a source of drinking water."

Signs have been posted by the Placer County Environmental Health Division reminding residents to avoid the water.



West Placer Land Use Issues To Be Reviewed

October 10, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will hold a day-long public workshop Monday, Oct. 20 to discuss how recent West Placer development proposals would affect other issues waiting in the wings, including the Placer Parkway and the county's Habitat Conservation Plan.

Projects to be discussed include proposals to build a branch campus of California State University, Sacramento and a private, four-year university in West Placer. Both of those projects would be accompanied by residential development in areas currently not earmarked for urban development by the Placer County general plan.

The workshop will look at university projects in relationship to two other major projects: the County's Habitat Conservation Plan and the Placer Parkway proposal.

The workshop will take place at the <u>County Administrative Center</u>, <u>175 Fulweiler Ave.</u>, in Auburn, beginning at 9 a.m.

No decisions will be made at the workshop on whether to approve or reject development projects. County staff will outline planning issues raised by the projects and seek guidance from the board on how to proceed.

In concert with the county's Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program, county officials are in the process of drafting habitat conservation plans aimed at satisfying state and federal laws relating to protection of wildlife and its habitat.

One of the topics for discussion at the workshop will be whether allowing the development projects to proceed would undermine conservation plans currently being evaluated.

The workshop also will look at how the university projects could affect the route selection for the Placer Parkway, a road that would connect Highway 65 in Placer County to

Highways 99 and 70 in Sutter County. The road would provide a major transportation alternative north of Interstate 80.

"The workshop will give the board a chance to review projects proposed for West Placer on a comprehensive basis rather than piecemeal," said District 2 Supervisor Robert Weygandt. "Our goal is to ensure that projects preserve and add to the high quality of life residents enjoy in Placer County.

"This will allow the board to consider whether the projects may fit its long-term vision of Placer County's future, and how the universities would affect transportation projects such as the proposed Placer Parkway and the county's efforts to preserve open space and agricultural land.

"Our Board will address what is essentially the long term future of Placer County's valley floor, in the context of sound land use planning, and hopefully provide cohesive direction to staff on how to proceed," noted Supervisor Weygandt.

The workshop also will look at how water, wastewater treatment and other public services would be provided to the proposed developments.

Among the issues to be discussed are preservation of industrially-zoned and agricultural land, buffers between incompatible land uses, transportation financing and the fiscal impacts of the land use decisions.

Written in 1994, the county general plan in effect directs large urban developments to within the boundaries of local cities. Most of the recent large-scale development in Placer County has occurred within three cities: Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln.

The county general plan does earmark two large unincorporated areas for potential development: Bickford Ranch, a 2,000 acre project that already has gained the board's approval, and Placer Vineyards, a 5,158-acre project that currently is before the county for review.

At the workshop, the board will also review the potential impacts of Placer Vineyards, as well as a 5,500-acre area of West Roseville that the city of Roseville has proposed adding to its sphere of influence.

The proposed branch campus of California State Sacramento is part of Placer Ranch, a 2,213-acre project that would include 4,800 residential dwellings, as well as industrial and commercial development. About 60 percent of the property currently is designated for agriculture.

The site is in the Sunset Industrial Area adjacent to the city of Roseville. Fiddyment Road bisects the site and Sunset Boulevard ends near the site's eastern edge.

De La Salle University, the proposed private liberal arts college, is the centerpiece of a 1,100-acre project that would feature 2,340 dwellings and commercial development. The university would be modeled after St. Mary's College in Moraga.

That site is west of Roseville about three miles north of Baseline Road. The general plan designates the site for agriculture, but includes it in an area that could be studied for potential development after Placer Vineyards.

Return to West Placer Plan page



Placer County Public Flu Clinic Schedule

October 7, 2003

Placer County Health and Human Services officials have released the 2003 flu shot schedule, making immunizations readily available in many communities. Last year, more than 6,500 Placer County residents received flu shots through the county's flu clinic program.

The flu season peaks in late December or later. "Flu vaccine protection reaches full effectiveness three weeks after the shot, and lasts for six months," said County Health Officer, Dr. Richard Burton. "County residents will get effective protection by getting their immunizations in late October, November and December."

County officials expect vaccine supplies will be plentiful for the October, November and December clinics. The 2003-04 influenza vaccine is designed to provide protection against the most common strains of viruses expected to cause illness this winter. The flu shot will cost \$10. "Those persons with cardiopulmonary conditions and other chronic diseases should consult their primary care physicians about the appropriate time to be vaccinated," noted Dr. Burton.

The schedule of county flu shot clinics is listed below. It will be printed and distributed through senior centers, clinics and similar locations. Residents may also obtain information on the county Web site or by calling 530-889-7161 for a flu shot clinic information recording.



Bloomfield to Discuss County Future Tues., October 14 in Kings Beach

October 6, 2003

County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will give a presentation titled "New Directions for Placer County" during a coffee klatch to be held in Kings Beach Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The meeting will take place at noon in the Kings Beach Library, 301 Secline Drive.

During his presentation, Supervisor Bloomfield will discuss such topics as open space conservation, affordable housing, air pollution and the Capital to Capital Trail.

He also will be prepared to address issues raised by the public.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can voice their opinions on county issues. The meetings give Supervisor Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

He represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

Supervisor Bloomfield encourages Kings Beach residents to stay up to date on county issues by attending monthly meetings of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council. The council normally meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Locations vary.

The public can confirm meeting times and dates and find out where meetings are to be held by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by <u>visiting the Board's Web page</u> (www.placer.ca.gov/bos).

Supervisor Bloomfield invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.





Foresthill Forum to Review Draft Community Plan Update

September 29, 2003

Residents will have another chance to ask questions and share their views on the draft Foresthill Divide Community Plan Update on Monday, Oct. 6, during the meeting of the Foresthill Forum.

The meeting takes place at the Foresthill Memorial Hall beginning at 7 p.m. Forum members may decide whether to recommend adoption of the plan.

There will be future opportunities for public review as the draft plan is considered by the Planning Commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors.

The community plan is an update of a Foresthill community plan adopted in 1981. The new plan will guide the physical, social and economic development of the 109-square-mile Foresthill area for the next 20 years. It has sections dealing with population and housing, land use, community design, public facilities, parks and recreation, transportation and circulation, natural resources, cultural resources and air quality.

The proposed community plan and a draft environmental impact report on the plan are <u>on</u> the county's web site.

The public has until 5 p.m. Nov. 3 to submit comments on the draft EIR. Comments and responses to them will be included in the plan's final EIR.

The Foresthill Library, 24580 Main St., has printed copies of the draft community plan and EIR that residents can check out. It also has copies of both documents on compact discs that residents can have free of charge.

Residents can look at printed copies of the community plan and EIR in:

- Worton's Market, at Foresthill Road and Sierra View Lane;
- The Foresthill Public Utilities District, 24540 Main St.; and
- The Foresthill Telephone Co., 5915 Gold St.

Printed copies of the community plan and EIR are available at two locations in Auburn: the Planning Department, 11414 B Ave. in the DeWitt Center, and the Board of Supervisors office in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave.

The Planning Department also has free copies of the community plan and EIR on compact discs.



County Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Planned

September 24, 2003

The Placer County Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet next on Wednesday, October 8 from 4 to 6 PM at the County Administration Center, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Conference Room CEO1, in Auburn.

Topics will be the agricultural discharge waiver, storm drain mapping, and storm water ordinance content. The public is welcome to attend.

The committee will make recommendations to the county on a 5-year stormwater management plan, a new federal requirement which is part of the Clean Water Act.

The federal government recently required smaller counties nationwide, like Placer County, to file a stormwater management plan showing the steps it will take to reduce stormwater pollution. Pollution from stormwater runoff can include oil, antifreeze or gas, soaps and chemicals, and other materials that reduce the quality of water in local creeks, streams and rivers, and beyond. In addition to county residents' need for clean water for drinking, agriculture and recreation, plants and animals also rely on a clean water supply to survive. Preventing or reducing stormwater pollution is an important way to help safeguard the county's current clean water supply.

More detailed information about the committee and the stormwater management plan and is available by phone at 530-889-7503, or by email request to stormwater@placer.ca.gov.



Placer County, Community Volunteers Sponsor Kings Beach Cleanup Day

September 23, 2003

Placer County and a host of community volunteers will sponsor a free Kings Beach Community Clean-up Day on October 4.

The cleanup will start at 9 a.m. and last until the trash bins are full or until 2:30 p.m. The location, with trash bins, will be at <u>the Catholic church</u>, <u>Our Lady of the Lake</u>, at the intersection of Deer and Steelhead roads.

"We all like to live in a community that looks good," said District 5 Supervisor Rex Bloomfield. "This partnership with community volunteers and the county, helps Kings Beach look attractive for residents and for visitors, which benefits everyone!"

Each resident will need to bring proof of Kings Beach residence, such as a utility or phone bill showing a home address. A resident can dispose of up to one standard pickup load of household trash, including up to four automobile tires. Residents can dump their trash on a first-come, first-served basis. When the trash bins are full, the cleanup will end.

<u>The boundaries for the area</u> to be cleaned up are the Safeway Market on the west, north to Tiger and Speckled avenues, the state line on the east, and the lake on the south. The cleanup is for residential properties only, not for commercial properties.

Community clean-up volunteers can't accept major appliances, such as stoves, refrigerators or washing machines, or construction or demolition debris. They also can't accept hazardous household materials, such as old cleaning supplies, motor oil, or old paint. Residents need to take hazardous household waste to the Eastern Regional Landfill, at the end of Cabin Creek Road, off Highway 89 outside Truckee. The landfill accepts hazardous household materials at no charge, by appointment. Call 530-583-0148 for an appointment.

The Cleanup Day is sponsored by District 5 Supervisor Rex Bloomfield, the Placer

County Redevelopment Agency, the County Departments of Public Works, Facility Services, and Health and Human Services, and the County Executive Office. Other partners include Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, La Comunidad Unida (LCU), and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal.

For further information about the cleanup day, call Grayson Marshall at 546-1952.



October 7th Recall Election Preparations Continue On Track

Friday, Sept. 19, 2003

Jim McCauley, Placer County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters reported that the County's Recall Election preparations are "on track" and "full steam ahead" as the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed Friday to rehear the order postponing the October 7, 2003 Special Statewide Recall Election that had been issued on Monday, Sept. 15.

The original order would have postponed the election until the March 2004 Presidential Primary, subject to appeal. The decision caused widespread confusion among voters this past week. However, the Court's new ruling to rehear the case puts an indefinite stay on the earlier order. "This means that that the election will continue as originally scheduled for October 7," McCauley explained, "unless there is further, specific judicial action to the contrary."

"While this may seem like a minor difference in decisions," McCauley added, "it really shifts the burden of stopping the election to those who are trying to postpone it, rather than to the elections officials who are trying to carry out the election according to the law."

McCauley emphasized that Placer County residents should definitely continue to participate in the Special Recall Election set for October 7. He added, "All eligible adults can continue to register to vote until Monday September 22, 2003, the cutoff date for this election."

The Country Registrar further urged all voters to carefully read their ballot materials which have already been mailed. "Voters may request absentee ballots, and should vote and return those ballots to our office no later than Election Day or vote at the polls on Oct. 7."

McCauley added that voters planning to vote at the polls should be sure to take note of their poll locations, printed on the backs of their sample ballots, because poll locations

may have changed since the last election.

As a service to voters, the Elections Division at 2956 Richardson Drive in Auburn will also be open two weekends prior to the election. Hours will be Saturdays, Sept. 27th and Oct. 4th from 8:00AM to 5:00PM; Sunday, Sept. 28th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM; and Sunday, Oct. 5th from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. During these times or during regular weekday hours, voters may come in to vote, pick up absentee ballots or drop off their voted ballots. Anyone planning to pick up or drop off an absentee ballot for another person, should contact the Elections Division at (530) 886-5650 for specific information.

For further information, contact the Elections Division at (530) 886 - 5690.



Public Invited to Attend Recovery Happens September 27th

September 19, 2003

Good food, live music and fun for families, individuals and children await the public Saturday, September 27 at the 2003 Recovery Happens Event, a celebration to acknowledge people who are on their way to overcoming alcohol or drug dependency.

Open to the entire community, this free event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at <u>Auburn's Recreation Park, 123 Recreation Drive.</u> The park is south of Old Town west of Auburn Folsom Road.

The schedule is:

- 10 a.m.- Keynote speakers and testimonials;
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.- free barbecue; and
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.- live music, food, and other activities for the entire family.

Attractions for children will include fun jumps, face painting, piñatas, and a puppet show.

For the third consecutive year, the Adult System of Care, in Placer County's Health and Human Services Department, is organizing the event in cooperation with other local social-service and substance abuse treatment agencies. It's part of a nationwide celebration that supports people seeking to recover from substance abuse and recognizes some of their many success stories.

"Overcoming drugs or alcohol can be a long, arduous process, but recovery does happen. It's important for us to remember that," said Placer County Adult System of Care Director, Maureen Bauman. "This event is a great chance to hear uplifting stories of recovery and to acknowledge the importance of support from family members, friends and professionals."

The celebration also seeks to spotlight the many treatment and recovery programs that are

available in Placer County.

At its Sept. 9 meeting, the county Board of Supervisors proclaimed September 2003 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month in Placer County.

County staff told supervisors that experts estimate each \$1 spent treating Americans who suffer from alcoholism, substance abuse or addiction saves about \$24 in lost productivity, law enforcement, health care, justice and other costs.

Organizers of Recovery Happens are the staff of the Adult System of Care, Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Team, but the event belongs to the substance abuse treatment providers and those in recovery.

Sponsors include Eagle Recovery Program, Aegis, New Leaf/Courage House, Community Recovery Resources, Hope, Help & Healing, Koinonia, Leonard Brown, Progress House, Rocklin Community Counseling Center, Sierra Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, and Sierra Family Services.

For more information, call Chris Murphy of the Placer County Health and Human Services Department, Adult System of Care at 530-886.5208.



Community Youth Development Mini-Grants Available

September 18, 2003 (Updated 11/23/04)

As part of its program to encourage children and teens in Placer County to make wise life choices, The Strength and Assets Promotion Program, in Placer County Community Health, is accepting applications for community youth development mini-grants of up to \$3,000. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2003. Late applications and faxed copies will not be accepted. Funds must be spent prior to June 30, 2004.

To receive funding, a program or activity should take a positive youth development approach which views children and teens as community resources, builds on their strengths and capabilities, actively involves them as partners with adults, and involves them in activity or program organization and implementation.

Youth development activities provide tools and support to help children and teens grow into successful, confident adults. Programs and activities funded by this program help young people resist problem behaviors like illegal drug or alcohol use, teen pregnancy, violence, and truancy.

A package of grant information is available by calling Shari Crow at 530-889-7238 or 530-886-3567, or by contacting her by email at scrow@placer.ca.gov.

County staff will hold grant information and technical assistance workshops on Monday, September 29, at the Auburn Library Beecher Room, located at 350 Nevada St, Auburn. Workshop times are from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and again from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information call 530-889-7238 or 530-886-3567, or contact Shari Crow by email at scrow@placer.ca.gov.



Several Roads To Be Repaved in the Train Village Area of Auburn

September 17, 2003

Placer County is having several roads repaved this month as part of its annual road-maintenance work.

The projects are in the Train Village area of Auburn.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, work will get under way on Luther Road from Bowman Road to the Auburn city limits and from Oak Ridge Road to Canal Street.

Other roads that will be repaved as part of this project include Bowman Road between Auburn Ravine Road and Luther Road; Lincoln Way between the Auburn city limits and Bowman Road undercrossing; and Auburn Ravine Road from Bowman Road to the Auburn city limits.

No road closures are planned during work on the roads, but traffic may be delayed for brief periods in some cases. It is anticipated that some of the work will be performed at night.

The roads will receive asphalt concrete overlays that will make rides smoother for motorists and extend the useful lives of the roads by several years.

Roadwork schedules may change due to weather or equipment problems.

The roadwork is being done by Granite Construction Co.



Applicants Sought for Penryn, Loomis Area Advisory Groups

September 17, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors is looking for people interested in serving as members of the Penryn Area Advisory Council and Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council.

No deadline has been set for submitting applications, but county officials hope to start reviewing them soon.

Commonly known as MACs, the county's 13 advisory councils advise the Board of Supervisors on issues of public interest in unincorporated areas. The Horseshoe Bar MAC represents unincorporated areas around the town of Loomis.

Members of the Penryn and Horseshoe Bar MACs are nominated by 3rd District Supervisor Harriet White and confirmed by the entire board.

"The municipal advisory councils play an important role in helping shape their communities by discussing issues important to them and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors," White said. "It's a great way to serve your community."

The councils are charged with gathering public comment on a range of topics, including land use, public works, recreation, law enforcement and public health and safety.

MACs often review development projects proposed within their areas of concern, ultimately making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission.

MAC members are unpaid volunteers. Generally, a MAC member must own property or be a business owner or manager within the area served by the MAC.

The Penryn council usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of every other month. Meetings

take plan at 7 p.m. in Penryn Elementary School, 6885 English Colony Way.

The Horseshoe Bar MAC typically meets on the third Tuesday of every other month. Its meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Loomis Library, 6050 Library Way. For meetings of both groups, member responsibilities include:

- Reviewing written materials;
- Visiting the sites of proposed projects when necessary;
- Listening carefully to public comments; and
- Participating in discussions and votes on action items.

For application forms or more information, call 530-889-4020. <u>Application forms also are available on the county's Web site.</u>



Supervisor White To Meet with Public September 24 in Newcastle

September 17, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will discuss county fees and other issues of interest to the public during an informal coffee klatch to be held Wednesday, Sept. 24 in Newcastle.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in Newcastle Fire Station #2. The fire station is at the intersection of Auburn Folsom and Shirland Tract roads.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout the 3rd District where the public can sip coffee while talking about county issues with her.

She recommends both the informal get-togethers and monthly meetings of the Newcastle-Ophir Municipal

Advisory Council as good ways to stay up to date on county issues.

The council generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are held in the United Auburn Indian Community Center, 661 Newcastle Road, Suite 1.

The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010 or by visiting the county's Web site.

White also welcomes e-mail at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603.

The public can reach her by telephone at her home office: 530-885-0722.

Residents also are invited to make appointments to meet her in her office at the county's

Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.



Special Meeting on Foresthill Community Plan on September 22

September 16, 2003

The Foresthill Forum will hold a special meeting Monday, Sept. 22 to give the public another chance to comment on a proposed update of the Foresthill Divide Community Plan.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison Road.

The Placer County Planning Department presented a draft version of the updated community plan to the Foresthill Forum on Sept. 8. At that meeting, the forum decided to hold the Sept. 22 special meeting after its members and about 70 people in the audience said they wanted more information and more time for public comment.

"One of Foresthill's greatest strengths is its community spirit. Residents there have strong convictions about what the future should hold and we want to give them plenty of opportunities to voice their opinions," said Chairman Rex Bloomfield of the Placer County Board of Supervisors. "It's critical residents participate because the community plan will shape the future of Foresthill for the next 20 years."

The public also will have additional opportunities to comment when the draft community plan is reviewed by the county Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, the Foresthill Forum may vote on whether to recommend commission and board approval of the plan.

The Foresthill Forum is one of 13 municipal advisory councils established to advise the Board of Supervisors on planning and other issues in unincorporated areas of Placer County.

The community plan is an update of a Foresthill general plan adopted in 1981. The new

plan will guide the physical, social and economic development of the 109-square-mile Foresthill area for the next 20 years.

The draft plan has sections dealing with population and housing, land use, community design, public facilities, parks and recreation, transportation and circulation, natural resources, cultural resources and air quality.

The <u>proposed community plan is posted on the county's web site</u>, and a draft environmental review will be posted shortly.

The public has until 5 p.m. Nov. 3 to submit comments on the draft EIR. Comments and responses to them will be included in the plan's final EIR.

The Foresthill Library, 24580 Main St., has printed copies of the draft community plan and EIR that residents can check out. It also has copies of both documents on compact discs that residents can have free of charge.

Residents can look at printed copies of the community plan and EIR in:

- Worton's Market, at Foresthill Road and Sierra View Lane;
- The Foresthill Public Utilities District, 24540 Main St.; and
- The Foresthill Telephone Co., 5915 Gold St.

Printed copies of the community plan and EIR are available at two locations in Auburn: the Planning Department, 11414 B Ave. in the DeWitt Center, and the Board of Supervisors office in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave.

The Planning Department also has free copies of the community plan and EIR on compact discs (CDs).



Martis Valley Community Plan Review

September 12, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will hold another public hearing on the update to the Martis Valley Community Plan on Monday,

September 22 in Kings Beach. The hearing will take place at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., beginning at 1 p.m.

This hearing is a follow-up to a public hearing held July 21 in Squaw Valley where there were several hours of public comment. The Board sought additional time to take a closer look at transit, workforce housing and other items of particular interest.

During this workshop, public testimony may be limited to the issues being reviewed by the Board. However, the Board will also hold another public hearing on the plan October 21 in Tahoe, and possibly make its decision then.

Residents are encouraged to review the draft plan in one of several ways:

- On the county web site, www.placer.ca.gov/planning/projects;
- By obtaining a free CD, available through the Planning Department, for use on a personal computer;
- Placer County Libraries in Tahoe City or Auburn;
- Truckee Library;
- Placer County Administrative Office, 565 West Lake Blvd., Tahoe City;
- Planning Department, 11414 B Ave., Auburn.

The community plan generally covers about 35 square miles in an area bounded by the Placer-Nevada county line on the north, Highway 89 on the west, the Lake Tahoe Basin on the south and California-Nevada state line on the east.

The Placer County Planning Commission has recommended board approval of the updated community plan.



Three Important Placer Legacy Acquisitions Nearing Completion

September 12, 2003

Three important acquisitions are in the offing for Placer County's award-winning Placer Legacy open-space conservation program.

The transactions would preserve 17.6-acres of ranchland near the historic Old Fruitvale School outside Lincoln, 234 acres of forestland on the North Fork American River Canyon and 137 acres along Coon Creek northwest of Lincoln. On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors gave its final stamp of approval to the first two acquisitions. It conceptually approved the Coon Creek transaction, but delayed making a final decision for at least two weeks while county staff gives its environmental analysis a last check.

"It's exciting to see real projects being put into place," said Supervisor Robert Weygandt. "Fifty to 100 years from now, we'll have something people will look back on and be very pleased the Board put this program in place."

During the meeting, Board Chairman Rex Bloomfield noted the 234 acres of forestland is near Giant Gap, a scenic canyon that's sometimes called "the Grand Canyon of the Sierra." After the first transcontinental railroad was built, trains often stopped there so passengers could get a better look into the canyon.

"So, this Giant Gap area is very well known historically in our county," Supervisor Bloomfield said.

In each of the three transactions, the county intends to buy a conservation easement from the landowner, leaving the land in private ownership. In the North Fork Canyon deal, the county also would acquire a trail easement to ensure the public always will have access to a segment of the Green Valley Trail that crosses the property.

Acquiring easements is significantly cheaper than buying property outright, because the county only pays for a property's development rights. In the case of farmland, existing

owners who sell agricultural conservation easements to the county can continue to farm their land.

The county intends to use money from its Open Space Trust Fund to acquire the Lincoln ranchland and federal grant funds for the Alta deal.

In the Coon Creek acquisition, the county will use state grant funds and a contribution from the Sierra Business Council, effectively protecting half a mile of Coon Creek at no cost to the county.

The Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program is just three years old, but already has as an impressive resume. Last year, it won a Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, which state officials call their most prestigious environmental honor. I

n cooperation with the Sierra Business Council, the county set up the program to conserve open space and farmland as a counterbalance to the region's rapid population growth. It's a voluntary program that depends on willing buyers and sellers. When the Board created the program, it adopted no new regulations and approved no land-use, zoning or general plan changes.

The program is particularly interested in protecting land that is picturesque or historically important; can serve as buffers between growing communities; or is suitable for large regional parks dedicated to such pursuits as hiking, biking and horseback riding. The program also aims to help protect the county's farm economy and protect the tremendous diversity of county plants and wildlife, including a number of endangered species.

The three transactions approved by supervisors include:

• \$65,000 for an agricultural conservation easement on the 17.6 acres of ranchland outside Lincoln.

The acquisition would preserve the historic ranch, oak woodland and wetlands on the site while allowing farming to continue. It also would provide an opportunity to create an outdoor education and living history program in conjunction with the school. The ranch is northeast of Lincoln south of Wise Road.

• \$289,000 for easements on the 234-acre Alta property.

The Alta property is on Moody Ridge near Giant Gap. The deal would preserve a trail that connects Moody Ridge Road and the Green Valley Trail to the North Fork American River Canyon. The Green Valley Trail provides access to Bureau of Land Management property and the Tahoe National Forest.

• \$325,000 in state grant funds for an easement on the 137 acres adjacent to Coon Creek. The Business Council would contribute another \$31,000 to the deal.

Located between Coon Creek and Waltz Road, the site is owned by Lakeview Farms. The acquisition is part of a much larger effort to restore Coon Creek, the surrounding floodplain and the creek's riparian habitat. If the acquisition is completed, cattle grazing still will be allowed on much of the 137-acre site.

The Board approved the first two acquisitions on unanimous votes and conceptually approved the Coon Creek transaction on a 4-1 vote. Chairman Rex Bloomfield cast the dissenting vote after questioning whether the acquisition fully meets Placer Legacy's objectives.

County officials continue to work with property owners on two other prospective deals that have been aired publicly:

- Spears Ranch, a 961-acre property east of Lincoln that could become a regional park for hikers, equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts; and
- 17 acres in the heart of Cisco Grove, an historic Sierra Nevada town that for decades was a popular way station for travelers along old Highway 40, Interstate 80's predecessor.

Placer Legacy's first acquisition was an agricultural easement on Aitken Ranch, a 317-acre property west of Lincoln that features vernal pools, marshland and a riparian forest alongside Auburn Ravine.

As part of Placer Legacy, county officials also have restored a stretch of Miners Ravine to look much as it did before gold miners arrived in 1848. The area in question is part of the Miners Ravine Nature Reserve, a 24-acre passive county park in Granite Bay.

Supervisors also committed \$150,000 to help complete financing for a 2,500-acre acquisition that will more than triple the size of Donner Memorial State Park. The Truckee Donner Land Trust and San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land took the lead in putting that deal together in cooperation with the California Parks and Recreation Department.

Included in that transaction is the Schallenberger Ridge, a tree-covered ridgeline that serves as a dramatic backdrop to Donner Lake.



Friends Group Improves Services to Animals

September 11, 2003

Placer County's animal shelter in Auburn knows how important having good friends can be.

When it needs a helping hand, the shelter knows it has an ally that's ready to pitch in: Friends of the Placer County Animal Shelter.

Sometimes, the group even takes the lead in improving the lot of unwanted and stray animals. Friends of the Shelter, for example, decided the shelter should get rid of its old, jail-like kennel doors and mounted a fund-raising campaign to pay for new ones. So far, about half of the kennels have been outfitted with new doors that allow visitors to get better looks at the adoptable animals inside.

Friends of the Shelter also sponsors the annual Doggie Derby. This year's event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Auburn Recreation Park. It will feature a three-mile fun run and walk at 9 a.m., contests and games for dogs, a parade of adoptable dogs, exhibits, demonstrations and great food. Trainers and other experts will be on hand to talk with dog owners. Friends of the Shelter uses proceeds to support the county's animal shelters in Auburn and Tahoe Vista, which are part of the county's Health and Human Services department.

"Since I've been here, I have been overwhelmed by the amount of energy, ideas, projects, dedication and effort exerted by the Friends," county Animal Services Program Manager Rich Ward said. "They foster countless animals, run and manage the Cat House, generate money through grants and mailers, take animals every Sunday to Petco for adoptions and have taken on projects such as the In-House Vet Clinic Trailer. They are also one of the strong voices in the county for animals in need."

The clinic trailer project is part of the group's drive to help the county's Animal Services Division improve on-site medical care for unwanted and stray animals brought to the shelter in north Auburn. To highlight the change, the animal shelter is now known as the

Animal Care Center.

Staff, volunteers and local veterinarians had recognized the need to improve the health care available to the shelter animals.

Space is extremely limited at the old shelter. While local veterinarians provided emergency care for sick or injured animals, there was little space for staff to provide follow-up care or treat sick animals on-site when needed. Staff was hard-pressed to find resources to provide a clinic.

Animal Services took a first step toward improving health care about two months ago by contracting with a veterinarian for 10-12 hours of work each week on-site. A particular priority is to improve the treatment of animals that arrive at the shelter with diseases such as upper-respiratory illnesses in cats or kennel cough in dogs, thus preventing other animals in the shelter from becoming ill. This veterinarian will also review care, cleaning and quarantine procedures, and will provide follow-up care for shelter animals treated by local veterinarians.

Next, the shelter needed to find more space and equipment. That's where Friends of the Shelter rode to the rescue with both imagination and hard work.

Rosemary Frieborn, the group's founder and president, provided the imagination. One day a few months ago, she spotted an old 55-foot construction trailer in Rocklin.

"It was in real bad shape," recalled Ken Bottorff, one of the group's volunteer workers, noting that the trailer had buckled siding and a dilapidated interior.

On the other hand, the trailer was for sale and the price was right: just \$700.

Friends of the Shelter bought the trailer, moved it to a storage yard near Penryn and set to work renovating it.

A \$25,000 grant from a private foundation covered the cost of medical equipment and part of the tab for trailer improvements.

Businesses pitched in as well, providing free materials and labor.

Several Auburn businesses have contributed to the project: Auburn Roofing, Sierra Pipe Co., General Wholesale and Warehouse Paints. Other businesses that have helped out are Marvair, Merillat Cabinets, Forster Heating, United Power & Communication, TVR Alarm Systems, Ryan Enterprises Doors and Windows and Milgard Windows. Placer County Facility Services has also provided support. "

We're doing this right," Frieborn explained, noting her group has spent about \$3,000 of its own money renovating the trailer.

When it's ready, the trailer will be set up behind the shelter, which is at 11251 B Ave. in the DeWitt Center.

"I think it will improve our adoption rate," Frieborn explained, saying she's convinced the improved health care will help convince more prospective pet owners to adopt shelter animals.

"I don't know where we would be without the Friends helping us help animals," Ward said. "When we need help, they are there."

Today animals leaving the shelter for new adoptive homes have been temperament tested to help ensure the placement will be successful. Dogs leaving to new homes have had heartworm tests, cats have been tested for feline leukemia. The County will continue to contract with local veterinary clinics for spay/neuter services and treatment of most animal injuries and illnesses.

"Our local veterinarians are very important partners," Ward stressed. "There's no way we could do our job without them."



Repairs to Foresthill Bridge Planned

September 9, 2003

Traffic on Foresthill Road between Auburn and Foresthill will be rerouted for about two weeks later this month while repairs are being made to the westbound side of the Foresthill Bridge.

The westbound side of the bridge will be closed beginning Sept. 15 while crews replace its main expansion joint. The bridge's eastbound side will remain open.

During the reconstruction period, both eastbound and westbound traffic will use the bridge's eastbound side from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., with traffic control under the direction of Placer County Public Works Department.

From 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., westbound traffic headed toward Auburn on Foresthill Road will use a detour. Just past the entrance to Lake Clementine, westbound motorists will be detoured to the Old Auburn Foresthill Road, go down into the American River Canyon, and proceed up Highway 49 toward Auburn.

The expansion joint allows the steel structure to expand and contract up to 18 inches due to variable temperatures.

For further information, contact Placer County Public Works at 530-889-7500.



Supervisor Bloomfield to Host Tahoe City Coffee Klatch Sept. 16

September 9, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will be in Tahoe City Tuesday, Sept. 16 to discuss county issues with the public.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the Tahoe City Library, 740 North Lake Blvd.

Supervisor Bloomfield is particularly interested in discussing population growth, open space conservation, affordable housing, public access to Lake Tahoe, air quality and the proposed Capital to Capital Trail.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can voice their opinions on county issues. The meetings give Supervisor Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

He represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

Supervisor Bloomfield encourages Tahoe City residents to stay up to date on county issues by attending monthly meetings of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Locations vary.

The public can confirm meeting times and dates and find out where meetings are to be held by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by visiting the county's Internet web site at www.placer.ca.gov/bos.

Supervisor Bloomfield invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



Exotic Newcastle Disease Threat Causes Ban On Poultry Exhibits

August 29, 2003

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) remains a severe threat to poultry in California, and for that reason, a statewide ban on poultry exhibits is likely to continue for now, according to Placer County Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner.

"While some quarantine zones have been reduced and no new cases have been detected since late May, state quarantines banning bird exhibits are NOT likely to be lifted in time for the Gold Country Fair, as some people had hoped," she said. "This is very unlikely due to the infectious nature and hardiness of this disease."

To date no cases of END have been detected north of Kern County. However, the Placer County Agriculture Department has been very active in informing and educating the public about the symptoms to watch for in their birds and how to notify the END helpline (1-800-491-1899) if they suspect any signs of disease. In addition, door to door surveys are being conducted to give information on END and to locate bird populations in case of an outbreak

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) is highly contagious among poultry and other birds, with a mortality rate of almost 100 percent. The disease does not affect humans, but has resulted in the loss of over 3 million birds since the initial outbreak in Southern California in the fall of 2002.

END is spread to healthy birds by contact with the bodily discharges of infected birds. Also, it can be spread by mechanical means as material carried on shoes, cages, or vehicles.

While Auburn's Gold Country Fair will not feature birds, fair officials have made up for the loss of poultry by sponsoring a poster and picture contest, and by allowing more small animal entries. So there will be plenty of rabbits and guinea pigs to view at the small animal barn, and hopefully with the final eradication of END, possibly next year, the fowl Exotic Newcastle Disease Threat Causes Ban On Poultry Exhibits - Placer County, California

will be back to claim their spot at the fair.



Meetings Planned Regarding Draft Foresthill Community Plan

August 29, 2003

Two meetings will be held during September that will give residents a chance to learn more about the draft Foresthill Divide Community Plan.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, the Foresthill Divide Community Plan Team will present the draft plan during a workshop with members of the Foresthill Forum. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Foresthill Middle School Library, at 22888 Foresthill Road. The team will also offer its recommendations to the Forum.

Then on Monday, Sept. 8, the Placer County Planning Department will formally present the draft plan at the Foresthill Forum meeting. After the presentation, the meeting will be open for public comment from members of the Forum and the community. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at a the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, at 24601 Harrison Road. At the end of this meeting, or perhaps at a future meeting, the Forum may vote whether to recommend this plan for approval by the Planning Commission.

There will also be other opportunities for public comment on the plan in subsequent meetings, such as during hearings of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The draft Foresthill Divide Community Plan will be posted soon on the Placer County Web site (www.placer.ca.gov/planning). Print copies of the plan will be available at the Foresthill Library, and in Auburn at the Planning Department and at the Board office in the County Administrative Offices on Fulweiler Avenue. Information about future meetings will also be provided to news media and posted online.

"When a Foresthill Divide Community Plan is eventually adopted, it will become the 'constitution' for land use planning far into the future," noted Supervisor Rex Bloomfield. "I hope the community will attend to help shape the future of Foresthill."



Exhibit Wins Gold Medal, Special-Effects Award at State Fair

August 18, 2003



Two girls enjoy the Placer County State Fair exhibit.

Placer County's exhibit at the California State Fair offers fair-goers a chance to step back

in time and get a glimpse of what foothill mining towns looked like 150 years ago.

The exhibit is a pint-sized replica of a typical Gold Rush town anticipating the start of a state fair in keeping with this year's theme: "Placer County- Big Fun in a Small Town."

for best use of special effects, animation and technology. Forty-five counties have exhibits at the fair.

Placer County's exhibit features 32 animated figures, including a few that are replicas of county employees. Each figure has a handcrafted wire armature and hand-sewn clothing.

Eight soundtracks allow the characters to address fair-goers, and special effects are used in several cases to grab the public's attention.

This year's exhibit is a new, improved version of Placer County's award-winning 1997 entry: "Step into the Gold Rush."

The 1997 exhibit walked away with the prestigious Golden Bear, the State Fair's Best of Show Award. It also received the Craftsmanship Award.

"This exhibit was always extremely popular with the community and a favorite of our staff," noted Board of Supervisors Chairman Rex Bloomfield. "Since both time and budgets are extra tight this year, we decided to bring it back and update it to celebrate the 'big fun' of the state fair."

This year's exhibit also has a new building: a replica of the Old Auburn Fire House. Built in 1891, the latter is one of Old Town Auburn's leading attractions. Last year, Placer County won the People's Choice Award, an honor that is particularly coveted because it goes to the exhibit that receives the most votes from fairgoers.

"Placer County-A Wonderful Place to Bee," last year's exhibit, used a colorful collection of bees to extol the county's recreational virtues. It featured bees camping, boating and enjoying other recreational pursuits offered in the county.

Each year, the county's state fair exhibit is created by a team of volunteers, county staff and local sponsors, with minimum-security jail inmates doing much of the construction work under the supervision of staff.

The 2003 State Fair began Aug. 15 and runs through Sept. 1 at Cal Expo in Sacramento.



Sheridan Grant Funds To Be Used for Sewer, Housing Repairs

August 15, 2003

Placer County was awarded a \$500,000 state grant recently to improve the sewer system and fund a housing-rehabilitation program in Sheridan.

"This is great news," Supervisor Robert Weygandt said. "The grant will fund much-needed improvements to the community's sewer system and make low-interest loans available to low-income households for home repairs. It will give Sheridan a big boost by improving both its infrastructure and housing stock. It's exciting to participate in assisting Sheridan in this program."

The supervisor represents the 2nd District, an area that includes Sheridan, Lincoln and most of Rocklin.

The grant program is a joint effort of the county's redevelopment agency and Facility Services Department.

The county expects to begin spending the grant funds this fall. It plans to spend \$293,000 for sewer-system repairs and \$147,000 for rehabilitation of owner-occupied and rental housing. The remainder of the grant funds would be used for administration and other costs.

Sewer repairs are needed to reduce the amount of rainwater and groundwater that seeps into the system. The repair work will seal cracks and other breaks in pipes where water seeps in.

The housing rehabilitation program will loan up to \$60,000 per house. A study conducted in January found 100 homes in need of repair in Sheridan. Eighty-one needed minor work, but 18 required moderate or substantial rehabilitation work. One house was classified as dilapidated.

County redevelopment officials estimate the housing loan program initially will be able to fund seven housing repairs.

To receive loans, property owners must either qualify as low-income homeowners or have dwellings they rent to tenants with low or very low incomes. For 2003, a single-person household is considered low-income if annual income doesn't exceed \$33,500. The comparable limit for a four-person household is \$47,850. F

or more information about the housing program, call 530-519-2987.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development awarded the grant through its Community Development Block Grant Program. Placer County has committed \$40,000 in matching funds from its Housing Trust Fund and \$25,000 in redevelopment funding.

In 2001, Placer County received planning money from the same grant program to identify the exact locations of sewer infiltration problems and to document the number of low-income households in the area.



Placer County Plans to Repave Two Roads in Granite Bay Area

August 14, 2003

Placer County is having several roads repaved over the next three weeks as part of its summer road-maintenance work.

Two of the projects are in the Granite Bay area.

At 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 25, work will resume on an already-started project: Auburn Folsom Road from Twin Rocks Road to 300 yards south of Cavitt & Stallman Road.

On Tuesday, Aug. 26, Joe Rodgers Road will be repaved between Auburn Folsom and Douglas Boulevard.

Both roads will receive asphalt concrete overlays that will make rides smoother for motorists and extend the useful lives of the roads by several years.

In the Auburn area, work will start on Indian Hill Road from Interstate 80 to the Auburn city limits on Wednesday, Aug. 27. That work is expected to take three days.

In the Roseville area, Fiddyment Road will be resurfaced from south of Athens Avenue to south of Sunset Avenue on Tuesday, Sept. 2 and Wednesday, Sept. 3.

No road closures are planned during work on the roads, but traffic may be delayed for brief periods during paving operations.

Roadwork schedules may change due to weather or equipment problems.

The roadwork is being done by Baldwin Contracting Co.



Board of Supervisors To Hold Workshop on Martis Valley September 22

August 11, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will hold a public workshop in Kings Beach Sept. 22 to discuss a proposed update of the Martis Valley Community Plan.

The workshop will be held at 1 p.m. in the North Tahoe Conference Center, 5318 North Lake Blvd.

Public testimony may be limited to the item being discussed by the board or new items not discussed at a public hearing on the community plan update held July 21 in Squaw Valley. After listening to several hours of public testimony at the July 21 meeting, board members decided to postpone making a decision on the update until an Oct. 21 meeting at Northstar at Lake Tahoe. The delay will allow the board to give a closer look to transit, workforce housing and other issues raised during last month's hearing.

The community plan generally covers about 35 square miles in an area bounded by the Placer-Nevada county line on the north, Highway 89 on the west, the Lake Tahoe Basin on the south and California-Nevada state line on the east.

The Placer County Planning Commission is recommending board approval of the updated community plan.



Applicants Sought for Resort Association Board, Committee

August 19, 2003

Placer County is looking for a volunteer interested in serving on the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's board of directors. <u>The application form is available through this link</u>, or you may call 1-800-488-4308, extension 4020, or 530-889-4020 for an application form.

The county is also recruiting six members of the infrastructure committee.

The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to Sept. 15.

As part of an effort to strengthen public participation in the association, the county Board of Supervisors will name an at-large public representative to the association board and appoint six people to the 12-member infrastructure committee.

"The Resort Association strives to meet the needs of residents while assisting tourism," said Rex Bloomfield, district supervisor. "Having representation from the community on the board and on the infrastructure committee is very important to meeting that goal."

Applicants must be full-time residents in the area served by the association, but need not be association members. Knowledge of community issues is desirable.

Placer County contracts with the association to promote tourism and make recommendations on North Tahoe infrastructure projects. Projects that have received transient-occupancy tax funding for the benefit of residents and tourists alike include sidewalks in Tahoe City, sidewalks proposed for Kings Beach and the bike bridge into Squaw Valley.

Infrastructure committee meetings typically are held at 3 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in the Tahoe City Public Utility District boardroom, 221 Fairway Drive. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in various north shore

locations.

For more information, call Grayson Marshall at 530-889-7371 or 1-800-488-4308, extension 7371, or Steve Kastan at 530-546-1950.



Supervisor White to Host Coffee Klatch in Auburn August 5

August 1, 2003

The public will get a chance to meet with Placer County Supervisor Harriet White during a coffee klatch to be held in Auburn Wednesday, Aug. 6.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout her district to answer questions about county government and listen to what constituents have on their minds. The meetings also give her an opportunity to update people on county projects and programs.

Supervisor White normally holds a coffee on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The date of the August meeting was changed due to schedule conflicts.

Supervisor White represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

She encourages residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council. The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings take place in the Planning Commission Hearing Room, which is located at the intersection of Richardson Drive and B Avenue in the DeWitt Center.

To confirm times and dates of MAC meetings, look online at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or call the board office at 530-889-4010.

Supervisor White welcomes e-mail at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. The public can reach her by telephone at her home office: 530-885-0722.

Residents also are invited to make appointments to meet with her at the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.



CIMBL To Clean Up King Road in the Loomis Area Saturday

July 23, 2003

CIMBL plans to clean up trash along King Road in the Loomis area Saturday, July 26.

The group's volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of King and Taylor roads.

New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along 2,167 miles of roadway since the group was established nine years ago. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to Memphis, Tenn.

Group members have filled almost 20,000 bags with trash and found more than 1,700 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance workers pick up the trash bags and tires.

For more information, call Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, at 916-645-3599.



Supervisor White To Meet with Constituents in Loomis July 30

July 22, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will meet with the public during an informal coffee klatch to be held in Loomis Wednesday, July 30. The meeting will take place at 2 p. m. in the Loomis Library, 6050 Library Way.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout her district to answer questions about county government and listen to what constituents have on their minds. The meetings also give her a chance to update people on county projects and programs.

She represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

Supervisor White encourages residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council. It generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month in the Loomis Library.

To confirm times and dates of MAC meetings, look online at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or call the board office at 530-889-4010.

95603. The public can reach her by telephone at her home office: 530-885-0722.

Residents also are invited to make appointments to meet her in her office at the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony To Be Held for Winchester Trail July 29

July 21, 2003

Placer County officials and residents will gather in Meadow Vista Tuesday, July 29 to celebrate completion of the Winchester Trail.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Winchester Park. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Scheduled speakers include Chairman Rex Bloomfield of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, Director Tom Miller of the county Facility Services Department and President Janet Peterson of the Meadow Vista Trails Association.

Almost eight miles long, the trail runs around the perimeter of the Winchester County Club, a 1,100-acre residential development and golf course. The trail provides a link between Meadow Vista and Christian Valley, and can accommodate hikers, equestrians and bicyclists. Winchester Properties and developer C.C. Myers granted easements for the trail to Placer County. The County Parks and Grounds Division and the association handled trail construction work.

The Auburn Recreation District will manage the new eight-acre Winchester Park.

To get to the park from Auburn, take Interstate 80 east to the Placer Hills Road exit. Turn left onto Placer Hills, then left again on Sugar Pine Road. After entering the Winchester Country Club, go left on Winchester Club Drive. Make a left at Pinnacle View Drive and go left again at Granite Park Drive. Continue on Granite Park until you come to the parking lot for the park's baseball diamond.

Here is a map that shows the location of the park.



Supervisor to Meet with Public in Auburn Monday, July 28

July 21, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will host a coffee klatch in Auburn Monday, July 28 to discuss county issues with the public in an open, informal setting.

The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the Beecher Room at the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St. The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can voice their opinions on county issues. The meetings give Supervisor Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

He represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe. The supervisor encourages north Auburn residents to attend monthly meetings of the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Planning Commission Hearing Room, which is located at the intersection of Richardson Drive and B Avenue in the DeWitt Center.

The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by <u>visiting the</u> Board's Web page (www.placer.ca.gov/bos).

Supervisor Bloomfield invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



Martis Valley Community Plan Sent to Board of Supervisors

July 1, 2003

Placer County Supervisors are tentatively scheduled to review the draft Martis Valley Community Plan on Monday, July 21 following a recommendation for approval by the Placer County Planning Commissioners who met last week in North Lake Tahoe.

Commission action came on Thursday, June 26 following four public hearings, more than 30 Citizens advisory group meetings and three comment periods for the documents environmental impact report over the past 4 years.

The recommendation by the Planning Commission includes the following:

- Reduces the potential holding capacity of the Martis Valley Community Plan area from 12, 000 today to 8,600 units, as recommended by staff. (Currently there are approximately 2,500 existing lots in the Martis Valley.)
- Protects approximately 85 percent of the valley as open space, while identifying approximately 15 percent as developable. All the land which can be seen along Highway 267 to the tree line is protected.
- Adopts more stringent policies to protect drainage, air and water quality, riparian areas and wildlife.
- Requires that employee and affordable housing be provided by all new projects.
- Significantly increases recreational amenities including land for skiing, golf courses and hiking, biking and equestrian trails.
- Relies on the Town of Truckee as the regional center.
- Allows for the continued expansion of Lahontan, Eaglewood and Northstar developments.
- Requires significant clustering of any units built east of Highway 267.

Supervisors will meet on July 21 and 22 at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Grand Sierra A room, 400 Squaw Creek Rd. in the Squaw Valley. The meeting regarding the Martis Valley Community Plan is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 AM on Monday, the 21st.

The Martis Valley Community Plan generally covers about 35 square miles of land between the Placer/Nevada County line on the north, Highway 89 on the west, the Lake Tahoe Basin on the South and the California/Nevada state line on the east.



Groundbreaking To Be Held at Granite Bay Community Park

June 26, 2003

Placer County officials and community leaders will get together July 2 to hold a formal groundbreaking ceremony at Granite Bay Community Park.

The ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. at the 16.3-acre park site. It's at the southeast corner of Douglas Boulevard and Barton Road.

Gateway Landscape Construction of Livermore actually started preliminary work on the park June 16. It has a year to complete the project.

"It's so exciting to see this project under way," Supervisor Ted Gaines said. "It has been a priority of mine since I joined the Board of Supervisors, and I know it's a priority for Granite Bay residents, because many individuals and groups have contributed money to help fund the project. I hope the public will join me when we celebrate the opening of the park."

When completed, the park will include two baseball-soccer fields, a playground, picnic areas, snack bar building with restrooms, parking lot and trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The plans call for preserving an oak woodlands and wetlands on the site. A landscaped berm will be built at the south end to separate the park from the Princeton Reach Subdivision.

In May, the Board of Supervisors accepted Gateway Construction's bid of approximately \$1.9 million to build the park, as well as the snack bar building.

Due to funding constraints, plans for constructing two tot lots and the second of two baseball-soccer fields were put on hold while county staff explored funding options.

At its June 24 meeting, the board gave a go-ahead signal for the tot lots, appropriating \$136,000 to build them. The funding package includes \$24,000 raised by community members and organizations and \$7,500 in county revenue-sharing funds the board set aside at the urging of Supervisor Gaines.

During the June 24 meeting, the supervisor thanked county staff for its efforts to find money for the tot lots, telling Facility Services Director Tom Miller, "I know you've been working hard and it looks like it's coming together."

The second baseball-soccer field now is the only unfunded part of the project. Its projected cost is \$124,000. County staff is working with the Granite Bay Rotary Club and Eureka Youth Soccer Club to explore funding options.

n June 24, supervisors also approved plans for adding asphalt surfaces and making other improvements to two bike trails in Granite Bay, so they meet county standards.

The first, the Park to Park Trail, runs adjacent to Penbridge Drive from Treelake Community Park to Treelake Terrace Park. The second goes along the Barton Road frontage of the Granite Bay Golf Club.

The Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council supports both trail-improvement projects and the Treelake Master Homeowners Association has voiced its support for improvements to the Park to Park Trail.



Public Comment Sought on Noise Issues

June 26, 2003

Placer County is drafting a noise ordinance and needs your help. Residents who are interested should plan to attend one of three public forums to be held during the next three weeks, or to mail or email their comments to the County as soon as possible.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors decided to appoint up to three community representatives from each district to a task force which will make recommendations, and welcomes applications from residents holding diverse opinions and willing to serve. The task force would hold four meetings in August to complete the work.

Three public forums are scheduled:

- 4:00 6:30 p.m., Monday July 7 at the Planning Commission Hearing
 - Room, DeWitt Center, in Auburn
- 4:00 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 8 at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Loomis
- 4:00 6:30 p.m.,
 Wednesday, July 9 at the
 Fruitvale School Hall in
 Lincoln

A forum has already been held in Kings Beach.

A working group of county staff has reviewed the comments received from residents so far. "People have told us they have noise concerns with roosters, dogs, boats, radios, loud music, dirt bikes, leaf blowers, construction and numerous other things," noted Allison Carlos, Principal Management Analyst in the County Executive Office, who has led the staff effort. "Others have expressed concern that a noise ordinance shouldn't prevent property owners from riding their bikes, working on their property, playing music, or owning animals."

"Clearly one of the important tasks will be to find balance in addressing this multi-faceted issue. During the forums, we hope to have residents who have diverse perspectives working on a balanced solutions together, such as vehicle noise." Facilitators will be on

hand to help organize the discussions.

From the input received so far, staff has identified several key elements to be considered. These include commonly applied maximum noise levels, definitions, special noise source limitations, vehicle noise, amplified noise, land use considerations, mediation, administrative remedies, fines and enforcement.

The task force will include residents, working group members, and staff from code enforcement, environmental health and air pollution control (because of the related fugitive dust ordinance).

Residents interested in serving on the task force can find <u>an application here.</u> Complete the application, print it, and mail it to the Placer County Clerk of the Board, at 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603.Applications are due July 11.

To share your thoughts about noise, please send a letter to the Placer County Noise Task Force, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or send an email to noise@placer.ca.gov. Information updates are also available on this Web page.



2003-04 Proposed Budget To Be Reviewed by Board of Supervisors

June 20, 2003

During their June 24 meeting, Placer County Board of Supervisors will consider a 2003-04 proposed budget.

In spite of substantial economic growth locally over the past several years, Placer must balance its budget in the face of three significant challenges: the State's financial crisis, the national and state economic slowdown and personnel cost increases.

The recommended budget reflects the Governing for Results Initiative, launched in 2002, to strengthen the linkages between planning, performance, and cost information, and community results. The FY 2003-04 budget document is the County's first effort to integrate into a single document the results of strategic planning and performance-based budgeting, which is a method to link expenditures to program performance and expected outcomes.

The recommended budget is actually down \$3 million from last year's final budget, about \$418.6 million. This is in contrast to the last few years when the Board was able to accommodate increased demands for service in response to population growth.

"Our costs are simply climbing faster than our revenues," noted Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer. "Most funding increases requested by departments were difficult to accommodate. All departments have responded well by trimming anticipated costs, and many had to cut costs significantly. While many positions remain unfilled, no layoffs are being recommended with the proposed budget.

"Our goal is to protect services and our workforce as much as possible. We see this as an opportunity to enhance our efforts in finding the most cost effective ways to provide services."

Public safety departments and Health and Human Services face the largest budget

challenges.

CEO is recommending a \$34.3 million allocation in General Fund revenue to the public safety departments for the 2003-04 fiscal year, which is an increase of about \$3.6 million over the current year. In addition, voter-approved statewide public safety sales taxes are expected to be about \$1.0 million more than collected in the current year. Despite these revenue increases, the recommended budget is less than requested and will require belt-tightening by all of the departments.

CEO is recommending a \$20.2 million general fund allocation to the Health and Human Services department for 2003-04, which is an increase of about \$1.0 million over the current year. The recommended budget includes about \$1.1 million of reserves that were set aside over the last several years in anticipation that the County would someday be confronted by a combination of residents' increased need for service during a sagging economy and declining State funding. Nevertheless, many service level adjustments will be necessary, as reported to the Board of Supervisors on June 10. Since the majority of the funding included in this budget comes from the State to pay for services that are mandated by the State, phased budget and service-level adjustments will evolve over the next 2-3 years if State funding levels decrease.

Board decisions made during the past several years are helping Placer to weather this tougher budget season while continuing to work on critical projects needed in the future. Work will continue on long term capital improvement projects including the Auburn Justice Center, the land development building and the South Placer Justice Center using funding set aside in previous years. The recommended budget calls for spending \$11.7 million in reserves planned for facility and technology improvement costs. Of that, \$9.2 million will help pay for facility construction costs, and \$2.5 million will help pay for purchase of a payroll personnel system to replace the county's outdated payroll accounting system.

In previous years, Placer County was able to set aside significant reserves each year to help pay for long-term needs such as nearly \$300 million in facilities needed to serve new residents and replace worn-out buildings. The County will be unable to contribute to operating reserves this year, although there will be a prudent contingency fund for unanticipated problems.

County departments actually began trimming ongoing costs nearly a year ago in anticipation of economic slowdown, keeping positions vacant and delaying one-time expenses, which has saved money in the interim. When the state finally passes a budget, Placer County will need to determine the impact and how to manage it.

On Tuesday at 11 a.m. Supervisors are expected to approve the budget as an interim

spending plan, and to hold budget hearings for a more detailed look on August 11 and 12. By law the budget must be finalized by the end of September.



Applicants Sought for Resort Association Board, Committee

June 23, 2003

Placer County is looking for volunteers interested in serving on the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's board of directors or infrastructure committee.

The deadline for submitting applications is Aug. 1.

As part of an effort to strengthen public participation in the association, the county Board of Supervisors will name an at-large public representative to the association board and appoint six people to the 12-member infrastructure committee.

"The Resort Association strives to meet the needs of residents while assisting tourism," said Rex Bloomfield, district supervisor. "Having representation from the community on the board and on the infrastructure committee is very important to meeting that goal." Applicants must be full-time residents in the area served by the association, but need not be association members. Knowledge of community issues is desirable. Created in 1995, the association is an independent nonprofit organization funded largely through local transient-occupancy taxes, levies paid by occupants of hotels, motels and other short-term lodging.

Placer County contracts with the association to promote tourism and make recommendations on North Tahoe infrastructure projects. Projects that have received transient-occupancy tax funding for the benefit of residents and tourists alike include sidewalks in Tahoe City, sidewalks proposed for Kings Beach and the bike bridge into Squaw Valley.

The committee advises the association board on infrastructure projects proposed for North Tahoe. Committee members serve two-year terms.

Committee meetings typically are held at 3 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in the Tahoe City Public Utility District boardroom, 221 Fairway Drive.

To get an application, call 1-800-488-4308, extension 4020, or 530-889-4020. <u>An application form is available here, as a PDF document.</u>

For more information, call Grayson Marshall at 530-889-7371 or 1-800-488-4308, extension 7371, or Steve Kastan at 530-546-1950.



CIMBL Looking to Recruit More Volunteers

June 13, 2003

Looking for a way to contribute to the community and make life seem more meaningful?

One way is to become a member of CIMBL, an all-volunteer group committed to helping keep Placer County beautiful by removing trash from its roadways.

The group always can use more people willing to clean up trash. Now, it's also looking for volunteers who can assist with administration, fund-raising and the organization of cleanups.

Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, emphasized becoming a CIMBL member is a great way to serve one's community while making life seem more meaningful.

"Many members help as family units and find this to be an enjoyable family event," he said, noting it's also a good way to get exercise.

Known formally as Citizens Involved Means Better Living, CIMBL is nine years old. With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along more than 2,150 miles of roadway since the group was established almost nine years ago. A road that long would reach from Auburn to Memphis, Tenn.

The group has filled 20,000 bags with trash and collected more than 1,800 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance workers pick up the trash bags and tires.

CIMBL currently has about 400 members ranging in age from 12 to 88 years old. More than 60 are active participants.

The membership base includes students from Lincoln High School.

"They are trying to get other high schools in Placer County to join their efforts, because the present students will be the community-minded adults of the future," Albertsen said.

To become a member or get more information, call 916-645-3599 or 916-652-2181.



County Seeks Members for New Stormwater Plan Advisory Committee

June 12, 2003

Placer County is seeking county residents and experts in stormwater quality issues to serve on a temporary citizens' advisory committee. The committee will make recommendations to the county on a 5-year stormwater management plan, a new federal requirement which is part of the Clean Water Act. Committee members would serve as volunteers.

The federal government recently required smaller counties nationwide, like Placer County, to file a stormwater management plan showing the steps it will take to reduce stormwater pollution. Pollution from stormwater runoff can include oil, antifreeze or gas, soaps and chemicals, and other materials which reduce the quality of water in local creeks, streams and rivers, and beyond. In addition to county residents' need for clean water for drinking, agriculture and recreation, plants and animals also rely on a clean water supply to survive. Preventing or reducing stormwater pollution is an important way to help safeguard the county's current clean water supply.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee (the CAC) will have 13 members, and will meet monthly starting in July 2003, for approximately six months. The CAC is expected to produce a report of recommendations which county staff will consider as a guide for the stormwater management plan implementation. Meetings will be open to the public. It is likely they will be 2 hours long, and held on weekdays, in the late afternoon or evening.

More detailed information about the committee, a printable application, and the stormwater management plan and area map is available by phone at 530-889-7503, by email request to stormwater@placer.ca.gov, and on the county Web site.



Thunder Valley Casino Update

Updated 6/11/03

The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), working with Station Casinos, has built and will operate the Thunder Valley Casino in the Sunset Industrial Area Community of South Placer County.

There are no federal requirements that the Tribe, a sovereign nation, follow county or city land use ordinances which all citizens must follow.

However, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Placer County, the UAIC Tribal Counsel has agreed to meet county standards and to mitigate the impacts of the casino. This MOU is unusual in that it parallels closely what another development moving into the area might be required to do.

Here are some of the things the UAIC has done as part of the MOU:

- Processed a development plan to determine compliance with an environmental review that substantially complies with the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Generally complied with County general and community plans, zoning ordinances and design guidelines. The

Temporary Traffic Disruptions

"First day excitement" drew huge crowds on opening day, Monday, June 9, beginning early in the morning, and resulting in major traffic problems in the area. No one anticipated the number of visitors who would come on a Monday morning.

However, those traffic issues have generally disappeared. As of Tuesday, June 10, traffic is flowing smoothly on Highway 65, Athens and Industrial and other local roads. There's plenty of parking available and plenty of room in the casino.

There could be additional "first day excitement" traffic on weekends in June, but traffic is expected to flow smoothly for the most part.

The tribe has paid \$4.8 million in traffic mitigation fees. In addition, the tribe has improved Athens and Industrial Roads near the casino, and added a stoplight. The tribe has plans to build a new two-lane road south from the casino to Sunset. This road will lie to the west and run parallel to Industrial Avenue. To do this the tribe will need to extend

building was built according to county building standards.

Sunset Boulevard westward to join the roads.

- Built a new fire station on site, and providing funding for Placer County Fire Service and its contractors to provide fire and emergency response services in the region.
- Paid traffic mitigation fees of \$4.8 million; has improved roads in the area and plans to build a road to the south.
- Is reimbursing the County for law enforcement in the area, including five new Placer County Sheriff's deputies and one patrol vehicle.
- Has provided an on-site sewer system which meets the state law.
- Has made contributions as agreed for the County's Placer Legacy program, designed to protect Placer's diverse open-space and agricultural resources. UIAC donations to prevent and treat problem gambling are in process.
- Will compensate the county for the loss of local taxes, including sales and property.

Overall, the Tribal Counsel and its partner Station Casinos has complied, or is in the process of complying with the MOU.

Background

The United Auburn Indian Community, a tribe which includes local Maidu and Miwok Indians, is now opening the Thunder Valley Casino. A private company, Station Casinos, will operate the casino on behalf of the tribe.

The casino is located on 58 acres of land now held in trust by the Tribe, in the County's Sunset Industrial Area. The site is located near the intersection of Athens and Industrial Avenues, near the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill.

Under the federal Indian Gaming Regulation Act of 1988, Native American Tribes, which are sovereign entities, can legally operate gaming on federal trust lands or reservations to the level that state law permits gaming. If the State of California were to ban gaming (including the lottery, horse racing and bingo parlors run by non-profits), then gaming would not be available to the Tribes.

Cities and the County were able to offer input to the federal government regarding siting of the casino. However neither the County nor any city has authority to override the federal law which makes gaming legal on trust land. There are no federal requirements that the Tribe, a sovereign nation, follow county or city land use ordinances which all citizens must follow, such as requiring that fees be paid to cover the costs of fire and law enforcement, and meet design requirements, and sewer and water quality standards.





Two Officials Receive Awards for Child-Welfare Work

June 10, 2003

Two officials who work together in the Placer County Children's System of Care won prestigious awards from statewide groups recently.

Both Richard Saletta of the County Department of Health and Human Services and Tad Kitada of the County Office of Education were recognized for long-standing contributions to child-welfare efforts.

Saletta, the Children's System of Care's program chief, received the Advocate of the Year Award from the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth.

Kitada, the Office of Education's director of prevention services, received the Lee Lundberg Award for Outstanding Service from the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance.

"Both Tad and Rick are long-term leaders who are visionary, committed, conscientious, tireless and focused on making sure that families have the best possible services in the least bureaucratic and most family-centered manner," said Bud Bautista, client services director of the Children's System of Care.

He noted Saletta and Kitada have worked for almost 13 years helping redesign children's services into a comprehensive, integrated system.

The Children's System of Care is governed by a group known as the SMART Policy Council that has representatives from Health and Human Services, the County Probation Department, Office of Education and County Juvenile Court.

Dr. Stephen Mayberg, director of the California Department of Mental Health, gave Saletta his award recently. It recognizes Saletta's contributions over the last 20 years to improving the Children's System of Care and integrating its services.

Saletta has worked in the children's services field for 30 years and in his current position for the last 20. A Placer County resident for 30 years, he enjoys fishing, cooking, skiing and taking care of his family ranch with wife Kathy.

Kitada's award recognizes his outstanding service in the field of education and support programs.

His 28-year career field includes stints as a caseworker and college instructor. He has spent the last 13 years with the Office of Education, was one of the founders of the Foster Youth Tutorial Programs in California and is a legislative expert on state laws that relate to minors.

A Placer County native, he enjoys fishing, jogging and playing historical folk music.



Supervisor Bloomfield to Meet Public in Foresthill June 17

June 10, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will host a coffee klatch in Foresthill June 17 to discuss county issues with constituents in an open, informal setting.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. in the Foresthill Library, 24580 Main St.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can voice their opinions on county issues. The meetings give Supervisor Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

He represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

Supervisor Bloomfield encourages Foresthill residents to stay up to date on county issues by attending monthly meetings of the Foresthill Forum. It normally meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Meetings generally take place in the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison Road.

The public can confirm meeting times, dates and locations by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by <u>visiting the Board's online meeting calendar.</u>

Supervisor Bloomfield invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



Health and Human Services Budget Impacts Status Report

June 9, 2003

On Tuesday Placer County Supervisors will hear a status report about staff efforts to close a \$5.6 million gap in the Health and Human Services (HHS) budget by reducing service levels in some programs while protecting services to the most vulnerable populations.

Like other county social service programs statewide, Placer County HHS costs are impacted by declining state revenues, increasing business costs, and a growing number of citizens turning to government for assistance. Still unknown are what further costs the state might pass along to the County when the final state budget is adopted.

The County Executive Office's proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-04 includes \$118.7 million for Health and Human Services, including \$20 million from the General Fund. The budget gap reflects the difference between what it cost this fiscal year versus what it would cost during the next fiscal year to provide an already-reduced level of service, after all revenues and costs have been considered.

"Thanks to advanced planning by the Board, our county is experiencing far fewer problems than most counties, however this year's budget decisions won't be easy," said Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "We continue to seek more cost effective and efficient ways of conducting business. When we must recommend service reductions, we'll do our best to protect vital services and minimize the impact on our residents and our work force."

In addition to significant cuts they made earlier in the year, HHS management staff have reviewed the best possible ways to reduce expenses with the least possible impact to clients and to shift scarce revenues to the highest priority programs. In many cases, sources of additional state funding have disappeared. More than 70 positions have been left vacant to cut costs.

"We must first maintain our most critical services, for example, protecting children and

providing substance abuse and mental health services, clinics, public health nursing and human service activities, such as helping people learn to find jobs," said Health and Human Services Director Ray Merz.

"Our managers sought innovative ways to reduce our costs, find administrative economies, reduce service levels rather than totally eliminate programs we feel are essential, and to maximize other funding sources wherever possible. We looked first at reducing programs which are discretionary, or which serve people who have other resources. Every division has made cuts, and as a management team we came up with these recommendations."

"Because of our reliance on state resources, we recognize that our budget gap will most likely increase as the state budget is adopted, and that we will face these problems for years to come. Making these tough decisions now will help keep the problem from getting worse."

While the department is considering a number of changes, the outcome of the state budget will also have an impact and could affect the extent of proposed changes.

HHS intends to leave 75 to 100 positions vacant (out of 877 allocated positions), and proposes reducing the budget for extra help. Employees are also being surveyed as to whether they would have a personal interest in working fewer hours, for example, through a voluntary unpaid furlough, or through working part time. Reductions of departmental travel, transportation, training, facility improvements and miscellaneous expenses will save an estimated \$750,000, staff estimates.

The Medi-Cal Managed Care Pilot Program, which had improved primary care access for 7,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and the Mentally Ill Offender Program, which served about 100 offenders, will be closed because state funding will be discontinued on July 1. Transitional residential mental health treatment programs at DeWitt and Cirby Hills will be modified to reduce costs. Mental health and supportive services provided by the Adult System of Care are recommended to be reduced incrementally, including some services provided by community-based organizations. The County could consider contracting with a community-based organization to provide swing-shift emergency mental health and protective services currently provided by County staff, who could then be transferred to other jobs.

The department would seek to preserve core programs of the Children's System of Care, such as child welfare, mental health services, and substance abuse programs. However, some discretionary programs may be reduced.

Community health would preserve core programs such as Public Health Nursing,

communicable disease control and disease-prevention programs. Service level reductions could occur in teen pregnancy prevention programs, and individual counseling times for the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) nutrition program could be reduced. Senior health assessment counseling could be reduced, but staff could help redirect clients to other medical providers for assistance.

The CalWORKS transportation reimbursement rate paid to clients is recommended to be reduced to match the rates of surrounding counties, and a contract with the State Department of Rehabilitation might not be renewed.

"No one likes service reductions such as these, but if we don't take action soon, we could find the budget gap growing by half a million dollars a month," Merz stressed. "Our staff has initiated a comprehensive review of how to best serve the County over the next several years, regardless of the level of available resources."

Supervisors will receive the proposed Placer County Fiscal Year 2003-04 Budget on June 24, with a recommendation to approve it as an interim spending plan. Budget workshops are scheduled for August 11 and 12, when Supervisors will take a more in-depth look at the budget, hopefully with additional information about the state budget. In California, county budgets must be approved by the end of September.



Placer County Fetes Outstanding Employees at Awards Picnic

June 4, 2003

An employee who died earlier this year was honored with a special posthumous award recalling his dedication, compassion and friendliness during the seventh annual Placer County Employee Recognition Awards Program June 3.

The program is held each year to honor outstanding individual employees and teams in four main categories: leadership, innovation, dedication and commitment, and public service. Employees are nominated by co-workers.

"This is a great event. Not a lot of counties do this," County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson told hundreds of employees who attended a picnic lunch at the DeWitt Center in north Auburn. "I'm just incredibly proud of our employees."

"Without you we couldn't do our jobs," added Chairman Rex Bloomfield of the county Board of Supervisors. "We appreciate you."

The posthumous award went to Jules Claassens, who died unexpectedly March 7. A county employee since 2000, he was a technical solutions analyst II in the Health and Human Services Department.

The award saluted his dedication, noting he developed a vendor-rating mechanism used by Placer County to expedite the contracting process for information-technology projects.

During the awards ceremony, co-workers and family members remembered Claassens as a special man who won't be forgotten.

Information Technology Manager Lonna Garner told the crowd Claassens had a love of life that he passed on to others.

"For that, we will be forever grateful," she said.

"He gave us motivation," added co-worker Louie Cretaro. "We all miss him."

Other individual award winners were Gail Tondettar of Health and Human Services, Kimberly White of the Probation Department, Bill Blackburn of the Assessor's Office, Wilson Hendren of the Facility Services Department, Kristin Mann of the Sheriff's Department, and Debbie Thorell of Health and Human Services.

Team awards went to:

- The Collaborative Management Team at the Children's System of Care,
- The Personnel Department's Benefits Division,
- The CalWIN Project Team in Health and Human Services,
- A group known as the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center Team that's called in to help handle cases of suspected child abuse, and
- The Family Protection Unit in the District Attorney's Office.

Tondettar received a Leadership Award received her team-building work among health-services employees and her community-outreach efforts in the Lake Tahoe area. She developed "Keep Tahoe Aware," a team-building program that includes interactive games, staff-appreciation awards, videos and a custom skit.

White won the Innovation Award for her dedication to finding creative ways to connect with at-risk youths. She developed hygiene, drug-education, incentive and other programs and acquired materials to create a garden for youths at the county's Juvenile Detention Facility.

Blackburn, managing appraiser in the Assessor's Commercial Industrial Division walked away with a Dedication and Commitment Award for his role helping resolve assessment appeals. He's noted for his rapport with others, skill at helping with complex appeals and commitment to accuracy.

Hendren, a custodian, received a Dedication Award for Sustained Effort. He was nominated by the County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar Department, which says it has adopted him as one of its own over the last five years. Department officials said he's a dedicated employee who's caring and pays special attention to details.

Mann, a community services officer in Kings Beach, won the Public Service Award for her efforts to strengthen the rapport between the department and the public. She frequently serves as a translator for co-workers because of her ability to speak five languages and is a member of many community organizations.

Thorell got a Public Service Award for Sustained Effort for organizing the Christmas Miracle Program, which provides hundreds of personalized holiday presents to children who otherwise might not receive presents. She has organized the annual program for the last five years.

In the team category, the Leadership Award went to the Collective Management Team at the Children's System of Care. The team is committed to an innovative approach that emphasizes interest-based decision-making and a family-centered philosophy.

The Personnel Department's Benefits Division received an Innovation Award in recognition of such initiatives as streamlining the enrollment process for health benefits, providing on-line access to forms and creating a new open-enrollment book. Generally, its initiatives save time and reduce the likelihood of mistakes.

The CalWIN Project Team won the Dedication Award for its leadership in developing a statewide computerized system that is the largest welfare database of its kind in the nation. The team worked within a consortium of counties and was a leading factor in the system's success.

A Dedication and Commitment Award for Sustained Effort was given to the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center Team, a group that includes employees from Health and Human Services, the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department and County Counsel. The award recognizes its work developing a child-friendly process in suspected abuse cases that allows children to tell their stories just once and in private. The team's approach has received nationwide attention.

The Family Protection Unit in the District Attorney's Office received the Public Service Award for its caring approach to dealing with adults who are victims of elder abuse, restraining-order violations, and domestic violence. The team developed several protocols for handling elder-abuse cases.



Supervisor Gaines to Meet Public at Meeting in Granite Bay June 11

June 4, 2003

The public will get a chance to meet Placer County Supervisor Ted Gaines and hear an update on items of district and countywide interest, including university proposals, during a breakfast meeting to be held in Granite Bay Wednesday, June 11.

The no-host meeting is scheduled to take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at La Bou, a Granite Bay restaurant at 4110 Douglas Blvd. in the Ralph's Shopping Center.

At the meeting, Supervisor Gaines will give the public an update on county projects and programs.

He has invited guest speakers to discuss two institutions of higher education proposed for Placer County: a branch campus of California State University, Sacramento and a private college to be run by the Catholic educational order that operates Saint Mary's College in Moraga.

Supervisor Gaines also will set aside time to answer questions from the public. He represents the 4th District, which includes Granite Bay and part of Roseville. For more information about the June 11 meeting, call 916-787-8950.



Placer County Seeks to Fill Vacancy on Rural Lincoln Advisory Council

June 2, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors is looking for people interested in filling a vacancy on the Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council.

The five-member advisory body currently has one vacancy. Its members are volunteers who serve two-year terms. Each member must either own property or be a business owner or operator in rural Lincoln.

No deadline has been set for submitting applications, but supervisors hope to fill the vacancy soon.

Commonly known as MACs, the county's 13 advisory councils advise the Board of Supervisors on issues of public interest in unincorporated areas. The councils are charged with gathering public comment on a range of topics, including land use, public works, recreation, law enforcement and public health and safety.

The Rural Lincoln MAC generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in Lincoln's Mount Pleasant Hall, 3333 Mt. Pleasant Road.

For application forms or more information, call 530-889-4020. Application forms also are available on the county's Internet web site at www.placer.ca.gov.

CIMBL to Clean Up Along Auburn Folsom Road Saturday

May 29, 2003

CIMBL hopes to clean up trash along Auburn Folsom Road from Granite Bay to Auburn Saturday, May 31.

The group's volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Auburn Folsom and Cavitt Stallman Road in Granite Bay.

Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, noted CIMBL will need more volunteers than usual to meet Saturday's goal: cleaning Auburn Folsom all the way to Indian Hill Road in Auburn. New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along 2,135 miles of roadway since the group was established almost nine years ago. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to Memphis, Tenn.

Group members have filled up approximately 19,800 bags with trash and found more than 1,700 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance workers pick up the trash bags and tires.

For more information, call Albertsen at 916-645-3599.



Meetings Set to Hear Public Views on Proposed Greenway

May 28, 2003

Local government officials in Placer County want the public's help in planning the Dry Creek Greenway, a proposed continuous and coordinated system of parks, preserved lands and habitat that will include connecting corridors featuring trails for pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists.

The proposed greenway is a joint endeavor being explored by Placer County, the Town of Loomis and the cities of Roseville and Rocklin. Officials plan to hold two meetings early next month where residents can find out more about the proposed greenway, and voice their priorities and concerns.

The first meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 2 in the Rocklin Library, 5460 Fifth St. The second is scheduled to be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 7 in the Granite Bay Library, 6575 Douglas Blvd.

The Dry Creek Greenway is envisioned as a regional open space greenway and park system that protects natural waterways, riparian corridors, natural and cultural resources and sensitive habitat lands. Compatible recreational opportunities that do not impact sensitive resources would be provided. The Greenway area consists of Dry Creek and its major tributaries such as Miners Ravine, Secret Ravine, Strap Ravine, Antelope Creek, Cirby Creek, Clover Valley Creek and Linda Creek. The goal is to finance the project largely with federal and state grant funds. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency has provided \$250,000 in federal grant funds to pay for developing the master plan and preparing an environmental impact report on the project. The precise route hasn't been determined yet, but the greenway would use existing public trails, bikeways and other open-space corridors wherever possible.

The priority in planning and implementation of trails will be on public lands, property dedicated by developers and private land acquired from willing sellers. Trails will link up with the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and the American River, Ueda and Dry

Creek parkways in Sacramento County to form the region's most significant loop trail network, approximately 70 miles in length.

Comments from the public meetings will help officials draft a Dry Creek Greenway Master Plan to consider such issues as recreation, private-property rights, habitat preservation, public access, flood control, water quality and public safety. The master plan also will include a management strategy outlining how local governments would share responsibility for the greenway. For more information, call Chris Schmidt in the County Planning Department at 530-886-3000.



Mosquitoes Bring Potential for Disease

May 27, 2003

Joint Information Release - Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Department of Health and Human Services

Now that mosquito season is here, officials need help from residents to keep these annoying and potentially disease-carrying insects under control.

Staff from the Placer Mosquito Abatement District and the Placer County Health and Human Services Department are working to reduce the number of mosquitoes and to educate the public about the problems these pests can bring. There are steps residents should take to protect themselves. The fight against mosquitoes is taking on a special urgency this year because of the possibility that West Nile Virus (WNV) will move into California and make its first appearance in Placer County this summer. It is the latest in a series of diseases carried by mosquitoes. Found in other parts of the world, WNV made its first appearance in New York City about four years ago. Since then, this virus has spread across the nation from east to west, into 44 states in the east and midwest, with one case in Southern California. Only certain mosquitoes carry the virus, and very few mosquitoes are actually infected.

Last year approximately 4,000 people had symptomatic infections and 250 people died. While the majority of symptomatic individuals had a flu-like illness and completely recovered, a small number developed serious infections of the central nervous system resulting in encephalitis or meningitis. Although all ages were affected, individuals over 50 years of age are much more susceptible. Mosquitoes acquire WNV from wild birds. Crows, jays, ravens and magpies are especially susceptible and may die from the disease.

Horses can also be severely affected by WNV; however, horses do not transmit the disease to humans or mosquitoes. Veterinarians can immunize horses against WNV and other mosquito-borne illnesses. Up to 30 percent of unvaccinated horses who contract the disease nationwide die. At this time, there is no human vaccine available. Further information on WNV and horses is available on the U.C., Davis Veterinary Medicine site.

According to national statistics, WNV is most prevalent from May to October, when mosquitoes are most abundant. People get West Nile Virus by being bitten by infected mosquitoes. State and local officials are actively monitoring mosquito, bird, horse and human populations, watching for possible signs of infection. However there have been none so far. Bulletins will be provided immediately should a problem develop, followed by timely updates. The Placer Mosquito Abatement District is actively spraying. Last year, the district sprayed larvae on nearly 70,000 acres of irrigated fields and sprayed adult mosquito populations on more than 16,000 acres. Approved and funded by voters in 2000, the district covers all of western Placer County to Newcastle.

The threat of West Nile Virus is relatively low now, since the disease has not yet arrived in California, according to state public health professionals. However prevention will be a key to protection if WNV shows up in California.

"At best mosquitoes are annoying and at worse they can and sometimes do carry disease," stressed Dr. Richard Burton, Public Health Officer. "Residents, particularly seniors who are often the most vulnerable to illness, can and should take appropriate action to help protect themselves."

"There's plenty you can do to fight the bite," noted Charlie Dill, biologist and Director of the Placer Mosquito Abatement District. He offers the following tips to residents, based on his 33 years experience in mosquito abatement.

- Eliminate standing water in containers and on the ground. For example, look for flower pot saucers, old tires, wading pools, buckets, swimming pool covers. Keep roof gutters unclogged.
- Keep swimming pool filters and chlorinators running, even during cool weather.
- Keep door and window screens closed and in good repair at all times.
- Avoid outdoor activities from a half hour before sundown to two hours after sundown. The mosquitoes which carry WNV are most active during those hours.
- Wear protective clothing when you must be outside in the evening and use insect repellents that contain DEET. Follow label directions carefully. Don't wear perfume or cologne, which attracts insects.
- Use extra caution to protect children and infants against mosquito bites at all times. Use repellents sparingly and follow directions carefully. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.
- If you have a septic tank, place a piece of screen across the vent to keep mosquitoes from entering and breeding in the tank.
- Cut tall grass, weeds or brush near your home to keep avoid having mosquitoes harbored there.
- Release mosquito fish in animal watering troughs, unused swimming pools and ornamental ponds. These fish (gambusia affinis), which range in size up to three

- inches, usually require little care, reproduce rapidly and begin eating mosquito larvae as soon as they are born. Contact Placer Mosquito Abatement for more information about finding the fish.
- Do not pick up dead birds. Please report dead crows, ravens, magpies and jays which have been dead less than 24 hour to the state; call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

For more information, <u>visit the Placer Mosquito Abatement District Web site</u> (www. placermosquito.org), <u>the California Dept. of Health Services Web site</u> (www.westnile.ca. gov), or <u>the Placer County Health and Human Services West Nile Virus page.</u> You may also call the Mosquito Abatement District, at 916-435-2140.



Watch for Signs of Exotic Newcastle Disease in Poultry

May 19, 2003

The Placer County Agriculture Department has begun outreach efforts aimed at making poultry owners aware of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), a disease that is highly contagious among birds, but not a threat to human health.

A series of steps are being taken locally to keep this disease from spreading to Placer County. A federal quarantine restricts the movement of birds from eight Southern California counties where the presence of the disease has been confirmed.

The disease is highly contagious among poultry and other birds, with a mortality rate of almost 100 percent. County officials emphasized END doesn't pose a public health threat, and people don't need to worry about the safety of poultry and egg products. They also noted the viral disease hasn't been detected here.

Sales of live poultry have been prohibited as part of a drive to keep the disease from spreading to Placer County. Officials have prohibited poultry exhibits at the California State Fair and county fairs.

The bans reflect concern the disease could spread at livestock auctions and other businesses where many birds often are in close quarters.

The live-sale ban covers such places as swap meets, feed stores and bird marts and applies to many types of birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl, doves, pigeons, grouse and swans. It also applies to emus, ostriches, rheas and other birds categorized as ratites.

In Placer County, businesses have been notified they may only sell newly hatched chicks with signed compliance permits from the END Task Force. The permits require sellers to provide information with each sale of chicks in order to educate buyers about the symptoms of the disease.

The END Task Force emphasized birds can be infected with the disease and spread it while not showing any symptoms. The virus is so contagious it can be carried on bird secretions and droppings, and be transmitted from bird to bird through material on shoes, clothing and vehicles of humans.

"Our most important message - for safety's sake, keep your birds at home," stressed Placer County Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner. "You can also help us protect California's birds by sharing information about the disease with your friends or neighbors, reporting any sick or dying birds, anonymously reporting illegally smuggled birds and watching your birds for any signs of sickness."

For more information, contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at 530-889-7372 or the California END Task Force at 1-800-491-1899 to report a concern.



Applicants Sought for North Lake Tahoe Resort Association Infrastructure Committee

May 19, 2003

With a goal of strengthening public participation, the Placer County Board of Supervisors is seeking applications from people interested in serving on the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association infrastructure committee. This committee advises the NLTRA Board of Directors on proposed infrastructure projects for the North Tahoe area of Placer County.

Supervisors will appoint six at-large members of the 12-person committee. Each appointment is for a two-year term. Applicants for the position must be full-time residents within the NLTRA jurisdiction, but need not be members of NLTRA. Knowledge of community issues is encouraged.

The Resort Association is an independent non-profit organization which is largely funded through locally-generated transient occupancy taxes (TOT). The Placer County Board of Supervisors contracts with NLTRA to promote tourism and make recommendations on needed infrastructure projects in Tahoe. Sidewalks in Tahoe City, sidewalks being planned in Kings Beach and the bike bridge into Squaw Valley are examples of the projects which have received funding through TOT to benefit both residents and visitors.

The infrastructure committee normally meets at 3 PM on the last Monday of each month in the Tahoe City Public Utility District boardroom, 221 Fairway Drive.

Application forms are available from the Clerk of the Board's office. Call toll-free 1-800-488-4308 (extension 4020), or 530-889-4020. Forms are also available on the Placer County Web site at www.placer.ca.gov. Forms need to be submitted by June 15, 2003.

For additional information, please call Grayson Marshall at 530-889-7371 or 1-800-488-4308 ext. 7371, or Steve Kastan at 530-546-1950.



County Posts Zoning Maps on Web

May 13, 2003

The Placer County Public Information Office, working with the Planning Department, has posted a full set of the Placer County zoning maps on the county's Web site. The maps are posted as Portable Document Format (PDF) files, which can be read on an office or home computer using free software, like the Adobe Acrobat reader. The zoning map information reflects the current set of department zoning maps.

"We hope members of the public, builders, and others interested in Placer County land use will find it convenient to get this important information from the Web site," said Planning Director Fred Yeager. "We wanted to make the maps available online for two reasons, public convenience, and cost savings. Every time someone finds this information on the Web site, it saves taxpayer dollars because planning staff can spend time on other projects, rather than looking up zoning information."

For those without a computer at home, the information is available at <u>county and other</u> <u>libraries</u> on computers with Internet access.

Looking toward the future, Planning Department staff are also working on other online information projects. Examples include additional information related to individual parcels, and specific proposed land development projects. Yeager and his staff also hope to post maps with information on flood plains, geologic hazard areas, and other factors which influence land use decisions and land development.

"Since the Web is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, this is a great way to make information on zoning and other land use matters available to residents and those who do business with the county," Yeager said. "It's like the ultimate extension of our department office hours."

A full set of the zoning maps is also available on a CD at the Planning Department for \$50. For further information, call the department at 530-886-3000.



Board Welcomes Public Comment on Noise Issues

May 7, 2003

Placer County Supervisors have asked staff to begin drafting a noise ordinance, and they hope to hear your ideas.

Meeting in North Lake Tahoe last week, Supervisors called for early community input on what issues a noise ordinance would need to resolve. County department staff and other agencies have also been asked to spearhead research as well as outreach, and to create a list of people who want to be kept informed regarding noise issues.

Residents are invited to offer brief comments about noise issues via a new email address – noise@placer.ca.gov - or by sending a letter to the Placer County Noise Task Force, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603. Later, community forums will provide an additional opportunity for public discussion of noise issues.

After staff completes the preliminary research and receives public input, the Board plans to set up a committee to help draft final recommendations and potentially a noise ordinance.

So far, a task force of county staff from County Executive, County Counsel, Sheriff and the Board office has been studying noise complaints and how they are handled in other communities. They will make an initial report back to the Board on June 10, with subsequent reports to follow.

In public meetings and letters, residents have expressed a broad range of opinion regarding noise issues, which tend to be complex and emotional. "What's noise to one person might be a very important activity to another," said Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer. "People often don't agree on what's too noisy.

"We are hopeful neighbors who find themselves in these difficult situations can reach a compromise. Our challenge will be to draft an ordinance that balances the rights and needs of our residents. This process will require time for a very thoughtful review."



Emergency Agencies to Gather in Auburn for Fire Drill Saturday

May 7, 2003

Placer County residents need not be alarmed if they spot scores of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles converging on Auburn Saturday, May 10.

The vehicles will be headed for a fire drill, not a real-life emergency.

Most of the fire departments and other emergency agencies in Placer County plan to participate in "Auburn 2003," a day-long drill that will allow them to practice procedures needed for the summer wildfire season.

Firefighters, law enforcement agencies and other emergency workers will convene at Auburn's Gold Country Fairgrounds before heading to three sites where training exercises will be held. The drill is scheduled to last from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At Robie Point on the edge of the American River Canyon, firefighters will practice techniques used to protect residences during wildfires.

They will rehearse laying fire hoses into the canyon at the nearby American River Overlook Recreation Area and will create a hand line near the new western extension of High Street that overlooks Interstate 80. A hand line is a barrier built to help stop the spread of a wildfire. To create a hand line, firefighters use hand tools to remove brush and other fuel.

The drill will give local agencies a chance to rehearse the coordination needed during major emergencies. In such cases, they rely on the incident command system, an organizational model that allows individual agencies nationwide to quickly, efficiently coordinate personnel, equipment and communications while responding to emergencies.

Auburn Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi and Division Chief Loren Snell of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will lead the May 10 drill. In addition to its

other responsibilities, CDF is under contract with the county to function as the Placer County Fire Department in many unincorporated areas.

The drill's goal is to use all of the emergency services in Placer County, as would be the case in the event of a real major emergency.

"It takes cooperation from all agencies during an incident of any magnitude," D'Ambrogi said. "Saturday's drill will be a great chance to be sure we're ready for the fire season ahead."

During the exercise, residents may see more than 30 fire engines, law enforcement patrol cars and other emergency vehicles around Auburn. Agencies that plan to participate include:

- CDF and the U.S. Forest Service;
- the Auburn, Colfax, Rocklin, Roseville and Lincoln fire departments;
- the Placer Consolidated, South Placer, Foresthill, Placer Hills and Loomis fire protection districts; and
- the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Department and Auburn Police Department.



CIMBL to Clean Up Trash along Auburn Folsom Road Saturday

April 30, 2003

Rained out last weekend, CIMBL now plans to clean up trash along Auburn Folsom Boulevard Saturday, May 3.

The group's volunteers will gather at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Auburn Folsom and Indian Hill Road.

New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along 2115 miles of roadway since the group was established more eight years ago. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to the outskirts of Memphis, Tenn.

Group members have filled 19,555 bags with trash and found more than 1,700 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance workers pick up the trash bags and tires.

For more information, call Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, at 916-645-3599.



Planning May Begin Soon for Potential Noise Ordinance

April 25, 2003

On Tuesday, April 29, Placer County Supervisors will review a proposed action plan that calls for holding public forums and eventually setting up a committee to help draft a noise ordinance for potential adoption by the Board.

During the Board meeting on April 8, the Sheriff's Department introduced its new operating policy concerning the investigation of noise complaints. In response to citizen interest in noise issues, the Board requested that staff spearhead research and community outreach and begin preparing a draft noise ordinance for Board review.

So far, a work group of county staff from County Executive, County Counsel, Sheriff and the Board office is studying noise complaints and ordinances in preparation for an initial report back to the Board on May 20, with subsequent reports to follow.

"Noise issues are highly complex and often emotional, and there is a need to balance the rights and needs of many stakeholders," explained Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "Our action plan allows time for thoughtful review in order to draft an ordinance best suited for Placer's diverse interests."

The proposed action plan includes early community input on what issues such an ordinance would need to resolve. County department staff and potentially representatives from other entities will also provide information. Once an action plan is approved, public information releases and the county web site (www.placer.ca.gov) will describe the easiest and best ways for the public to provide information to the working group. Staff can also use the community input to create a list of people who want further information regarding noise issues.

After the work group collects its information, a series of public forums would be held to further identify the noise-related concerns.

The plan as recommended would call for the Board of Supervisors to select committee members to review the information from public forums, research how noise issues have been handled in other communities and assist county staff in drafting final recommendations to the Board.

Review of this action plan will take place at 10:30 a.m. during the April 29 Board meeting to be held at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd. in Kings Beach.



Supervisor White to Meet with Constituents in Loomis April 8

April 22, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will meet with the public during an informal coffee klatch to be held in Loomis Wednesday, April 30.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the Loomis Library, 6050 Library Way.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout her district to answer questions about county government and listen to what constituents have on their minds. The meetings also give her a chance to update people on county projects and programs.

She represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

Supervisor White encourages residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council. It generally meets on the third Tuesday of every other month in the Loomis Library.

Residents also may want to attend meetings of the Penryn Area Advisory Council. It normally meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in the Penryn Elementary School, 6885 English Colony Way.

Meeting schedules change occasionally, so times and dates should be confirmed online at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or by calling the board office at 530-889-4010.

The supervisor also welcomes e-mail at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603. She can be reached by telephone at her home office: 530-885-0722.

Residents also may make appointments to meet with her at her office in the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler Ave. For more information, call 530-889-

Supervisor White to Meet with Constituents in Loomis April 8-- Placer County, Calif.

4010.



Emergency Agencies to Hold Major Fire Drill Near Canyon

April 18, 2003

Many local emergency-service agencies will gear up for the long, hot wildfire season ahead by practicing wildland fire-fighting techniques in a day-long drill near the American River Canyon in Auburn Saturday, May 10.

Fire officials also are calling on residents who live in wooded areas to play their part in preparing for the fire season by clearing away brush and other materials that can become fuel for wildfires.

"Auburn 2003," the fire exercise, will be an opportunity for personnel from diverse agencies to work together in challenging drills, all coordinated through the incident command system. The goal is to use all of the emergency services in Placer County, as would be the case in the event of a real major emergency.

Auburn Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi and Division Chief Loren Snell of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will lead the May 10 drill.

"Wildfires, unfortunately, are a fact of life in the foothills," Chief Snell noted. "Each year we have serious wildland fires which threaten homes and frighten residents."

He cited the American River Canyon Fire below Auburn in 2000, the Ponderosa Fire that threatened homes near Colfax in 2001, and the wind-whipped Sierra Incident last September, which raced through parts of Rocklin, Loomis and Granite Bay, burning three homes.

Under contract with Placer County, CDF functions as the county Fire Department in many unincorporated areas.

"With 'Auburn 2003,' we are mobilizing in advance of a tough fire season," Chief D'Ambrogi said. "However, protecting homes in wooded areas remains a partnership with

Emergency Agencies to Hold Major Fire Drill Near Canyon -- Placer County, Calif.

homeowners. We'll provide the offense, but residents must provide the defense by clearing brush and other fuel ladders."

During the drill, residents may see more than 30 fire engines, law enforcement patrol cars and other emergency vehicles working in and around the canyon and in a new residential subdivision on the new western extension of High Street.

Additional information will be provided to residents as May 10 draws near.



County Presents Granite Bay Activist with Commemorative Coin

April 15, 2003

Placer County honored Ron Bakken of Granite Bay April 9 through a new commemorative-coin program that recognizes citizens who have outstanding community-service records.

Bakken received his coin from 4th District Supervisor Ted Gaines at a meeting of the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council.

"Clearly, Ron is a hero to Granite Bay through his service," Supervisor Gaines told the meeting.

Bakken runs the granitebay.com web site, has been on several Granite Bay MAC committees and subcommittees, and has served on committees of the South Placer Fire Protection District.

Bakken also has represented Granite Bay's interests on county-level committees. He has been an alternate public member on the Local Agency Formation Commission since 1995 and recently was appointed to a new four-year term. Supervisor Gaines proposed the commemorative-coin program, noting that the U.S. Army and Air Force have similar programs. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously last year to create the program as a way to recognize and encourage heroism in Placer County.

In February, the board presented the first batch of commemorative coins to six citizens with outstanding community-service records, including John and Sue Hooten of Granite Bay.

The Hootens were honored for touching the lives of numerous young people through their devotion to scouting. John Hooten is scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 121 and his wife is leader of Girl Scout Troop 893.

"Placer County is fortunate in having residents who care deeply about their community, who give unselfishly, sometimes facing great danger with no thought of recognition or reward," Supervisor Gaines explained. "This commemorative coin program allows us to honor their commitment, to thank them publicly. Drawing attention to their good deeds may inspire others to get involved."

Somewhat larger than a quarter, the coins feature the county seal on one side.

On the other side is the word "hero" and the image of an eagle with a star and sun rays in the background. J. Randal Smith, an Auburn native and nationally known artist, designed the second side. His design won a competition coordinated by the Arts Council of Placer County.



County Public Health Clinic in Auburn Temporarily Closed

April 14, 2003

The Placer County Public Health Clinic at 11484 B Avenue, in the DeWitt Center in Auburn, was closed on Monday due to a strong unpleasant odor of skunk throughout the building. The animal apparently crawled under the building. It is possible the building will remain closed on Tuesday, April 15, as well.

County Facility Services and other county staff worked to remove the animals and return the building to a usable condition. The county's Organizational Development Division offices, in the same building, was also closed.

"We've temporarily closed the building as a courtesy to our clients and staff. It's not dangerous but is annoying." said Ray Merz, Director of Health and Human Services. "We're making arrangements to provide the important public services usually handled in that facility at other county locations, if it's necessary to keep the building closed beyond today."

Because it is uncertain whether the building will be open tomorrow, members of the public with business at the public health clinic should call first to learn if the services they need are being provided at a different location. The clinic phone numbers are 530-889-7170, and 1-800-829-7199, extension 7170.

The clinic houses county services which include women's and children's health care services, and public health lab and vital statistics assistance.

Update The public health clinic and other county office in the buildings were opened again for public service on Tuesday, April 15.



County Offers Help to Control Yellow Starthistle

April 14, 2003

The Placer County Agriculture Department is offering free training and advice on how to control Yellow Starthistle (YST). YST is a highly invasive and noxious weed which is painful to step on, harmful to horses, and takes pasture and range land out of production.

Since its introduction into California in the 1850's, this weed, whose bright yellow flowers are surrounded by thorns, has spread into most counties of the state. In Placer County, it has led to declining property values, decreased production of livestock forage, diminished wildlife habitat, and reduced recreational use of property on both private and public lands.

Measures like mowing, grazing, hand-pulling, herbicide treatments and re-vegetation can be effective in controlling YST, but the correct timing for using each control method is critical. To participate in the county's program, a property owner must develop a management plan to control the weed over a three- to five-year period. That will decrease the seed population, and the property will ultimately be free of YST. A licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA) is now available, at no charge, to meet with property owners at their sites. The PCA will describe and recommend a variety of integrated control techniques, which can be tailored to meet specific land-use goals.

"This is a great opportunity for landowners to learn how to fight this invasive weed, which is a major problem in Placer County," said Agricultural Commissioner Christine Turner. "It spreads particularly easily in soil which has recently been graded. Most animals won't eat it, so YST-infested land is of limited use. However, using a good integrated weed management plan over time, property owners can control Yellow Starthistle. Our new program was designed to help them accomplish that."

The project is presented in cooperation with the Nevada/Placer Weed Management Area (NPWMA). The area was formed through legislation passed in 1999 and 2000 as part of the state's Integrated Weed Management Plan, developed to wage war against invasive weeds in the county.

County Offers Help to Control Yellow Starthistle -- Placer County, Calif.

Placer County residents wishing to participate in this innovative program should contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at (530) 889-7372, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for more information.



Transit Issue To Be Reviewed

April 14, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will meet in Kings Beach Monday, April 28 to review the status of the proposed Tahoe City Transit Center. Supervisors are being asked to provide direction to the Public Works Department regarding next steps to take. (<u>Public Works staff report is available as a PDF document.</u> More information on PDF documents is available here.)

The Tahoe City Transit Center has been proposed for construction on U.S. Forest Service land located south of the intersection of the Tahoe City "Y", and is identified in the Tahoe City Community Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Environmental Improvement Program.

In April of 2001, the Placer County Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for the transit center. However, two appeals were filed. Since then, the Board has received information and testimony about the project on four occasions. Last year, supervisors directed that a more extensive alternatives study be completed. The study has been reviewed with the community.

Additionally, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has received \$750,000 to study a realignment of Highway 89 to address problems at Fanny Bridge near the originally proposed transit center site. Three conceptual alignments that would run through the Forest Service parcel have been identified. The TRPA study would take at least two years, and could result eventually in a new highway alignment being selected through the same general region as the proposed transit center.

Staff has developed three options the Board could consider:

- 1. The Board could place the project on hold until the Highway 89 realignment study is complete and an alignment is selected.
- 2. If the Board wants to proceed with reviewing the project, it could direct staff to recirculate the EIR. After that, the Board could hold a hearing on the appeals.

3. The Board could withdraw the project application.

The meeting will take place at the North Tahoe Community Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach. The Transit Center review is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p. m.

A map of the site is available in two sizes - <u>standard</u> and <u>large</u> (1.8MB). <u>The Board's</u> <u>agenda will be posted before the meeting</u> and copies will also be at the Tahoe City branch library.



Supervisor White Rewards Teaching Excellence

April 11, 2003

In a new annual program to celebrate Excellence in Education, District 3 Supervisor Harriet White joined a kindergarten and first grade class in the garden at Rock Creek School to recognize and reward their teacher, Becki Lopez-King.

With more than 10 years of teaching experience, Mrs. Lopez-King has been instrumental in expanding the existing Life Lab garden program at Rock Creek School to include parents and other family members. Families can sign up for garden plots during the summer. They work together in the garden after school and work hours and on weekends to grow fresh vegetables. Thanks to the family gardeners, the school also has seen a reduction in vandalism.

Supervisor White chose to recognize Mrs. Lopez-King for her excellent teaching skills and for her efforts to expand the school's reach beyond the classroom.

"I've known your teacher for a long time," Supervisor White told the class. "I admire the work she does with you and her special efforts with the school's Life Lab and garden. This award is a way for Placer County to say 'thank you."

In addition to a plaque recognizing Mrs. Lopez-King's classroom skills, Supervisor White also presented her with a check for \$250, for classroom and garden supplies.



Lincoln Teacher Recognized for Excellence in Education

April 11, 2003

District 2 Supervisor Robert Weygandt recently recognized Lincoln High School science teacher Mark Fowler with the District 2 2003 Excellence in Education award, in the first annual award presentation.

Born and raised in Lincoln, Fowler has taught at Lincoln High for 30 years and is recognized throughout the community for his commitment to children, to education, and to preserving the agriculture environment in Lincoln.

"He's a great influence on local kids," said parent and school employee Nancy Griffin. "Mark is a mentor while the kids are in school and keeps in touch after they leave, to encourage them. My daughter graduated in 2000 and he still writes her, among many other former students. You can tell he's a great teacher because lots of his students have gone on to major in biology, and some have also gone into teaching, thanks to his example."

In addition to his work in the classroom, Fowler coaches JV football and is the advisor for the school's Outdoor Education Club. The club goes on local field trips and studies the local watersheds and environment, and also takes longer hiking and camping field trips to Utah, among other locations. He also sits on the Rural Lincoln Municipal Advisory Council, which advises the Placer County Board of Supervisors on land use and other matters.

"Mark has brought his own passion for farming and preservation of the farmer's lifestyle to his teaching," said Supervisor Weygandt. "We need to recognize and reward his work to help Lincoln High School students understand the workings of the natural world and its impact on our quality of life.



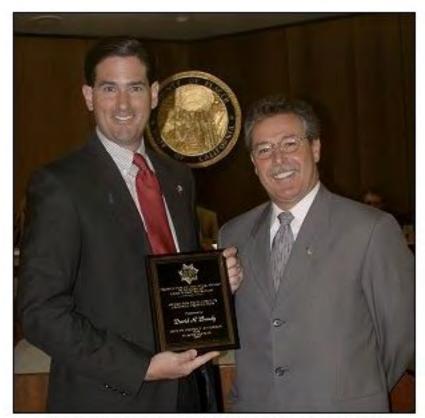
District Attorney's Office Names Broady Prosecutor of the Year

April 9, 2003

Placer County honored Senior Deputy District Attorney David Broady Tuesday as its Prosecutor of the Year.

District Attorney Brad Fenocchio presented the award to Broady at a meeting of the county's Board of Supervisors. Broady's peers selected him for the honor.

"They've chosen David because he embodies those ingredients that others strive to achieve: dedication, a strong desire to see justice done and a commitment to excellence," Fenocchio told the board. He noted Broady's success has earned him the respect of co-workers, and



Deputy District Attorney David Broady accepts 2003 "Prosecutor of the Year" award from D.A. Brad Fennochio

steady promotion through the ranks of the office. Over the last eight years, Broady has prosecuted sexual assault cases, focusing on offenders who abuse children.

"David has an outstanding courtroom presence and an excellent legal reputation," Fenocchio said. "He handles some of the most difficult cases with the most delicate victims, and he does so masterfully."

The annual award is presented in memory of Anne-Marie Bourgeois, a former deputy

district attorney who had a reputation as an outstanding prosecutor. She died in 1994 from injuries suffered in a home fire.

The Prosecutor of the Year is selected through a vote of the office's deputy district attorneys, who look for someone who has displayed outstanding effort, enthusiasm, excellence and courage in prosecuting cases.

"It is so humbling to receive this kind of honor from my co-workers," Broady told the board. "It's a wonderful, wonderful recognition."

He added that much of his success is due to the investigators, social workers, medical examiners and others who help him prosecute abuse cases.

"It's all a team effort," he said.

A native Californian, Broady joined the Placer County DA's Office in 1995 after working as a prosecutor in Riverside County.

He serves on many local committees committed to improving the prosecution of childabuse cases and strengthening support services available to victims. He also teaches investigators and prosecutors throughout Northern California on the legal aspects of childabuse investigations.

Broady recently attended the National District Attorney's College in South Carolina. His wife Stephanie is a deputy district attorney for Sacramento County.



Elections Officials Win Big Honor for Student-Outreach Program

April 8, 2003

A successful outreach program that encourages high school students to become registered voters has earned the Placer County Elections Division a spot in California's Voter Participation Hall of Fame.

County Clerk-Recorder Jim McCauley apprised the county Board of Supervisors of the honor at a meeting in Auburn Tuesday, displaying a plaque and resolution the county received from the Secretary of State's office.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award. However, this award is not about Jim McCauley or the Placer County Elections Division," McCauley said. "It is about the young adults in Placer County, because they are the ones who have made this program successful."

He noted all five supervisors have participated in forums organized by the program at area high schools.

"Apparently, it's very unique, this program," McCauley said, noting that no other county in California has anything like it.

At the end of his presentation, several supervisors praised McCauley and his staff, saying the program is a success because of their hard work..

"You've done a marvelous job," Supervisor Bill Santucci said.

Supervisor Harriet White said she has been impressed with how interested students are in learning about how government works.

"That interest is just incredible," she said. "They want to know what's going on."

Since McCauley started the voter outreach program in 1995, his staff has registered more than 10,000 voters at high schools throughout the county. Placer County's percentage of people from 18 to 24 years old who vote on Election Day is among the highest in the state.

McCauley oversees the Elections Division in his capacity as the county's registrar of voters. He learned of the honor in a letter written by former Secretary of State Bill Jones shortly before he left office in January.

". . .I would like to thank your department, on behalf of all Californians, for its inspirational dedication and outstanding community service," Jones wrote.

He noted the Election Division will be added to a list of 11 past Hall of Fame honorees that is displayed on a wall plaque at the Secretary of State's Office in Sacramento and on the office's web site.

Jones created the Voter Participation Hall of Fame in 1998 to recognize individuals, organizations, local governments and businesses that make significant, sustained contributions to increasing participation in elections.

As part of the outreach program, McCauley, county supervisors and other elected officials visit high schools with Election Division staff and political party representatives. They present nonpartisan forums where students in their senior year learn about the importance of voting, find out more about the philosophies of political parties and cast mock ballots using the same voting booths and equipment the county brings out on Election Day.

The goal: encouraging students to register and participate in the election process. By allowing them to cast mock ballots, election officials hope to keep young adults from being intimidated when they vote for the first time.

Students also learn about a program that allows them to serve as poll workers and receive either pay or community-service hours.

Under state law, teenagers can vote if they will be at least 18 years by Election Day. To accommodate 17-year-old students who fall into that category, the Elections Division created a special file where their registration materials are kept until their 18th birthdays.

When McCauley started the program, only about 15 percent of Placer County's young adults were registered to vote and the age group had an unusually low percentage of registered voters who actually cast ballots. In elections where the overall turnout rate hovered around 60 percent, young adults tended to lag far behind at 20 to 25 percent.

Today, about 85 percent of the county's young adults are registered. Approximately 68 percent of the registered voters in that age group actually cast ballots in the last major election. "That is the highest total in the state of California," McCauley told the board.



Placer County Economic Development Board Honors Three

March 21, 2003

Three individuals were honored Thursday by the Placer County Economic Development Board for their role in promoting economic development in Placer County. The awards were presented during the 2003 Economic Development Summit held in Lincoln.

Dr. Lyndell Grey received the Community Services Award for successfully leading the effort to restore the Old Fruitvale School in rural Lincoln, built in 1888. Now this permanent destination tourist site promotes agriculture and educates visitors about the history and way of life for children of agriculture in 1888. The Bulgarian Ambassador and dignitaries from the governments of Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Japan and Great Britain came to help reopen the school on Dec. 8, honoring the ethnic heritage of the school's students. An educational community garden and a living history program will soon allow area students to participate in a 1888-style lesson, and learn about vegetable gardening first hand.



Dr. Lyndell Grey

"Dr. Grey saw in her community a 'diamond in the rough' and an opportunity for the residents of Placer County to come together to glean tremendous benefit from a small historic one-room schoolhouse and through her hard work, it has become a model for other organizations to follow," noted Supervisor Robert Weygandt in submitting the nomination.

Brothers Bill and John Falconi, owners of Lincoln Brand Feeds, Inc., received the Private



Sector Award for bringing new life to downtown Lincoln by revitalizing the Butterfield Jansen Building, one of the oldest structures in Lincoln.

According to the nomination form submitted by Steve Art, Economic Development Specialist with the City of Lincoln, the Butterfield Jansen Building was



John and Bill Falconi

originally constructed as the grain and feed building for the Jansen Feed Company. It represents the first use of architectural terra cotta on the west coast as displayed by a pillar on the north end of the building. A series of retail establishments have occupied the southwest corner of 5th and G since 1883, including a corner structure built by Gladding McBean, a manufacturing company that helped to establish Lincoln's significance in California. The block between 4th and 5th Street facing G Street has seen a series of buildings with colorful histories, dating back to the 1860s. Some were destroyed by catastrophic fires.

According to Art, when completed, the building will include more than 100,000 square feet of retail and office space, increasing the tax base in the City of Lincoln and community spending. One third of the building has been completed and a new restaurant will open soon. In the process this project has created jobs in the masonry, electrical, roofing and construction industries.

"The possibility for job expansion is great, with a potential for 30 new businesses," Art said. "This revitalization will enhance tourism and bring a wonderful new vibrance to downtown Lincoln."



Workshop on Auburn Folsom Road Widening Planned

March 14, 2003

The Placer County Department of Public Works will hold a public workshop on the Auburn-Folsom Road Widening Project on Thursday, March 27, 2003 from 5 to 8 PM at the Eureka Elementary School multi-purpose room. The Eureka School is located at 5477 Eureka Road, in Granite Bay. The public can drop in anytime between 5 and 8 PM to view exhibits and talk to staff and consultants about the project.

The purpose of the workshop is to present the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) to the public, obtain public input on the project, and provide information on how the public can make formal comments on the environmental document. The public is encouraged to attend the upcoming workshop and/or review the environmental document and provide comments on issues and concerns. Copies of the Draft EIR/EA are available for review at the Granite Bay Library, Auburn Public Library, Placer County Department of Public Works and the Placer County Department of Planning. Instructions for providing comments will be provided in the document and at the upcoming public workshop. Comments will be accepted no later than 5:00 PM, April 28, 2003.

In addition to the Draft EIR/EA information, a fourth conceptual alignment for the road-widening project, will also be presented. The fourth alignment was developed based on the Department's desire to minimize the roadway widening environmental impacts that were identified during the development of the first three alignments and incorporating environmental information generated during the data collection stage of the environmental review process.

The workshop will be informal, with maps and other display items. County and environmental consultant staff will be available to discuss the draft environmental document and the preliminary design alignments. Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss issues of concern, and to obtain information on the project.

The Department of Public Works proposes to widen Auburn-Folsom Road from two lanes to four lanes from the Placer County/Sacramento County line, just north of Pinebrook

Drive, to Fuller Drive, just south of Douglas Boulevard. Proposed improvements include Class II bikelanes, a new traffic signal at Fuller Drive, and related road safety improvements. Construction is anticipated to start in 2005 and be completed in 2006.

<u>More information about the Auburn-Folsom Road Widening Project</u> can also be found on the Placer County Web site.

For questions regarding the project, call the Public Works Department, at 530-889-7500, or send an emailto:publicworks@placer.ca.gov.



Placer County Accepting Applications for New Mini-Grants for Youth Projects

March 7, 2003

Mini-grants of up to \$500 are being awarded to individuals and groups for organizing inspiring activities that help Placer County youth feel more connected to their community, school and family.

As part of the *Raising Placer* initiative sponsored by the Placer County Strengths and Assets Promotion Program, a public-awareness effort is under way to promote the concept that "simple, everyday" community acts can help all youth succeed.

Raising Placer supports every child having caring relationships with adults, having personal strengths such as self-esteem and responsibility, and having an important role in their community.

Successful mini-grant proposals will involve youth in the organizing and implementation of the projects. Teens from the Placer County Y.E.S. group are part of the review team that decides who is awarded mini-grants.

Mini-grant examples include: older children organizing a picnic for younger children in need, having a neighborhood social for seniors and youth, and kids creating a circus to raise funds for a local shelter.

Applications and an information sheet are available online, or by calling the Strengths and Assets Promotion Program of the Placer County Health and Human Services Department at 530-889-7238. The monthly submission deadlines are March 14, April 11 and May 9.



Bloomfield To Hold Meeting with Residents

For immediate release

March 3, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will be available to discuss county issues with residents during a March 11 coffee klatch in Applegate.

The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the Applegate Library, 18018 Applegate Road.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can voice their opinions on county issues. The meetings give Supervisor Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

"These meetings are important to me, because they're a great chance to find out what's on people's minds," the supervisor said. "I hope residents will take advantage of them."

Supervisor Bloomfield represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

He also encourages Applegate residents to attend monthly meetings of the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place in the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle.

The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by visiting the county's Internet web site at www.placer.ca.gov/bos.

Supervisor Bloomfield also invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



County Offices Relocate

February 28, 2003

Placer County's Office of Economic Development moved recently to new quarters at 11820 Enterprise Drive in Auburn.

The move was necessary because the county is about to begin renovation work on the office's old home: a two-story building located next to the Domes, the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave. in Auburn.

The Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission also moved recently because of the upcoming renovation work.

LAFCO now has its offices at 102 El Dorado Street in Auburn. Located between High Street and Lincoln Way, El Dorado is a short street that becomes Highway 49 before the highway heads down into the American River Canyon.

Asbestos-removal work is scheduled to begin soon on the two-story building next to the Domes. Built as a health and welfare facility in 1962, it is generally known as the Old Finance Building.

The building served as home to the county Assessor, Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector until they moved several years ago to the new Larry Oddo Finance Administration Building at the DeWitt Center in north Auburn.

During the construction phase of the renovation work, the Old Finance Building's access for the disabled, energy efficiency, heating and air conditioning will be improved. The interior also will be designed with flexible space to accommodate future expansion.

If everything goes as planned, renovation work on the 20,000-square-foot building will be completed in the fall of 2004. The telephone and fax numbers for the Office of Economic Development remain the same.

County Offices Relocate -- Placer County, Calif.

Economic Development's main phone number is 530-889-4016 and the fax number is 530-889-4095.

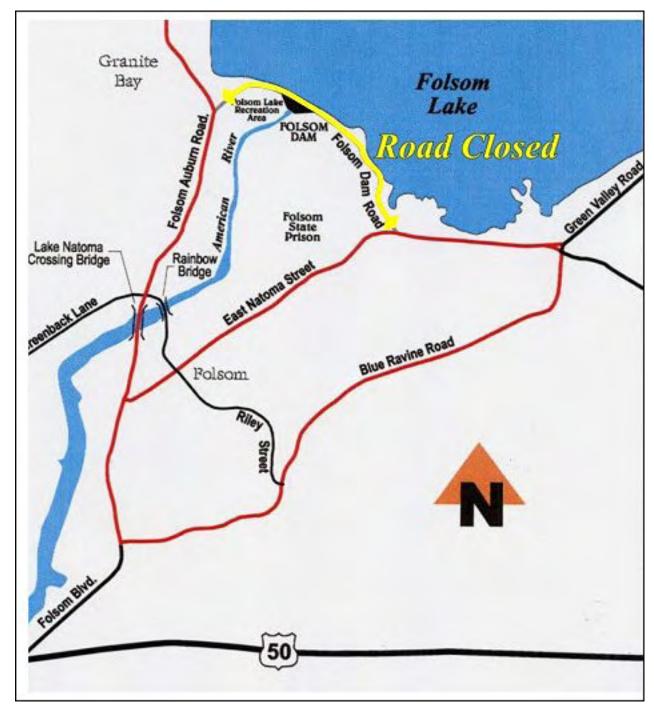
At LAFCO, the main phone number is 530-889-4097 and the fax number is 530-886-4671.



Folsom Dam Road Closure Information

The decision by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to close Folsom Road to traffic for security reasons, for an indefinite period of time, may affect some Placer County residents. Further information on the closure is available on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Folsom Dam Road Web site. (6/13/03 - This Web page is no longer available. Placer County PIO)

Here's a map of alternate routes available to commuters:



Map courtesy U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



Spaces Still Available for Businesses at May 1 Job Fair

February 27, 2003

About 120 employers will be on hand for a free job fair to be held Thursday, May 1 in Roseville.

The event will place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd. It is free to both employers and job seekers. Space is filling up fast, but there still is room for more businesses to participate.

The job fair is sponsored by Placer County and other members of the Business Advantage Network, a coalition of government and nonprofit agencies involved in job-development work.

"The Placer County job fair is far and away the best job fair in the area," said Mary Beth Bennett, a recruiter in the Roseville office of Manpower.

Manpower, a temporary staffing firm, has been successful finding qualified people with finance, information technology and administrative backgrounds at past job fairs sponsored by the network, Bennett said. She described the job fairs as well organized and professional, adding that they generally attract high-quality job seekers.

J & J Merchandising in Auburn also has had success at the network's job fairs. Office Manager Trudy O'Connell said they are J & J's best means for finding new employees, reporting the company typically hires at least one worker at each network job fair it attends.

The Business Advantage Network sponsors two free job fairs each year. Last fall's fair was attended by 95 businesses and more than 1,500 job seekers from as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area.

The May 1 job fair is being co-sponsored by the Placer County Office of Economic

Spaces Still Available for Businesses at May 1 Job Fair -- Placer County, Calif.

Development and Sacramento Bee.

All of the network's services to businesses and job seekers are free. It assists them throughout the year, coordinating individual recruiting events and information sessions that bring businesses and potential employees together.

Network staff also can prescreen eligible individuals for business-incentive programs such as Work Opportunity Tax Credits and wage reimbursement for on-the-job training.

For more information, call Marcy Schmidt at 530-886-4641 or Cindy Burris at 530-889-4090. A list of employers that plan to participate is available.



Board of Supervisors To Hold Workshop on Tahoe Planning Issues

February 24, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will get an update on North Tahoe transportation and environmental planning issues during a workshop to be held March 4 in Auburn.

The workshop will allow supervisors to hear presentations made by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and county Public Works Department during a Jan. 23 public workshop held in Tahoe City. The focus of that workshop was how regional transportation plans benefit the environment.

Topics of discussion at the March 4 board meeting will include a transit center proposed for construction in Tahoe City, regional parking and other issues.

Supervisors will take no action during the board workshop. Decisions on the proposed transit center will be made at a later meeting to be held at a North Tahoe location.

The Board of Supervisors meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave. in Auburn. The workshop is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.



County Posts 2003 Economic and Demographic Profile

February 20, 2003

The Placer County Office of Economic Development has posted the county's <u>2003</u> <u>Economic Development Profile</u> on the county Web site (www.placer.ca.gov).

The profile provides an economic and demographic survey of Placer County, with background, detailed statistics and other current information on the three distinctive regions of the county, the Valley, the Gold Country and the High Country. The Office of Economic Development has provided this information on the county's Web site for the past several years, as a convenience for county and regional business owners and those considering relocation to the area.

The Placer County Economic and Demographic Profile 2003 was prepared for the Placer County Office of Economic Development by the Sacramento Regional Research Institute, a joint venture of California State University, Sacramento and Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization.



Employee Art Featured at Public Reception February 27th

February 19, 2003

The public is invited to see for itself some of the talented artists who work for Placer County during a reception to be held Feb. 27 in Auburn.

The reception will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. inside the main public entrance to the Domes, the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave.

Approximately 50 art works by 13 artists will be on display, including two eye-catching, lifesize scarecrows;



Kurt Barton and "Pop Rivets"

beaded necklaces; photographs; and paintings.

The public also can view the employee art during normal business hours through the end of February. Normal business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The employee art show was the brainchild of Leslie Hobson, a senior management analyst in the County Executive Office

Last year, employees at the Domes got used to having art works on display because the office complex was a stop on the Auburn Art Walks, a program sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County that gives local artists needed exposure.

Late last year, Hobson proposed having an employee art show, so the walls at the Domes wouldn't be vacant until the Art Walks resume in April.

Kurt Barton, a senior project manager in Placer County's Facility Services Department, takes a seat with Pop Rivets, a scarecrow Barton made from aluminum. The scarecrow is among the featured attractions in an employee art show being held at the Domes, the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave. in Auburn. An artist reception will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. February 27.

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Supervisor White To Meet With Auburn Area Constituents February 26

February 19, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will discuss county issues with the public during an informal meeting to be held Wednesday, Feb. 26 in Auburn.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St.

Supervisor White regularly hosts such meetings throughout her district. They give residents a chance to voice their opinions while sipping coffee with the supervisor and her an opportunity to update people on county projects and programs.

"These meetings are a great chance for people to let me know what's on their minds, and help me stay in touch with the public's thinking on important issues," she said.

Supervisor White represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

She encourages Auburn area residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council. It generally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings normally take place in the Planning Commission hearing room, 11414 B Ave. in the DeWitt Center.

The schedule changes occasionally, so times and dates should be confirmed online at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or by calling the board office at 530-889-4010.

The supervisor also welcomes email at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. Residents also may make appointments to meet with her at her office in the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler Ave.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.

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Board Honors Community Activists with Commemorative Coins

February 18, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors honored six outstanding community activists Tuesday by presenting them with commemorative coins created for a new citizen-recognition program.

The recipients are <u>Sylvia Besana</u> in District 1; <u>Hal Albertsen</u> in District 2; <u>Marilyn Gehlbach</u> in District 3; <u>John and Sue Hooten</u> in District 4; and <u>Gene Henry</u> in District 5. Ron Bakken, a District 4 resident, also was chosen to receive one of the coins, but was unable to attend Tuesday's meeting. He will be honored at the April 2 meeting of the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council.



Placer County commemorative coin

At the urging of 4th District Supervisor Ted Gaines, the board created the program last year to recognize outstanding citizens who have long track records of community service, have performed heroic acts or participated in little-known, but commendable feats.

"We've got a number of people in our community who, in my mind, don't get recognized for heroic efforts," Supervisor Gaines explained Tuesday.

Somewhat larger than a quarter, the commemorative coins feature the county seal on one side.

On the other side is the word "hero" and the image of an eagle with a star and sun rays in the background. J. Randal Smith, an Auburn native who is a nationally known artist, designed the second side of the coin. His design won a competition coordinated by the Arts Council of Placer County.

Sylvia Besana, District 1

Besana has a well-deserved reputation as Roseville's greatest, busiest volunteer.

"Sylvia Besana is truly the brains, and often the brawn behind most of our city's worthwhile events," said 1st District Supervisor Bill Santucci before presenting her coin. "If there is anybody who deserves this in our community, it is you."

Her long list of accomplishments includes three terms as president of



Supervisor Bill Santucci and Sylvia Besana

Roseville Soroptomists and two as president of the Sutter Hospital Auxiliary. She currently is a member of the Placer County Civil Service Commission and Roseville Community Cemetery Board and is a former member of the county Juvenile Justice Commission.

Long active in the Roseville Chamber of Commerce, Besana has been chairwoman of the Roseville Holiday Parade for 20 years and chairs the Fourth of July Parade.

She was the first female student body president at Roseville High School and later worked as a teacher, counselor and school administrator, serving stints at both Placer and Roseville high schools.

"I feel privileged to call Sylvia my friend, the sort of friend you can call on night or day with a request for help, and she always says yes," Supervisor Santucci said.

Besana's husband Fred is a former professional baseball player who was an outstanding baseball coach at American River College. Son Freddie is a former quarterback for the Buffalo Bills in the NFL and Oakland Invaders in the USFL.

Hal Albertsen, District 2

Albertsen is the heart and soul of Citizens Involved Means Better Living, a volunteer group better known as CIMBL.

He founded the group more than eight years ago to clean up litter alongside county roads.

About a dozen volunteers showed up for the first cleanup. Today, the



Hal Albertsen, Supervisor Robert Weygandt, and Judie Albertsen

group has approximately 400 members and more than 100 active participants.

"I can't say enough about what Hal has accomplished," said 2nd District Supervisor Robert Weygandt. "He has been amazingly successful."

The supervisor noted CIMBL has cleaned up 2,086 miles of roadway since its birth. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to Chicago.

The group's volunteers have filled more than 19,000 bags with trash and found about 1,700 abandoned tires. Placer County helps the group by picking up the tires and filled trash bags and providing other support.

Weygandt noted that neighboring counties have expressed interest in having CIMBL chapters.

"What Hal has started will continue to benefit our citizens for years to come," the supervisor said.

Albertsen gives wife Judie much of the credit for his success. "She supported me 100 percent," he explained.

Marilyn Gehlbach, District 3

Gehlbach is a long-time community activist who served on the Placer Union High School District's Board of Trustees for 15



years and was president of the E.V. Cain Parent Teacher Club in the early 1970s. An accomplished pianist, she has helped promote and nurture the Auburn Symphony, Placer Music Boosters and Music on the Green.



Marilyn Gehlbach and Supervisor Harriet White

"Truly, Marilyn Gehlbach is one of the most remarkable people I have ever met," said 3rd District Supervisor Harriet White.

Gehlbach's most recent endeavor has been her most difficult. Eight years ago, she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which made it difficult for her to stay involved in many of the activities she enjoyed.

"But even this has not stopped Marilyn from continuing her volunteer work," Supervisor White said, commending Gehlbach for meeting adversity head on, rather than letting it control her.

"She simply funnels her energies on educating the community and raising money for a cure for this debilitating disease."

John and Sue Hooten, District 4

The Granite Bay couple was honored for touching the lives of numerous young people through their devotion to scouting.

"You're shining lights in our community," Supervisor Gaines said. "I'm just honored to have an opportunity to give a coin that will be shared by John and Sue Hooten."



Sue Hooten, Supervisor Ted Gaines, and John Hooten

John Hooten is scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 121.

"The job of scoutmaster is larger than most men would want to shoulder, but John Hooten shares his time, love of nature and knowledge with all boys," explained Diane Filice in a letter to Supervisor Gaines. "Through John Hooten's dedicated modeling and moral

guidance, he helps mold boys into responsible, community-minded young men."

Filice noted that Sue Hooten also has touched the lives of many girls through her work as leader of Girl Scout Troop 893.

Through scouting, the Hootens promote both a love of the outdoors and a dedication to community service.

A pediatrician for Kaiser Permanente, Sue Hooten is a volunteer at the Roseville Crisis Nursery and co-founder of the Granite Bay chapter of the National Charity League, a group that promotes community service by mothers and their daughters.

Gene Henry, District 5

Henry spent half a century as a volunteer for the Foresthill Fire Protection District.

"He epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism in all our communities," explained 5th District Supervisor Rex Bloomfield. "He has served Foresthill for 50 years."



Supervisor Rex Bloomfield and Gene Henry

Henry got his start as a teen-ager, and rose up the ranks from firefighter to safety officer, holding practically every office in the fire department.

He received no pay for his 50 years of volunteer work, but got a sense of fulfillment from serving his community.

"I'm a people person, and I like to help people," he explained. "It was 100 percent volunteer."

Today, Henry isn't as active as he once was, but still is committed to helping with traffic control during emergencies.

He also served as a volunteer ambulance driver, instructor and medical technician for the Foresthill Safety Club, the community's nonprofit ambulance service

He went to work for the Placer County Power Division in 1966, retiring after 28 years as

Board Honors Community Activists with Commemorative Coins -- Placer County, Calif.

an electrical machinist.

Henry also was a coordinator for the Foresthill Divide Search and Rescue Team before it became part of the Placer County Sheriff's Department.

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Budget Review Presented to Board

February 18, 2003

Placer County's 2002-03 fiscal year budget continues to "demonstrate resilience in the face of the national economic downturn... and the looming state budget crisis," said Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer in a written mid-year budget performance review for the Board of Supervisors. The budget includes a number of cost cutting measures taken last year.

However new state budget cuts to Placer County could easily range between \$15 to \$20 million if the governor's budget is adopted without changes.

Therefore the County Executive Officer is recommending that additional spending reductions begin at once, and continue through the next fiscal year, when steeper cuts may be necessary. The mid-year budget review took place on Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the Board of Supervisors meeting.

So far the most significant impacts from proposed state budget cuts would come from the loss of vehicle license fee revenue currently paid as a backfill by the state to cities and counties. This alone would cost Placer County \$12 million a year and would be particularly difficult since it represents a significant portion of the discretionary revenue the county has available to spend on local priorities such as the sheriff's department, district attorney, libraries, museums, parks, trails, and open space programs. Other county revenues are generally restricted by law to specific uses, leaving Supervisors little flexibility.

"If this part of the Governor's budget were ultimately approved, Placer County would need to consider a combination of deferrals, reductions and possible elimination of even the highest-priority programs and service levels," Bendorf wrote.

Other proposed state cuts to Placer County include:

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- Again deferring annual reimbursements of more than \$1.5 million owed to Placer County for the cost of programs mandated by the state;
- Transferring \$900,000 annually in court-related fees and fines from the county to the state general fund. Transferring these funds violates earlier state agreements capping the costs counties were required to pay as the state took over responsibility for the courts.
- Losing \$1 million annually in road-related revenues, which will result in substantial delays in regional projects such as Hwy. 49 safety improvements, the Hwy. 65 bypass, Placer Parkway and I-80 congestion relief, and reduced road maintenance.
- Costing the Sheriff's Department \$250,000 in training reimbursements, \$45,000 for 9-1-1 dispatch, \$1.5 million for court security (if the courts don't contract with the Sheriff for this service), \$240,000 in jail booking fees if the state stops providing this revenue to cities to pay the county, and \$100,000 for reimbursement of state mandates such as domestic violence prevention.
- Costing the District Attorney up to \$150,000 annually for special prosecution programs and the victim witness program;
- Transferring \$200,000 in tax increments from the Redevelopment fund to the schools;
- Requiring the county to pay more than \$450,000 from the general fund on behalf of Child Support Services because the state failed to comply with federal rules and regulations;
- Losing \$92,000 in Williamson Act funds.

Additionally the Governor proposes to shift responsibility to the counties for various mental health, alcohol and drug programs, health, social service and child care programs to the counties. Although he asserts they can be paid for with his proposed increase in sales tax and tobacco-related excise taxes, these proposed transfers include rapidly-expanding programs such as foster care, child welfare, in-home supportive services and Medi-Cal long term care.

In anticipation of these cuts, the County Executive Officer is recommending countywide hiring restrictions and deferring or eliminating plans to purchase or lease equipment or fixed assets. Departments have been asked to begin developing budget reduction contingency plans which emphasize maximizing revenues and reducing costs. Staff will also evaluate all capital projects to see where costs could be reduced, projects could be delayed or revenues could be maximized to reduce the impacts on the general fund.

Additional proposals may come to the Board in the near future. </html



LAFCO Names New Executive Director

February 14, 2003

Placer County Senior Deputy County Counsel Scott Finley has been named Executive Director of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) by the LAFCO Board of Directors.

Finley has served as legal counsel to LAFCO for six years as part of his duties. Prior to that, Finley was deputy city attorney for the City of Roseville. He has also served as counsel for El Dorado County LAFCO In addition to a law degree, Finley has studied public policy and planning. He was appointed following a statewide search which drew 55 applications.

"The Commission has long relied on Scott's expertise to explain complex LAFCO law in ways the public and LAFCO members can clearly understand," explained LAFCO Chairman Robert Weygandt, who is also a Placer County Supervisor.

"The fact that Scott has both leadership and legal skills will save money while providing the best possible expertise to the community and the Commission. He also has extensive experience in matters involving land use, growth, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Brown Act."

"I'm excited about serving the citizens of Placer County in this new capacity and being involved with the challenges that growth and development will bring in the next few years," Finley said.

Created by the State Legislature, LAFCO is charged with encouraging orderly growth and development through the logical formation and modification of the boundaries of the local agencies. Specific legislatively-mandated goals include protection of agricultural resources and open space, discouragement of urban sprawl, the efficient and effective provision of services, and the use of single multipurpose government agencies over multiple single purpose agencies. Typical LAFCO applications might include as single homeowner requesting annexation to a sewer district, a developer seeking annexation to a

city, or special districts seeking to consolidate.

Placer County LAFCO currently include two city representatives, two county representatives, two special district representatives and one public member. Supervisor Robert Weygandt is the chairman. Scott Finley will replace interim executive directors Don Lunsford and Roger Imsdahl, who had served the commission since the retirement of Deborah Cubberley.

LAFCO recently moved to new quarters because of remodeling of the county building in which they were located. The new address is 102 El Dorado St. located between High St. and Lincoln Way. El Dorado Street is actually Hwy. 49 before it heads down into the American River Canyon. The telephone is 530-889-4097. Feb. 14, 2003 For immediate release Contact: Don Lunsford or Roger Imsdahl, Interim L AFCO Executive Officers, 530-889-4097 LAFCO NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Placer County Senior Deputy County Counsel Scott Finley has been named Executive Director of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) by the LAFCO Board of Directors. Finley has served as legal counsel to LAFCO for six years as part of his duties. Prior to that, Finley was deputy city attorney for the City of Roseville. He has also served as counsel for El Dorado County LAFCO In addition to a law degree, Finley has studied public policy and planning. He was appointed following a statewide search which drew 55 applications. "The Commission has long relied on Scott's expertise to explain complex LAFCO law in ways the public and LAFCO members can clearly understand," explained LAFCO Chairman Robert Weygandt, who is also a Placer County Supervisor. "The fact that Scott has both leadership and legal skills will save money while providing the best possible expertise to the community and the Commission. He also has extensive experience in matters involving land use, growth, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Brown Act." "I'm excited about serving the citizens of Placer County in this new capacity and being involved with the challenges that growth and development will bring in the next few years," Finley said. Created by the State Legislature, LAFCO is charged with encouraging orderly growth and development through the logical formation and modification of the boundaries of the local agencies. Specific legislatively-mandated goals include protection of agricultural resources and open space, discouragement of urban sprawl, the efficient and effective provision of services, and the use of single multipurpose government agencies over multiple single purpose agencies. Typical LAFCO applications might include as single homeowner requesting annexation to a sewer district, a developer seeking annexation to a city, or special districts seeking to consolidate. Placer County LAFCO currently include two city representatives, two county representatives, two special district representatives and one public member. Supervisor Robert Weygandt is the chairman. Scott Finley will replace interim executive directors Don Lunsford and Roger Imsdahl, who had served the commission since the retirement of Deborah Cubberley. LAFCO recently moved to new quarters because of remodeling of the county building in which they were located. The new address is 102 El Dorado St. located between High St. and Lincoln Way. El Dorado Street is actually Hwy. 49 before it heads down into the American River Canyon. The telephone is 530-889-4097. </html



CIMBL to Clean Up Foresthill Road on Saturday

February 14, 2003

CIMBL's valiant volunteers will clean up trash along Foresthill Road in Foresthill on Saturday, February 22.

The group's volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the south end of the Foresthill Bridge, along Foresthill Road.

New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves, and wear layered clothing. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along more than 2,000 miles of roadway since the group was established eight years ago. A single road that long would reach nearly from Auburn to Chicago.

Group members have filled more than 19,000 bags with trash and have cleared away over 1,800 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance works pick up the trash bags and tires.

For more information, call Dave Albright, at 916-652-2181, or Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, at 916-645-3599.



Citizens to be Honored

February 13, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will launch a new citizen-recognition program at a meeting in Auburn Tuesday, Feb. 18 by awarding commemorative coins to six people with outstanding community-service records.

The recipients to be honored Tuesday are Sylvia Besana in District 1; Hal Albertsen in District 2; Marilyn Gehlbach in District 3; John and Sue Hooten in District 4; and Gene Henry in District 5.

Ron Bakken, a District 4 resident, also has been chosen to receive one of the coins, but will be unable to attend Tuesday's meeting. He will be honored at the April 2 meeting of the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council.

Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave. The coin presentation is scheduled to begin at 9:10 a.m.

"The first Commemorative Coin Hero Award Presentation is an opportunity to publicly thank and honor Placer County heroes with the highest level of appreciation and admiration," said 4th District Supervisor Ted Gaines.

"Placer County is fortunate in having residents who care deeply about their community, who give unselfishly, sometimes facing great danger with no thought of recognition or reward. This commemorative coin program allows us to honor their commitment, to thank them publicly. Drawing attention to their good deeds may inspire others to get involved."

At the urging of Gaines, the board created the program last year to recognize outstanding citizens who have long track records of community service, performed heroic acts or participated in little-known, but commendable feats.

Somewhat larger than a quarter, the commemorative coins feature the county seal on one

Citizens to be Honored -- Placer County, Calif.

side.

On the other side is the word "hero" and the image of an eagle with a star and sun rays in the background.

That second side of the coin was designed by J. Randal Smith, an Auburn native who is a nationally known artist. His design won a competition coordinated by the Arts Council of Placer County.



Trigger Locks May Save Young Lives

February 6, 2003

The Placer County Health and Human Services Department (HHS) is teaming up with the Placer County Sheriff's Office to help protect young children from accidental gunshot injuries and deaths.

Under an innovative program sponsored by the county and funded by the California Kids Plate Program, families can obtain free trigger locks to improve safety in homes where firearms are present. Another goal is to raise parents' awareness of the grave danger posed by unlocked, unsecured guns, and the need to teach children to be safe.

According to the Children's Defense Fund, firearm-related deaths to children under 16 is 12 times greater in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized countries combined. Rural households are twice as likely to have unlocked, loaded guns than urban families, and children are more likely to become victims of gun accidents and suicides. Half of all children who get injured by guns are at home, while another 40 percent are in the homes of friends or neighbors.

"Even if you don't own a gun, there's a good chance that your child may sometime visit a home where firearms are present," said HHS Director Ray Merz. "Teaching your child how to be safe is essential.

"If your child sees a gun, he or she should learn to "Stop. Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell an adult."

The Placer County Sheriff's Office will be passing out free trigger locks at the Auburn main office in DeWitt Center, and in substations in Colfax, Foresthill and Kings Beach.

"We are happy to team with the health professionals from HHS in promoting this program to save lives," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "If you don't have a trigger lock, take us up on this opportunity."

The Kids' Plate Program, which sponsors this local outreach effort, is a partnership of several public and private agencies. Vehicle license plates which target children's safety issues are sold through Kids' Plate to pay for childhood injury prevention programs such as this one. Kids Plates are available through the DMV. Call 1-800-HEY-KIDS to learn more.

For more information contact the Sheriff's Office at 530-889-7857, or Health and Human Services at 530-889-7141 or 1-800-829-7199. <u>Additional information about gun safety and Kids' Plates is also available.</u>



Solid Waste Group Seeking Environmental Representative

Feb. 5, 2003

The Placer County Solid Waste Local Task Force has a vacancy for an environmental group representative.

Applications currently are being accepted from people interested in filling the vacancy. No deadline has been set for submitting applications, but the county wants to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

The 16-member task force reviews matters pertaining to solid waste management on behalf of the county Board of Supervisors and Western Placer Waste Management Authority. It normally meets at 9 a.m. on the first Thursday of February, May, August and November.

Members receive no compensation for their services.

For application forms or more information, call 530-889-4020. Applications also are available on the county's Internet web site at www.placer.ca.gov. To find forms on the web site, look first under "departments," then under "committees and commissions."

Applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603.



California Highway Patrol to Meet with Local Advisory Group

Feb. 5, 2003

California Highway Patrol (CHP) representatives will meet with the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Committee (WACMAC) in February to provide information about CHP efforts to control and track hazardous materials through the community along Interstate 80.

The WACMAC meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle, Colfax. The public is invited to attend and ask questions of the CHP representative. Also on the agenda are monthly community reports from public safety agencies such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Placer Hills Fire Protection District and the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

According to CHP Lt. J. A. McDonald, 18 percent of vehicles traveling along Interstate 80 are either big-rig commercial vehicles or two-axle van-type trucks capable of transporting hazardous materials. The WACMAC invited the CHP to inform the public about what actions the agency has put into effect to safeguard the communities along the route.

This presentation follows a briefing by Union Pacific Railroad in January.



Supervisor Bloomfield to Meet Constituents in Colfax February 11

Feb. 5, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will host a coffee klatch in Colfax Feb. 11 to talk with residents about county issues.

The meeting will take place at noon in the Colfax Library, 2 Church St.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings in communities throughout his district where residents can discuss county issues with him while sipping coffee. The meetings give residents a chance to voice their opinions and Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on the status of county projects and programs.

"These meetings are a great chance for me to learn what's on people's minds, and to answer their questions about what the county's doing," he said. "I encourage residents to take advantage of them."

Supervisor Bloomfield represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

He also encourages Colfax area residents to attend monthly meetings of the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place in the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle.

The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by checking the Board calendar, available on the Board's Web page (www.placer.ca.gov/bos).

Supervisor Bloomfield also invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.





Supervisors to Consider Employee Agreement

January 31, 2003

A nearly-three year contract extension between Placer County and the Placer Public Employee Organization (PPEO) will be considered on Tuesday, Feb. 4, by the Board of Supervisors. Employees have already ratified the agreements.

The agreements are a result of the re-opener clause in the current labor agreement which committed the county and PPEO to meet and confer if the State Legislature adopted legislation that created alternative retirement options with the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

Under the proposed agreement, employees would receive a two percent cost of living allowance effective December of 2003, 2.5 percent effect June of 2004, and four percent effective June of 2005. Employees agreed to help pay the costs of a new State-authorized retirement benefit which will become effective in July of 2004.

Health care benefits would also be restructured in several ways to better protect the county against costs that, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office, are sharply escalating statewide. This will save about \$3 million over the next three years, more in the future. Changes include revising the cost sharing formula for health insurance premiums, restructuring the use of accrued sick leave at the time of retirement, and requiring a vesting period before participating in county health care after retirement. A committee of management and PPEO members will continue work to recommend alternative health care options that save money and/or improve health care.

"The health care restructuring represents a major step in cost containment that will yield substantial future savings," said Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "Our labor union is aware of this health care dilemma and has indicated its support in finding the best alternatives possible."

"Our goal is to maintain and enhance our recruitment and retention efforts while remaining competitive in the market," Christofferson said. "Considering the current

economic conditions, we believe this is a fair and reasonable approach. The quality and commitment of our Placer County employees is second to none, and we wish to maintain that high standard."

"This agreement protects the County's workforce during these tough economic times while enhancing the County's ability to forecast future costs," said Chuck Thiel, Business Representative, International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Local No. 39. "It also gives the County the ability to recruit an experienced workforce while providing more value per taxpayer dollar."

Cost of the contract extensions is approximately \$17 million spread over three years, which is about a 4.5 percent baseline personnel budget adjustment through 2005-06 for the affected employee groups. Most departments will be required to create budget savings to cover the costs.

A key goal of the negotiating team was to preserve the county's financial strength through labor agreements that were affordable within Board-established priorities and which included economic participation by employees. Negotiators also sought to preserve a work environment with low turnover, good morale, organizational and community loyalty, and which reinforces that the County supports and values highly trained and productive employees. Team members also sought a longer-term contract to help insure predictable costs and to limit negotiations over the next few years to salary adjustments for hard-to-recruit positions.



Placer Legacy Open Space Program Continues to Make Progress

Jan. 31, 2003

Negotiations now under way could add as many as 2,060 acres to Placer Legacy, an award-winning program created by Placer County to preserve open space and farmland as a counterbalance to the region's rapid population growth.

The prospective acquisitions include Sierra Nevada, foothill and valley properties that would preserve productive farmland, provide almost 1,000 acres for a regional park in the tree-covered hills east of Lincoln and protect important woodlands and riparian corridors along Coon Creek and the Yuba River.

In most cases, the county would acquire conservation easements, rather than buy property outright. Acquiring easements is significantly cheaper, because the county only pays for a property's development rights. In the case of farmland, existing owners who sell easements to the county could continue to farm as they had in the past.

The county Planning Department will give a status report on the program at a Board of Supervisors meeting to be held Feb. 4 in Auburn. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the county's administrative center at 175 Fulweiler Ave.

"Currently, Placer County is discussing open-space acquisitions with nine property owners. Our problem isn't finding willing sellers, but securing the funds necessary to protect open spaces for future generations," board Chairman Rex Bloomfield said.

"Placer County will continue growing in the coming years along with the rest of the Sacramento region. It's critical that we balance that growth by preserving the best of the county's open space and farmland."

The Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program is less than five years old, but already has as an impressive resume. Last year, it won a Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, which state officials call their most

Placer Legacy Open Space Program Continues to Make Progress -- Placer County, Calif.

prestigious environmental honor.

A top priority for 2003 is completing deals already in progress.

To date, Placer Legacy's strategy has been to pursue the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements and parkland in rural areas. The challenge looming ahead: Acquiring key properties near growing cities that would help Placer Legacy achieve its goals, but cost more because of their development potential.

"Ultimately, the challenge for Placer Legacy is to preserve open space in cooperation with the cities, so that, when we reach buildout, we look and feel more like we do today, as compared to the Bay Area or Southern California," Supervisor Robert Weygandt said.

The program is a response to growth pressures that have intensified over the last decade.

Placer Legacy seeks to protect county open space, particularly land that is picturesque or historically important, can serve as buffers between growing communities or is suitable for large regional parks dedicated to such pursuits as hiking, biking and horseback riding.

The program aims also to help preserve the county's farm economy and protect endangered and other species of plants and wildlife.

It's a voluntary program that depends on willing buyers and sellers. When supervisors created the program, they adopted no new regulations and no land-use, zoning or general plan changes were needed.

Deals in progress include Spears Ranch, a 961-acre property east of Lincoln that would become a regional park for hikers, equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts. Another prospective deal is for 17 acres in the heart of Cisco Grove, an historic Sierra Nevada town that for decades was a popular way station for travelers along old Highway 40, Interstate 80's predecessor.

Those acquisitions would protect important woodlands and riparian corridors along Coon Creek and the south fork of the Yuba River.

Also in progress are efforts to acquire agricultural conservation easements on two cattle ranches in North Auburn and the Sheridan area. Both would remain farmland, and be buffers between growing communities and farms that otherwise would face development pressures.

Negotiations also are under way for other deals in Alta, Sheridan, rural Lincoln, Meadow Vista and Loomis.

The County hopes to close as many as five of the prospective deals this year.

Placer County has completed its acquisition of an agricultural easement on Aitken Ranch, a 317-acre property west of Lincoln that features vernal pools, marshland and a riparian forest that borders Auburn Ravine for more than a mile.

As part of Placer Legacy, county officials also have restored a stretch of Miners Ravine to look much as it did before gold miners arrived in 1848. The area in question is part of the Miners Ravine Nature Reserve, a 24-acre passive county park located at 7530 Auburn Folsom Road in Granite Bay.

Supervisors also committed \$150,000 recently to help complete financing for a 2,500-acre acquisition that will more than triple the size of Donner Memorial State Park, increase the length of the Donner Lake Rim Trail by seven miles and preserve 2.5 miles of the historic Emigrant Trail.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust and San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land took the lead in putting that deal together in cooperation with the California Parks and Recreation Department.

Included in the transaction is the Schallenberger Ridge, a tree-covered ridgeline that serves as a dramatic backdrop to Donner Lake. In 1992, a residential development was proposed for part of Schallenberger, but the proposal never proceeded past the preliminary design stage.

That deal demonstrates how Placer County officials are trying to adapt their acquisition strategies to fit funding constraints.

The County's support for public ownership of Schallenberger Ridge goes back almost two years, and includes a May, 2001 Board of Supervisors resolution endorsing acquisition of the site. The County decided to support the current deal because the project is consistent with Placer Legacy's goals and the coalition of public and private partners behind it can complete the acquisition quickly and successfully.

Funding remains a never-ending challenge for Placer Legacy, but the program is finding innovative ways to meet that challenge. The county established Placer Legacy in partnership with the Sierra Business Council, a nonprofit association of more than 600 businesses and individuals committed to protecting the economic, social and environmental health of the Sierra Nevada.

Since 1998, the County has been awarded almost \$4.5 million in state, federal and private-

sector grants for land acquisition, habitat restoration and planning work. Much of the grant money is earmarked for improvements to seven watersheds in western Placer County.

A report for the Feb. 4 meeting shows Placer Legacy currently has more than \$7.5 million for acquisitions and another \$4.3 million that is pending.

Money has come from unexpected sources. Dryden Wilson, a long-time Auburn resident who loved the outdoors, left Placer County almost \$890,000 when he died two years ago at age 96. The executor of his estate proposed using the money for Placer Legacy because of Wilson's keen interest in open space, environmental issues and parks. Supervisors also have set aside \$2 million for acquisitions through the county's normal budget process over the last two fiscal years.

Even county employees are contributing to the cause through the Combined Giving Campaign, an annual fund-raising drive for charitable causes. Over the last three years, employees have committed almost \$30,000 of their own money to the open-space efforts.

Indirectly, the county has received support for Placer Legacy from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation through its assistance to the Sierra Business Council. The council provides staff support for Placer Legacy, funds public outreach and compensates scientific advisers.

Placer Legacy has undertaken a scenic roadways, vista and landscape inventory of Placer County with Scenic California, a nonprofit organization supported financially by the Packard Foundation.

The Sacramento-based Tackett-Barbaria Design Group has provided volunteer help to the program. Recently, company co-founder Kim Tackett designed a Placer Legacy logo that features a cluster of oak leaves.

Placer Legacy suffered a setback soon after its birth almost five years ago when voters passed an advisory measure endorsing the program, but turned down a quarter-cent sales tax hike that would have funded acquisitions.

"Our success thus far, with limited resources, is encouraging," Supervisor Weygandt said. "We have created cutting-edge policy, approved several exciting projects and are making solid progress toward protecting the environment in the most cost-effective manner for our citizens. With adequate funding, Legacy could enable Placer County to achieve the highest level of intelligent, long-term land use planning."



Board Approves Hiring Interim Chief Probation Officer

January 21, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors hired a field representative from the California Board of Corrections Tuesday to serve as the county's chief probation officer for approximately six months.

Supervisors voted unanimously to have Frederick Morawcznski fill the position under an interagency agreement with the Board of Corrections.

"Fred has more than 27 years of experience in probation, and will bring a fresh perspective to the department," said County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson. "We look forward to his recommendations for strengthening the department as we search for a permanent chief probation officer."

At Tuesday's meeting, the Board of Supervisors thanked Assistant County Executive Officer Robert Bendorf for filling in as chief probation officer on an interim basis. He stepped in after Joseph Warchol resigned last month, citing personal reasons for his decision to leave the post.

Morawcznski will start his new job Wednesday, Jan. 22.

"I want to thank them for doing this," he said after supervisors voted to hire him, emphasizing he's looking forward to working with probation staff to strengthen the department's team spirit.

In Placer County, the chief probation officer oversees an annual budget of approximately \$13 million and a staff of 131 people. The department supervises about 3,300 adults and more than 400 minors placed on probation by the courts.

The Board of Corrections is a small agency that is separate from the California Department of Corrections, which operates state prisons.

The Board of Corrections works closely with cities and counties to develop standards for the training of local correction and probation personnel, inspects jails and juvenile detention centers, and administers two major grant programs.

In his position as field representative and consultant for the Board of Corrections, Morawcznski coordinated one of the grant programs.

He joined the agency in 1996 after serving as assistant chief probation officer in Alameda County from 1994-96. Before that, he was chief probation officer in Yuba County for about four years and executive officer of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission for approximately four years.

Morawcznski lives in Browns Valley, a small community located about 15 miles from Grass Valley. In their spare time, he and wife Judith are equestrians who enjoy long-distance endurance rides. Both have participated in the local Tevis Cup 100-mile ride.



Supervisor White to Meet with Constituents in Loomis

January 20, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will host an informal meeting in Loomis Wednesday, Jan. 29 where residents can discuss county issues with her.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the Loomis Library, 6050 Library Drive.

Supervisor White regularly holds informal meetings throughout her district to answer questions and hear what constituents have on their minds. The meetings also give her a chance to update people on county projects and programs.

She represents the 3rd District, an area that includes Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, Loomis and part of Rocklin.

Supervisor White also encourages residents to stay informed on county issues by attending meetings of the Horseshoe Bar Municipal Advisory Council. It generally meets on the third Tuesday of every other month in the Loomis Library.

The schedule changes occasionally, so times and dates should be confirmed online at www.placer.ca.gov/bos or by calling the board office at 530-889-4010.

The supervisor also welcomes email at hwhite@placer.ca.gov and mail at 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603. Residents also may make appointments to meet with her at her office in the county's Auburn administration center, 175 Fulweiler Ave.

For more information, call 530-889-4010.



CIMBL To Clean Up Douglas Boulevard in Granite Bay Saturday

January 20, 2003

CIMBL will clean up trash along Douglas Boulevard in Granite Bay on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The group's volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. in front of Bill's Donuts, 8749 Auburn Folsom Road. It's located at the southeast corner of Douglas and Auburn Folsom.

Saturday's mission: cleaning up trash alongside Douglas between Auburn Folsom and Sierra College Boulevard.

New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along more than 2,000 miles of roadway since the group was established eight years ago. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to near Chicago.

Group members have filled almost 19,000 bags with trash and found about 1,800 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance works pick up the trash bags and tires.

For more information, call Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, at 916-645-3599.



Governor's Budget Proposal Costly to Counties

January 17, 2003

The Governor's proposed budget released last Friday would deeply impact most Placer County programs, according to Robert Bendorf, Assistant County Executive Officer.

"An initial analysis appears to spell trouble for most cities and counties," said Bendorf.
"We are confident the legislature will see the proposed local reimbursement reductions, the transfer of state programs to the counties and the redirection of Vehicle License Fees (VLF) to the State as a devastating impact to many local programs."

If the Governor's proposal to retain VLF begins next month, Placer County would lose between \$4-\$5 million prior to June 30, 2003. That amount, combined with a full year reduction of VLF revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, could result in an approximate \$15 million decrease in discretionary revenues over the next 18 months.

In Placer County, discretionary revenues are used to fund a wide variety of services such as the sheriff's department, district attorney, libraries, museums, parks, trails, and open space programs. Other county revenues are generally restricted by law to specific uses, leaving Supervisors little flexibility.

The Governor's proposal would also transfer financial responsibility for many mandatory health and safety programs to counties. Currently the County provides the services and pays part of the costs, but most funding comes from the state. "While the budget proposes new revenue, we are concerned that the proposed transfer of the revenues would not cover the current and ongoing cost of the programs," Bendorf said.

Under the current proposal, the State will no longer reimburse counties for many state mandated programs, including reimbursements for peace officer and correctional officer training. The State budget would also reduce significantly the funding for local road projects for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

"Our Board recognized the current economic crisis, cut costs and planned responsibly.

Now we are faced with an extensive list of potential impacts that will affect our ability to provide services to residents," Bendorf added. "Placer County will continue to plan carefully for the future and provide the best service possible to our residents."



Grant Will Help Homeless

January 17, 2003

Placer County' Adult System of Care, which is part of the Health and Human Services' Department, will receive a federal grant of \$293,282 to assist more mentally ill people who are currently homeless. PEACE for Families, a non-profit agency which aids families escaping domestic violence, will also receive \$212,298 as a renewal of the grant it received last year to assist graduates of its shelter program with rent subsidies.

The McKinney-Vento Act funding was awarded through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development following a local grant application. The county Adult System of Care will use the funds to assist its mentally ill homeless clients secure supportive permanent housing. Clients will receive supportive services to assist them in maintaining their housing. Nearly half of the homeless people interviewed in a survey conducted last spring – 45 percent – reported having been diagnosed with a mental illness.

Arla Gibson, Executive Director, PEACE for Families, noted that nationally about 50 percent of those who are homeless have been victims of domestic violence.

Prior to receiving these recent grants, the City of Roseville and the County of Placer had funded the survey of the homeless population, information which was used in the Continuum of Care application process and for planning purposes. "Homelessness is an extremely complex issue," noted Ray Merz, Placer County Health and Human Services Director. "No single solution will solve everyone's problem.

"Individuals and families seeking permanent affordable housing may require a broad range of services provided by many different agencies," he said. "This grant will help people remain in transitional housing while they receive other services to help them move toward greater independence."

The Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Roseville City Council have both designated the Placer Collaborative Network (PCN) to develop a countywide continuum of care for the homeless. PCN includes numerous groups involved in homeless issues, is

able to access programs and seek funding, and has a track record of bringing about effective, integrated programs. The McKinney-Vento grant application was written by the Placer County Consortium on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (PCOH), a focus group of PCN which includes formerly-homeless people, the County of Placer, the City of Roseville, non-profit groups including faith-based organizations, businesses, associations, medical groups, community collaboratives and funders.

Stressing the need for regional solutions to a regional problem, the Board of Supervisors has directed county Health and Human Services staff to continue working with its community partners in planning and providing a range of services for homeless people. PCOH's continuum of care strategy to reduce chronic homelessness has included researching the needs through the survey, targeting programs to address them, and acknowledging that the lack of affordable housing is a major problem. The Consortium has met monthly and has doubled its active membership in recent months, including strong support from the City and County, which has improved the capacity to provide services.

Placer County currently provides multiple forms of assistance to homeless residents, including casework management to allow focus on the problems of the specific individual, said Merz.

The City of Roseville actively helps the area's homeless population with a wide array of programs that help provide emergency shelter, pay delinquent bills or rent and fund the social service efforts of non-profit agencies through the City's Homeless Voucher Program, administered by the Roseville Salvation Army, the City-funded Citizens Benefit Trust Fund and its federally funded Community Development Block Grant and Section 8 rental assistance programs.

Placer County's HEART program serves homeless people diagnosed with severe, persistent mental illness, focusing on housing, employment, assistance, recovery, and successful medical treatment. Additionally, the county subsidizes housing for people with mental disorders who are homeless or at risk, developing a plan to help them become self-sufficient.

General assistance provided through Placer County HHS helps adults with immediate needs. Temporary emergency assistance through the county pays for rooms in motels. Help with food, medical care, mental health services, employment, childcare, substance abuse, and other services can also be obtained through the county.

Following recommendations from Placer County Community Services Commission, the county uses Community Services Block Grants to provide some related homeless services through several non-profit agencies. On behalf of the county, the Salvation Army

Grant Will Help Homeless -- Placer County, Calif.

administers a winter homeless voucher program.

Current county plans do not include building a shelter, according to Merz.. "However if a shelter were to be built by another agency, ideally a nonprofit, we are willing to work with them in providing an array of services," he said.



Railroad to Meet with Advisory Group

January 14, 2003

(Colfax, January 14, 2003) – Union Pacific Railroad (UP) representatives will meet with the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Municipal Advisory Council (WAC MAC) next week to provide information about recent train derailments in the greater Colfax area.

The WAC MAC meeting takes place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2003, at the Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle, Colfax. The public is invited to attend.

Also on the agenda are monthly community reports from public safety agencies such as Placer Hills Fire Department, Placer County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol.

The WAC MAC invited UP representatives to inform the public about actions being taken or planned to prevent future derailments. There have been six incidents in eight months in the areas of Cape Horn, Gold Run, and Blue Canyon, affecting a total of 56 cars. The most recent occurred Dec. 31. No passenger cars were involved and none of the cars carried hazardous materials.

Currently there is a vacancy on the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Advisory Council. Residents who live in the area represented by WAC MAC may apply to serve. Applications are available on the county web site, or call 530-889-4020 to receive an application by fax.

The WAC MAC is advisory to the Placer County Board of Supervisors, and represents residents who live in the area between the North Fork of the American and Bear Rivers from Cape Horn to the northeast to Clipper Gap on the southwest (excluding the City of Colfax and the community of Meadow Vista). Meetings are normally held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.



Environmental/Transportation Planning Workshop To Be Held

January 13, 2003

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Placer County Public Works Department will conduct a workshop on Thursday, Jan. 23 to discuss how regional transportation plans benefit the environment.

The proposal to build a transit center in Tahoe City will be addressed as part of the public workshop, which will look at the interplay between environmental and transportation planning in North Tahoe. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Bay Room at the Granlibakken Conference Center, 725 Granlibakken Road.

The TRPA will provide an overview of transportation and environmental improvements that are in the works.

Officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Tahoe City Public Utilities District have been invited to address the meeting. Public Works officials will explain the proposal for building a transit center and its relationship to local and regional transportation and environmental plans. A county redevelopment expert will be on hand to discuss the Tahoe City parking master plan.

Other prospective topics include the Tahoe City Community Plan, water quality issues, Highway 89 realignment, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements proposed for the Fanny Bridge area.

Time will be set aside for comments and questions from the public.



Supervisor Bloomfield to Hold Coffee Klatch in Meadow Vista

January 10, 2003

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will be in Meadow Vista Tuesday, Jan. 14, for a coffee klatch with residents there.

The meeting is scheduled to be held at 9 a.m. in the Meadow Vista Library, 16981 Placer Hills Road, Suite B-6.

The supervisor regularly holds informal meetings throughout his district where residents can discuss county issues with him. The meetings give the public a chance to voice their opinions and Bloomfield an opportunity to update the public on county projects and programs.

Bloomfield represents the 5th District, an area that stretches from north Auburn to Lake Tahoe.

The supervisor also encourages Meadow Vista residents to attend monthly meetings of the Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council.

The council normally meets at 7:15 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings take place in Room 22 at Placer Hills School, 16801 Placer Hills Road in Meadow Vista. The council holds special meetings or changes its schedule occasionally, so dates and times should be confirmed by calling the board office at 530-889-4010 or by visiting the county's Web site.

Supervisor Bloomfield also invites constituents to contact him on any subject by mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, or by phone at the board office, 530-889-4010.



County May Reward Employees for Ideas that Boost Bottom Line

January 9, 2003

Placer County may be willing to reward employees for suggestions that turn out to be moneymakers or cost-cutters.

The Board of Supervisors conceptually endorsed the idea recently, voting unanimously to have county staff proceed with creating an Employee Suggestion Award Program.

"If you come up with a good idea, there's an opportunity to put some real money in your pocket," said Supervisor Ted Gaines, noting the proposal is similar to programs offered by many private-sector businesses.

County officials emphasized the rewards would be a wise use of taxpayer funds, because employees would be compensated only if their suggestions led to tangible, quantifiable gains for the county, either through revenue increases or savings. The county would find other ways to recognize employees whose suggestions improved employee morale, health or safety, or the efficiency of county operations, but didn't bolster the county's bottom line.

The program will provide another way to recognize employees who come up with creative suggestions that are beyond the scope of normal job expectations.

Gaines came up with the proposal, asking staff to see what programs other counties have.

His goal: encouraging employees to put forward innovative ideas that improve the quality, effectiveness, cost efficiency, and safety of county operations.

Rewards generally would be equal to 10 percent of the estimated extra revenue or savings the county enjoyed during the first year. The minimum reward would be \$25 and the maximum \$5.000.

County May Reward Employees for Ideas that Boost Bottom Line -- Placer County, Calif.

A Suggestion Award Committee would oversee the program.

Now that supervisors have conceptually endorsed the program, staff will meet with county employee organizations about the proposal and then return to the board. Staff told supervisors they hope to return for a final stamp of approval in about two months.

The suggestion plan would augment a county Employee Recognition Awards Program established about five years ago. The annual awards recognize outstanding leadership, innovation, dedication and service to the public. Employees are nominated for the prestigious awards by co-workers.



Newcastle/Ophir MAC to Discuss Proposed Kelshire Residential Project

January 9, 2003

A 24-lot residential project that would be built southeast of Newcastle will be reviewed by the Newcastle-Ophir Municipal Advisory Council during a regularly scheduled meeting to be held Thursday, Jan. 16.

The council meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the United Auburn Indian Community Center, 661 Newcastle Road, Suite 1.

The Kelshire project would be built on 78 acres located on the north side of Powerhouse Road about 100 feet west of Auburn Folsom Road.

Comments from the council and any council recommendation on whether the county should permit the property to be subdivided into 24 residential lots will be forwarded to the Planning Commission. The commission is scheduled to review the project on January 23.

For more information about the proposed Kelshire project, contact Paul Thompson in the county Planning Department at 530-886-3000.



Board of Supervisors Names Bloomfield Chairman

January 8, 2003

The Placer County Board of Supervisors selected Rex Bloomfield Tuesday to serve as its chairman for 2003.

Supervisor Harriet White was elected vice chairman.

The five-member board confirmed both of its new officers on unanimous votes.

Bloomfield's first act as chairman was to acknowledge his predecessor: 4th District Supervisor Ted Gaines.

"We want to thank Ted for his leadership during his term as chairman," Bloomfield told the meeting, saluting his colleague for a long list of accomplishments during 2002.

After he took office as a supervisor in 2001, Gaines made providing more parks for his Granite Bay constituents a top priority, assisting a successful drive to set up a park assessment district in the community. As chairman, the supervisor celebrated the completion of Douglas Ranch Park and a new tot lot in Treelake Park with the public and the board approved plans and funding for Granite Bay Community Park.

While chairman, Gaines proposed a program to recognize outstanding citizens with commemorative coins and an Employee Suggestion Award Program.

The chairman presides over board meetings, approves final agendas and often represents the county at community events, but generally has the same powers as other supervisors.

Bloomfield was vice chairman last year.

The board's longest-serving member, Supervisor Bloomfield began his third four-year term in January 2001. He recently completed his 10th year representing the 5th District, which stretches from north Auburn to North Lake Tahoe.

A teacher and school administrator for the last 28 years, the Meadow Vista resident teaches a fifth-grade class at Alta Vista School in Auburn.



CIMBL to Clean Up Baseline Road in Roseville Area Saturday

January 7, 2003

CIMBL will hold its first roadside cleanup of the new year Saturday, January 11 on Baseline Road in the Roseville area.

Group members will meet at 9 a.m. in a parking lot near the intersection of Fiddyment Road and Pleasant Grove Boulevard.

With support from Placer County, CIMBL has cleaned up trash along more than 2,000 miles of roadway since the group was established eight years ago. A single road that long would reach from Auburn to near Chicago.

Group members have filled more than 18,600 bags with trash and found about 1,800 abandoned tires over the years. County road maintenance works pick up the trash bags and tires.

New volunteers always are welcome. Cleanup workers should bring hats and work gloves. The group provides supplies and safety vests.

For more information, call Hal Albertsen, the group's founder, at 916-645-3599.



Commission Has Vacancy for Child Educator

January 2, 2003

Placer County has a vacancy on its Children and Families Commission for an educator who specializes in early childhood development.

Applications currently are being accepted from educators interested in serving on the advisory body. No deadline has been set for submitting applications, but the Board of Supervisors hopes to appoint someone to fill the vacant seat soon.

The commission was created to develop and implement a county strategic plan for local early childhood development programs consistent with the goals and objectives of the California Children and Families First Act of 1998.

Commissioners normally meet from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings take place in the Shiloh Center, 905 Lincoln Way in Auburn.

For application forms or more information, call 530-889-4020. <u>Application forms also are available on the county's Internet web site.</u>

Applications should be submitted by mail, fax or in person, to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603, fax 530-889-4099.