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- Stormwater Advisory Group To Meet Wednesday February 25th (2/20/04)
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- Employees Can Earn Rewards for Money-Saving Suggestions (2/11/04)
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- Commission to Hold Third Meeting on Foresthill Plan Thursday, March 11 (2/10/04)
- Project Must Comply with New Martis Valley Open-Space Program (2/9/04)
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- Noise Task Force to Hold Additional Meeting (2/4/04)
- County Parks Commission to Consider Fee Study (1/30/04)
- Transit Station Changes Announced, Effective 2/2/04 (1/30/04)
- <u>Dream Realized</u> Future Spears Ranch Park Is Result Of Public-Private

#### Partnership (1/26/04)

- Board Supports Employees Called to Active Military Duty (1/22/04)
- Supervisor Bloomfield to Host Coffee Klatch in Applegate Tuesday, January 27 (1/21/04)
- Supervisors Hear Impacts of State Budget Proposals (1/20/04)
- Planning Commission to Hold Hearing on Foresthill Plan Monday, January 26 (1/20/04)
- Creek Monitor Volunteers Sought (1/20/04)
- Placer County Storm Water Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Planned (1/9/04)
- Negotiations Concluded Without Contract (1/8/04)
- Placer Board Encourages Bureau to Reassess Folsom Dam Road Closure (1/6/04)
- Recalled Meat Should Be Returned to Store (1/2/04)



## Placer County Offices in Tahoe Closed Thursday, 12/30/04

Due to heavy winter storm conditions and concern for public and employee safety, Placer County offices in the Tahoe area will be closed Thursday, December 30, 2004.

All county emergency services will remain available.

County offices will open again for business at 8 a.m. next Monday, January 3, 2005.



### Supervisors to Consider Urgency Ordinance for Fireworks

December 28, 2004

Placer County Supervisors will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29 to consider an urgency ordinance that will temporarily allow professionally-managed fireworks displays in unincorporated areas.

In response to a number of questions regarding private fireworks displays in Tahoe, the Board declared a fireworks moratorium on Oct. 19.

Supervisors then asked staff to work with communities and local agencies to develop a new draft ordinance for Board review. Staff has gathered information about fireworks regulation in other jurisdictions, and is planning community meetings for further input.

However, recently staff has become aware of fireworks displays planned to celebrate the New Years weekend. Therefore on Wednesday, Board will consider authorizing a temporary exception to allow pyrotechnic operators licensed by the state to manage fireworks displays in the unincorporated area between 6 p.m. on Dec. 30 and 9 p.m. on March 22, 2005. Fireworks will otherwise remain illegal.

The meeting will take place at the County Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn.



# **Board Approves Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Holiday**

Release issued December 17, 2004.

On Tuesday Placer County Supervisors added a county holiday, closing county offices on the third Monday in January to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an outstanding leader who believed that the struggle for social justice should be conducted with direct action, but without using violence," said Supervisor Ted Gaines. "Our national holiday honors this man who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. I would like to see Placer County honor him also."

"Protection of civil rights is important around the world," said Chuck Thiel, Business Manager, Placer Public Employees Organization, Local 39. "It is important to honor those that have died for our rights."

"Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is an important thing to do," said Supervisor Harriet White, Board Chairman.

The proposal will take effect next year, with offices closed January 17.



# Supervisors Receive Update on Proposed University Projects

December 13, 2004

On Tuesday Placer County Supervisors received an informational update from staff on four major land use proposals in western Placer County. These include the Curry Creek Community Plan and Specific Plans for Placer Vineyards, Placer Ranch and De La Salle. Placer Ranch and De La Salle are both anchored by universities. All proposals are subject to the county's project review process and include many opportunities for public participation.

In October 2003, Supervisors unanimously declared their interest in considering two university project proposals in unincorporated western Placer County, both of which include housing and commercial development. At the same time, the Board directed staff to address critical planning issues related to these projects such as providing roads, sewer, water and protecting open space and agriculture.

"Our goal is to develop cutting-edge regional planning that provides for quality higher education, innovative housing, well paying jobs, excellent urban services and uncompromised protection of natural resources. This strategy will provide our residents the optimum vision for build out of Placer County," noted Robert Weygandt, who represents the district.

The private De La Salle University and Community is proposed for land north of Baseline and west of the City of Roseville. Staff said hearings before the Planning Commission would likely take place in the fall of 2005.

The Placer Ranch proposal would be in the county's Sunset Industrial Area and would be developed in concert with a California State University (Sacramento) campus currently being designed for up to 25,000 students. Public hearings could likely take place on Placer Ranch in the spring of 2006.

Staff reported that the Placer Vineyards specific plan, which encompasses land at the far southwestern corner of Placer County, south of Baseline Road, would go to the Planning Commission in the fall of 2005.

The proposed Curry Creek community plan, being created for land generally located east of Country Acres Road, north of Baseline Road, west of Roseville's sphere of influence and south of the De La Salle project, wouldn't likely be finished before January of 2008. However the preliminary work will be useful in analyzing the De La Salle project.

Supervisor Weygandt noted that "creating a Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) will define where and how open space is managed by specifically planning how we protect and manage our habitat and natural areas. The PCCP will simplify land development permitting and compliance with federal and state regulations while at the same time maximizing the value our natural resources as a quality amenity available to our residents."



# Secretaries Needed for Lincoln, Sheridan Advisory Councils

December 10, 2004

The Rural Lincoln and Sheridan municipal advisory councils both have vacancies for secretaries. Placer County officials currently are taking applications from residents interested in filling either or both positions. The Board of Supervisors will fill the vacancies.

MAC secretaries are contract employees who work for the board and are paid \$100 for each meeting they attend.

Serving as a MAC secretary 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 generally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in Mt. Pleasant Hall. The Sheridan MAC normally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place in Stewart 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 and at the Clerk of the Board's Office in Auburn. Completed applications should be delivered to that office or mailed to Clerk of the Board's Office, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603.



#### Further Flu Clinic Scheduled

December 3, 2004

Placer County has a limited supply of adult vaccine and has scheduled another public clinic to provide flu vaccinations:

#### Thursday, December 16

12:30 to 4 p.m.

**Rocklin Sunset Center** 

2650 Sunset Boulevard, Rocklin

Flu vaccine will be given only to adults in high-risk groups including people 65 or older, younger people who have certain underlying chronic medical conditions, women who are pregnant, healthcare workers in direct patient care, and caregivers and household contacts to children younger than six months.

Children at high risk may go to one of the county's regularly-scheduled immunization clinics. In Roseville the children's clinic is on Wednesday from 8:30 to 4 p.m. at 1130 Conroy Lane, Suite 402.

In Auburn the children's clinic is held on Fridays, 8:30 to 4, at 11583 C Avenue, DeWitt Center. Both the Roseville and Auburn clinics are closed during the noon hour.

High-risk children's groups include: children 6 to 23 months old; children 2-18 years old who are on long-term aspirin therapy or have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, severe anemia or immune disorder; children 2 to 18 years old who live in homes with children younger than six months, or older children who provide care to these young children.

Information will continue to be provided on the Placer County Flu Information Message Line, 530-889-7161, and on the county web site. The information will also be given to local news media.

There have been long lines at the beginning of each recent clinic, but the lines disappeared later on during the clinics. Each of the earlier clinics had enough vaccine to serve everyone who was a member of a high-risk group and who needed a shot.

Public Health officials continue to stress the importance of prevention. "Taking these precautions can help protect you and others from flu and other illnesses," noted Dr. Richard Burton, M.D., M.P.H., County Health Officer:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid the spread of infection to co-workers and friends.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer to help protect yourself from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, drinking plenty of water, exercising, and getting plenty of rest.



# County Looking to Fill Vacancy on West Placer Municipal Advisory Council

December 1, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors is looking for people interested in serving on the West Placer Municipal Advisory Council.

The five-member advisory body currently has one vacancy. Its members are volunteers who serve two-year terms. 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 MACs 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 MACs are an important part of our county government," 1st District Supervisor Bill Santucci said. "The Board of Supervisors values their recommendations, and listens carefully to what they have to say."

Located within the 1st District, the West Placer MAC represents the unincorporated area west of Roseville between Baseline Road and the Placer-Sacramento county line.

The West Placer MAC normally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings typically are held at Dry Creek Elementary School, 2955 PFE Road in Roseville.

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

To read a PDF document, you need the <u>free Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF software</u> on your computer. If you don't have it installed, you may download it from the Adobe website.

County Looking to Fill Vacancy on West Placer Municipal Advisory Council | Public Information Office | Placer County, CA Adobe provides detailed instructions on downloading and installing its free PDF reader.



# Multi-Hazard Mitigation Draft Plan Needs Public Input

November 24, 2004

The Placer County Office of Emergency Services has been leading a planning effort to help reduce damages from natural emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, wildfires and severe winter storms. Where possible, the plan will identify steps to avoid, reduce or mitigate disaster damages, and as a bonus, could help lessen the cost of flood insurance within Placer County.

Local agencies have been working on the plan for several months, and a draft is ready for community review. Residents are being encouraged to provide information about potential hazards and proposed solutions that could reduce hazard vulnerability.

"Our plan is an important first step in understanding how best to avoid, reduce or mitigate damages in future emergencies and, particularly, to identify where mitigation measures could have a high payoff in saving lives and property," said Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Placer County Office of Emergency Services. "Community participation is essential to our planning process."

Public meetings are scheduled for Monday, Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. at the County Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn; and Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6 to 8 p.m. at the North Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach. Both programs will include a summary of the plan and time for questions and comments.

When complete, the plan will cover all public agencies in Placer County, such as fire districts, water agencies and public utility districts, state and federal agencies, as well as the County and the Cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln and Rocklin; and the Town of Loomis. Roseville is doing a separate plan.

Having this plan is now a requirement to maintain local eligibility for disaster -mitigation funding available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA

assists state and local governments in recovering from disasters, and provided significant funding in Placer County following floods in 1995 and 1997.

The draft of the plan is available now online at www.placer.ca.gov. Copies of the plan will also be available at the County Administrative Center, in city halls, and in all county libraries by Dec. 1.

Residents may offer comments in various ways:

- At one of the meetings
- Mail comments directly to the Placer County Office of Emergency Services at 2968 Richardson Drive, Auburn, CA 95603
- Fax comments to consultant Jeanine Foster at AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc., 303-935-6505; or send emails to jeanine.foster@amec.com.

The deadline for public comment is Dec. 10, 2004. The final version of the plan will be reviewed by the state Office of Emergency Services and FEMA, then presented to the Board of Supervisors, city councils and the governing boards of the agencies involved.



### Volunteers Provide Landscaping Facelift for Animal Shelter

November 24, 2004

Thanks to the efforts of A New Hope Animal Foundation, Hewlett-Packard, and <u>Placer</u> <u>County Animal Services</u>, the Auburn animal shelter has brand new landscaping.

On Friday morning, November 12, a crew of more than 20 volunteers from the New Hope Animal Foundation and Hewlett-Packard arrived at the Placer County Animal Shelter in Auburn. Volunteers carried picks, shovels, trees, plants, soil, and bark. They set to work and, five hours later, had transformed the bleak shelter grounds into a green and welcoming entrance and side yard.

"In addition to sprucing up the building, we now have trees to shelter our animal exercise area," said manager Rich Ward. "These volunteers have really improved the entrance and shelter grounds, and we appreciate it greatly. The shelter feels more welcoming now."

Animal Services manager Rich Ward, Lynn Howe, the founder of A New Hope Animal Foundation, and a team of volunteers from H-P planned the event for two months.

Hewlett-Packard employee Anna Willis, organized the volunteer effort as part of an ongoing H-P employee community service initiative. She put together the roster, learned from Ward and Howe what was needed, and organized lunch and drinks for the volunteers.

The Animal Services Division, A New Hope, and the H-P volunteers themselves covered some of cost of the materials, with donations from High Ranch Nursery and Home Depot, in Roseville. The volunteers planted trees, shrubs, and some flowering annuals.

A New Hope Animal Foundation, a new local nonprofit, also provides other volunteer services like dog-walking for Animal Services, and for the shelter.

The Auburn Animal Shelter is located at 11251 B Avenue, in the DeWitt Center. The Animal Services phone number is 530-886-5500.

Photos are available.



## Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Auburn Justice Center

November 23, 2004

Placer County held a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday to celebrate the start of construction on the Auburn Justice Center.

"This is a momentous occasion. I'm so thrilled it's starting, at least, under my tenure," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Harriet White, who is leaving the board at the end of the year after serving two terms. The 98,000-square-foot building is being constructed near the Main Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility at the intersection of Richardson Drive and B Avenue in the DeWitt Center.

"I think it's going to be a fantastic asset to our DeWitt complex," County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson during the ceremony.

The new building will serve as headquarters for the Sheriff's and Probation departments and provide space for the District Attorney's Office.

All three departments currently are housed in old buildings at the DeWitt Center, which was built in 1943 to serve as a military hospital. The original buildings still in use are crowded, inefficient to heat and cool, and expensive to remodel.

The Sheriff's Department currently has its headquarters in a two-story unreinforced masonry building that is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes.

Beverly Prior Architects designed the new building. The total project cost is about \$35 million. The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2006.

The justice center is one of three major county construction projects now under way.

In north Roseville, construction started recently on the South Placer Justice Center. The

first phase will feature a courthouse with nine courtrooms and a 60,000-square-foot office building that will be privately owned, but will provide leased space for the county. The site is just west of Highway 65 between Sunset and Blue Oaks boulevards.

At the northwest corner of the DeWitt Center, a 97,400-square-foot Land Development Building will consolidate in one location most operations of the Building, Planning and Public Works departments; the Air Pollution Control District; and Environmental Health Division of Health and Human Services.



## County Acquires 220 Acres East of Lincoln for Regional Park

November 22, 2004

A new Placer County open-space regional park featuring trails for walking, running, horseback riding, and mountain biking will soon be taking shape in a rural area east of Lincoln.

The 220-acre natural-area park, not yet officially named, is the latest addition to the County's Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program. The Board of Supervisors gave final approval to the purchase Nov. 2.

The park site is located north of Mt. Vernon Road between Lincoln and Auburn.

The property is now closed to the public and will be reopened sometime next summer after improvements are complete.

Park improvements will include a parking lot with space for horse trailers, a paved access road, a restroom structure, and fire-safety improvements for the park and the benefit of properties in the area. The parcel adjoins Spears Ranch, a 961-acre open-space parcel purchased by the County with major support from the Trust for Public Lands, the Sierra Business Council and the State of California.

"This acquisition is a wonderful addition to Placer Legacy," Supervisor Rex Bloomfield said. "The property is eye-catching, with blue oak woodlands and Coon Creek running through it, and it offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. By acquiring the property, we give the public a chance to enjoy it, and preserve it for future generations."

The County acquired the park site from BOR Properties LLC for \$767,500.

A longtime property owner, JJD Properties LTD, donated a conservation easement to the County at no cost over its entire 780-acre property, which includes the park site. The

easement will protect all 780 acres from ever being developed beyond the 21 home sites that are permitted through historical entitlements.

"My partners, Dennis Meyer and James J. Didion, and I are extremely pleased that our working with Placer County has been able to result in a 220-acre park and a 780-acre conservation easement," said Paul Aronowitz, the third partner in BOR Properties.

Grant funding from California State Parks will help pay for trails and other improvements.

County Facility Services Director Tom Miller thanked the BOR partners for cooperating with the County to make the park acquisition possible.

"This was a complicated transaction, and it wouldn't have been possible without the BOR partners' expertise and willingness to work with the County," he said. "The acquisition was worth all the hard work, because the park will be a tremendous addition to the Placer Legacy program."



#### Youth Tobacco Purchase Survey

November 21, 2004

A tobacco sales compliance check conducted recently in North Lake Tahoe revealed that nearly half of the randomly-selected tobacco retailers contacted - four out of nine - sold tobacco products to people under the age of 18, which is illegal (California Penal Code 308-a).

On the positive side, five out of nine retailers followed the law. Placer County Health and Human Services' Tobacco Prevention program recognizes the following retailers for complying with the penal code: 7-11, Shell gas station, and La Mexicana Market in Kings Beach; 7-11 in Carnelian Bay; and Tahoe Raft and Gas in Tahoe City.

The compliance check, which was carried out by Placer County Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Sheriff's Department, was the final phase of an education campaign designed to help reduce minors' access to tobacco products.

Prior to the compliance checks, HHS' Tobacco Prevention Program conducted an education campaign with tobacco retailers, including telephone calls, mailings and newspaper articles describing the compliance checks and information about how to obtain assistance. Retailers were informed of the state law and fines that range from \$200 - \$1,000 for clerks and \$200 - \$6,000 for store owners caught selling tobacco to minors. Because of the high sales rate, future tobacco compliance checks may be conducted with violators receiving misdemeanor citations and fines.

"Reducing minors' access to tobacco products is absolutely essential to reducing the rate of youth smoking," said Dr. Michael Mulligan, Assistant County Health Officer. "We wholeheartedly commend all businesses that decline to sell tobacco to minors."

Placer County HHS' Tobacco Prevention Program and the Placer County Sheriff's Department will continue to work with retailers to reduce minors' access to tobacco products. Parents and community members can also assist by calling 1-800-5-ask-4-ID and reporting stores and clerks they observe selling tobacco to minors. Signs with the

number are required by law to be posted at each register where tobacco products are sold.

For questions about tobacco laws or cessation classes contact Alan Hayashi <u>by email</u> or at Placer County Health and Human Services at (530) 889-7216.



#### **County Flu Shot Clinics Scheduled**

November 22, 2004

Placer County has received a limited supply of adult vaccine and has scheduled the following public clinics to provide flu vaccines. The shots cost \$10 and the county will bill Medicare and Medi-Cal.

Tuesday, November 30 (1000	
doses)	

Veteran's Memorial Hall 110 Park Dr., Roseville Hours: 8:30 - 12:00

#### Thursday, December 2 (200 doses)

Lincoln Lighthouse 630 6th St., Lincoln Hours: 8:30 - 12:00

#### Wednesday, December 1 (1000 doses)

DeWitt Senior Center 11577 E Ave., Auburn Hours: 8:30 - 12:00

#### Thursday, December 9 (300 doses)

Kings Beach Fire Station 288 North Shore Blvd (Hwy 267), Kings Beach Hours: 9:00 - 11:00

Flu vaccine will be given only to adults in high-risk groups including people 65 or older, younger people who have certain underlying chronic medical conditions, women who are pregnant, healthcare workers in direct patient care, and caregivers and household contacts to children younger than six months.

Children at high risk may go to one of the county's regularly-scheduled immunization clinics. In Roseville the children's clinic is on Wednesday from 8:30 to 4 p.m. at 1130 Conroy Lane, Suite 402.

In Auburn the children's clinic is held on Fridays, 8:30 to 4, at 11583 C Avenue, DeWitt Center. Both the Roseville and Auburn clinics are closed during the noon hour.

High-risk children's groups include: children 6 to 23 months old; children 2-18 years old who are on long-term aspirin therapy or have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes,

asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, severe anemia or immune disorder; children 2 to 18 years old who live in homes with children younger than six months, or older children who provide care to these young children.

Information will continue to be provided on the Placer County Flu Information Message Line, 530-889-7161, and will be given to local news media. County Flu Fact Sheet web page

Public Health officials continue to stress the importance of prevention. "Taking these precautions can help protect you and others from flu and other illnesses," noted Dr. Richard Burton, M.D., M.P.H., County Health Officer:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid the spread of infection to co-workers and friends.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer to help protect yourself from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, drinking plenty of water, exercising, and getting plenty of rest.



#### **County Flu Shot Update**

November 18, 2004

Placer County has received a limited supply of adult vaccine and will be scheduling public flu clinics in the near future.

In the meantime, the Sutter Visiting Nurses' Association has scheduled a clinic in Roseville on Sunday, November 21, at the Elks Lodge, <u>3000 Brady Lane</u>, Roseville, 95678, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The vaccine will be given to persons in the high-risk categories only.

High-risk categories are:

- Adults aged 65 years and older;
- Persons aged 9–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- All pregnant women, with a doctor's order;
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- Children aged 9–18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months.

So far, Placer County has received only a portion of its vaccine for children.

Please contact your regular medical provider to see if they have vaccine available for you or your child.

When the County has adult vaccine available, it will be given only to high-risk groups including people 65 or older, younger people who have underlying chronic medical conditions, women who are pregnant, healthcare workers in direct patient care, and caregivers and household contacts for children younger than six months.

Healthcare providers, as well as caregivers and household contacts of children younger than six months, who are 5 to 49 years old and healthy are encouraged to consider Flu-

Mist as an alternative. This would allow more doses of standard vaccine to be available to those people with chronic conditions. Check with your healthcare provider or pharmacy for availability.

Children at high risk may go to one of our regularly-scheduled immunization clinics. High-risk groups include:

- Children 6 to 23 months old
- Children 2-18 years old who are on long-term aspirin therapy or have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, severe anemia or immune disorder
- Children 2 to 18 years old who live in homes with children younger than six months, or older children who provide care to these young children

In Roseville our children's clinic is on Wednesday from 8:30a.m. to 4 p.m. The clinic is located at 1130 Conroy Lane, Suite 402.

In Auburn our children's clinic will be held on Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4, at 11583 C Avenue, DeWitt Center. Both the Roseville and Auburn clinics are closed during the noon hour.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these issues of flu vaccine availability.

We will continue to provide new information on the county's phone message line, 530-889-7161, here on the web site, and via local newspapers and radio stations.

You can help protect yourself and others from the flu and other illnesses by using these precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid the spread of infection to co-workers and friends.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer to help protect yourself from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, drinking plenty of water, exercising, and getting plenty of rest.



# **Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrates New Land Development Building**

November 4, 2004

Placer County held a groundbreaking ceremony in Auburn Tuesday to celebrate the start of construction on a land development building that will serve as a one-stop permitting center for the public.

The 97,400-square-foot building in the DeWitt Center will be a one-stop center for residents and businesses who need assistance with land development projects such as remodeling homes, building new houses or undertaking other construction projects that require permits.

The project timeline calls for construction to be completed in December 2005 and the land-development departments to begin moving in early 2006.

The projected total project cost is slightly more than \$30 million. The construction contractor is Harbison-Mahony-Higgins Builders of Sacramento.

The land-development building will consolidate in one location most operations of the Building, Planning and Public Works departments, the Air Pollution Control District and the land development division of Environmental Health.

They currently are housed in separate buildings, so the public often has to shuttle between several buildings to get permits. Working from a single location will also improve staff's ability to communicate about projects.

"This new building will be so much more convenient for our residents and business owners to obtain the information and services they need from our land development departments," noted Board Chairman Harriet White. "I'm pleased to see the construction begin."

The new building will relieve overcrowding among staff of the land development departments. It also is needed to replace old buildings at the DeWitt Center, which was built in 1943 as a military hospital. The original buildings still in use are crowded, inefficient to heat and cool and expensive to remodel.

The land development building is one of several major capital projects outlined in a Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors several years ago.

Also in the works at the DeWitt Center is a 95,000-square-foot Auburn Justice Center, which will be built along Richardson near the main jail and juvenile detention center. It will serve as headquarters for the Sheriff's Department and provide space for the District Attorney's Office and Probation Department.

The county will break ground soon on the first phase of the South Placer Justice Center and Courthouse, which will be built in north Roseville just west of Highway 65 between Sunset and Blue Oaks boulevards. The project's first phase will feature a courthouse with nine courtrooms and a 60,000-square-foot office building that will be privately owned, but will provide leased space for the county.

Other buildings will be constructed over the next 20 years as they are needed and funding becomes available. The justice center will serve the rapidly growing communities in South Placer.



#### **New Noise Ordinance Resolving Problems**

November 4, 2004 (*Updated 2/10/05*)

Placer County's new noise ordinance has been successful in resolving most noise complaints, according to a report reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. Complaints were solved with a single contact 95 percent of the time based on the data obtained.

As requested by the Board in March, staff brought the ordinance back for review after a six-month trial. According to the report, the Placer County Sheriff's Office has taken a primary response role, and code enforcement officers in the Planning Department have dealt with the chronic noise concerns and administrative issues. The Sheriff's Office has found that educating residents about the noise ordinance and articulating a "good neighbor policy" have resulted in significant compliance, with few repeat violations. Enforcement actions have generally not been needed.

Altogether, staff responded to 335 noise incidents reported between March and August 30, 2004. Most, though not all, incidents have been resolved with a single response.

Loud music and parties generated nearly half of the complaints – 48 percent – while off road motor vehicles created 13 percent. Other issues cited included construction, equipment, gunfire and other miscellaneous noises.

The County purchased noise meters, with most assigned to patrol cars, and trained staff in how to use them.

As a general rule, under the noise ordinance, any person generating noise must keep that noise below 55 decibels during the day and 45 db at night. If a complaint is reported, noise measurement may be taken to assess the sound levels.

Exceptions to this rule include typical residential uses such as children at play, property maintenance sounds such as lawn mowers, safety and alarms, school activities, emergency response, construction, infrequent vehicle repair, agricultural devices,

businesses, and vehicle operation on public roads and driveways. In some cases, there are other criteria, such as time of day, which must also be considered.

There are no minimum setback, acreage or other considerations relating to off road motor vehicle use. Decibel readings, typically taken at the property line, will be applied as the standard.

The noise ordinance applies only in the unincorporated areas of the County. A complete copy of the noise ordinance is available on the web site.



#### Placer County Awards Community Mediation Contract

October 26, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors has awarded a contract to provide mediation and dispute resolution services for county residents to nonprofit Placer Dispute Resolution Services, PDRS.

"Dispute resolution is a very important service we offer county residents, to resolve problems before they end up in court. When people get help from a neutral third party, it's often easier to solve their problems," said Board Chair Harriet White, District 3 Supervisor. "I've been watching PDRS for a number of years and we've been very pleased with their success rate."

Community mediation is a form of dispute resolution where people work out their problems and arrive at a mutually agreeable resolution with the help of an impartial mediator or panel of mediators. The mediators encourage productive communication in a neutral setting.

Facilitated mediation is voluntary, confidential, informal, flexible and focuses on the future. The technique can be used to address a wide variety of problems including those between neighbors, family members, co-parents, landlords and tenants, businesses and consumers, and business partners. PDRS does not provide service in cases where violence or substance abuse are involved.

PDRS mediators are trained volunteers from the community, and they must meet the requirements of the Dispute Resolution Programs Act. In addition to facilitated mediation, PDRS provides conflict resolution and mediation training, and will make presentations to county community groups on the nature and benefits of mediation on and the services they provide.

For more information please contact PDRS at (916) 645-9260 and visit their website at

Placer County Awards Community Mediation Contract | Public Information Office | Placer County, CA

www.pdrs.org.



## County Arbor Day Event To Be Held Saturday, November 6

October 26, 2004

The Placer County Parks and Grounds Division and Placer Tree Partners will sponsor a tree planting event to commemorate Arbor Day at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 6, 2004. The event will be held at the DeWitt Center in North Auburn, at the corner of Atwood and Richardson Drives. While Arbor Day events are held in the spring in much of the country, fall planting is best for trees in California.

Volunteers will learn proper tree planting techniques, and will help plant trees to beautify the community. Similar successful county-sponsored events have been held in recent years on Nevada Street, in Auburn, and in Meadow Vista.

While some tools will be provided, event organizers encourage volunteers to bring gloves and their own shovels. Refreshments will be served, and the event will be held regardless of the weather.

Placer Tree Partners is an Auburn-based citizens' group committed to creating, nurturing, and sustaining a community filled with trees. Healthy trees provide a community with beauty, shade, and improved air quality.

"As far as I'm concerned, the more trees the better. This organization, which I had a hand in starting, is doing a wonderful community service," said Board Chair Harriet White, District 3 Supervisor. "Look at all the trees they've planted, dozens and dozens, which will improve county communities."

The Arbor Day event is funded through the Placer County Tree Mitigation Fund, with additional support from the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer County Parks and Grounds Division.

For further information, contact Christopher Schmidt in the Planning Department by

County Arbor Day Event To Be Held Saturday, November 6 | Public Information Office | Placer County, CA

email (crschmid@placer.ca.gov) or by phone at 530-886-3076.



## **Board Proposes Placer County as Site for Conservancy Headquarters**

October 22, 2004

The Board of Supervisors decided recently that Placer County would be an ideal location for the headquarters of the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy. (Map of conservancy area.)

Supervisors voted unanimously Oct. 19 to support a resolution encouraging state officials to locate the headquarters in Placer County. The resolution notes the county has several pluses as a potential home for the headquarters.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation creating the conservancy Sept. 23 while standing on the banks of the Bear River in Placer County. About 200 people attended the signing, which was held in the Bear River Campground outside of Colfax.

Part of the State Resources Agency, the conservancy will seek to protect the Sierra Nevada while strengthening the economic well-being of Sierra residents. Advocates expect the conservancy to steer millions of dollars in state investment to the region.

"Having the headquarters in Placer County would bring jobs here and underscore the county's historic role as an important entryway to the Sierra Nevada," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Harriet White.

Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Rex Bloomfield agreed that Placer County is a logical site for the headquarters. "I think it's a good location for the conservancy in that it's centrally located within the Sierra, is within easy access of Sacramento, and would be easy to get to for other members of the conservancy," Weygandt explained. "We have been leaders in open-space conservation and were early supporters of the conservancy," Bloomfield said.

The resolution adopted by the board notes Placer County is centrally located in the 22-county region that's within the conservancy's boundaries, and is close to the State Capitol

in Sacramento. It also is astride Interstate 80, a major transportation corridor through the Sierra, and is served by major rail lines.

Legislation creating the conservancy was sponsored by Assemblymen Tim Leslie, R-Tahoe City, and John Laird, D-Santa Cruz. The program's goals include stimulating tourism, protecting air and water quality and reducing the risk of natural disasters such as wildfires.

Local governments in the region will be eligible to receive grants for environmental protection, resource conservation, recreation and economic growth through the conservancy.

Almost 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County are within the conservancy's boundaries, making it the largest conservancy in the state.

The conservancy will be managed by a 13-member governing board. Six members will be county supervisors selected from the conservancy's subregions. Placer is in the central subregion with El Dorado, Nevada and Yuba counties.

County officials believe several communities in Placer County could be good homes for the conservancy's headquarters. Last month, the Auburn City Council passed a resolution urging the state to establish the headquarters in Auburn.



## County Government Offices Closed in Tahoe Area Due to Power Outage

October 20, 2004

Most Placer County government offices will be closed this afternoon, Wednesday, Oct. 20, due to a widespread power outage.

Emergency and essential services such as those provided by the Sheriff's Department and Public Works remain available.

Offices are expected to be re-open Thursday morning; please call ahead if you have concerns.



## **Groundbreaking for South Placer Justice Center Set for Tuesday**

October 19, 2004

The Board of Supervisors has canceled the groundbreaking, scheduled for today, due to the bad weather. When it is rescheduled, that information will be posted here.

October 15, 2004

Placer County will hold a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, Oct. 19 for the first phase of the South Placer Justice Center and Courthouse.

The ceremony will take place at 12:30 p.m. The 55-acre site is in north Roseville just west of Highway 65 between Sunset and Blue Oaks boulevards.

The ceremony will include brief remarks by 1st District Supervisor Bill Santucci, Presiding Superior Court Judge Alan Pineschi and County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson.

The project's first phase will feature a courthouse with nine courtrooms and an office building that will be privately owned, but will provide leased space for the county.

The new courthouse will replace five existing courtrooms at the DeWitt Center, two in Roseville and one each in Colfax, Foresthill and Lincoln.

The courts will continue to use four courtrooms at the county's Historic Courthouse in Auburn, a court in North Lake Tahoe and courtrooms at the main jail and juvenile detention center at the DeWitt Center.

Other justice center buildings will be constructed over the next 20 years as they are needed and funding becomes available. When completed, the center will house most of the county's criminal justice operations in South Placer. It will include a Sheriff's

Department substation, an adult detention facility, a public safety office building for the District Attorney and Probation departments and a building for ancillary uses.

#### Directions to the groundbreaking ceremony:

Take Highway 65, use the Blue Oaks Boulevard off-ramp and head west on Blue Oaks. Turn right onto Industrial Avenue and right onto Tinker Road. The site of the groundbreaking ceremony is on the south side of Tinker midway between Industrial and Highway 65.



#### Supervisors to Review Bickford Project

October 14, 2004

On Tuesday at 2 p.m., Placer County Supervisors will consider a recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve Bickford Ranch, a large-scale, mixed-use planned development including 1,890 residential units.

The Bickford Ranch environmental impact report, which was certified by the Board of Supervisors in December of 2001, analyzed the impacts in the then-proposed specific plan, development standards and design guidelines.

The actions were subsequently challenged in court, and the court determined that the Board's approval of the specific plan, design guidelines, development standards, development agreement, adoption of mitigation measures and mitigation and monitoring report plan, and resolutions pertaining to Clark Tunnel Road were invalid, and ordered that those actions be rescinded.

On August 10, 2004, the Board rescinded all the actions the court labeled invalid. Since the EIR was not rescinded, an addendum EIR was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The addendum addresses minor project changes, including reducing the overall number of residential units, increasing the amount of open space/recreational uses, and slightly increasing the amount of commercial land. These changes benefit wildlife by providing a greater amount of contiguous habitat areas, and reducing oak woodland removal along the ridge lines.

Subsequently, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the project Sept. 23, and now the Board of Supervisors will reconsider the project.

The proposed Bickford Ranch project would include an 18-hole course, almost 10 acres of retail/office space, two public sites, a fire station, a sheriff's service station and a reserved elementary school site. The project is located east of Sierra College Blvd. and north of Highway 193.

Further information on the <u>Bickford Ranch project</u> is available on the county web site.



## Read Outside the Box - A Reading Game for Adults

October 15, 2004

The Placer County Library presents the third annual *Read Outside of the Box*, a self-paced reading game for adults. The game provides opportunities to explore the library, discover new authors and titles, and revisit old favorites.

If you read at least 5 books in 6 months, or if you 're looking for something to jumpstart your fall and winter reading, this game is for you!

To sign up, beginning November 1st, visit your nearest county branch library and pick up your free game card. The game ends in April 2005 with a drawing and prizes.

For more information, contact Nancy Rifkin by email, or by phone at 530-886-4510.



#### **County Flu Clinics Canceled**

October 8, 2004

The Placer County Health and Human Services does not have any adult flu vaccine, and at this point does not expect to be receiving any. Therefore, County-sponsored flu clinics for adults have been canceled.

Childhood vaccination clinics have not been affected.

Should vaccine become available, that information will be provided on the Placer County Flu Information Message Line, 530-889-7161, and on the county web site. Local newspapers and radio stations will also be notified..

According to Dr. Michael Mulligan, Assistant County Health Officer, you can help protect yourself and others from flu and other illnesses by taking the proper precautions.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and throw used tissues away.

Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after sneezing, coughing, touching your face or handling soiled tissues.

If you are ill, stay home from work or school in order to avoid spreading illness to others outside the home.



## Replacement Page Mailed for Roseville City Sample Ballot Booklets

October 8, 2004

Registered voters in the City of Roseville will be receiving a letter this week with a replacement page for their recently mailed Sample Ballot Booklets for the Nov. 2, 2004 General Election.

The replacement page corrects a printing error in the booklets for the Roseville City Council race to correctly read "Vote for no more than Three" candidates.

County Elections staff emphasized that the absentee ballots being mailed to Roseville voters and Election Day ballots will have the correct voting instructions for City voters.

Staff suggests that the replacement ballot page for the Sample Ballot Booklet can be affixed to the voter's sample ballot inside the booklet for reference.

Roseville voters are encouraged to call County Elections toll free at 1-800-824-8683 if they have any questions regarding the correction for the booklets.



## Volunteer Drivers Needed to Help Vets Get to Medical Center

October 8, 2004

Volunteers are needed to drive a van that will be used to transport veterans from Auburn to a medical clinic in the Sacramento area.

The van service is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Placer County Veterans Services Department.

The van will transport veterans from the federal agency's Sierra Foothills Outpatient Clinic in Auburn when they have appointments at the VA Sacramento Medical Center at Mather. Volunteer drivers will be signed up on an as-needed basis.

"This is a great way to show support for people who have served our country," county Veterans Services Officer Fred Murphy said. "Being a volunteer driver also is rewarding because the service is so vital. Veterans often have no other way to get to their doctor's appointments in Sacramento." For more information, contact VA Voluntary Service Program Manager Juanita DeLuna at 916-366-5372.



## Potential Human Case of West Nile Virus Detected in Placer County

September 30, 2004

A 56-year-old Placer County resident has received a "preliminarily positive" test for West Nile virus, according to Dr. Richard Burton, Placer County Public Health Officer/Director of Health and Human Services.

A confirmatory test is being run by the State, which will take 7 to 14 days to complete. If confirmed, this will be the first human case of West Nile virus discovered in Placer County.

The patient is recovering in the hospital with meningitis, in this case apparently a neuroinvasive form of West Nile virus.

Previously in Placer County, West Nile virus has been detected in eight horses, 21dead birds, nine sentinel chickens and three mosquito pools. West Nile virus has been detected in 56 out of 58 counties, according to the California Department of Health Services. As of September 28, the State reported 643 human West Nile infections in 20 counties.

"Having a human case of West Nile virus in Placer County should remind us all to take routinely recommended precautions against becoming infected," Dr. Burton said.

West Nile virus is generally transmitted to humans and animals through mosquito bites. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite infected birds.

"The virus is NOT generally spread through casual contact with infected people or horses," Dr. Burton emphasized.

Most people who are infected with West Nile virus will not experience any illness. Up to 20 percent of infected individuals may experience only mild to moderate illness with fever, body ache and headache. Less than one percent – about 1 in 150 people – will

develop serious neurologic disease, such as encephalitis and meningitis. People over 50 and those with lowered immune systems are more susceptible to serious illness.

"There are many things residents can do to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to prevent potential exposure to West Nile virus," Dr. Burton said. He recommended:

- Applying insect repellant containing DEET if you will be outside.
- Eliminating all sources of standing water, which can support mosquito breeding. Even small amounts of water, such as the saucers under plants, can be breeding grounds.
- Making sure your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens in good repair.
- Avoiding time outside when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you go out.
- There is an effective vaccine to protect horses against West Nile virus; horse owners should contact their veterinarians.

Information on West Nile virus is available through the Placer Mosquito Abatement District, or by phone at 916-435-2140; or through Placer County Health and Human Services West Nile Virus web page, or through the State's West Nile Virus web site. The county's information line, 530-889-4001, has information in both Spanish and English. Free printed materials can be obtained in Spanish and English by calling the County or the District. Russian materials are available through the Centers for Disease Control.



## Summary of Title III Projects for Funding Consideration - Federal FY 2004/2005

### Notice of Proposed Title III County Projects, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

This is a 45-day notice about projects that may be funded by Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. It is posted on the County's website and will be published in the Auburn Journal. For federal FY-04, Placer County has allocated approximately \$85,000 to Title III. Expenditures are limited to six uses specified by the law:

- 1. Search, Rescue and Emergency Services
- 2. Community Service Work Camps
- 3. Easement Purchases
- 4. Forest Related Educational Opportunities
- 5. Fire Prevention and County Planning
- 6. Community Forestry

You may send comments on proposed programs seeking Title III funding, to the Placer County Title III Coordinator, Leslie Hobson, County Executive Office, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603. **Comments will be received until 5:00 p.m., November 10,2004**. The text of the statute, P.L. 106-393, including Title III, and more information on proposed projects are available at the Clerk of the Board's Office, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603.

The following projects will be considered by the Board of Supervisors:

#### 4. Forest Related Educational Opportunities

Sponsor/Title	Forest Related Educational Opportunities: Summary	Funds Requested	Funds Recommended
Foresthill Fire Safe Council	As part of the Todd Valley WUI Fuel reduction project, the Foresthill Fire Safe Council will produce and distribute educational brochures describing the necessity to create a fire safe environment around each of the 1,100 homes in this area.	\$2,500	\$2,500
Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council	The Fire Victim Outreach program will hold a series of neighborhood meetings with real victims of local fires.  The intent is to motivate residents of very high risk fire hazard zones to prepare defensible space around their homes.	\$5,000	\$2,000
High Sierra RC & Development Council	Serene Lakes Fuel Reduction Demonstration project will select highly visible property for fuels treatment and removal operations. They will develop educational materials to distribute at an on-site community workshop to increase awareness of and commitment to fuel reduction and defensible space.	\$3,000	\$3,000

#### 5. Fire Prevention and County Planning

Sponsor/Title	Fire Prevention and County Planning: Summary	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Northstar Fire Department	Prepare the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce or eliminate loss of life, property, and resource values due to a wildfire impacting the Northstar community through public input, planning, and healthy forest management practices.	\$6,800	\$6,800
North Tahoe Fire Protection District	Prepare the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce or eliminate loss of life, property, and resource values due to a wildfire impacting the North Tahoe/Alpine Meadows community through public input, planning, and healthy forest management practices.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Placer Hills Fire Protection District	Conduct PRC 4291 residential and public facility inspections for 750 homes in the Meadow Vista, Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Eden Valley, and Heather Glen communities. The purpose is to encourage homeowners to improve their defensible space	\$9,900	\$9.900

Conduct PRC 4291	\$70,000	\$35,000
residential and public		
facility inspections for		
2,500-5,000 homes in the		
greater Auburn area The		
purpose is to encourage		
homeowners to improve		
their defensible space.		
	residential and public facility inspections for 2,500-5,000 homes in the greater Auburn area The purpose is to encourage homeowners to improve	residential and public facility inspections for 2,500-5,000 homes in the greater Auburn area The purpose is to encourage homeowners to improve

**Total Number of Projects Recommended: 7** 

**Total Funds Recommended: \$84,200** 



## Public Invited to Attend Recovery Happens September 18th

September 13, 2004

Good food, live music and fun for families, individuals and children await the public Saturday, September 18 at the 2004 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.

Attractions for children will include a fun jump, face painting, and a puppet show. Enjoy live music by musical group Machaira. Actor and artist Katie Rubin will perform *Insides OUT!*, the humorous story of her own successful recovery from addiction.

For the fourth 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. 7 meeting, the county Board of Supervisors proclaimed September 2004 as

National Alcohol & Drug Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Month in Placer County.

#### Sponsors include:

- Placer County Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Programs
- Placer County Systems of Care
- Family Resource Centers of Placer County
- Rocklin Community Counseling
- Hope, Help & Healing
- New Leaf Counseling Center
- Sierra Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependency
- Sierra Family Services

- Koinonia
- Progress House
- Aegis Medical Systems, Inc.
- The Effort
- Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital
- "Just for Laughs" fun jump
- Eagle Counseling Center
- Cynthia Jaynes, ADP, State of Calif.
- Community Recovery Resources

For more information, call Becca Bettis of the Placer County Health and Human Services Department, Adult System of Care at 530-889-7221.



#### 2004 Community Youth Development Mini-Grants Available

September 9, 2004

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 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 8, 2004. Late applications and faxed copies will not be accepted. Funds must be spent prior to June 30, 2005.

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.

County staff will hold two grant information and technical assistance workshops on Monday, September 13 in the Placer County Office of Education, Main Office, A/B room, at 360 Nevada Street, in Auburn. The first workshop session will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The second session will be from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 530-889-7238 to reserve a space at either session.

Contact <u>Shari Crow</u> by email for the grant application packet at 530-889-7238 or 530-886-3567. The <u>grant package is also available online</u> as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

For more information call the Health & Human Services Strengths and Assets Promotion

Program at 530-889-7238 or 530-889-7179 or email **Shari Crow** (scrow@placer.ca.gov).



#### Wells Fire News Release #1

Updated September 3, 2004, 4:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m., a fire started near Morgan and Wells Roads in Loomis and burned southeast to Laird and Cavitt-Stallman Roads. Firefighters responded aggressively and forward fire movement has been halted. The major flames have been knocked down. The fire has burned approximately 50 acres.

Resources on site include 35 engines, with 15 engines on the way. Air resources include 3 helicopters and one air tanker. Other resources include two dozers, and 1 hand crew.

One structure has been confirmed as destroyed. There have been no injuries. There is no evacuation in place. Residents are sheltering in place, or have voluntarily evacuated.

Officials ask that the public stay away from the area of Wells and Barton Roads, and Wells and Laird Roads, to allow emergency vehicles free movement.

The incident is now under a unified command structure, led by South Placer Fire and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention. In addition to those agencies, companies responding include the Loomis, Roseville, Rocklin, Alta, and Sacramento Metro agencies.

The Placer County Emergency Operations Center is open and the public may call 530-886-5310 for fire information and updates. Officials also encourage the public to listen to local radio and television stations for fire information.



# Placer County West Nile Task Force West Nile Virus Information Line Expanded; Two More Birds

August 27, 2004

Placer County Health and Human Services has expanded its West Nile virus telephone message line to make more information available in both English and Spanish.

By calling 530-889-4001, callers may now become better informed about the disease at any time, including how to protect people or horses, report potentially-infected birds to the State, or receive additional information or schedule informational presentations.

The State has reported that two more birds from Placer County, both collected August 11, tested positive for WNV. One bird, an American Kestrel, was found in Granite Bay, while an American Crow was found in Roseville. Dead birds infected with West Nile virus are an important disease surveillance tool indicating the disease is present locally.

Officials previously reported four dead birds - from Roseville, Meadow Vista, Emigrant Gap and Auburn -, plus an infected horse from western Placer County and an infected mosquito pool from Roseville.

There have been no human cases confirmed in Placer County. Numerous Northern California counties have confirmed infections among dead birds, horses and mosquitoes. According to the California Department of Health web site, at least 260 people in California have experienced symptoms of WNV, almost all from Southern California.

About 80 percent of people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged.

A small minority of people (about 1 in 150) can become seriously ill with neuropathic

illness (such as meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome.) Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States, including more than 260 deaths.

The Placer County West Nile Task Force offers the following reminders to prevent exposure to West Nile virus:

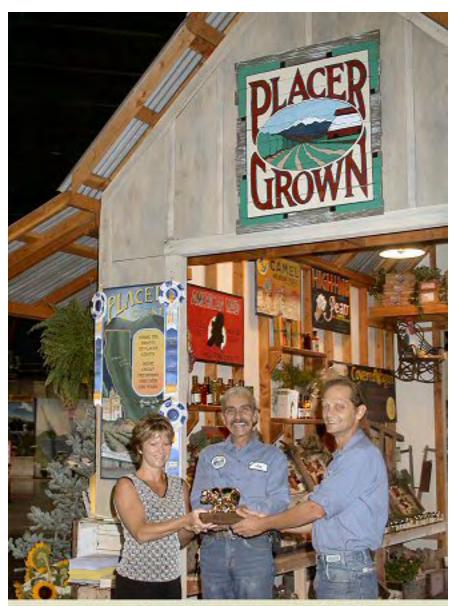
- Don't get bitten by mosquitoes.
- Horses can be immunized against WNV. For best information about protecting your horses, contact your local veterinarian.
- Dawn and dusk are when mosquitoes that could carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activity, or take precautions such as wearing long sleeves and long pants.
- DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellants. Always follow label directions carefully.
- Drain standing water weekly, since that's where mosquitoes lay eggs. Check for water in old tires, flower pots, bird baths, toys, puddles and other places.
- West Nile virus is rare, but if you have symptoms, including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately. Though anyone can be infected and become ill, severe illness is more common in people over age 50.
- To report a newly-dead bird to the State for WNV testing, call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473), or visit the Department of Health Services web site, www. westnile.ca.gov.

Also available for 24-hour use are web sites sponsored by the <u>Placer Mosquito Abatement District</u> (www.placermosquito.org), <u>Placer County Health and Human Services</u> (www.placer.ca.gov/wnv) and <u>the California Dept. of Health Services</u> (www.westnile.ca.gov). Information about protecting horses is available through the <u>California Department of Agriculture</u> (www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\_info.htm).



## Placer County Wins Prestigious Golden Bear: Best of Show Award

August 25, 2004



Judy Sage, Jim McCrummen, and Mike Rigney display Placer County's 2004 Golden Bear Award for the best county display at the fair.

Placer County's exhibit at the California State Fair recently received the Golden Bear, the trophy handed out each year to the winner of the Best of Show Award.

At an Aug. 20 awards ceremony, Placer County also earned four other major awards that honor it for having the best craftsmanship; marketing; agricultural exhibit; and use of products, produce and artifacts.

The county's exhibit is a replica of a roadside fruit shed packed with many of the farm products grown and manufactured locally. The shed's walls are adorned with reproductions of historic fruit labels used by local growers.

Since 1991, Placer County has received the Golden Bear five times. At this year's ceremony, it captured five of 13 major awards handed out by judges.

"I'm glad the state fair's judges recognized this exhibit is something special," Chairman Harriet White of the Placer County Board of Supervisors said. "It is colorful, well-built and informative, as the county's state fair exhibits always are. This one is special because it does such a good job marketing Placer County, giving fair-goers a sense of its rich agricultural heritage and a chance to check out many of the products produced by its dynamic farm economy today."

Forty-four counties participated in this year's exhibit competition. In addition to the major awards, the fair gave a Gold, Silver or Bronze Award to each participant. Placer was among 12 counties this year that earned gold. Twenty counties walked away with silver and 12 earned bronze.

Placer County's exhibit is created each year 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.

Judy Sage of the Facility Services Department served as project coordinator this year. Jim McCrummen and Mike Rigney of Facility Services supervised the construction work, as they have for many years.

This year's exhibit owes part of its success to two volunteers: sisters Loralyn and Deanna Owen. They painted art works for the exhibit, including an eye-catching mural that is a replica of one of the many historic fruit labels.

Loralyn is a graduate of Del Oro High School who attends Sierra College and Deanna is a senior at the high school. Their family has lived in Placer County for about 100 years and operated Valley Vista Orchards for many years.

The State Fair runs through Sept. 6.

Fruit production was Placer County's leading industry from the 1880s until the early 1970s.

Today, county agriculture accounts for more than \$76 million in annual gross sales. In 2002, the top five crops were rice, nursery products, cattle and calf operations, timber production and chickens.

Mandarin oranges, peaches, plums, wine grapes, strawberries, kiwifruit, apples and Bartlett pears account for the bulk of the county's fruit production.

Nuts such as walnuts, pecans, pistachios and chestnuts are produced in Placer County, and vegetable crops include melons, pumpkins, rhubarb, squash, tomatoes and eggplants.

Much of the county's produce is grown on small farms and sold directly to consumers at produce stands and certified farmers' markets. <u>PlacerGROWN</u>, a countywide agricultural marketing program, helps local farmers with direct marketing of their products.



# Placer County West Nile Task Force Horse in Western Placer County Diagnosed with West Nile Virus

August 24, 2004

Placer County received confirmation from the State today that an unvaccinated horse in the far western part of Placer County had contracted West Nile virus. The horse had been euthanized.

Horses, like people, can get West Nile virus from being bitten by infected mosquitoes. Recently, the county was notified of four dead birds infected with West Nile virus. They were found in Auburn, Roseville, Emigrant Gap and Meadow Vista. Also, there was an infected mosquito pool in Roseville.

Dr. Greg Fellers, D.V.M., a member of the county's West Nile Virus Task Force, said that the infected horse as well as the dead birds and mosquito pools provide evidence of the spread of the disease locally.

"The fact that a mammal has now contracted West Nile virus underscores the need for people to take action to protect themselves and their horses," he said.

Horses can be immunized against WNV. For best information about protecting your horses, contact your local veterinarian. You can also obtain information from the <u>California Department of Food and Agriculture</u> web site (www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\_info.htm).

About 80 percent of the people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged.

A small minority of people can become seriously ill with neuropathic illness (such as

meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome.) Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States, including more than 260 deaths.

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Health and Human Services offer the following reminders to prevent exposure to West Nile virus:

- Don't get bitten by mosquitoes.
- Dawn and dusk are when mosquitoes that could carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activity, or take precautions such as wearing long sleeves and long pants.
- DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellants. Always follow label directions carefully.
- Drain standing water weekly, since that's where mosquitoes lay eggs. Check for water in old tires, flower pots, bird baths, toys, puddles and other places.
- West Nile virus is rare, but if you have symptoms, including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately. Though anyone can be infected and become ill, severe illness is more common in people over age 50.

For more information or free presentations or materials, call Placer County Health and Human Services at 530-889-7667 or the Placer Mosquito Abatement District at 916-435-2140. You can also obtain good information online at the <u>Placer Mosquito Abatement District</u> web site (www.placermosquito.org) or the <u>Placer Counth Health and Human Services</u> web pages (www.placer.ca.gov/wnv).

To report a newly-dead bird to the State for WNV testing, call 1-877-WNV-BIRD, or visit the <u>Department of Health Services</u> web site (www.westnile.ca.gov).



## Infected Mosquito Pool Discovered in Roseville

August 20, 2004

A pool of mosquitoes from Roseville tested by the State has been confirmed to be infected with West Nile virus.

Infected mosquitoes can infect humans and horses with West Nile virus through bites. Prior to today's announcement by the State, four infected dead birds had been found in Placer County, but no infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes tested were Culex tarsalis.

There have been no human or horse cases in Placer County. However, Dr. Jamesina Scott, Placer Mosquito Abatement District Vector Ecologist, said today's verification is important.

"This presence of infected mosquitoes in our county reinforces the need for people to be aware that West Nile virus is here, and that they need to take protective actions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes," she said.

About 80 percent of the people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged.

A small minority of people (1 in 150 approximately) can become seriously ill with neuropathic illness (such as meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome.) Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States, including more than 260 deaths.

Dr. Scott noted the importance of residents continuing to notify the State if they find recently dead birds. "Infected dead birds as well as infected mosquito pools remain effective means of surveillance regarding this disease," she said. "The State's phone lines have been very busy, however it is possible to send them information online. To report a

newly dead bird to the State, call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at www. westnile.ca.gov.

Experts urge residents to protect themselves against WNV and offer these simple tips.

- Use an insect repellant that contains DEET. Use extra care to protect children.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outside. Repair or install screen doors and windows.
- Drain standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed. Check ornamental ponds, clogged rain gutters, old tires, leaky watering equipment, birdbaths, plant saucers, hot tub covers, childrens wading pools and other sites.
- Cover the roof-top vent to your septic tank with a screen a critical issue in rural areas.
- Stock your fish ponds and watering troughs with mosquito fish.
- Contact your veterinarian about protective vaccine for horses, since WNV can be deadly. More information on horses and West Nile Virus is available.

Here are other good sources of information about West Nile Virus:

- Placer Mosquito Abatement District (www.placermosquito.org) 916-435-2140
- <u>Placer County Health and Human Services</u> (www.placer.ca.gov/wnv) 530-889-4001
- California Dept. of Health Services (www.westnile.ca.gov)



## Birds in Roseville & Meadow Vista Test Positive for West Nile Virus

August 19, 2004

Two dead birds, one collected in Roseville on Aug. 6 and one collected in Meadow Vista on Aug. 5, have tested positive for West Nile virus, Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Health and Human Services officials announced today.

The two birds, both Western Scrub-Jays, bring to four the number of dead birds testing positive for West Nile virus in Placer County. Numerous WNV-infected birds have been identified in nearby counties.

"Finding these birds reinforces the need for residents to take common-sense protective actions against mosquito bites," said Assistant County Health Officer Dr. Michael Mulligan. "Dead birds that test positive for West Nile virus are a surveillance tool that alerts us to the possibility of infected mosquitoes, horses or humans."

The virus is spread by mosquitoes that bite infected birds, become infected, then infect humans or horses through bites. There have been no human cases of West Nile virus in Placer County, nor cases involving horses.

Most people who get West Nile virus from infected mosquitoes won't become ill. But about 20 percent may experience mild-to-moderate flu-like symptoms which may be prolonged. About one in 150 people will become very ill. People over 50 and people with suppressed or compromised immune systems are more likely to become seriously ill.

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Health and Human Services offer the following reminders to prevent exposure to West Nile virus:

- Don't get bitten by mosquitoes.
- Dawn and dusk are when mosquitoes that could carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activity, or take precautions such as wearing long sleeves and long

pants.

- \DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellants. Always follow label directions carefully.
- Drain standing water weekly, since that's where mosquitoes lay eggs. Check for water in old tires, flower pots, bird baths, toys, puddles and other places.
- West Nile virus is rare, but if you have symptoms, including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately. Though anyone can be infected and become ill, severe illness is more common in people over age 50.
- Horses are vulnerable to West Nile virus. Contact your veterinarian about protective immunizations. More information is available.

For more information or free presentations or materials, call the Placer Mosquito Abatement District at 916-435-2140 or Placer County Health and Human Services at 530-889-7667. You can also obtain good information online at <a href="https://www.placermosquito.org">www.placermosquito.org</a> or on the county web site.



## Supervisor White to Meet with Public Wednesday in Newcastle

August 19, 2004

Placer County Supervisor Harriet White will discuss county issues with the public during an informal coffee klatch to be held Wednesday, Aug. 25 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 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 Newcastle Elementary School, 8951 Valley View Drive.

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

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



## County Looking to Fill Vacancy on Rural Lincoln Advisory Group

August 18, 2004

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

The five-member advisory council currently has one vacancy. Rural Lincoln residents interested in filling the vacancy are invited to fill out applications for board review.

Council members are volunteers who serve two-year terms. Each must be reside within the area served by the MAC.

The MAC's service area includes unincorporated areas located west and north of the city of Lincoln. West of Lincoln, the MAC 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 MAC 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.

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. <u>An application form</u> and information about the <u>Rural Lincoln MAC</u> also are available on the county's web site



#### Second Bird in Placer Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

August 17, 2004

A Northern Goshawk collected at Emigrant Gap on July 30 is the second dead bird from Placer County to test positive for West Nile virus. A Western Scrub-Jay in Auburn previously tested positive.

Dead birds can be important harbingers of West Nile virus activity if tests show that they are infected. The virus is spread by mosquitoes that bite infected birds, become infected, then infect humans or horses through a bite. There have been no human cases of West Nile virus in Placer County, nor cases involving horses.

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Health and Human Services offer the following reminders to prevent exposure to West Nile virus:

- Don't get bitten by mosquitoes.
- Dawn and dusk are when mosquitoes that could carry the virus are most active, so limit outdoor activity, or take precautions such as wearing long sleeves and long pants.
- DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellants. Always follow label directions carefully.
- Drain standing water weekly, since that's where mosquitoes lay eggs. Check for water in old tires, flower pots, bird baths, toys, puddles and other places.
- West Nile virus is rare, but if you have symptoms, including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck, contact your health care provider immediately. Though anyone can be infected and become ill, severe illness is more common in people over age 50.
- Horses are vulnerable to West Nile virus. Contact your veterinarian about protective immunizations.

For more information or free presentations or materials, call Placer County Health and

Human Services at 530-889-7667 or the Placer Mosquito Abatement District at 916-435-2140. You can also obtain good information online at the <u>Mosquito Abatement District</u> web site (www.placermosquito.org) and <u>the county web site.</u>



# Placer County Transit Introduces New Commuter Express to Downtown Sacramento

August 17, 2004

Auburn, CA. Placer County residents who regularly travel to downtown Sacramento will soon have another option for their daily commute. Placer County is in the final planning stages of the Placer Commuter Express.

Serving the I-80 corridor from Colfax to the Capitol, the Placer Commuter Express will make its debut on August 23, 2004. The new fleet features contemporary, air-conditioned buses with high-backed seats, arm rests, reading lights, and overhead luggage racks.

Placer County Transit has received a number of email comments from people looking forward to the new commuter alternative. Stated one Ophir resident," I am excited to learn that there will soon be a new commute option from Auburn to downtown Sacramento. I appreciate Placer County's efforts to bring better commute options to its residents."

Another county resident wrote, "Congratulations on scheduling a good selection of pick up and drop off locations." And still another pointed out, "I can read the newspaper, work on my laptop, or catch a cat nap. That certainly beats hassling with I-80 traffic."

The service has been funded through a Federal air quality grant along with funds from Placer County, the Cities of Colfax, Auburn, Rocklin and the Town of Loomis. Hours of operation of the Placer Commuter Express have been tailored specifically to meet commuters' early morning and late afternoon needs.

For details, visit the Placer County Transit Web site, contact the division by email (pct@placer.ca.gov), or call 530.885.BUSS (530.885.2877).

Bus schedules are also available through state employers in downtown Sacramento.





#### Dead Bird Infected with West Nile Virus Discovered in Auburn

August 5, 2004

A dead bird discovered in Auburn has tested positive for West Nile virus, the Placer County Health and Human Services Department announced today.

The bird, a Western Scrub-Jay, was discovered on July 22 in Auburn, and forwarded to the State of California, which made the diagnosis. Previously, dead birds infected with West Nile virus had been discovered in Sacramento County, at South Lake Tahoe and in other regions, but not in Placer County.

"The Placer West Nile virus task force has been preparing for the possible arrival of West Nile virus in our county for nearly two years," said Dr. Richard Burton, Placer County Health Officer/Director of Health and Human Services.

"The most important thing residents should do is to protect themselves from getting bitten by mosquitoes, since infected mosquitoes carry the virus," he said. "People should take active steps now to protect themselves."

About 80 percent of the people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged.

A small minority of people (1 in 150 approximately) can become seriously ill with neuropathic illness (such as meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome.) Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States, including more than 260 deaths.

Therefore experts urge residents to protect themselves and offer these simple tips.

• Use an insect repellant that contains DEET. Use extra care to protect children.

- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outside. Repair or install screen doors and windows.
- Drain standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed. Check ornamental ponds, clogged rain gutters, old tires, leaky watering equipment, birdbaths, plant saucers, hot tub covers and other sites.
- Cover the roof-top vent to your septic tank with a screen a critical issue in rural areas.
- Stock your fish ponds and watering troughs with mosquito fish.
- Contact your veterinarian about protective vaccine for horses. WNV can be deadly to unvaccinated horses.

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District will also give away mosquito fish from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Auburn Tack and Feed, located at 12009 Shale Ridge Road in Auburn. These fish feed on mosquito larvae, and are particularly beneficial in ornamental or stock ponds. For information contact the district at 916-435-2140.

Staff from the district and Placer County Health and Human Services will continue to make free presentations on how to prevent WNV to service clubs, senior centers, civic groups and other organizations. Free brochures and posters are also available for distribution. To request a presentation or materials, call the county at 530-889-7667.

Dead birds, especially crows, can signal the presence of the West Nile Virus. Therefore, report recently-dead birds to the state promptly: call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2477). Birds can also be reported online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

People and horses get the virus from being bitten by infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected by biting infected birds. Placer County vector control and health officials are actively monitoring mosquito, bird, horse and human populations, watching for infection. The Placer Mosquito Abatement District is continuing active control of mosquito larvae, by seeking and treating standing water where mosquitoes develop.

Horses are very susceptible to West Nile virus, however they can be protected through vaccinations obtained through local veterinarians. Horse owners should contact their veterinarians as soon as possible if animals are not current on vaccinations.

Placer County's West Nile Virus Task Force is a multi-agency group that was formed two years ago as a proactive step to ensure the highest level of service and protection to residents and visitors in Placer County. As the Task Force followed the movement of WNV across the country, it discovered there were several critical elements that mitigated the impact of the virus within communities: public education, cooperative interagency planning and organized mosquito control. Communities that had effective public

education programs, existing mosquito control, and good interagency cooperation - like that which exists in Placer County - had fewer human cases of WNV than neighboring areas that were unprepared, according to Dr. Jamesina Scott, Placer Mosquito Abatement District Vector Ecologist.

The district's approach to mosquito control focuses on destruction of mosquito larvae physically, biologically or chemically. She noted that the best way to control adult mosquitoes is to prevent them.

Here are other good sources of information about West Nile Virus:

- Placer Mosquito Abatement District (www.placermosquito.org),916-435-2140
- Placer County Health and Human Services <u>West Nile Virus Fact Sheet</u>, (www. placer.ca.gov/wnv), 530-889-4001
- California Dept. of Health Services, www.westnile.ca.gov.



#### Update - Ralston Afterbay Mechanical Malfunction

August 5, 2004 - 12:30 p.m.

As the result of an accidental release of water from the Ralston Afterbay on the Middle Fork of the American River, water passing through the Auburn confluence area of the American River has caused a temporary rise of 1 to 3 feet in water level. However, the river remains within its banks.

The extra water will continue to flow toward Folsom Lake. The amount of the accidental water release was estimated at 1,000 acre-feet. That represents water to cover 1,000 acres of land to a depth of 1 foot.

An electronic controller at the Ralston Afterbay malfunctioned during a normal release this morning and caused the problem. The gate has been closed manually and water is flowing out of the Afterbay at normal levels. The Placer County Water Agency and regulatory agencies are examining the dam facilities and the malfunction. The dam is being operated manually until the equipment can be checked and repaired.

The Afterbay is located on the Middle Fork of the American River, southeast of the community of Foresthill and northeast of Auburn.

The extra water has passed the Auburn area. The Placer County Sheriffs Department and the Office of Emergency Services recommend river users exercise caution. The river is carrying debris and may be muddy today.

Placer County Sheriff's deputies and the California Highway Patrol have alerted campers, rafters and others, and have excluded access to some points. The water is expected to flow into Folsom early this afternoon. No damage to structures has occurred and none is expected.

The public may phone the Placer County Water Agency for further information, at 530-

823-4850. The Auburn State Recreation Area reports all campgrounds along the American River are open.



#### Flood Alert, Ralston Afterbay Mechanical Malfunction

8/5/2004 9:45 a.m.

Between 6 and 7 a.m., during a routine water release at Ralston Afterbay, on the Middle Fork of the American River, there was a mechanical failure and a gate stuck open. The Placer County Water Agency, PCWA, announced that a four-foot swell of water was released downstream.

The water is expected to reach the Auburn area between 10 and 11 a.m. Officials are asking people to stay out of the Middle Fork canyon, and to avoid Highway 49 where it crosses the river, below Auburn.

Placer County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to notify rafters, campers, and others along the Middle Fork to leave the immediate river area.

In addition, a California Highway Patrol helicopter flying along the river using a PA system to announce people should move up the banks, away from the river.

PCWA anticipated no damage to bridges or other structures downstream.

Agencies involved in responding to the incident also include the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, and the Auburn State Recreation Park and Recreation District.

The public may call the Office of Emergency services for further information, at 530-886-5310.



#### Squaw Valley Park Grand Opening Planned

August 2, 2004

The public is invited to join United States Senator Barbara Boxer and Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield at the grand opening of Squaw Valley Park Saturday, August 7.

The celebration will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The 30-acre park is at the intersection of Squaw Valley Road and Highway 89.

Senator Boxer and Supervisor Bloomfield will be featured speakers during the grandopening festivities. The celebration will include a plaque unveiling ceremony and reception.

"I hope the public will help us celebrate, and take advantage of the opportunity to check out the park,"

Supervisor Bloomfield said. "County staff and community members have worked for 10 years to make this park a reality, dealing with every governmental agency imaginable."

"I think it's wonderful that Squaw Valley Park is opening for business," said Senator Boxer. "It has so much to offer. Getting this land and building this park took years of sustained effort by people working in the community and at every level of government."

Senator Boxer was a strong supporter of federal legislation proposed by Rep. John Doolittle that allowed Placer County to acquire the park site from the U.S. Forest Service.

Legislation was needed because the Forest Service's land-transaction process typically takes at least five years to complete and the agency generally deals in large property exchanges, not sales. The legislation allowed the park deal to be completed in just 1½ years.

#### The park has:

- A full-sized soccer-field with synthetic grass;
- Two playgrounds, one for children two-to-five years old and another for youth five-to-12;
- Several family picnic areas;
- A trail staging area and multi-use trail that connects to the Western States Trail; and
- A paved bicycle trail that connects Squaw Valley Park to an existing bike trail leading to Lake Tahoe.

The park is the first operated by Placer County with a synthetic-grass sports field. The synthetic turf is particularly useful in mountain areas such as Squaw Valley. It 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. The synthetic-grass field will also eliminate the need for water, fertilizers and herbicides.

The soccer field may be reserved by calling 530-886-4901.

Development of the park was possible because of strong support from the Placer County Board of Supervisors, Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, the U.S. Forest Service and Placer County Parks Commission.



# **Applications for Fire Prevention Project Grants Sought**

August 2, 2004

In November the Placer County Board of Supervisors will be distributing up to \$85,000 in federal funding to government agencies or non-profit groups programs to help develop plans or educate homeowners about fire prevention in very high hazard areas.

Projects such as fire inspections of residential and public facilities to reduce fire hazards or development of a multi-jurisdictional fire mitigation plan are examples of the types of projects that might be chosen. The goal is to increase the protection of people and property from wildfires.

The money comes from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, known as HR 2389, which provides federal funds to counties in lieu of tax proceeds for federal lands. Placer County has selected fire prevention and county planning as its priority use for the funds for this fiscal year.

Applications for the money must be received in the County Executive Office by August 16 at 5 p.m. (A postmark is not sufficient.) The proposals will then be published in the Auburn Journal for a 45-day comment period that ends Oct. 15. A panel will review the applications and make recommendations to the Board which will make its final decision in early November.

A link to the application packet with more complete information is available below. Interested groups may also contact <u>Leslie Hobson</u> by email at the County Executive Office, or by phone at 530-889-4026, to obtain the application packet.

Application Package for Federal Grants Funding from HR 2389 (PDF file)

To read a PDF document, you need the <u>free Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF software</u> on your computer. If you don't have it installed, you may <u>download it from the Adobe website</u>.

Applications for Fire Prevention Project Grants Sought -- Placer County, Calif. Adobe provides detailed instructions on downloading and installing its free PDF reader.



#### Free West Nile Virus Presentations, Mosquito Fish to Help Residents

July 23, 2004

Now that West Nile Virus has been detected in dead birds in 16 counties including Sacramento County, Placer County's West Nile Virus Task Force is reminding residents of the need to take protective actions to stay safe.

"Preventing mosquito bites is your number one priority in protecting yourself against West Nile Virus," said Dr. Richard Burton, Placer County Health Officer/Director Health and Human Services. "It's obvious that the virus is spreading to Northern California, and it is likely that the virus may soon be present in Placer County. People need to take active steps now to protect themselves."

Staff from the Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Health and Human Services will continue to make free presentations on how to prevent WNV to service clubs, senior centers, civic groups and other organizations. Free brochures and posters are also available for distribution. To request a presentation or materials, call the county at 530-889-7667.

The district will also give away mosquito fish from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Auburn Tack and Feed, located at 12009 Shale Ridge Road in Auburn. These fish feed on mosquito larvae, and are particularly beneficial in ornamental or stock ponds. For information contact the district at 916-435-2140.

As of July 22, 35 human cases have been identified in Southern California this year. One person has died.

Horses are very susceptible to West Nile Virus, however they can be protected through vaccinations obtained through local veterinarians. So far in Southern California, at least 30 horses have been infected and 11 have died.

People and horses get the virus from being bitten by infected mosquitoes. The disease is not transmitted person to person. Mosquitoes become infected by biting infected birds. Placer County vector control and health officials are actively monitoring mosquito, bird, horse and human populations, watching for possible signs of infection. The district is continuing active control of mosquito larvae, by seeking and treating standing water where mosquitoes develop.

About 80 percent of the people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged.

A small minority of people (1 in 150 approximately) can become seriously ill with neuropathic illness (such as meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome.) Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States, including more than 260 deaths.

Dead birds, especially crows, can signal the presence of the West Nile Virus. Therefore, report recently-dead birds to the state promptly: call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473). This is an important thing residents can do to help with WNV detection, Burton said.

Placer County's West Nile Virus Task Force is a multi-agency group that was formed two years ago as a proactive step to ensure the highest level of service and protection to residents and visitors in Placer County. As the Task Force followed the movement of WNV across the country, it discovered there were several critical elements that mitigated the impact of the virus within communities: public education, cooperative interagency planning and organized mosquito control. Communities that had effective public education programs, existing mosquito control, and good interagency cooperation - like that which exists in Placer County - had fewer human cases of WNV than neighboring areas that were unprepared, according to Dr. Jamesina Scott, Placer Mosquito Abatement District Vector Ecologist.

The district's approach to mosquito control focuses on destruction of mosquito larvae physically, biologically or chemically.

"The best way to control adult mosquitoes is to prevent them," said Scott. "That's our approach, that's our goal."

Therefore experts urge residents to protect themselves and offer these simple tips.

- Use an insect repellant that contains DEET. Use extra care to protect children.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.

- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outside. Repair or install screen doors and windows.
- Drain standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed. Check ornamental ponds, clogged rain gutters, old tires, leaky watering equipment, birdbaths, plant saucers, hot tub covers and other sites.
- Cover the roof-top vent to your septic tank with a screen a critical issue in rural areas.
- Stock your fish ponds and watering troughs with mosquito fish.
- Contact your veterinarian about protective vaccine for horses. WNV can be deadly to unvaccinated horses.

Here are other good sources of information about West Nile Virus:

- Placer Mosquito Abatement District www.placermosquito.org,, 916-435-2140
- Placer County Health and Human Services, <u>www.placer.ca.gov/wnv</u>, 530-889-4001
- California Dept. of Health Services, www.westnile.ca.gov.



# Free Family Concert at Bernhard Museum on Sunday, July 25

7/23/04

The last Summer Community Education Program sponsored by the Placer County Department of Museums will be held on Sunday, July 25 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM on the grounds of the historic Bernhard Museum Complex on Auburn Folsom Road in Auburn. Bring your family and a picnic basket dinner and enjoy a relaxed evening of history and music. Docents dressed in period clothing will guide visitors through the Victorian house museum and Coyote Hill will entertain visitors on the porch. No reservations are required for this free family oriented program.

Coyote Hill, made up of four El Dorado County musicians, Alan Fuller, Karen Orozco, Jenny Rutherford, and Cowboy Hay, will present a top-notch program of authentic American traditional music. With their love of the culture and the music, their vocal and instrumental wizardry, and their extensive array of musical instruments, they represent the very best of American folk music. Best of all, they are accomplished storytellers and interpreters, and they weave into their programs the lore behind the music. They present each piece of music in its historical context, and they are masters of their craft.

For additional information, please call the Department of Museums at (530) 889-6500.



#### **Granite Bay Park Grand Opening Set for Saturday, July 24**

July 20, 2004

Placer County officials are inviting the public to join them Saturday, July 24 for a grand-opening celebration at Granite Bay Community Park.

The grand-opening ceremony will start at 10 a.m. The festivities also will include a long list of family-oriented fun activities that generally will run from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 16-acre park is at the southeast corner of Douglas Boulevard and Barton Road. It features two baseball-soccer fields, a playground, picnic areas, a snack bar building with restrooms, parking lot and trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"I hope the public will join us for the grand opening, because it promises to be a fun-filled day," county Supervisor Ted Gaines said. "It's certainly an occasion worth celebrating. So many people have worked real hard on this park. Saturday's ceremony will be a chance to thank the many Granite Bay community groups and residents who pitched in to help make the park a reality."

"Dinger," the mascot for the Sacramento River Cats triple-A baseball team, will join the festivities from 10 a.m. to noon, and American Baseball Camp will offer free lessons to youths interested in improving their baseball skills from 11 a.m. to noon.

The festivities will include equipment displays from the Sheriff's Department and South Placer Fire Protection District. The Sheriff's Department also will have a child-safety display and will fingerprint children for their parents.

Fun for children will include face painting and a balloon clown.

The Lakeside Little League, Eureka Youth Soccer Club and Granite Bay Junior Grizzlies Football will have display tables.

The Granite Bay Rotary Club will sell barbecued hot dogs and drinks and Jamba Juice will have fruit smoothies for sale. Net proceeds from the Rotary barbecue, smoothie sales and face painting will be used for improvements at the new Ron Feist Community Park in Granite Bay.

For more information, contact county Parks Administrator John Ramirez at 530-889-6807.



#### County's State Fair Exhibit Will Be Replica of Fruit Shed



Loralyn Owen, at left, and sister Deanna Owen display the mural they painted for Placer County's exhibit at this year's California State Fair.

The exhibit is a replica of a fruit shed filled with agricultural products grown in Placer County. Loralyn is a graduate of Del Oro High School who attends Sierra College and Deanna is a senior at the high school.

Their mural is a reproduction of one of the many historic fruit labels created by local growers. The sisters' family has lived in Placer County for about 100 years and operated Valley Vista Orchards for many years. The state fair is scheduled to run from Aug. 20-

July 13, 2004

Placer County needs plenty of help from local farmers to make its exhibit at this year's California State Fair a success.

That's because the exhibit will feature a replica of a fruit shed, and will be packed with samples of agricultural products grown and manufactured in Placer County.

"Donations of fresh produce or packaged products such as spices, sauces, preserves, dips or marinades are needed from as many producers as possible," said county Facility Services Director Tom Miller in a recent letter to potential participants.

The exhibit will feature a list of donors and their products, and visitors will be given a handout with donor names, products and ordering Sept. 6. addresses.

Other marketing possibilities include sponsorship of giveaways and the display of farm-related equipment, photographs and artworks.

Miller sent the letter to many of the county's agricultural producers and their organizations. A follow-up effort is under way to notify local producers who didn't receive the letter.

Miller anticipates many producers will want to participate because Placer County has a long tradition of building high-quality, award-winning exhibits for the fair, and the building where counties display their exhibits is one of the most popular attractions at the fair each year.

"Don't be left out of this rare opportunity to market your produce to a large group of visitors in a short amount of time," Miller says in his letter.

He notes that the fair attracts more than a million visitors annually, including tourists from around the world.

The fair is scheduled to run from Aug. 20-Sept. 6 at Cal Expo in Sacramento.

This year, Placer County's exhibit will pay homage to an industry that has played a prominent role in the county's history and remains an important part of its economy today.

Placer County was a leading shipper of deciduous fruits in California by the 1880s, and fruit production was the county's leading industry from the 1880s until the early 1970s.

Today, county agriculture accounts for more than \$76 million in annual gross sales. In 2002, the top five crops were rice, nursery products, cattle and calf operations, timber production and chickens.

Mandarin oranges, peaches, plums, wine grapes, strawberries, kiwifruit, apples and Bartlett pears account for the bulk of the county's fruit production.

Nuts such as walnuts, pecans, pistachios and chestnuts are produced in Placer County, and vegetable crops include melons, pumpkins, rhubarb, squash, tomatoes and eggplants.

Much of the county's produce is grown on small farms and sold directly to consumers at produce stands and certified farmers' markets. PlacerGROWN, a countywide agricultural

County's State Fair Exhibit Will Be Replica of Fruit Shed -- Placer County, Calif.

marketing program, helps local farmers with direct marketing of their products.

Each year, Placer County's 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.

For more information about this year's exhibit, agricultural producers are invited to contact Project Coordinator Judy Sage at 530-889-6829.



#### **Electronic Debit Cards to Replace Paper Food Stamp Coupons**

June 23, 2004

Food-stamp recipients in Placer County are getting electronic debit cards to replace the paper coupons they traditionally have presented to grocers.

In the future, purchases will be made through transactions known as electronic benefit transfers, or EBTs for short.

The Food Stamp Program is the cornerstone of federal food-assistance programs, providing critical support to needy households and people making the transition from welfare to work. The program enables low-income individuals and families to buy nutritious food in authorized retail food stores.

In Placer County, about 2,400 households receive food stamps each month. The county distributes approximately \$480,000 in federal food stamp benefits per month, and an average household receives about \$200.

New clients began getting their benefits electronically June 16. Continuing recipients will receive their first electronic benefits over the first 10 days of July.

"I have been waiting for this for a long time," said Chairman Harriet White of the Placer County Board of Supervisors. "This is going to provide a much more efficient, effective way to utilize these funds."

She also noted recipients won't be subject to the stigma they sometimes encountered while buying groceries with paper food stamps.

Program participants in Placer County are scheduled to receive EBT cards and training by June 30. In California, the cards are known as Golden State Advantage Cards.

The new system will have no impact on how much participants receive, eligibility requirements or redemption rules.

EBTs are based on the same technology used in commercial debit-card systems. Food-stamp recipients will slide plastic cards through magnetic readers and enter their PIN numbers to purchase eligible foods. The amount of a purchase is subtracted from the participant's account and credited to the retailer's account electronically.

No money or food stamps will change hands during the EBT transactions, and retailers won't charge for use of their point-of-sale devices.

If participants don't use all of their benefits in a given month, balances will be carried over to the next month. Placer County residents can use their EBT cards outside of the county.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this week it intends to rename the program since food stamps are being eliminated nationwide. It reported the program will continue to honor food stamps that already have been issued.

The new EBT system has several advantages:

- Benefits are deposited automatically in the EBT accounts of recipients. Recipients don't have to pick up food stamp coupons or wait for them to arrive in the mail.
- With EBTs, recipients will no longer receive cash back from purchases. In each transaction, the exact amount of the purchase will be subtracted from a person's account balance. The balance will appear on the receipt.
- The system saves the federal government time and money by eliminating food stamp coupons.
- Retailers and bankers tend to like the EBT system because it simplifies accounting requirements and reduces labor costs by eliminating the need to sort, count and bundle food stamps.
- Experts say the new system will reduce fraud, theft and other abuse. The EBT system creates an electronic record of each transaction, making it harder for food stamps to be exchanged for cash, drugs or other illegal goods.

For more information, call 530-889-7610.



# Free Presentations on West Nile Virus Available to Groups

June 21, 2004

Mosquito bites are never fun, but this summer they might also make you sick with West Nile Virus.

That's why Placer County health and vector control officials hope you'll heed their warning to "Fight the Bite!" and protect yourself against this potentially deadly disease.

To help keep residents safe, staff from the Placer Mosquito Abatement District and Placer County Health and Human Services are offering to make presentations to service clubs, senior centers, civic groups and other organizations. Free brochures and posters will be available for distribution as well.

State and national vector control experts believe West Nile Virus (WNV) could spread to Northern California during the summer of 2004, carried by birds who then infect mosquitoes. Infected mosquitoes transmit WNV to humans and animals while biting. However WNV is not transmitted person-to-person, nor between people and animals.

As of June 21, six human case has been identified in southern California this year, however the potential for human cases increases during the hot summer months.

About 80 percent of the people infected with WNV have no symptoms. The majority of people who do become ill will have a mild-to-moderate flu-like illness which can be prolonged. A small minority of people (1 in 150 approximately) can become seriously ill with neuropathic illness (including meningitis, encephalitis or flaccid-paralysis syndrome). Seniors are at greater risk for serious illness. Last year, there were more than 10,000 human cases in the United States including more than 260 people who died from WNV.

"Protecting yourself against West Nile Virus is simple: don't get bitten by mosquitoes,"

said Dr. Michael Mulligan, Assistant Public Health Officer, Placer County. "Mosquito bites are always annoying, and in the case, can make you very sick. Taking these common sense steps can help you avoid the problem altogether."

Therefore experts urge residents to protect themselves and offer these simple tips.

- Use an insect repellant that contains DEET. Use extra care to protect children.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outside. Repair or install screen doors and windows.
- Drain standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed. Check ornamental ponds, clogged rain gutters, old tires, leaky watering equipment, birdbaths, plant saucers, hot tub covers and other sites.
- Cover the roof-top vent to your septic tank with a screen a critical issue in rural areas.
- Stock your fish ponds and watering troughs with mosquito fish. Contact the Placer Mosquito Abatement District for information, 916-435-2140.
- Dead birds, especially crows, can signal the presence of the West Nile Virus. Therefore, report recently-dead birds to the state promptly: call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.
- Contact your veterinarian about protective vaccine for horses. WNV can be deadly to unvaccinated horses.

To arrange for a speaker, please call Placer Mosquito Abatement District at 916-435-2140 or Placer County Health and Human Services, 530-889-7667.

Here are other good sources of information about West Nile Virus:

- Placer Mosquito Abatement District (www.placermosquito.org), 916-435-2140
- <u>Placer County Health and Human Services</u> (www.placer.ca.gov/wnv), 530-889-4001
- California Dept. of Health Services (www.westnile.ca.gov)

Placer County vector control and health officials are actively monitoring mosquito, bird, horse and human populations, watching for possible signs of infection. The Placer Mosquito Abatement District, which covers western Placer County to Newcastle is continuing active control of mosquito larvae, by seeking and treating standing water where mosquitoes develop.

Placer County's West Nile Virus Task Force is a multi-agency group that was formed two years ago as a proactive step to ensure the highest level of service and protection to residents and visitors in Placer County. As the WNV Task Force followed the movement of WNV across the Country, it became apparent that there were several critical elements

that mitigated the impact of the virus within communities: Public Education, Cooperative Interagency Planning and Organized Mosquito Control. Communities that had effective public education programs, existing mosquito control, and good interagency cooperation - like that which exists in Placer County - had fewer human cases of WNV than neighboring areas that were unprepared, according to Jamesina Scott, PhD, Placer Mosquito Abatement District Vector Ecologist.

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District's approach to mosquito control is an I.P.M. program which focuses on destruction of mosquito larvae physically, biologically or chemically (biological compounds)." The best way to control adult mosquitoes is to prevent them," says Scott. "That's our approach, that's our goal."



#### Proposed County Budget To Be Reviewed Tuesday

June 18, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will review a proposed 2004-05 budget Tuesday that avoids employee layoffs and dramatic cuts in public services despite reductions in state funding and rising costs.

The state's efforts to deal with its budget crisis have cost Placer County more than \$23 million over the last two fiscal years. The county expects to lose an additional \$16 million during 2004-05 based upon recent budget proposals.

County personnel costs are up due to labor contract provisions and escalating costs for health insurance and retirement benefits.

"We will be forced to make some program reductions in light of the state's budget crisis and rising costs, but don't anticipate employee layoffs at this time," County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson said. "The County will continue to monitor the state's budget process closely since changes to current proposals could force us into a position where we would need to make more difficult decisions."

To help keep costs under control the county will forgo filling 150 to 200 vacant positions next year, and plans to continue with existing hiring restrictions and the voluntary workfurlough program. The county also plans to reduce funding for road-overlay and open-space projects, and has not set aside additional money in its reserves or for capital projects.

Health and Human Services, the county's largest department, currently has about 100 vacant positions and estimates it will need 39 more next fiscal year. It plans to cut costs through such actions as the consolidation of community medical clinics, a restructure of business operations at the C Street Café, by canceling facility leases and deferring replacement of equipment.

The county's public safety departments continue to operate with at least 40 vacancies and funding issues may also keep the Sheriff's department from fully opening the entire jail.

Placer County's proposed \$524 million budget includes approximately \$415 million for county operations and \$109 million for capital construction. The \$415 million is 5.9 percent less than county departments requested and, excluding capital construction, 1.5 percent less than the current operating budget.

"In a time when many California counties are in the midst of dramatic budget reductions, Placer County remains financially resilient, thanks in large part to the foresight exhibited by the Board of Supervisors," said CEO Christofferson.

"Placer County takes a conservative approach to budgeting, and set aside reserves in good economic times that give it the flexibility to help deal with these difficult budget years. That flexibility enabled the county to weather past state budget cuts and continuing rising costs without dramatically reducing vital services or delaying the construction of several badly needed buildings." She emphasized that the proposed budget would allow Placer County to preserve critical operations and programs and maintains adequate reserves.

Next year the county begins construction of three major building projects: the South Placer Criminal Justice Center in Roseville, the Auburn Justice Center and a facility that consolidates the county's land-development operations under one roof. Project funding was previously set aside by the Board and, for the most part, must be used for this purpose.

The June 22nd Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at the County's administrative center located at 175 Fulweiler Avenue, with the budget discussion scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. The board will be asked to adopt the proposed budget as the County's interim spending plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1.



# United Auburn Indian Community & Local Community Benefit Committee Recommend Grants to Local Agencies

June 18, 2004

With the support of the Tribal Council of the United Auburn Indian Community, Placer County's Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (LCBC) has announced its recommendations for grants to be awarded to local governments.

As prescribed by state law SB 621, the grant funds come from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund and are intended to mitigate impacts associated with tribal gaming.

Agencies recommended for grants are as follows:

- Placer County District Attorney, \$30,666, for criminal prosecution;
- City of Lincoln, \$40,000, for the proposed Twelve Bridges overcrossing of Highway 65, and the interchange expansion;
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District, \$50,000, for motor-vehicle emission reductions;
- Placer County Sexual Assault Response Team, \$27,915, for forensic and medical-examination equipment;
- Placer County Public Works Department, \$65,000, for the Fiddyment Road asphalt concrete overlay project;
- Roseville Police Department, \$90,000, for evening traffic and driving-under-the influence enforcement;
- Lincoln Police Department, \$22,205.40, for the Lincoln Police Activities League.

"It was important to provide funding to areas that may be impacted by the casino," said Julie A. Huff, Tribal Vice Chair. "Our tribe has worked tremendously hard to continue to be good neighbors in Placer County and the outlying cities that surround Thunder Valley. This has not always been an easy task, but committees such as LCBC enable all of us to work together."

The Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund is based on assessments by the state on tribal gaming machines that were in place prior to 1999. Thunder Valley Casino, which is owned by the United Auburn Indian Community, did not open until 2003.

"This grant will be extremely helpful in this difficult budget time," said District Attorney Brad Fenocchio. "Our county continues to grow, and with that growth, our costs increase. We are deeply grateful to the Tribe for their willingness to contribute to the overall good of our communities."

The Auburn-based tribe pays into the state Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, and through a memorandum of understanding with Placer County, provides support to fire services, law enforcement, traffic mitigation and other local needs.

The Local Community Benefit Committee includes county Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Rex Bloomfield, Roseville Mayor Rocky Rockholm, Rocklin Mayor Brett Storey, Lincoln Councilmember Ray Sprague, Jessica Tavares, United Auburn Indian Community Tribal Chairperson and Julie Huff, who was also elected as LCBC Chair.



#### **Agreement To Be Considered**

June 18, 2004

On Tuesday, the Placer County Board of Supervisors will consider adopting a new contract with the Deputy Sheriffs Association, ending more than 18 months of negotiation.

If approved, the new four-year contract would cover the time from January 1, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2006, and become effective after July 13, 2004. The Deputy Sheriff's Association represents sheriff's deputies, investigators and probation officers in Placer County.

The new contract contains compensation increases for DSA-represented staff, and also includes elements expected to achieve long-term savings for the County.

In particular, the new contract will phase out a current policy governing the use of sick leave at retirement, and establish a more prudent schedule for making new employees eligible for future retiree health benefits.

Over the life of the contract, county costs will increase by \$12.9 million.

#### Among the changes are:

- Salary adjustments for investigators and probation officers; (Under the county charter, salaries for deputies are set by Proposition F, which averages the salaries paid in three surrounding counties);
- Career and education incentive pay for eligible personnel who pursue advanced training and/or college degrees;
- Wellness incentive pay for qualifying deputies and investigators;
- Adjustments for uniform allowances, night shift differential, on-call pay, bilingual pay, longevity pay, subsistence pay for staff working in North Lake Tahoe, and pay for canine handlers;
- Special team pay increases for special enforcement team, certified divers, hostage negotiation team, and explosive ordinance detail;

- New requirements for the use of unused sick leave as part of retirement compensation;
- Changes to health insurance formulas;
- Additional requirements for new employees to become eligible for retiree health benefits.

"After a long and difficult negotiation process, I am pleased that we were able to reach an agreement that is amenable to both sides," said Chairman Harriet White.



# Regional Flood Control Project in Placer County Underway

June 17, 2004

An innovative regional flood protection project currently in planning phases could soon provide significant recreational opportunities and environmental improvements while reducing the threat of flooding in Roseville and Placer and Sacramento Counties.

When completed, the proposed Miners Ravine Off-Channel Detention Basin, to be located on a 26-acre parcel to the west of Sierra College Blvd. and one-half mile north of Douglas Blvd., will help mitigate increased flows within the Dry Creek Watershed caused by new development since the 1980's. It will be the first flood control project initiated by the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to serve regional needs.

The District recently contracted with RBF Consulting for planning and design of the basin. Jones and Stokes will also be partners for environmental planning. Consultants will be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits from federal and state agencies so construction can be authorized.

When heavy rains occur, the off-channel detention basin will be used to store a portion of peak flood flows for up to 24-hours in order to detain and slow the release of these waters back into the creek. The gravity-draining design will not change the surrounding floodplain elevation and will not entrap fish or encourage mosquito development. Miners Ravine will continue to flow through the area unimpeded when high water flows are not present.

In addition to enhancing flood control, the project will include a multi-use recreational trail, interpretive signing and trailhead parking. Additionally, the stream channel and nearby wetlands will be protected and improved, with non-native vegetation removed. An existing levee will be set back, reducing creek channel confinement and improving floodplain functions. Endangered fish species present in the creek such as salmon and steelhead trout will find improved habitat over the long term.

"Residents, local communities, environmental interests, recreationalists and wildlife will all benefit from this project," stated Brian Keating, District Engineer. "As a District we recognize that it won't solve all concerns, but as our first regional flood control project, it is a big step forward."

Design is expected to begin at once, as well as efforts to obtain needed permits. The District hopes to build the project within the next two years.

The project has received support from community groups, unlike an earlier proposal to construct an on-channel, dam-like detention basin. The State of California Department of Water Resources has provided 1 million dollars in grant funding for the total estimated 4 million dollar project. Other funding will come from the Dry Creek Trust Fund, which includes fees collected on new development in the watershed since approximately 1994.

The Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was created by an act of the state legislature in 1984 and includes elected official representatives from Placer County and the cities of Roseville, Rocklin, Loomis, Lincoln and Auburn. The District goal is to protect lives and property from the effects of flooding by comprehensive, coordinated flood prevention planning, using consistent standards to evaluate flood risk, and by implementing flood control measures such as requiring new development to construct detention basins and operation and management of a flood warning system.



#### Placer County Honors Outstanding Employees During Picnic Lunch

June 3, 2004

Newly retired Health and Human Services Director Ray Merz received one of eight individual awards handed out at Placer County's Best of the Bunch Employee Recognition Barbecue Tuesday.

More than 1,300 county employees were on hand to honor outstanding co-workers during the eighth annual Placer County Employee Recognition Awards Program. The barbecue lunch at the DeWitt Center in North Auburn also was a chance to salute all county employees for their hard work throughout the year.

"This is a way of treating the staff and saying thank you," explained County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson during introductory remarks.

Chairman Harriet White of the county Board of Supervisors also addressed employees, telling them, "Because of you, this organization is respected not just throughout the state of California, but in counties throughout the nation."

Awards go to outstanding individual employees and teams in four main categories: leadership, innovation, dedication and commitment, and public service. Some employees receive special sustained-achievement awards if their outstanding work covers at least five years.

Employees are nominated for awards by co-workers. More than 200 individuals and teams were nominated for awards this year.

Joining Merz on the list of individual winners were:

- Bobbi Park of Economic Development, who received a Public Service Award;
- Terry Lopez of Health and Human Services, Innovation Award;

- Jon Harned of Health and Human Services, Leadership Award;
- Carolyn Schaller of the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, Award for Sustained Leadership;
- Deputy Van Bogardus of the Sheriff's Department, Dedication and Commitment Award;
- Bill Swisley of the Facility Services Department, Dedication and Commitment Award; and
- Doug Short of the Assessor's Office, Award for Sustained Dedication and Commitment.

Merz retired May 14, ending a 36-year career with Placer County. On Tuesday, he received an Award for Sustained Innovation that recognized his commitment over many years to strengthening collaboration among government and community-based social service agencies.

Merz has received statewide recognition for being the guiding force behind the "Placer Model," a cost-effective approach that allows Health and Human Services clients to receive comprehensive assistance through a single, coordinated plan with one application process. The Placer Model emphasizes preventive care and centralized administrative services. Many county social-service agencies in California have adopted the model.

#### **TEAM AWARDS**

• The Parks Project Construction Crew in the Facility Services Department won the Dedication and Commitment Award for three significant accomplishments: designing and building Plaza Park behind the Big 5 Sporting Goods store in North Auburn, creating a unique landscaping design for the newly remodeled Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall in cooperation with community residents, and working with Granite Bay schools and residents to complete park projects on time and under budget.

The team's members are Brian Brogdon, Bob Dawson, Faber Eaves, Wayne Kite, Diane O'Connor and Tim Stofleth.

• The Fiscal Management Unit in the Sheriff's Department received the Award for Sustained Dedication and Commitment in recognition of its extraordinary efforts to keep the department in good shape financially. The team looks for ways to save time and money by streamlining operations, most notably in phone services, booking fees, spreadsheet creation and the tracking of database documents.

The team is composed of Karen Basquin, Jodi Bodick, Candi Boewer, Rosie Dreher, Trina Haverkampf, Sonya Polk-Olson, Lee Ann Talley and Liz

Zmyslowski.

• The Incarcerated Parent Program in the Child Support Services Department earned the Innovation Award by working with county Telecommunication Services and the Sheriff's Department to improve communication with jail inmates who are responsible for making child-support payments. A special phone line to the department was installed at the jail. As part of the effort, inmates evading child-support responsibilities are identified and parents can be referred for job assistance upon release.

On the team are Laura Dean, Kenneth Machold, Annette Moody, Kathie Neil, Rhonda Rivard, Janine Valdivieso and Marsha White.

• The Placer Land Use System Project Team, a group with members from several departments, walked away with the Leadership Award for heading up introduction of an automated permitting system for the county's land-development departments. Team members rolled out the system 10 weeks early so it would be ready in time for the building season. The team trained staff to use the system, provided constant project support and increased cooperation among departments.

The group is composed of Brad Banner of Health and Human Services, Kelly Berger and Melanie Heckel of Planning, Kathy Buchanan of Administrative Services, Allison Carlos of the County Executive Office, Phil Frantz and Wes Zicker of Public Works, Todd Nishikawa of the county Air Pollution Control District, Jeff Pylman of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Amy Richie of the Building Department and Warren Tellefson of Facility Services.

• The Strengths and Assets Promotion Team in Health and Human Services received the Public Service Award for its programs that empower local youths and other residents. Its accomplishments include youth-driven projects such as Ballet Folklorico de Adelante, a drumming program at Chana High School in Auburn, teacher education in clay sculpting and the Truckee Youth Council Café.

The team is composed of Shari Crow, Amy Gonnella-Edwards and Kara Sutter.

• The Business Advantage Network, a team with ties to Economic Development and the Health and Human Services Welfare to Work Program, won the Award for Sustained Public Service. The award recognizes the team for organizing two highly successful job fairs annually for the last six years. The job fairs have helped many welfare recipients find jobs.

The team's members are Cindy Burris, Connie Chrisos, Susanne McCabe and Marcy Schmidt.

#### **BACKGROUND ON INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS**

Bobbi Park, an economic development specialist, was honored for her role as founder of the Sierra Chapter of Operation Mom, a volunteer group that provides emotional and logistical support to military troops and their families. She helps bereaved families, organizes fund-raisers and disseminates program materials. Park was saluted as an outstanding example of how employees can make a difference in their communities.

Terry Lopez's award recognizes his outstanding work as a counselor at Cypress House, a group home operated by the county's Adult System of Care. As volunteer coordinator of meals, he reduced food expenditures about 23 percent by working with community resources and started a weekly class that helps prepare residents for semi-independent living by teaching them about nutrition, special diets and meal preparation.

Jon Harned received kudos for the job he does as program supervisor at the Children's Receiving Home, a facility that cares for children who have been neglected, abused or abandoned. The award acknowledges Harned's commitment to his staff and the home's children, and staff's admiration of his ability to lead by example. He encourages staff feedback, positive attitudes, staff training and creative problem-solving.

Carolyn Schaller was recognized for the leading role she played in helping the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office restructure, relocate to new quarters and upgrade its property-tax computer software. Co-workers say she inspires them to reach their full potential without becoming discouraged along the way and does an outstanding job building trustful relationships with other departments.

Deputy Van Bogardus was honored for going beyond the call of duty to help make the Sheriff Department's Air Support Unit a success. He makes himself available day and night, and works hard to make sure the unit meets the needs of the department and community. He didn't attend Tuesday's awards ceremony because he was busy piloting one of the unit's helicopters on an emergency call.

Bill Swisley was recognized for his dedication to maintaining one of the county's most-used parks, Loomis Basin Community Park. Facility Services selected him to oversee the park's maintenance because of his outstanding work ethic. He responded by developing a process that ensures the park remains consistently attractive and safe. On his own time, Swisley completed a yearlong course on sports turf management through Purdue University.

Doug Short was honored for his commitment to providing excellent customer service. Several co-workers nominated him, saluting him for treating the public courteously while helping people navigate the property-tax-system departments. He often assists co-workers with tense situations and patiently explains complex processes to both staff and the public. Often, members of the public request Short by name, remembering how helpful he was on earlier occasions.



# Candidates Sought to Serve on Placer County Older Adult Advisory Commission

May 28, 2004

Placer County Supervisors will be seeking candidates for the Placer County Older Adult Advisory Commission, which was set up Tuesday to provide input to the Board and to Placer County Health and Human Services department on issues pertaining to older adults.

The Commission will take the place of the county Council on Aging which was set up 25 years ago to establish a senior center, and which became the Commission on Aging, a 501 (c)(3) with a mission and goals that go beyond those of an advisory body. This non-profit agency is now called Placer Citizens for Senior Advocacy and Action and will no longer be appointed by the Board.

The new commission will have 19 voting members to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Meetings will be public, and there will also be opportunities for non-members to provide input and to serve on committees.

Persons interested in submitting an application to become a voting member must live or work in Placer County, have an interest in issues affecting older adults, and have the time and willingness to serve. There are no age requirements.

Meeting days and times have not been set. Members will serve without compensation.

For application forms or more information, call 530-889-4020. Application forms also are available on the county's Internet web site at <a href="www.placer.ca.gov/applications">www.placer.ca.gov/applications</a>. Additional information about the commission is available at <a href="www.placer.ca.gov/committees">www.placer.ca.gov/committees</a>.

Applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603.



#### Board to Get Update on Status of Proposed Conservation Plan

May 18, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will get an update Tuesday on efforts to draft a long-range conservation plan for protecting wildlife and their habitats in western Placer County.

The effort to draft a Placer County Conservation Plan will be discussed at a special board meeting to be held in the county's Auburn administrative center, 175 Fulweiler Ave. Discussion of the proposed plan is scheduled to start at 9:15 a.m.

The decision to draft the conservation plan is an outgrowth of the Placer County General Plan and the <u>Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program</u> adopted by the board in 2000.

County, state and federal agencies currently share responsibility for protecting wildlife and natural habitats in Placer County. The county, for example, must take into account the protection of natural resources when reviewing development projects. The goal of the county's conservation plan will be to replace project-by-project and agency-by-agency reviews with a comprehensive long-term process for protecting wildlife and their habitats.

If state and federal officials approve the conservation plan when it's completed, the county will manage a streamlined process with a single package of species-protection regulations.

The conservation plan would provide developers, environmental groups and the general public with clear-cut, predictable requirements, and a long-term monitoring program to make sure the requirements are carried out. An environmental impact report to be prepared on the conservation plan would reduce the need to analyze impacts on wildlife and their habitats on a project-by-project basis.

The county began work on the plan in 2001, deciding to first draft a 50-year plan for unincorporated areas of western Placer County. Cities and other local government

agencies in the area have been invited to join the effort. Thus far, the city of Lincoln, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and Placer County Resource Conservation District have chosen to join the county in this effort.

In the second phase of the project, a conservation plan will be developed for the upper foothills on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada and east-slope lands in Placer County excluding the Tahoe Basin.

Placer County's goal is to draft a first-phase conservation plan that is a combination of:

- A Habitat Conservation Plan authorized by the federal Endangered Species Act. HCPs typically focus on species listed by the federal government as endangered.
- A Natural Communities Conservation Plan authorized by state legislation adopted in 1991. NCCPs are long-term plans that seek to resolve conflicts between environmental and economic interests when endangered species are on private lands. An NCCP tends to look at an area or region as a whole, seeking to protect plants, animals and habitats while allowing compatible land uses.

Protected species of wildlife in the region include the Swainson's hawk, tri-colored blackbird, fall-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp and valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

High-priority habitats to be considered for preservation include vernal pools, riparian corridors next to streams and blue oak woodlands. The county is drafting the conservation plan in collaboration with several state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and state Department of Fish and Game. The state agency is providing more than \$460,000 in grants to help cover costs for preparing the plan and the EIR.

Having a completed conservation plan would make the county eligible for increased funding from state and federal programs. However, land-development activities would continue to pay most of the program's costs.

In some cases, land would be purchased outright or conservation easements would be acquired to permanently protect wildlife and their habitats from development pressures.

In a report to the board, the county Planning Department estimates that from 60,955 to 82,723 acres of land could be protected under the conservation program and land-acquisition costs could run from \$217 million to \$314 million. These estimates are based land-development activities expected to occur over the next 50 years.



#### Old West Tales to Highlight May 23 Program at Bernhard Museum

May 17, 2004

The Old West of mountain men, wagon trains and the Gold Rush will come alive May 23 during a presentation sponsored by the Placer County Department of Museums Department through its Community Education Program.

The guest speaker will be Trapper Bill, a Montana native who looks like a fur trapper from the Old West.

"Trapper Bill: Mountain Men and the Opening of the West" will take place from 3 to 5 p. m. at the Bernhard Museum, 291 Auburn Folsom Road in Auburn.

The family-oriented presentation will be free and open to the public. Trapper Bill has been doing historical re-enactments for 15 years. He has served as a docent or re-enactor at many historical sites and museums in Northern California, including Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, Marshal Gold Discovery State Historic Park and the California State Railroad Museum.

He also has 15 years of experience as a black-powder shooter.

As an historical re-enactor, Trapper Bill focuses on the era from 1820-1860, recreating the experiences of westerners such as Rocky Mountain trappers and early-day gold miners.

He is known for telling tales about the trials and tribulations that faced pioneers headed westward.

Other upcoming community education presentations on this year's calendar are:

- June 27, 2 to 5 p.m., "Family Living History Day;"
- July 25, 5 to 7 p.m., "Music on the Porch," with music by Coyote Hill; and
- Dec. 18, 4 to 7 p.m., "Victorian Christmas at the Bernard."

Each presentation will take place at the Bernhard Museum Complex.

For more information, call 530-899-6500.



#### **Transient Occupancy Tax Audits To Be Conducted**

May 17, 2004

The Placer County Auditor-Controller's Office will be conducting audits of transient occupancy tax (TOT) collections for the year that ended December 31, 2003. Transient occupancy taxes are collected on hotel/motel/vacation room rentals.

The audits, conducted routinely, help ensure fairness and competitiveness among local businesses that are required to collect transient occupancy taxes. Past audits have shown that most businesses conscientiously collect and report the taxes. Occasionally an audit has netted a refund to a business.

After calling to arrange an appointment, staff from the Auditor-Controller's Office will visit sites to review the records that pertain to TOT collections. Those businesses affected are being notified by a letter, which also includes a list of records and documents to be included in the process.

The County directs 60 percent of the TOT collected within the North Lake Tahoe to support tourism marketing and promotions, transportation, visitor support services and infrastructure development. The balance of the TOT revenues is used by the County to help offset additional tourism-related services to the area.

Infrastructure development has been aided by TOT funding and the cooperation of the County Redevelopment Agency and Public Works Department to leverage other funding for projects that benefit both residents and visitors. Projects benefiting from TOT in recent years include the Tahoe City sidewalk project, Commons Beach improvement project, planning for the Kings Beach core improvement project, Alpine to Squaw Valley bicycle trail extension project, the Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, the Lakeside Bike Trail and signage improvement programs.

To receive more information about the audit process, please call Andrew Sisk at 530-889-4152 or Allison McCrossen at 530-889-4184.



#### Supervisors Create Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee

May 11, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved an <u>Indian Gaming Local Community</u> Benefit Committee (LCBC) during their meeting on Tuesday, May 11 in Auburn.

The Benefit Committee will be set up to recommend grant awards to local government agencies from the Indian Gaming Distribution Fund established by the State in 1999 to help offset impacts associated with tribal gaming.

Once established, the committee will have the authority to recommend grant funds to local jurisdictions. Placer County's allocation for this year is about \$332,000. The State Controller ultimately distributes the grant funds for selected projects.

Makeup of the committee is established by state law, SB 621. Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Rex Bloomfield were selected to represent the County and as requested by the cities, Roseville Mayor Rocky Rockholm, Rocklin Mayor Brett Storey and Lincoln Councilmember Ray Sprague were appointed to represent the cities that are located within four miles of the casino. Additionally, the United Auburn Indian Community has selected Jessica Tavares, Tribal Chairperson and Julia Huff, Tribal Vice Chairperson as their representatives.

In order to meet the mandated timelines, the committee will need to act swiftly to determine which projects will be recommended for funding. Priorities for funding range from law enforcement to environmental impacts to roads.

Counties that had tribal casinos operating in 1999 receive a majority of the funds available. Since the funds are collected from an assessment on tribal gaming machines that were in place prior to 1999, Thunder Valley Casino does not pay into this fund.

The committee's first meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, at the Materials Recovery Facility, 3033 Fiddyment Roard, near Roseville. The County's web

Supervisors Create Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee -- Placer County, Calif.

site, www.placer.ca.gov/casino will provide more complete information as it becomes available.



## Busy Agenda Planned for Tuesday's Supervisors' Meeting

May 7, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will begin its Tuesday meeting in Auburn half an hour early - at 8:30 a.m. - to help accommodate a long agenda and to spend time in three different locations.

The morning meeting agenda will include a resolution at 9 a.m. commending Ray Merz, newly-retired Director of Health and Human Services, for 36 years of service, and Linda Hall, also retiring from HHS, after more than 21 years. The meeting will take place at the County Administrative Center in Auburn, 175 Fulweiler Ave.

Board members will then adjourn to closed session until 10 a.m., when there will be an update regarding the draft Foresthill Divide Community Plan and the draft Weimar/Applegate/Colfax Community Plan.

At 10:30 a.m. Board members will hold a public hearing to consider adopting a revised Park and Recreation Facilities Impact Fee.

At noon the Roseville Rotary Club will host the Board for lunch at the Sierra View Country Club in Roseville.

In the afternoon, Board members will receive updates on several projects proposed for Western Placer County, including:

- The Placer Vineyards Specific Plan, which proposes more than 14,000 dwelling units on 5,000 acres in the southwest corner of the county.
- The West Roseville Specific Plan, proposed annexation and proposed expanded sphere of influence by the City of Roseville.
- Regional transportation issues and transportation funding challenges.
- The proposed Placer Parkway, a thoroughfare which would link Highways 65 and 99.

- The availability of water for various projects.
- A proposal that staff begin preparing a "Curry Creek Community Plan" to aid in
  planning the areas north of Baseline Road, south of Pleasant Grove Creek, and
  west of Roseville's proposed annexation area. This proposal was prompted by the
  Board's direction in October of 2003 to proceed with the review and consideration
  of the proposed De La Salle University and the residential and commercial
  development that would accompany it, Placer Parkway and phase one of
  conservation planning.
- The Placer Ranch Specific Plan, which proposes 5,000 residential units and a branch campus of California State University Sacramento in and near the Sunset Industrial Area.
- The De La Salle University and Community, proposed to include a private university and about 2300 homes to the West of the West Roseville Specific Plan area.

This portion of the meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Placer County Materials Recovery Facility, 3033 Fiddyment Road, on the Western Regional Landfill property outside Roseville.

The Board won't take action on the projects at the meeting, but may give staff direction on how to proceed in project review. Board members are expected to schedule another status report and workshop discussion regarding the proposed western Placer projects in December.

More information about the Board meeting is available online at www.placer.ca.gov or by calling 530-889-4020. Complete Board agenda packets are available for review; call for additional information.



#### West Nile Virus Week Reminds of Need for Caution

May 7, 2004

Mosquito bites are never fun, but this summer they might also make you sick with West Nile Virus.

That's why the Placer County Board of Supervisors declared the week of May 3 - 9 as "Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week," and why officials hope you'll heed their warning to "Fight the Bite!"

Experts believe West Nile Virus (WNV) could spread to Northern California during the summer of 2004, carried cross-country by birds that then infect mosquitoes.

Infected mosquitoes transmit WNV to humans and animals while biting. But WNV is not transmitted person-to-person, nor between people and animals.

Most people who are infected with WNV will not experience major illness, but some, particularly seniors, may become very ill.

Placer's West Nile Virus Task Force members plan to continue a public education campaign to help residents protect themselves from West Nile Virus.



They plan to incorporate some eyecatching materials developed in Colorado as part of their campaign, materials which are also being used by others.

Design courtesy Gary Sky, illustration courtesy Vicki Gullickson, copyright 2003 www. FightTheBiteColorado.com, used with permission. All rights reserved.

Placer County Health and Human

Services, the Placer Mosquito Abatement District and the State of California all have web sites featuring information about WNV. Speakers, brochures and other printed materials are also available.

Here are some simple tips for WNV prevention: Don't get bitten by mosquitoes!

- Use an insect repellant that contains DEET. Use extra care to protect children.
- Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outside. Repair or install screen doors and windows.
- Drain standing water so mosquitoes don't have a place to breed. Check ornamental ponds, clogged rain gutters, old tires, leaky watering equipment, birdbaths, plant saucers, hot tub covers and other sites.
- Cover the roof-top vent to your septic tank with a screen a critical issue in rural areas.
- Stock your fish ponds and watering troughs with mosquito fish. Contact the Placer Mosquito Abatement District for information, 916-435-2140.
- Dead birds, especially crows, can signal the presence of the West Nile Virus. Therefore, report dead birds to the state promptly: call 1-877-WNV-BIRD.
- Contact your veterinarian about protective vaccine for your horse.
- Call for a free presentation to your group about WNV; call 916-435-2140 or 530-889-7667.

Here are other good sources of information about West Nile Virus:

Placer Mosquito Abatement District (www.placermosquito.org), 916-435-2140

Placer County Health and Human Services (www.placer.ca.gov/wnv), 530-889-4001

California Dept. of Health Services (www.westnile.ca.gov)



#### Companion Animals Shouldn't Run Free at North Lake Tahoe

May 6, 2004

Placer County Animal Services would like to remind residents and visitors alike that North Lake Tahoe is not a safe place to allow companion animals to run free.

Dogs and cats that are allowed outside without supervision are susceptible to a number of dangers, many of which can be fatal:

- They frequently are killed or injured by vehicles on both highways and side streets.
- They are attacked by wildlife in the area, including bears, coyotes, raccoons and porcupines.
- Unsupervised dogs are susceptible to viruses, diseases, and toxins such as antifreeze. They may ingest poisonous substances in garbage cans, be exposed to viruses in contaminated streams, or encounter wildlife or domestic animals that are sick.
- Dogs, especially visiting ones, frequently get lost in the area. Some may make it back, but many are never heard of again.

Lost dogs sometimes are stolen by people who want them or for use at research laboratories. The lucky ones are brought to the county animal shelter for safekeeping until they can be reunited with owners.

Animal Services strongly recommends that dogs be confined to their properties by fences, aerial runners, invisible fences or other means. When walking dogs, it is a good idea to keep them on leashes at all times. Retractable leashes can be used to give dogs more freedom.

Animal Services also urges owners to have visible identification on dogs in case they happen to get loose. Suitable identification includes dog licenses (which are mandatory in all the counties that surround Lake Tahoe), personal ID tags, rabies tags, or phone

Companion Animals Shouldn't Run Free at North Lake Tahoe -- Placer County, Calif.

numbers written or stitched on collars.

Animal Services strongly recommends that your animals be microchipped. This is a fairly inexpensive procedure that provides a form of identification that cannot be removed. All shelters in California are required to scan for these devices, and it provides an excellent way for animals to be reunited with their families.

Remember that humans are responsible for the health, welfare, and the actions of their companion animals. Their responsibilities include cleaning up after dogs when they make messes of neighbors' trash or defecate in yards or on trails.



### Supervisor White to Host Coffee Klatch in Loomis on April 28

April 20, 2004

Residents and business people will get a chance to meet with Chairman Harriet White of the Placer County Board of Supervisors during a coffee klatch to be held in Loomis on Wednesday, April 28.

The coffee will take place at 2 p.m. in the Loomis Branch Library, 6050 Library Drive.

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 opportunities to update people on county projects and programs. 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 Horseshoe Bar Area Advisory Council. The council normally meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month, also at the Library. The next meeting is May 18.

To confirm times and dates of MAC meetings, look online at <u>the Board's calendar</u> or call the board office at 530-889-4010.

<u>Supervisor White welcomes e-mail</u> (hwhite@placer.ca.gov) and mail at 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn, CA 95603. 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.



#### **Board Approves Hopkins Ranch**

April 20, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors gave its stamp of approval Monday to Hopkins Ranch, a golf course and 65-lot residential project to be built in the scenic Martis Valley between Lake Tahoe and Truckee.

In a unanimous vote, the board upheld the county Planning Commission's Jan. 22 approval of Hopkins Ranch and rejected two appeals that challenged the commission's decision. The appeals were filed by a group known as Sierra Watch and a developer who recently sold property located adjacent to Hopkins Ranch.

Hopkins Ranch is in line to become the first development required to comply with a new open-space set-aside program contained in the Martis Valley Community Plan adopted by the board in December. The plan aims to address the valley's open space, habitat, water quality and housing issues.

At Monday's meeting, the board considered a long list of issues raised in the two appeals, deciding that each had been considered and addressed before the commission's Jan. 22 vote to approve Hopkins Ranch.

The project will return to the board for final approval in three weeks because board members made several changes to a long list of conditions required of the developer of Hopkins Ranch.

Board members, for example, eliminated plans for a 1,000-foot-long, six-foot-high wall, agreeing that developers should use a berm or landscaping instead to act as a buffer between the project and an adjoining property.

Board members also agreed Hopkins Ranch should use small berms around the golf course so motorists on Highway 267 will still enjoy the view of a scenic meadow that is one of the Martis Valley's defining features.

After Monday's deliberations, Supervisor Rex Bloomfield emphasized the project proposes far fewer houses than the maximum that would be allowed under the new community plan.

"It has reduced the density from 152 homes to 65 homes, thus reducing the negative impacts- traffic, air pollution," he said. The innovative open-space set-aside program is one of several contained in the new community plan.

That plan reduces the maximum number of residences that can be built in the valley by 28 percent and will preserve 85 percent of the valley as open space.

The plan covers a 35-square-mile area bounded by the Tahoe Basin on the south, Nevada state line on the east, Truckee and Nevada County line on the north and Truckee River corridor on the west.

Hopkins Ranch would be built on 280 acres located on Schaefer Mill Road west of Highway 267 and the Truckee-Tahoe Airport. The set-aside program requires Hopkins Ranch's developers to offset the loss of timberland and grazing land used for housing and the golf course by paying into an open-space fund. The county will use the money to acquire and permanently protect open-space lands in the Martis Valley.

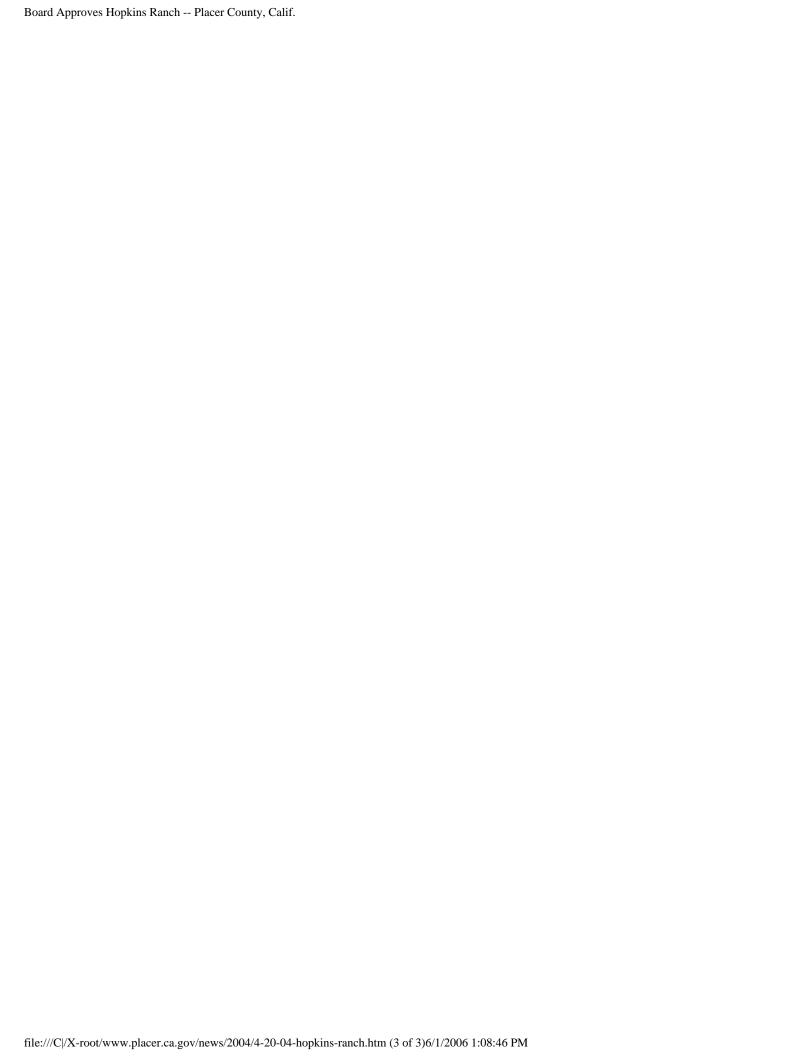
Under the new community plan, the project's developers also will be required to provide housing for 33 employees and to participate in a comprehensive monitoring program aimed at protecting water quality in the Martis Creek Reservoir. The issues of open space, housing and water quality were the major issues raised as part of the community plan.

"This project presented the first opportunity, following adoption of the new community plan, to demonstrate how the plan's policies are to be implemented with new development projects," said Fred Yeager, Planning Director.

The new community plan reduces the maximum number of future residential dwellings that could be built from the 12,000 approved in 1975 to 8,600. The area has about 2,000 existing residences.

Developers often propose lower-than-permitted densities because of site constraints, design considerations and the need to set aside land for recreational and other uses, Yeager said.

The open space protected by the new community plan includes all of the scenic land between Highway 267, the main roadway through the valley, and the tree lines on adjacent ridges. The community plan also makes land available to provide more skiing, golf, hiking trails, equestrian trails and other recreational pursuits.





#### **Board Approves Documents for South Placer Justice Center**

April 20, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors gave its final stamp of approval Tuesday to the transactional documents for the South Placer Justice Center.

The first phase will feature a courthouse. There will also be an office building that will be privately owned, but will provide leased space for the county and private businesses.

At Tuesday's meeting, supervisors agreed to sign a purchase agreement for the 44.5-acre site at the northeast corner of Roseville where the justice center is to be built and an agreement that would transfer ownership of the new courthouse to Placer County Superior Court at the end of 20 years.

In California, superior courts were part of county governments for many years, but became part of the state government several years ago. State legislation adopted in 2002, though, requires counties to provide necessary and suitable facilities for the courts and transfer ownership of certain facilities to the courts.

The agreement between the county and court calls for closing five existing courtrooms at the DeWitt Center in North Auburn, two in Roseville and one each in Colfax, Foresthill and Lincoln when the new courthouse opens.

The courts would continue to use four courtrooms at the county's Historic Courthouse in Auburn, a court in North Lake Tahoe and courtrooms at the main jail and juvenile detention center at the DeWitt Center.

When the South Placer Justice Center is complete, county justice operations will be well-represented in south Placer County. It will include the courthouse, a Sheriff's Department substation, space for the District Attorney, Probation and, most likely, other county operations which work with the courts and an adult detention facility.

#### MORE.....

The first phase will be built on approximately five acres of the site. Other buildings will be constructed over the next 20 years as they are needed and funding becomes available.

In a related issue, Supervisors adopted an agreement with the Placer County Superior Court, which is now a State agency, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Under legislation approved in 2002, counties are required to provide "necessary and suitable facilities" for the court, and are required to transfer these facilities to the state by June 30, 2007. The old courtrooms currently in use at DeWitt do not meet standards as set forth in state law (SB-1732).

Agreements approved on Tuesday include:

- A purchase and sale agreement with JB Management, L.P. (JBM) to acquire the 44.5 acre site, which is located on Industrial Avenue in Roseville, north of Blue Oaks and south of Sunset
- A lease-purchase agreement, under which JBM would construct a courthouse facility including eight courtrooms and support rooms on an adjoining five-acre parcel and lease it back to the County for 20 years
- A master agreement would require the county to agree to lease at least half of a 60,000-square-foot office building to be built by JBM on an adjacent parcel for at least 10 years. As envisioned, county departments that regularly interact with the courts will able to locate staff within this building.

First-phase costs are projected to total approximately \$49 million, including \$9.47 million for the site, road and utility improvements, and \$39.6 million for the courthouse.

The justice center is needed because of a major increase in the county's population, particularly in the cities of South Placer County.

"We must plan for the future, including building the facilities needed to serve our residents in South Placer County where most of the growth has taken place," said Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "A South Placer Justice Center will be more convenient for residents, and save considerable time for police officers and others who often must drive to Auburn to conduct business with the courts, such as the district attorney, probation staff and others. New facilities will also be safer and much more secure for the public, county and city staff."

"I want to compliment the staff and Board of Supervisors for taking action to nail down the cost of this land in 2001," said Chairman Harriet White. "Land costs have already increased significantly since then, and taking that action early saved the county money."

"A few years ago, this South Placer Justice Center was just a twinkle in our eye," said Supervisor Bill Santucci. "Thanks to everyone, we'll be breaking ground and moving boulders very soon. It's gratifying to see this wonderful project move forward."



### Training, Exercise Help Fine-Tune Emergency Response

April 13, 2004

On the mornings of Wednesday, April 28, and Friday, April 30, emergency services personnel from more than two dozen agencies fire, law enforcement, ambulance, and emergency service agencies, hospitals, public health officials, public safety dispatchers and volunteer Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) will join forces in a unique regional training exercise.

As a result, residents in some neighborhoods may see an unusual number of fire engines, police cars and ambulances. But officials say there should be no real disruption and no cause for concern.

"This emergency exercise, called 'MCI-2004,' gives our local emergency response agencies an opportunity to practice critical plans and skills which fortunately are not needed in day-to-day response, but which would be essential should a disastrous event occur," said Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Placer County Office of Emergency Services. "Emergency preparedness is one of the most important tasks of local government."

MCI stands for "multi-casualty incident", and is sponsored by the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, Placer County Health and Human Services, the cities of Rocklin and Roseville, Sutter Roseville Medical Center and Sierra College. Similar drills were held locally in 2002 and 2000. By definition, a multi-casualty incident is one that over-taxes the resources of the responding agency and requires multiple agencies to work closely together.

Other participating agencies include American Medical Response, Sacramento-Sierra Valley Emergency Medical Services, Placer County Sheriff, Placer County Fire, Placer Consolidated and South Placer Fire Protection Districts, Auburn Fire Department, the Placer County Office of Education, the F.B.I., California Highway Patrol, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Military Department (Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program), the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Other fire agencies

may also participate.

Wednesday's event on April 28 at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville will feature a mock "bioterrorism" and explosives incident, dozens of "victims" who must be "decontaminated" before being transported to hospitals, hostage-taking and other law enforcement problems. Volunteers will be "moulaged" - made up - to simulate "injuries."

On Friday, April 30, two events will occur. An incident similar to Wednesday's drill will take place at the Adventure Christian Church, located at 6401 A Stanford Ranch Road in Roseville near the border with Rocklin. During the drill responders will practice decontaminating "victims" of an intentional chemical pesticide release, rescuing people from a "partially-collapsed" building and managing a significant law enforcement incident. Newly-trained CERT volunteers will assist by helping to identify and track the victims.

Also on Friday, the Placer County Health and Human Services Department will practice dispensing "pharmaceuticals" at Sierra College to several hundred "victims" of the mock bioterrorism event which supposedly happened on Wednesday.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with our partners in responding to a mock bioterrorism event, and to mobilizing the resources to provide vaccinations or medications to the citizens of Placer County," said Dr. Michael Mulligan, Assistant County Health Officer.

More than 100 volunteers from the Adventure Christian Church have volunteered to assist drill officials as "victims" at Sierra College.

Church staff will also volunteer on site at the church to assure that the exercise doesn't interfere with traffic or the on-site school. "Our group welcomes this opportunity to support the community and the public agencies in preparing for emergencies," said Richard Matthews, Adventure Christian Church.

Preparations for the massive exercise have been led by Roseville Fire Battalion Chief Peter Hnat; Susan Webb, Sutter Roseville Medical Center and Cunha from the Office of Emergency Services. A grant from the Department of Homeland Preparedness is helping to pay expenses for the agencies, including training, which has been an important component of the planning.

"Placer County is not considered to be a major target for terrorism, nonetheless we do take this training very seriously," noted Cunha. "Each time we take the opportunity to practice high-level response skills with so many agencies, our community becomes better prepared to respond to challenging emergencies of any kind."

Sponsoring MCI-2004 was a high priority of the local approval authority which oversees the use of Homeland Preparedness funding. Authority members include Sheriff Ed Bonner, County Health and Human Services Director Dr. Richard Burton, California Department of Forestry/Placer County Fire Chief Tony Clarabut, Rocklin Police Chief Mark Siemens, and Roseville Fire Chief Ken Wagner. Cunha serves as group coordinator. The exercise provides an opportunity to assess and enhance local response readiness.

This exercise will also allow Placer County agencies to practice using the Office of Emergency Services' Region IV Multi Casualty Incident Plan. Sutter Roseville Medical Center will also be exercising its Emergency Preparedness Plan as the regional (hospital) Control Facility, responsible for the medical care and the dispersal of all patients during the multi-casualty incident. Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital and Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Roseville will also receive patients as part of the plan and the exercise.



### **Board Backs Statewide Initiative to Protect Local Government Tax Revenue**

April 8, 2004

Should the state be required to obtain voter approval before taking tax dollars from local governments to use for state purposes?

Placer County thinks so.

On Tuesday, it joined a growing list of counties, cities and special districts that support a proposed initiative called the 2004 Local Taxpayer and Public Safety Protection Act. Signatures currently are being gathered statewide to qualify the initiative for the state ballot in November.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the initiative during a meeting in Auburn Tuesday.

The initiative is designed to strengthen local control over local taxpayer dollars. Pat Leary, a legislative representative for the California State Association of Counties, addressed the board, noting the difficulty local governments face in budgeting when they don't know each year whether the state will take local government funds to pay for state programs.

The gross total of property tax revenue taken from Placer County by the state since 1992 is approximately \$239 million. The state offset some of the loss with approximately \$196 million in sales tax revenue that must be used for public safety. For Placer County, the net effect is a loss of more than \$40 million, revenue that could have been used to fund local services such as law enforcement, health care, parks, facilities, and transportation.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's state budget proposal for the 2004-05 fiscal year would shift another \$7.6 million in property tax revenue from Placer County to the state. The governor's proposal also would reduce state funds for specific county programs, such as health and human services.

"It's extremely difficult for us to plan for law enforcement, roads and public health when we're not sure how much flexible funding we will have left after the state budget gets written," declared board Chairman Harriet White.

The proposed initiative is sponsored by the association of counties, the League of California Cities and California Special Districts Association. As of March 24, 14 counties had endorsed the initiative, along with hundreds of cities, special districts, public safety agencies, businesses and labor organizations. Backers of the initiative need nearly 600,000 signatures of registered voters by April 16 to qualify it for the fall ballot.

The initiative would require the state to ask voter permission before using local government revenues to solve state budget problems or increase state spending at the expense of local services.

"We know the voters prefer flexibility. Under this initiative, voters will have the authority to decide when state needs take precedence over the need for local services," Chairman White said.

The initiative also would strengthen existing laws that require the state to reimburse local governments for state-imposed mandates, and require voter approval of state legislative actions that would reduce funding sources for essential local services.



### Award Salutes Child-Friendly Approach in Abuse Investigations

April 7, 2004

A child-friendly center that often allows abused children to tell their painful stories to authorities just once and in private earned Placer County recognition recently for having the Heart of a Hero.

The occasion was the eighth annual Heart of a Hero awards ceremony held March 25 in Sacramento. The event is a chance to honor individuals, businesses, organizations and government agencies for outstanding contributions to the youth of Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado and Yolo counties.

Placer County received a Healing of the Heart award for the Multidisciplinary Interview Center, an innovative facility that is part of the District Attorney's Office.

"We are very honored to receive this award," center Coordinator Fiona Tuttle said. "It just makes us feel like we're doing the right thing for the children."

The center helps lessen the trauma experienced by child-abuse victims while improving the truth-finding process and increasing the number of successful prosecutions.

Known informally as the MDIC, the center was established in 1992 by the Placer County Child Abuse Prevention Council with help from community members.

In 2002, the center moved to newer, larger quarters. As part of the move, the center was repainted with bright, colorful murals and refurbished with cuddly stuffed animals and soft casual furniture to help make the setting more inviting to children.

"I'm pleased our Multidisciplinary Interview Center has been noticed for the excellent work put forth to assist the citizens of the county," District Attorney Brad Fenocchio said.

When authorities suspect a child has been sexually abused, they must ask questions that

may be upsetting and embarrassing. Such crimes are seldom witnessed, so the young victims often are the only ones who can tell authorities what happened. Typically, several people need to learn what happened.

Before creation of the MDIC, children frequently had to be interviewed by as many as a dozen people separately.

At the MDIC, a child forensic interview specialist interviews each child. Others involved in the investigation typically watch the videotape of the interview. The videotape is preserved as evidence, and its confidentiality is protected by California law.

MDIC staff is part of the District Attorney's specialized prosecution team for sexual-assault cases. Prosecutor David Broady works with Investigator Jan Dunn and Tuttle, who works most directly with the children.

The MDIC is a joint effort of the DA's Office, county Health and Human Services Department, Child Abuse Prevention Council and five local law enforcement agencies: the Sheriff's Department and Roseville, Rocklin, Auburn and Lincoln police departments.

California Family Fitness is the corporate sponsor of the Heart of a Hero program. The March 25 awards dinner was a fund-raiser for the North Area Teen Center in Carmichael.



### Residents and Visitors Alike Shouldn't Let Dogs Run Free at Tahoe

April 6, 2004

Placer County Animal Services is warning residents and visitors alike that North Lake Tahoe is not a safe place to allow pets to run free.

Dogs that are allowed outside without supervision are susceptible to a number of dangers, many of which can be fatal:

- Dogs frequently are killed or injured by vehicles on both highways and side streets.
- Dogs are attacked by wildlife in the area, including bears, coyotes, raccoons and porcupines.
- Unsupervised dogs are susceptible to viruses, diseases, and toxins. They may ingest poisonous substances in garbage cans, be exposed to viruses in contaminated streams, or encounter wildlife or domestic animals that are sick.
- Dogs, especially visiting ones, frequently get lost in the area. Some may make it back, but many are never heard of again.

Lost dogs sometimes are stolen by people who want pets or for use at research laboratories. The lucky ones are brought to the county animal shelter for safe keeping until they can be reunited with owners.

Animal Services strongly recommends that dogs be confined to their properties by fences, aerial runners, invisible fences or other means. When walking dogs, it is a good idea to keep them on leashes at all times. Retractable leashes can be used to give dogs more freedom.

Animal Services also urges owners to have visible identification on dogs in case they happen to get loose. Suitable identification includes personal ID tags, dog licenses, rabies tags, or phone numbers written or stitched on collars.

Animal Services strongly recommends that your animals be microchipped. This is a fairly inexpensive procedure that provides a form of identification that cannot be removed. All shelters scan for these devices, and it provides an excellent way for animals to be reunited with their families.

Remember that owners are responsible for the health, welfare, and the actions of their dogs. Their responsibilities include cleaning up after dogs when they make messes of neighbors' trash or defecate in yards or on trails.



### Secretary Needed for North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council

March 30, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors is looking for someone to serve as secretary for the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Council.

The MAC normally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in Auburn. The secretary mails out agendas, takes minutes and performs other related duties. The pay is \$100 per meeting.

Applicants should live within the area served by the North Auburn MAC. The Board of Supervisors will fill the vacancy.

MAC secretaries are responsible for providing their own transportation.

Serving as a MAC secretary is a chance to serve one's community while staying up to date on county events.

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

For more information, please contact Ruth Alves in the Board of Supervisors office at 530-889-4010.



# Assistant Director McManis Named to Head Child Support Services

March 24, 2004

Pamela McManis was named this week to take over as director of Placer County Child Support Services.



She will replace Carl DePietro, who plans to retire next month. A Placer County employee since 1981, DePietro has served as the department's director since 2000. For the last three years, McManis has been assistant director, the department's second highest position.

County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson appointed McManis to be DePietro's

successor. The Board of Supervisors approved the appointment during a closed personnel session Tuesday.

"Child Support Services does an outstanding job helping protect the well-being of Placer County's children," Christofferson said. "We want Carl's successor to be someone with a proven record who will build upon the department's successes. Pamela has the commitment, experience and knowledge of the department that are needed."

Child Support Services became a department in 2000, replacing the Family Support Division of the District Attorney's Office. The change was a response to state legislation that required counties to establish separate departments for child support services.

The department's responsibilities include helping collect and distribute child-support and spousal-support payments. In child-support cases, the department often assists in establishing and enforcing court orders, establishing paternity and locating parents subject to court orders.

"We've done a great job under Carl's leadership, and I'm excited about the opportunity to add to our accomplishments," McManis said.

Over the last three years, Child Support Services has won two major honors.

Last year, the department was honored by the California Department of Child Support Services for doing an outstanding job helping clients get child-support court orders.

In 2001, Placer County Child Support Services improved its statewide ranking from 30th to 14th among the state's 58 counties, earning recognition from state officials for having the most-improved program. In January, Placer County ranked 12th statewide.

"The recognition that we've received wouldn't have been possible without our hardworking staff," McManis said.

She served as a supervising child support specialist in the Family Support Division of the Napa County District Attorney's Office from 1996-2001 and as a family support officer in the Family Support Division of the Amador County District Attorney's Office from 1988-1996.



#### **Child Support Services Director to Retire**

March 23, 2004

More than 23 years ago, Carl DePietro drove through Auburn with his wife, Sally, enroute to Tahoe for their honeymoon and thought Auburn looked like a nice place to raise a family.

The couple stopped, picked up a job application at the Placer County personnel office, and the rest is history. Carl retires next week as Child Support Services Director after 23 years of county service.

Nineteen of those years he spent as Court Executive Officer, joining the County Executive Office staff in 1999 when the state took over court administration. His first assignment was to coordinate the county's business continuity planning.

In 2000 he was promoted to Director of Child Support Services, a new county department created by the state. Under his leadership, CSS staff developed a strategic plan with an emphasis on customer service. In 2002, the department was named Most Improved Child Support Services department in the state, and in 2003, was named the Top Performer of all medium-sized counties in regard to having child support legal orders established to require support payments, despite a 15 percent budget cut.

"This shows our staff's continued commitment to the children," DePietro noted. "By collecting child and medical support for children, we ensure that they receive both the financial and emotional support they deserve from both parents, while preserving parental responsibility."

Prior to coming to Placer, DePietro worked in Orange County, then in Santa Barbara County and later Contra Costa County as assistant court administrator.

In retirement, the Pilot Hill resident plans to hike, fish, hunt, ride the back roads in his Jeep and spend more time with Sally, who retired earlier from county service.

"Carl's outstanding commitment to providing service in this challenging assignment has made him a wonderful asset to our county," said Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "He places high value on the wisdom of his staff, and has always given them credit for the department's achievements. We will certainly miss Carl's sense of humor, which has brightened many meetings."

DePietro labels his career in public service as "challenging, but very rewarding."

"Being able to help people is very satisfying, even when the challenge is doing more with less," he said. "Placer County has been very good to me: it's been a great place to work."



#### Stormwater Advisory Committee to Meet Wednesday in Auburn

March 19, 2004

The Placer County Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet in Auburn Wednesday, March 24th to talk about water-quality improvement maintenance and the committee's final report.

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.

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 intended to prevent discharge of pollutants into local streams, rivers and ponds

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



#### **Page Title**

For immediate release March 16, 2004 Contact: Anita Yoder, 530-889-4012 or Mike Fitch, 530-886-4515 SUPERVISOR WHITE TO HOST COFFEE KLATCH IN AUBURN MARCH 24 The public will get a chance to meet with Chairman Harriet White of the Placer County Board of Supervisors during a coffee klatch to be held in Auburn Wednesday, March 24. 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 opportunities to update people on county projects and programs. 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.



#### **Autism Awareness Conference Planned**

March 16, 2004

Placer County Health and Human Services is recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month by sponsoring a conference, "Kids on the Autism Spectrum: Planning for the Present, Planning for the Future."

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville.

Guest speakers include Jennifer Abeles, author of the feature column, "Inspiration: Autism" in Autism/Asperger's Digest, Chuck Gardner, co-founder of the M.I.N.D. Institute, expert panels and more. In addition, more than 20 organizations will be on hand to provide information about programs, services, resources and support they have to offer families of children diagnosed with autism.

Autism has increased significantly in California, and is currently the most frequent diagnosis in new referrals to Regional Centers. It is a developmental disorder affecting abilities in language, communication and social relations. A variety of treatment approaches, early intervention and strong support services can provide hope and encouragement to families and individuals.

The conference will provide families, educators and providers in the community with opportunities to learn more about building short-term and long-term plans for living with autism, and highlight local resources.

"Through education and increased public awareness, we can foster understanding, acceptance and appreciation of those with autism," noted Dr. Richard Burton, Health and Human Services Director.

"This phenomenal level of cooperation and sharing of resources for the benefit of the children and families impacted by autism certainly serves as an excellent model for effective and efficient use of available services."

Placer County's Autism Resource Coordinator and events such as this conference are funded through a grant from the First Five Children and Families Commission. Those interested in more information about the conference are encouraged to call Cindi Lang at 530-886-3634.



### Former County Employee to Take Over as Chief Building Official

March 11, 2004

Bill Schulze, a former Placer County employee now working in Windsor near Santa Rosa, is returning to the county to become its chief building official.

Schulze, who currently serves as Windsor's building official, will replace Ed Jenkins, who plans to retire this month after 28 years of Placer County service.

Schulze worked for the county for 12 years, serving as a supervising building inspector, then district office supervisor in North Lake Tahoe, and finally as assistant chief building officer. His resume also includes a stint as chief building inspector in Corte Madera.

Placer County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson made the appointment following concurrence of the Board of Supervisors during a closed session Tuesday.

"We are certainly going to miss Ed, but it's reassuring to have a highly qualified replacement who already knows the Building Department and Placer County. His experience in North Lake Tahoe will be particularly helpful, because he already understands the role played by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency," Christofferson said. "Bill is the kind of person who can step in and ensure that the department continues to run smoothly. That's what we were looking for."

In his new job, Schulze will oversee a staff of 40, including 10 in Tahoe.

"I'm excited about coming back and working in the county," he said Thursday. Schulze said he doesn't expect to make big changes in the department, noting he worked with Jenkins for many years.

"He was one of the best bosses anyone could have as far as how he managed people," Schulze said.

Former County Employee to Take Over as Chief Building Official - Placer County, California

Building inspectors must assure that state building codes are met.

In Placer County, the chief building official oversees the issuance of about 5,000 building permits and follow-up inspections each year in unincorporated areas. The top priority is building safety. Approximately 600 to 700 permits are for new homes, while other permits range from remodeling projects to new businesses.



#### Board Will Not Review Auburn Folsom Road Widening March 23

March 8, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will not consider the Auburn Folsom Road widening project March 23, as originally planned.

At the request of Supervisor Ted Gaines, consideration of the project is being delayed to allow more time to explore additional funding from regional bodies.

The Board directed the Department of Public Works to undertake environmental studies and prepare a design to widen Auburn-Folsom Road from two lanes to four lanes from the Placer County/Sacramento County line to Douglas Boulevard. An environmental impact report was prepared and circulated for public comment. The EIR process is complete and is ready to go to the Board for final approval. In addition, the Department will be asking for Board direction on which components should be included in the project design.

"Auburn Folsom Road was designed for a vehicle capacity of 12,000 vehicles per day. Current traffic is over 20,000 vehicles per day. There is no doubt that this project is overdue, but funding remains an issue. I will continue to work with our Congressman John T. Doolittle and SPRTA to secure regional and federal funding for this needed project," Ted Gaines, Placer County Supervisor, said after the March Granite Bay MAC Meeting.

The primary funding source for the project is from the Granite Bay Traffic Mitigation Fee Program, which is supported by new development fees. Construction of the Auburn Folsom Road project may exhaust this fund, making it difficult to fund other future local road projects in the Granite Bay area.

A South Placer Regional Transportation Authority (SPRTA) study determined that 63% of the future growth in traffic on the road could be attributed to commuter traffic. SPRTA is a newly formed Joint Powers Authority comprised of the Cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville and the County of Placer. The Authority was formed for the purpose of funding

Board Will Not Review Auburn Folsom Road Widening March 23 - Placer County, California

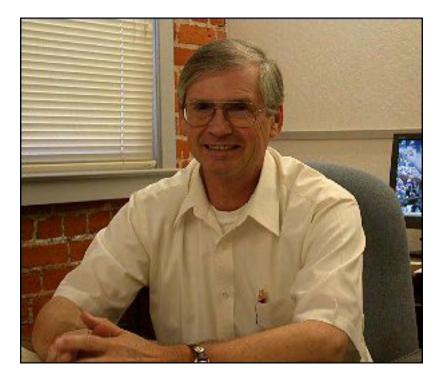
specified regional transportation projects.



#### **Chief Building Official to Retire**

March 8, 2004

Ed Jenkins, Placer County's chief building official, is planning to retire this month after 28 years on the job.



Jenkins, who began his county career as a building technician, will begin his retirement by building a granny flat on his own property near Grass Valley with the help of his son.

In Placer County the chief building official oversees the issuance of about 5,000 building permits and subsequent inspections each year in unincorporated areas. The top priority is building safety. Approximately 600 to 700 permits are for new homes, while other permits range from remodeling projects to new businesses. Forty people work in the building department, including 10 in North Lake Tahoe.

The chief building official must ensure that requirements of the state's building codes are met, codes which have become increasingly complex and technical over the last 30 years, according to Jenkins. "The complexity has been one of our greatest challenges," he said. "We've always tried to factor in common sense."

Fairness and customer service have been hallmarks of his style as chief building official. "Long ago, Supervisor Bob Mahan gave me some good advice - to 'help people solve problems, don't create more.' That's what we try hard to do.

"I'm very impressed with the people around here who are so dedicated and try hard to provide proper service to the public," he said.

"I've also enjoyed working with the local contractors - builders, architects, engineers and others - who do a terrific job of delivering good projects to the public."

"Ed is the kind of guy who pulls it all together and helps people feel good about what they are doing, while he performs a wonderful service to the community," noted Board Chairman Harriet White. "He's very well respected."

In his retirement Jenkins is also looking forward to travel and vacations, including trips to the Grand Canyon, Utah and Colorado, after he finishes his construction project.



#### United States Army Corps of Engineers - News Advisory Folsom Dam Road - Public Meeting

March 8, 2004

Posted as a courtesy for the Corps of Engineers and Placer County residents.

WHO: UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - HOST

City of Folsom - Sponsor

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Sponsor California Reclamation Board - Sponsor

Sacramento Area Flood Ccontrol Area (SAFCA) - Sponsor

**WHEN:** March 9,10 and 11, 2004

4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Note: These meetings are formatted as an Open House allowing the

public to attend at their convenience.

WHERE: Tuesday, March 9th: El Dorado Community Services District (1021)

Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills)

Wednesday, March 10th: Eureka Elementary School Multipurpose

Room (5477 Eureka Road, Granite Bay)

Thursday, March 11th: Folsom Community Center (52 Natoma Street,

Folsom)

WHY:

The purpose of these meetings is to provide information on the Folsom Dam Bridge Project and to obtain feedback from the community and Project stakeholders. Please note that these meetings are not related to the closure of Folsom Dam Road.

**CONTACT:** Jason Fanselau, (916) 557-5101 or Kimberly Pallari (916) 448-2440



# Land Development Departments Improve Service in Tahoe City

March 2, 2004

The public will find it easier to do business with Placer County's land-development departments in the future because of several changes prompted by remodeling work at the county administrative center in Tahoe City.

Completed in January, the remodeling work allowed the county to reconfigure floor space to accommodate the growing needs of the branches most involved in land-development work: the Planning, Public Works, and Building departments and Environmental Health, a division of the Health and Human Services Department.

To help make room for their growing needs, county Assessor Bruce Dear moved his department's Tahoe City office out of the administrative center recently, relocating to a nearby building at 505 W. Lake Blvd. In late January, County Executive Officer Jan Christofferson met with Tahoe area staff and directors of all four land-development branches: Fred Yeager of Planning, Tim Hackworth of Public Works, Ed Jenkins of Building and Brad Banner of Environmental Health.

"The goal was to strengthen teamwork among departments to ensure that we give the public the best service possible," Christofferson said. "Streamlining the review process for Tahoe area projects is critical because the process tends to be more complex there than elsewhere in the county."

Typically, Tahoe area residents do business with the land-development departments when they need permits to build, expand or remodel residences.

The meeting and remodeling work led to several changes at the administrative center, which is at 565 W. Lake Blvd. near Granlibakken Road.

The departments, for example, now have a common counter in the building and will have a central telephone system, so the public doesn't have to deal with each department

separately.

Cross-training among departments will be emphasized so departments gain a better understanding of each other's responsibilities.

Lunch schedules also are being adjusted so the office can remain open to the public from noon to 1 p.m. That change is scheduled to be made by April 1.



### Sheridan Sewer, Housing Repairs to Be Discussed at Meetings

March 2, 2004

Placer County's plans for making sewer-system repairs and establishing a new housing-rehabilitation program will be discussed at a meeting of the <u>Sheridan Municipal Advisory</u> <u>Council</u> Wednesday, March 10.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Stewart Hall, 6005 Camp Far West Road.

A public hearing on the sewer repairs and housing program will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 in the offices of the county Redevelopment Agency, which are at 11493 B Ave. in Auburn.

The sewer and housing programs are a joint effort of the agency and county Facility Services Department. The bulk of the funding is from a \$500,000 federal grant.

The county plans to go out to bid for the sewer-repair work in April.

The repairs are slated to start by August. The work will seal cracks and other breaks where rainwater and groundwater seeps into the system.

Under the housing program, low-interest interest loans will be made for housing repairs beginning this spring.

For more information, call the redevelopment agency at 530-889-4240 or the county Rehabilitation Program Administrator Arthur Shilts at 530-873-8027.

Housing repairs can include work on foundations, siding, roofs or plumbing.

About one-third of the grant funds will be used for housing repairs.

The housing rehabilitation program will loan up to \$40,000 per house. A study conducted last year 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.

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. A single-person household is considered low-income if annual income doesn't exceed \$35,900. The comparable limit for a four-person household is \$51,300.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development awarded the grant through the federal Community Development Block Grant Program. Placer County has committed \$25,000 of in-kind services to the program.



### Projects Planned to Reduce Congestion at Freeway Interchange

March 2, 2004

Placer County has three projects under development that will help reduce traffic congestion around the Interstate 80 interchange at Auburn Ravine and Foresthill roads.

All three are effective, low-cost projects that can be completed this year. County officials are optimistic they will reduce congestion by improving traffic flow through the interchange's heavily traveled intersections and encouraging more motorists to use less busy interchanges at Bowman and Russell roads.

The Auburn Ravine-Foresthill Road interchange is one of the busiest in the region because it is a gateway to recreational areas that draw more than 1 million visitors per year.

The most expensive of the three projects is a \$150,000 plan to add a right-turn lane for motorists headed eastward toward Foresthill Road who want to turn right onto southbound Lincoln Way. The extra lane will help keep motorists making right turns from being delayed behind vehicles headed east to Foresthill.

The other two projects call for coordinating traffic signals at the interchange so traffic moves more smoothly through its four key intersections and installing signs on Lincoln Way reminding motorists they often can avoid congestion at the Auburn Ravine-Foresthill Road interchange by using nearby interchanges at Bowman and Russell roads.

The Auburn Ravine-Foresthill Road interchange is prone to peak-hour congestion partly because it has four closely spaced intersections.

Peak-hour traffic often backs up on the eastbound freeway off-ramp and on Lincoln Way for motorists wanting to make left-hand turns to the freeway overcrossing.

All three improvement projects were discussed during a recent meeting at Lou La Bonte's

Restaurant and Lounge held to update Bowman merchants on a strategic business plan adopted by the county Board of Supervisors in 2001.

The moderator at Tuesday's meeting was Cynthia Haynes, executive director of tourism for the California Welcome Center- Auburn. Located at 13411 Lincoln Way in the Bowman area, the Welcome Center is managed by the Placer County Visitors Council.

Haynes is serving as a liaison for county officials, businesses and other involved in implementing the strategic plan.

The strategic plan looks at ways to retain, expand and attract businesses in the Bowman commercial corridor. The corridor extends along both sides of the freeway from Bowman Road on the north to Russell Road on the south.

The strategic plan's recommendations included development of a traffic circulation plan to improve traffic flow and safety throughout the corridor.

At the strategic plan meeting, Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants unveiled a draft traffic study the company prepared to assist the county in making decisions on traffic improvements near the interchange.

"I think the Foresthill interchange is a challenge, and we are exploring ways to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow," Deputy Director Rick Dondro of the county Public Works Department told the gathering.

He noted the three projects the county is developing are consistent with recommendations outlined in the Fehr & Peers study.

Dondro reported Public Works also is studying whether to make an all-way stop at the intersection where an eastbound freeway exit intersects Lincoln Way near Flood Road. An all-way stop might encourage eastbound motorists leaving the freeway to use the Flood Road off-ramp as an alternative to the Auburn Ravine-Foresthill Road interchange.

The decision to create an all-way stop would be made in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation.

Dondro said the county also is considering more expensive options, such as widening the freeway overpass, that may be necessary in the long-term future.

During Tuesday's meeting, Chuck Wolfe of Auburn-based Claggett Wolfe Associates gave an update on implementation of the strategic plan. Wolfe prepared the plan for the county.

Also at the meeting, Senior Redevelopment Specialist Ron Yglesias explained two loan programs the county has for property owners and businesses in the Bowman redevelopment area:

- A façade program that helps pay for landscaping, parking and other exterior improvements. The program pays up to 50 percent of the costs. Loans don't have to be repaid if program participants don't sell their properties or businesses for at least 10 years and maintain the improvements; and
- A low-interest loan program that can be used for broader purposes such as property acquisition and construction costs.

Haynes presented a study conducted by consultant Kent Burns called "The Next Step." For the study, Burns interviewed Bowman business property owners and service providers.

The study indicates a management organization needs to be established, possibly a business improvement area (BIA). The potential for creating a BIA will be discussed at a meeting to be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. March 30 at Lou La Bonte's.

Copies of the strategic plan, draft traffic study and the study conducted by Burns are available at the Welcome Center. At the center, the public also can review photographs taken for the traffic study.

For more information, call Haynes at 530-887-2111. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p. m. Mondays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays.



#### Winter Storms Call for Increased Care While Driving

February 25, 2004 | Winter Weather and Flooding Emergency Preparedness

During heavy winter storms, and even during normal storms, strong localized rains can flood flat and lowlying areas in western Placer County. Placer County Public Works staff will close roads where flooding can pose a danger to public safety. At the time of this news release, no roads are closed but minor street flooding can occur following localized heavy rain. Drivers need to exercise increased caution.

Local residents can minimize inconvenience and delays due to road closures by avoiding roads to the west of Lincoln and south to the Sunset Industrial Area, near the county landfill. Also, residents should use local media to learn of temporary road closures due to localized flooding.

It's also wise to plan alternate routes in areas where roads often flood. Hwy 65 is generally clear of flooding during rainy periods. The list of roads below are known to flood often during heavy rains:

- Riosa Road at Dowd Road
- Dowd Road between Wise Road and Hwy 65
- Brewer Road between Philip and Sunset Blvd. West
- Sunset Blvd. West water can rise quickly, flooding portions of the roadway
- Nicholas Road west of Dowd Road

Public Works staff strongly recommend against driving through water on a flooded roadway. Experience has shown vehicles with low clearance and drivers who enter the water too fast and get their engines wet are often stranded in the water.

In addition, the water level in Miners Ravine in Granite Bay is rising due to localized heavy rains. A Public Works crew will be working into the night to clear obstructions and debris, to keep water flowing and minimize the possibility of minor roadway flooding.

"Public safety is always our first concern," said Public Works Road Maintenance

Manager Kevin Taber. "We often close roads in the western Placer area because minor street flooding is very common here during localized heavy rains. It's prudent to know of ways to avoid the roads that flood, to avoid delays, as well as for safety reasons."

As part of normal winter preparations, the Department of Public Works has placed sand and sand bags at locations around the county. County residents should contact their local fire station for further information. For more information on winter weather preparation, visit the Winter Weather and Flooding Emergency Preparedness Web page.



### Stormwater Advisory Group To Meet Wednesday February 25th

February 20, 2004

The Placer County Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet in Auburn Wednesday, February 25, to talk about the content of the training and public outreach programs for the stormwater pollution prevention program.

The meeting will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room CEO 1 at the county's Auburn administrative center, <u>175 Fulweiler Ave.</u> The public is welcome to attend.

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 intended to prevent discharge of pollutants into local streams, rivers and ponds.

More detailed information about the committee and the stormwater management plan are

email address for Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee

<u>available online</u>, or by phone at 530-889-7503, or to stormwater@placer.ca.gov.

by email request



# Ground-Breaking Ceremony To Be Held at Twin School Park February 18

February 12, 2004

Placer County and the Eureka Union School District will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for Twin School Park in Granite Bay Wednesday, Feb. 18. The ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m.

"We hope the public will help us celebrate the start of construction because this park is truly a community project," Placer County Supervisor Ted Gaines said. "Many individuals and groups have pitched in to help the county and school district make the first phase possible. The ground-breaking ceremony will be a chance to salute everyone's efforts, and to celebrate the community spirit that makes projects such as Twin School Park so successful in Granite Bay." Scheduled to speak along with Supervisor Gaines are Dr. Ron Feist, the school district's superintendent; Steve Nash and Phil Johnson of the Twin School Park Fundraising Task Force; and Tom Miller, director of the county Facility Services Department.

The 18.4-acre park got its name because it is located between Granite Bay High School and Oakhills Elementary School.

Neighborhood residents are teaming up with the county and school district on the initial phase of park construction. The park will be developed in phases as funding becomes available. When completed, the park will have five grass play fields for youth soccer and football, three baseball diamonds, six tennis courts, picnic areas, a tot lot and snack bar.

The park site was dedicated to the school district by the Silverwood Subdivision in 1999.



### Meeting on Proposed North Fork River Trail To Be Held February 19

February 12, 2004

The Parks Division of the Placer County Facility Services Department will hold a public scoping meeting in Auburn on Thursday, Feb. 19 on the <u>proposed North Fork American River Trail.</u> The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the <u>County Planning Commission Hearing Room</u>, which is at the intersection of Richardson Drive and C Avenue in the DeWitt Center.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the general public and members of interested user groups on the trail concept and status. Time will be aside for public comments.

The 12.5-mile multi-use trail would start near the Highway 49 bridge at the confluence of the American River's north and middle forks. It would run along the south side of the north fork and Lake Clementine and end at the Ponderosa Road crossing near Weimar.

The trail would have staging areas at both ends and connections to other trails in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Placer County is working to develop the trail in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Parks and Recreation.



# **Employees Can Earn Rewards for Money-Saving Suggestions**

February 11, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors put the finishing touches on a new program Tuesday that will reward county employees for suggestions that turn out to be moneymakers or cost-cutters.

The board conceptually endorsed the Employee Suggestion Award Program last year. On Tuesday, board members voted unanimously to approve final details of the program.

"I think it could have real value to the county in terms of rewarding employees for coming up with ideas on how to run government more efficiently," said Supervisor Ted Gaines, an early proponent of the program.

The program's goal: encouraging employees to put forward innovative ideas that improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of county operations. To be eligible for rewards, employees must make suggestions that are beyond the scope of normal job expectations and bring tangible, quantifiable gains to the county.

Individual employees can receive initial rewards up to \$100 and teams can get up to \$200 if suggestions are implemented and promise to bring tangible gains.

After 12 months, employees generally will receive the balances of their rewards. Total rewards will be equal up to 10 percent of first-year net savings or revenue increases. The maximum reward will be \$5,000.

Many private-sector businesses have similar programs.

County officials are convinced the rewards will be a wise use of taxpayer funds, because employees will be compensated only if suggestions lead to tangible, quantifiable gains for the county, either through revenue increases or savings.

A Suggestion Award Committee will oversee the program.

The county has other ways to recognize employees whose suggestions improve employee morale, health or safety, or the quality of county operations, but don't necessarily bolster the county's bottom line.

About six years ago, for example, the county created an Employee Recognition Awards Program that honors individuals and teams for outstanding leadership, innovation, dedication and service to the public. Employees are nominated for the prestigious awards by co-workers.



#### Burton Named New Health and Human Services Director

February 10, 2004

Dr. Richard Burton, Placer County's Health Officer, was named today as the next Director of Health and Human Services, succeeding Director Ray Merz who has announced that he will retire in May. He will also continue to serve as Health Officer.

Dr. Burton has served as Placer County's Health Officer since 1997. During most of

Quotati

I am honored to be invited to serve as part of this excellent team that Ray has put into place.



Dr. Richard Burton

2002, he was on loan to the California Department of Health Services where he served as Associate Director and State Epidemiologist to help coordinate bio-terrorism preparedness efforts statewide.

Previously he served as Nevada County's Health Officer, as the head of preventive medicine at the Naval Medical Center in Oakland and in a variety of other Marine and Naval medical assignments. He is a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

He is licensed as a California Physician and Surgeon, with Board certification in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine, and is Board-eligible in Occupational Medicine and Aerospace Medicine.

Dr. Burton carries out the responsibilities of a county health officer as defined by the California Health and Safety Code. In his role as Director of Public Health Services, Dr. Burton provides consultation and oversight to a broad range of health programs for adults and children, public health nursing staff, the public health laboratory, animal services, environmental health services and jail medical services quality assurance.

He has also helped develop the widely-acclaimed Placer Model of integrated health and human services which helps residents receive the comprehensive assistance they need in a single, coordinated plan with one application process. The Model also emphasizes prevention and early intervention in problems, and consolidates administrative functions for greater efficiency and service. Other counties have also adopted the Placer Model.

Burton was awarded Placer County's Outstanding Leadership Award in 2000, based on nominations from other County employees.

He has been active with statewide health organizations. Previously he served as president of the California Conference of Local Health Officers and president of the Health Officer Association of California. He also serves on the Sutter-Auburn Faith/Sutter Roseville Community Advisory Board and the Placer County Medical Society.

"Dr. Burton is highly-regarded among public health professionals statewide, and brings an exceptionally strong background in health emergency response and preparedness," noted Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "Given his superb people skills and the respect he has earned in the community, he is an ideal candidate to carry on the legacy of public service developed by Ray Merz and our Health and Human Services team. I am very pleased with this selection."

"I am honored to be invited to serve as part of this excellent team that Ray has put into place," said Burton.

An avid outdoorsman, Dr. Burton prefers spending off hours in outdoor activities with his wife and daughters. He swims almost every day.

He achieved his Bachelor of Science at the University of California at Davis, his Doctor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and his Master of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency at the University of California at Berkeley.

The appointment will become effective immediately. Retiring HHS Director Ray Merz, who has worked for Placer County for almost 36 years, will remain on staff to assist Dr. Burton through May 14, 2004.



# Commission to Hold Third Meeting on Foresthill Plan Thursday, March 11

February 10, 2004

The Placer County Planning Commission will hold its third hearing on a proposed update of the Foresthill Divide Community Plan on Thursday, March 11.

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

Time will be set aside during the meeting for public comments on the community plan. At the meeting, planning staff will present changes to the proposed plan text to better explain proposals for the downtown area and to address additional land-use changes recommended by staff in response to specific concerns brought to its attention.

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 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.

When the commission completes its deliberations, it recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors, the final decision-maker on the community plan. The proposed plan is available on the county web site.



#### Project Must Comply with New Martis Valley Open-Space Program

February 9, 2004

A golf course and 65-lot residential project approved by the Placer County Planning Commission last month is in line to become the first development that must comply with a new open-space set-aside program in the scenic Martis Valley between Lake Tahoe and Truckee.

The innovative program is one of several contained in a Martis Valley Community Plan adopted by the county Board of Supervisors in December. The plan aims to address the valley's open space, habitat, water quality and housing issues.

"These significant issues were at the heart of the controversy that has surrounded the county's new community plan," county Planning Director Fred Yeager said. "The county assured the public that these and other issues would be addressed in a meaningful way and this project presents the first opportunity for the county to prove its commitment to addressing these issues."

The community plan reduces the maximum number of residences that can be built in the valley by 28 percent and will preserve 85 percent of the valley as open space.

The plan covers a 35-square-mile area bounded by the Tahoe Basin on the south, Nevada state line on the east, Truckee and Nevada County line on the north and Truckee River corridor on the west. On Jan. 22, the Planning Commission approved the golf course and housing project, making it the first project covered by the community plan.

At least one neighboring landowner has appealed the commission's action to the Board of Supervisors. No date has been set yet for the board to consider the appeal.

Known as Hopkins Ranch, the project would be built on 280 acres located on Schaefer Mill Road west of Highway 267 and the Truckee-Tahoe Airport.

"This project is a significant first step in protecting the Martis Valley while encouraging quality and environmentally sensitive development," Yeager said. "The standards set for this project will be applied to others as they are reviewed by the county."

The set-aside program requires Hopkins Ranch's developers to offset the loss of timberland and grazing land used for housing and the golf course by paying into an open-space fund. The county will use the money to acquire and permanently protect open-space lands in the Martis Valley. Under the new community plan, the project's developers also will be required to provide housing for 33 employees and to participate in a comprehensive monitoring program aimed at protecting water quality in the Martis Creek Reservoir. Employee-housing requirements are unusual in California, but are used in other ski resort areas such as Aspen and Vail, Colo., Yeager said. The new community plan reduces the maximum number of future residential dwellings that could be built from the 12,000 approved in 1979 to 8,600. The area has about 2,000 existing residences. Yeager noted Hopkins Ranch will have only about one-third as many residential lots as would be allowed by density rules in the new community plan.

"This is significant, as opponents of the plan have argued that actual development in the valley will be much greater. This was the county's first opportunity to prove that the limits placed by the zoning and the actual number of units proposed will be even less than was analyzed," he explained.

"Zoning creates a cap on the level of development permitted in an area. Lands have traditionally been developed at less density than would be permitted by strict adherence to land-use designations."

Developers often propose lower-than-permitted densities because of site constraints, design considerations and the need to set aside land for recreational and other uses.

The open space protected by the new community plan includes all of the scenic land between Highway 267, the main roadway through the valley, and the tree lines on adjacent ridges. The community plan also makes land available to provide more skiing, golf, hiking trails, equestrian trails and other recreational pursuits.

Other pending projects will be brought forward in the near future. "The county will once again have opportunities to demonstrate its commitment to addressing significant growth issues in the Martis Valley," Yeager said.



# Supervisor Bloomfield to Host Coffee Klatch in Foresthill February 17

February 9, 2004

Placer County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will be in Foresthill Tuesday, Feb. 17 for one of his monthly coffee klatches, informal meetings held throughout his district that give the public a chance to discuss county issues with him.

At the Feb. 17 meeting, he will give a PowerPoint presentation titled "New Directions for Placer County."

The meeting will 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 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.

During the Feb. 17 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.

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

He 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 forum 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 board's web page.

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.





# **Noise Task Force to Hold Additional Meeting**

February 4, 2004

Placer County's Noise Ordinance Task Force will meet in Auburn Feb. 11 to receive public input on the newly-approved county noise ordinance.

The meeting will be held on Feb. 11, 4 to 7 p.m., at the <u>County Administrative Center</u>, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn.

When the Board of Supervisors adopted the ordinance in December, it asked the Task Force to meet with interest groups including off-highway vehicle and gun enthusiasts to help refine language and discuss alternative options.

If after hearing public input the Task Force decides to recommend changes to the ordinance, these recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. The ordinance will take effect on March 9, 2004, and is applicable in the unincorporated area only.

Supervisors have called for a review of the effectiveness of the ordinance in six months, including any enforcement issues.

The ordinance approved by Supervisors can be generally summarized as follows:

- As a general rule, any person generating noise within the unincorporated area must keep that noise below 55 decibels during the day and 45 db at night.
- Exceptions to this rule generally include typical residential uses including children at play, property maintenance sounds such as lawn mowers, safety and alarms, school activities, emergency response, construction, infrequent vehicle repair, agricultural devices, businesses, animals, gunfire associated with hunting or target practice and vehicle operation on public roads and driveways. In some of these examples, there are other criteria, such as time of day, which must also be considered.
- Minimum setback, acreage and other special noise considerations as pertained to

off road motor vehicles have been removed from the draft ordinance proposed by the Task Force. Decibel readings at the property line will be applied as the standard. Decibel readings will be taken when responding to complaints about offroad vehicles.

- All animal noises have been exempted and will be handled in a future animaloriented ordinance.
- A voluntary dispute-resolution process has been included.

Further information and a complete copy of the ordinance are <u>available on the county</u> Web site.



## **County Parks Commission to Consider Fee Study**

January 30, 2004

On February 10, 2004, the Placer County Parks Commission will be reviewing and making recommendations on the recently completed Parks and Recreation Facilities Impact Fee Study addressing the County's Park Impact Fee program. The public is invited to attend and provide input.

The meeting will be held at the Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

The Placer County Department of Facility Services is exploring the possibility of restructuring County park fees to provide funding for purchase and development of passive as well as active parks.

The role of the County Parks Commission is limited to focusing on the content of the study and its recommendations as they pertain to parks and recreation.

The Park and Recreation Facilities Fee Study reviewed the inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, calculated existing park facility standards, estimated park land and development costs, and calculated the appropriate park facility impact fees.

Currently the County collects \$3,105 per residential lot created in the Dry Creek-West Placer area and \$1,450 per residential lots created elsewhere in unincorporated Placer County.

The new fee structure supported by the study would distinguish by the type of housing unit.

Under the proposed new structure, the County would, at the time of subdivision, collect \$533 per parcel zoned single family, \$389 per unit zoned multi-family and \$351 per unit zoned age-restricted senior. At the building permit stage, the County would collect an additional \$2,817 to total an overall \$3,350 for single family units including modular

homes; \$2,051 to total \$2,441 for multiple family units, second dwelling units and mobile homes; and 1,852 to total \$2,203 for age-restricted senior units.

After receiving input from the County Parks Commission and other representative bodies, Facility Services will present the report to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.



### **Transit Station Changes Announced**

January 30, 2004

Placer County Transit will make several changes to its Highway 49 bus route in Auburn beginning Monday, Feb. 2.

The changes will coincide with Monday's move of Auburn's main bus transfer station from downtown to Auburn Station, the newly improved transit center on Blocker Drive near the intersection of Nevada Street and Fulweiler Avenue.

Beginning Monday, transfers involving PCT, Auburn Transit, Gold Country Stage and Dial-A-Ride will take place at Auburn Station. The Auburn Light Rail Express Route also will stop at Auburn Station.

Until now, Elder's Station in the downtown area near where Lincoln Way and High Street intersect has served as the main bus transfer station.

Starting Monday, PCT's Highway 49 buses will no longer serve Elder's Station, the rest of the downtown area and the stretch of Marguerite Mine and Auburn Ravine roads that includes the Valley Oaks Apartments. Those changes will eliminate overlap between PCT's Highway 49 route and bus service provided by Auburn Transit.

Auburn Transit riders from the downtown and Valley Oaks areas will be able to get free transfers to PCT's Highway 49 route at Auburn Station.

The new PCT route will take riders to the Auburn Station 10 theater complex on Nevada Street and will include stops near Target and Pak 'N Save in North Auburn.

A new route schedule and map are available on the county web site.

The newly expanded Auburn Station has several advantages as a bus transfer station, including easy access to Amtrak train and bus service and plenty of parking. As part of the project, bus shelters were added and lighting was improved at the site.

Elder's Station has several disadvantages, including lack of easy access to Amtrak, limited parking and crowded bus shelters.

"This new facility provides all of those things," said PCT Transportation Supervisor Anthony Middleton of Auburn Station.

PCT is a service operated by Placer County's Public Works Department.

PCT normally operates from approximately 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays. It is closed on several holidays: New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



# **Dream Realized - Future Spears Ranch Park Is Result**Of Public-Private Partnership

January 26, 2004

Thanks to an innovative public-private partnership, a 960-acre ranch that features pristine blue oak woodlands, a scenic creek and beautiful waterfall, and the home of abundant wildlife will now belong to Placer County residents.

Spears Ranch, located in the Garden Bar area of the foothills between the cities of Lincoln and Auburn, has been purchased by the county with major support from the Trust for Public Lands, the Sierra Business Council and the State of California as part of the County's unique Placer Legacy project.

Spears Ranch will become a county-owned passive park, a place where residents can walk, fish, ride horses, jog, take photos and enjoy outdoor activities. The site will also provide a unique opportunity to blend land conservation and habitat restoration, ranching as well as passive recreational uses.

Robert Weygandt, a member of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, said Spears Ranch is the "flagship" of Placer Legacy. He said it is both an example of the beauty and natural resources the county hopes to preserve, and a model of a public-private partnership the county must replicate to be successful in saving more open space.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit land conservation organization, negotiated the purchase of the ranch in 2000 from the Spears family, and in December 2003 conveyed the ranch to Placer County for permanent public protection. Founded in 1972, TPL has protected more than 1.5 million acres nationwide, including more than 50,000 acres of critical watershed, recreation, and forest lands in the Sierra Nevada.

The \$3.5 million purchase was made possible through local, state, and federal funding and private philanthropy. The bulk of the funding, \$2,220,934, came from the county's Placer Legacy Open Space Trust Fund, which includes public funds set aside over the last three years, and donations from the public and county employees.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation provided more than \$204,000 from California's portion of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and \$400,000 from the Riparian and Riverine Habitat Grant Program of the 2000 Park Bond Act. The California Resources Agency provided \$250,000 from the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Grant Program, also funded through the voter-approved 2000 Park Bond Act.

The Sierra Business Council provided \$500,000 for the purchase through a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Conserving California Landscapes Initiative (CCLI).

The CCLI grant is part of the Packard Foundation's contribution of \$175 million statewide to help conserve 342,000 acres of California's pristine landscapes. The Packard Foundation's support was sought and obtained by the Sierra Business Council. SBC has been a leading non-profit in creating and supporting the Placer Legacy project since its beginning.

"Spears Ranch is a piece of what Placer County has looked like for 10,000 years, and we will now be preserving it forever," said Supervisor Weygandt. "It is in the vision of a Placer County national park. The ranch includes examples of Placer County's spectacular natural resources and amazing habitat in a beautiful and pristine setting.

"It is the realization of a dream we've had and, I hope, an inspiration to make more open space protection possible," Weygandt said.

"The protection of Spears Ranch is key to protecting critical wildlife habitat and adding to public open space in the Sierra Nevada foothills," said Reed Holderman, Executive Director of the Trust of Public Land-California.

"It is only through a tremendous team effort involving Placer County, the State of California, the Sierra Business Council, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Spears family that this remarkable landscape has been protected for future generations," he said.

"This is a landmark purchase, not just for Placer County, but also for the Sierra Nevada," said Jim Sayer, President of the Sierra Business Council. "Placer Legacy is a model for how to protect important natural assets and the local quality of life in the Sierra's fastest growing area. Our business members strongly believe that a successful economy depends upon a healthy environment."

"We are very proud that the State Resources Agency and California State Parks participated in this creative public private partnership," said Mike Chrisman, California

Secretary for Resources. We are protecting this beautiful property in Placer County to benefit our environment and for all Californians."

Spears Ranch will open to the public after the county completes a park plan and some capital improvements, hopefully next year.

"We are deeply indebted to all the partners and of course the Spears family who made this wonderful gift to Placer County residents possible," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Harriet White. "Fifty years from now, as our County continues to grow, our residents will celebrate the wisdom of the partners who recognized the importance of preserving this beautiful open space."

The Placer County Board of Supervisors created the Placer Legacy program to conserve open space, and has strongly supported it since its inception in 2000.

The Spears Ranch is the latest property protected through Placer Legacy with its partners, including portions of the Shallenberger Ridge overlooking Donner Lake, a trailhead and open space conservation easement at Moody Ridge, and agricultural conservation easements including Aitken Ranch and the Grey family property in rural Lincoln.

Other acquisitions are being pursued, including land along the south fork of the Yuba River and additional land in the Garden Bar area. Placer Legacy works with willing sellers and is voluntary.



# Board Supports Employees Called to Active Military Duty

January 22, 2004

The Placer County Board of Supervisors took a new step Tuesday to support county employees who are called to active military duty in the war against terrorism.

In 2002, supervisors amended county military-leave rules, so full-time employees could receive full pay and benefits for up to a year if they are involuntarily called to active duty in the worldwide war against terrorism. Under that policy, the county paid the difference between an employee's regular county paycheck and military pay for up to 26 two-week pay periods.

The policy serves two key purposes: showing support for employees on active duty and minimizing financial impacts on employees and their families. It was made retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, the date of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, supervisors voted unanimously to amend the policy so employees can receive this benefit for up to two years and can exceed the normal ceiling on how many vacation hours employees can accumulate. The latter action ensures that employees aren't penalized for not using vacation hours while on active duty.

"This is a great thing," Supervisor Bill Santucci said of Tuesday's board actions. "It's the least we can do for employees who are risking their lives in the war against terrorism." Tuesday's actions were necessary because a few county employees may receive orders extending their active-duty service beyond one year.

Supervisor Ted Gaines noted the use of National Guard and reserve troops as active-duty forces has expanded dramatically since the Sept. 11 attacks, pointing out that some soldiers have endured serious financial hardships after being called up.

"Our forces shouldn't suffer financially when they're putting their lives on the line for our country," he said. "In Placer County, we need to do what we can to support employees on active duty and their families." Board Chairman Harriet White adjourned the meeting in

memory of Army Pfc. Jesse Mizener of Auburn and other soldiers who have died in the war against terrorism. Mizener died in Iraq Jan. 7.

"Jesse died protecting the freedoms we all cherish. We certainly appreciate the sacrifices he and other soldiers have made on behalf of our country," she said. Personnel Director Nancy Nittler noted in a memo to the board that the cost of the new two-year policy will be modest because Placer County has received fewer than 15 military-leave requests since the Sept. 11 attacks and only three employees currently are in a position where their leaves may be extended beyond one year.



## Supervisor Bloomfield to Host Coffee Klatch in Applegate Tuesday, January 27

Jan. 21, 2004

County Supervisor Rex Bloomfield will be in Applegate Tuesday, Jan. 27 for one of his monthly coffee klatches, informal meetings held throughout his district that give the public a chance to discuss county issues with him.

Supervisor Bloomfield will give a presentation titled "New Directions for Placer County."

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 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.

During his Jan. 27 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.

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

He 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

#### Board's online calendar.

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.



#### **Supervisors Hear Impacts of State Budget Proposals**

January 20, 2004

Placer County Supervisors have approved a hiring freeze in anticipation of pending state budget cuts that are expected to directly impact county operations.

The freeze replaces the county's 2002 restriction which limited recruitment and hiring as a cost-saving measure. There will be limited exceptions to the freeze for specialized positions. Sharply limiting external hiring will also make it easier for existing employees who might be facing layoffs at a future date to transfer to a suitable vacancy in another department.

"Protecting our workforce is a priority for the County," noted Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "We must also do our best to protect County services to residents, and must keep in mind the Board's long-range goals to meet future needs of an increasing population.

"The hiring freeze will help allow us to avoid layoffs where possible and avoid hiring someone who would be subject to layoff later. We can also use it to prepare our entire organization to better address the increasing costs in the coming year and address the significant impacts of the proposed State budget."

The hiring freeze comes in the wake of state budget actions and increasing county costs:

- \$16.79 million in reduced State program funding, loans to the State for vehicle license fee (VLF) revenues owed to the County, and other reductions, already incorporated into the current County budget.
- \$6.4 million in money owed the County for State mandated programs at the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Also anticipated are additional cuts of \$20.66 million for next year if the Governor's proposed budget is approved as written, including:

- \$7.7 million of property taxes proposed to be permanently shifted by the State from the County, similar to a shift which has cost the County more than \$30 million in general purpose revenue since 1992.
- Significant State cuts next budget year to a number of County programs, including transportation, health and mental health, social services, family support and others.
- Significant personnel cost increases to the County for health insurance, workers' compensation, liability insurance, and employer contributions for retirement.

Overall, the County expects funding reductions of \$16.79 million this year, which have already been absorbed into the county budget, and possibly \$20.66 million in reductions next year from State actions. The County is also owed \$6.4 million in deferred reimbursements. Yet to be determined is where the State will choose to cut \$1.9 billion from their current budget as a mid-year reduction.

Of particular concern to the County is that general purpose revenues, which support all County programs, are being targeted by the State. Revenues such as sales tax and interest on the treasury are not increasing significantly, and revenue sources which are growing - particularly the county's share of the property tax - are slated to be transferred to the State. General purpose revenues help pay for critical county services and programs such as law enforcement, emergency services, health and human services, libraries, museums and parks.

Placer County has generally fared better than other counties because of conservative decisions made by the Board, such as building a rainy day fund to help cover times of economic uncertainty and postponing major expenses whenever possible. Last year, one-time reserves were used to fund caseload increases in Health and Human Services and to pay for a much-needed automated payroll-personnel system, a one-time expense.

The County estimates that 150-200 people are likely to retire during the next year, positions that may be left unfilled.

County officials will bring proposed mid-year budget adjustments to the Board on Feb. 10 to address current year impacts. The expected impacts of the proposed 2004-2005 budget are preliminary estimates that may change with the Governor's May revision of the proposed budget and subsequent action by the Legislature.



### Planning Commission to Hold Hearing on Foresthill Plan Monday, January 26

January 20, 2004

The Placer County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, Jan. 26 on 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.

The public hearing will be the second held by the commission on the updated community plan and a draft environmental impact report prepared on the plan.

At the Jan. 26 meeting, commissioners will receive a report from staff and ask any questions they have. The balance of the meeting will be set aside for public comments.

The proposed 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.

Copies of the proposed plan and draft EIR are available on the county web site.



## **Creek Monitor Volunteers Sought**

January 20, 2004

A workshop will be held in Rocklin Saturday, Jan. 24 for people interested in being volunteer citizen monitors for watersheds formed by Pleasant Grove and Curry creeks.

The workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a conference room at Foothill Associates, 655 Menlo Drive, Suite 100, in Rocklin.

The workshop is being organized by the Pleasant Grove Creek and Curry Creek Watershed Group and is sponsored by Placer County and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The workshop will include:

- Basic stream water-quality concepts;
- Fundamental geomorphology principles;
- Stream visual-assessment methods;
- Proper water-quality sampling techniques; and
- An afternoon field trip to one of the creeks.

Snacks will be provided, but participants are being asked to bring sack lunches. Participants should dress comfortably. Boots and rain jackets are recommended for the field trip.

Seating at the workshop will be limited. To reserve a seat or get more information, call Edmund Sullivan at the county Planning Department, 530-886-3030.

To reach Foothill Associates from Interstate 80, take Highway 65 north and turn right on Sunset Boulevard, right at Atherton Road and left on Menlo.



# Placer County Storm Water Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Planned

January 9, 2004

The Placer County Storm Water Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet next on Wednesday, January 14th from 4 to 6 PM at the County Administration Center, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Conference Room CEO1, in Auburn. The Advisory Committee will be discussing funding options for the program.

The Storm Water Citizens Advisory Committee was established to make recommendations to the County on a 5-year storm water 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 storm water management plan showing the steps it will take to reduce stormwater pollution. Pollution from storm water 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 storm water pollution is an important way to help safeguard the county's current clean water supply.

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



### **Negotiations Concluded Without Contract**

Jan. 8, 2004

Placer County officials formally concluded a year of contract negotiations with the Placer County Deputy Sheriffs Association (DSA) last week, vowing to begin with a new round of negotiations during 2004.

The decision to conclude negotiations was prompted by the DSA's recent rejection of the County's final three-year contract offer without a membership vote.

"We made substantial progress during 12 months of negotiations, but couldn't get over the last few remaining hurdles. The decision by the DSA's negotiator to reject the County's final offer left the county few options," said Jan Christofferson, County Executive Officer. "Starting a fresh round of negotiations appears to be the most promising."

She expressed disappointment that the County hasn't been able to reach an agreement with the DSA after 12 months of negotiations.

"The Board and County Executive Office have always made funding for public safety a top priority. In recognition of their difficult jobs, the County has provided deputies and other employees represented by the DSA with an excellent retirement plan and health, dental and other benefits," she said. "The offer we presented keeps us competitive with compensation of other counties in the region.

"At the same time, the County must be mindful of its other financial responsibilities. The costs of doing business and demands for services are climbing, and the state's fiscal crisis is taking a heavy toll on the County."

Deputy sheriffs receive annual salary adjustments that are set by Measure F, a voter-approved measure that was sponsored by the DSA in 1976 and affirmed by the voters in 2002. Consequently, their salaries are not part of the contract negotiations, however the salary adjustments become the fiscal responsibility of the County.

Under the Measure F formula, Placer County deputies received salary increases of 2.8 percent in February of 2003. Salaries will be recalculated in February 2004 using the same formula, which averages the salaries paid to comparable employees in Sacramento, El Dorado and Nevada counties. The County's last proposal included:

- A 4% salary increase for Probation Officers retroactive to February 2003, a 4.5% increase in 2004 and a 5.0% increase in 2005.
- A 2.6 % salary increase for Investigator retroactive to February 2003, and annual adjustments based upon the Proposition F adjustments for Sergeants plus an additional 2.5% in 2004 and 2.5% in 2005.
- A new special pay equal to 2.5% of salary in 2004 and 5.0% in 2005 for a wellness incentive for all deputy sheriffs.
- An increase in special pay from 5.0% to 7.5% of salary for deputies, probation officer and investigators working night shifts.
- Special pay of \$125 month for deputies assigned as DARE/School Resource Officers, Pilots and Observers, or deputies with specialized assignments such as the Dive Team, Special Enforcement Team, and Search and Rescue coordinators.
- Increases in special pay for sheriff's deputies, probation officers and investigators assigned to the Tahoe area, which will result in the special pay increasing from \$350 per month to \$475 retroactive to February 2003, \$550 in 2005 and \$625 in 2006.
- Increases in uniform allowances, special pay for deputies assigned to handle law enforcement dogs, and a new educational incentive for sheriff's deputies with associate or bachelors degrees.
- An increase of 5% of salary for those employees with 20 years of continuous service with Placer County.

The County and DSA reached agreement on several issues, but specifically remained at odds on County proposals aimed at keeping its future costs under control. The County proposals would:

- Guarantee that employees had health care choices with at least one no-cost choice. The County wanted to better manage costs in the health insurance program, but sought to guarantee that employees could still select from a range of health plans. The choices included one plan for which the County would pay 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums (Kaiser), another plan in which an employee with a family would pay no more than \$20 per month of the premium cost (Blue Shield) and others which might cost employees more.
- Preclude an employee from using accrued sick leave to "retire early" and stay on payroll with full benefits. When employees use that option, their departments must either leave positions unfilled until sick leave is used up or pay other employees to temporarily fill the vacant positions. In its contract offer, the County proposes eliminating that option for sick leave earned after Dec. 26, 2003. This benefit

would be phased out and DSA employees who retire would have several other reimbursement options for unused sick leave.

The DSA proposed a four-year contract that included additional special pay for another longevity step for all members (2.5% after 15 years), higher wellness pay for deputies (including 8% of salary for the fourth year), and an additional salary adjustment for probation officers (another 5% in the fourth year. However, the County did not support this proposal for these additional items because of the current economic uncertainties and the other improvements already included in the County's final offer.

The County was agreeable in concept to a four-year contract, and in fact had previously proposed a four-year contract that was rejected.

"The decision by the DSA not to accept the County's final offer is surprising," Christofferson said. "The main unresolved issues are County proposals that wouldn't have a big impact on rank-and-file employees, but would help the County keep future costs under control. The County has already resolved each of those issues with the Placer Public Employees Organization, the association that represents the majority of Placer County's employees."

An impartial labor mediator met with both sides over several days and subsequently issued a report that supported the County's position on these issues.

Largely due to rising personnel costs, the County increased its commitment of general purpose revenue to the public safety budgets by \$7.18 million this fiscal year, which essentially absorbed all the new growth in secured property tax and general sales tax revenues.

Concurrently, the County has endured more than \$14 million dollars in State cuts for the current fiscal year, which have resulted in reduced service levels in many County programs. More cuts are predicted as the State faces its multi-billion dollar budget crisis.

"Our goals at the bargaining table have been to protect the County's workforce during these tough economic times, manage future costs and continue attracting and retaining a high-quality workforce," Christofferson stressed. "We continue to believe in those goals, and regret that no solution has been reached with the DSA. We are hopeful we all can be successful in 2004."



# Placer Board Encourages Bureau to Reassess Folsom Dam Road Closure

January 6, 2004

Acting on the recommendation of Supervisor Ted Gaines, Placer County Supervisors agreed today to send a letter urging the Bureau of Reclamation to re-assess the closure of Folsom Dam Road.

The Bureau of Reclamation, which has full authority of the road, closed the facility to all traffic 24-hours a day effective February 28, 2003. This action was taken as part of a nation-wide effort to ensure the security and safety of critical infrastructure.

The closure of Folsom Dam Road has generated a major increase in commuter traffic through Granite Bay, and led to traffic accidents and a loss to businesses along the routes, noted Supervisor Gaines.

"We all recognize and support the need for heightened security at the Folsom Dam, and appreciate the Bureau's responsiveness," Gaines said. "However we hope the Bureau will consider alternative precautions which taken together would provide a safe solution."

Several local officials have made the same request, including Assemblyman Dave Cox, Congressman Doug Ose, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the City of Folsom.

When Folsom Dam Road was constructed, it was designed primarily as an access road for maintenance equipment and for incidental access to Folsom Lake for recreation. However as the region changed it has become a major link between Folsom, El Dorado County and Placer County, and prior to closure, carried an estimated 18,000 vehicles per day.



#### Recalled Meat Should Be Returned to Store

January 2, 2004

Placer County Health and Human Services Department has received confirmation from the California Department of Health Services that product from one retail outlet for raw beef in Placer County was among that recalled by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to possible contamination with the agent responsible for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease").

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a Class II recall for meat processed the same day as the BSE-diagnosed cow from Washington State. There are three levels of USDA recall. FSIS' designation of this recall as Class II is due to the "extremely low likelihood that the beef being recalled contains the infectious agent that causes BSE," according to the USDA news release dated Dec. 23, 2003. The USDA recall is voluntary.

"According to scientific evidence, the tissues of highest infectivity are the brain, spinal cord, and distal ileum, which were removed from the rest of the carcass at slaughter," the release continued. "Therefore, the meat produced were cuts that would not be expected to be infected or have an adverse public health impact, but are being recalled out of an abundance of caution."

In Placer County the one affected retail beef outlet, WinCo Foods of Roseville, immediately removed all ground beef from its shelves when notified by USDA. The store began selling only product from another source. As more complete information became available, WinCo posted signs noting that anyone who purchased "extra lean ground beef - 14% fat maximum" between Dec. 15 and Dec. 23 should return the product for a refund or exchange." Many consumers have already taken advantage of the offer.

Public health officials remind anyone who might have purchased the product prior to the recall to return it to WinCo Foods.

Placer County Environmental Health has been in contact with WinCo Foods, which has

been "very cooperative", according to Dr. Richard Burton, Public Health Officer. Placer County will work with business and industry as needed to insure food safety, and will continue to monitor the situation.

"We have been cooperating with the USDA and Placer County Environmental Health in this unusual circumstance as an extra safeguard to our customers," said Mike Read, spokesperson for WinCo Foods. "We take seriously our commitment to product quality, consumer safety and public health." Media and consumers with questions about the recall may call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline, available Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Eastern time) weekdays. Recorded messages are available in English and Spanish 24 hours a day. BSE has been transmitted to humans by eating nervous system materials from infected animals causing a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD).

More information about BSE may be obtained from the <u>Centers for Disease Control Web</u> <u>site</u>, (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/cjd/cjd.htm). There are no tests to diagnose whether a person has eaten infected meat, and no preventive treatment.