

**Did you know...**

- There were **8** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in September, 2016. There is a decrease of 59 permits, or 41% less than were issued in the first nine months of 2015. There were **2** permits issued for commercial buildings in September, 2016, one less and 6 percent below those issued for commercial buildings for the first nine months of 2015.
- At the October 18th Redding City Council meeting, the City recognized **67 employees** for reaching milestones of either 15, 20, 25, 30, or 35 years of service. Among these employees being honored were City Manager Kurt Starman for his 25 years of service and Community Services Director Kim Niemer for her 20 years of service.
- The unemployment rate in Shasta County was **6.5 percent** in September, down from 6.8 percent in August and up from 6.4 percent in September 2015. The numbers of those employed and those looking for work is 74,900. There were almost 9,000 more people in the labor force in 2006.

## K2 Land and Investment LLC Receives \$20 Million Grant for Downtown Redding Project

K2 Land and Investment LLC's redevelopment project, the former Dicker's Department Store building in the Market Street Promenade, 1551 Market Street in downtown Redding, received **\$20 million** in State grant funding on October 11th. The money comes from cap-and-trade funds and is geared toward projects that support greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other sustainable benefits.

K2 received initial funding in April, 2015 totaling \$190,000 from newly available Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant Program funds.

They were granted a permit on February 23rd by the Redding Planning Commission for construction of a mixed-use four-story building of about 122,000 square feet, and will include demolition of the existing building and reconstruction of an underground parking garage. The building will consist of 27,000 square feet of ground floor retail space and a total of **79 units** with a combination of affordable and market rate 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units on floors 2 through 4.

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The project will also include construction of Market St., Butte St., and Yuba St. adjacent to the project and connecting to Tehama St. and California St., and construction of a two-way separated bike lane.

Total project costs are **\$36.9 million**. K2 and the City of Redding were project co-applicants for the \$20 million grant funding for this project on March 16th.

In addition to the \$20 million received, other funding sources for the project would come from tax credit proceeds (\$7,372,874), a private commercial loan (\$4,279,600), other development funds (\$515,138), and City of Redding housing funds (\$4,800,000).

The City of Redding would like to be responsible for the public infrastructure portion of the project with K2 having responsibility for the new building itself.

Construction could start in 2018. This is great news for Redding, and in particular, for the Downtown area.

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## *Results In For 2015 Parks and Recreation Community Survey*

The City of Redding contracted with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct a survey in 2015 to “**monitor community sentiment about parks, recreation and library services,**” as well as determine **priorities for funding**. The 2015 survey was the first one conducted in more than 10 years.

A postcard was mailed to 3,000 Redding households, selected at random, notifying residents that they had been chosen to participate in the survey. A survey followed in the mail after one week and another one week later. There were 625 survey respondents, yielding a response rate of 22%. The results were weighted to reflect the demographic profile of all residents in the City of Redding.

Although the report is quite lengthy (79 pages in all), **key** findings of the survey are:

1. Overall, 60% gave favorable assessments of current parks, recreation programs, services, and facilities. Trail use was popular by foot and bicycle. **About three-quarters of residents felt that trails should be a high priority for spending.**
2. For future spending, residents **most wished to see improvements to existing park and recreation areas in already developed areas.**
3. Bike ridership could be increased by improving roads and safety. Over half of the respondents rarely or never bike.
4. Over half the respondents had used the library and its services. Almost all agreed that because of its free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.

It is interesting to note which parks and recreational areas are listed as the most utilized: 1) Sacramento River Trial Network (81%); 2) Caldwell-Lake Redding Park (74%); 3) Open space areas (68%); 4) Neighborhood Parks (64%); 5) Enterprise Park (55%). Use of the Big League Dreams facility was only 39%, and the Redding Soccer Park was only 27%.

## *63,767 Ballots Mailed in Redding for Utility Rate Increase*

The City of Redding is trying to make rate adjustments and **increases** to its solid waste, wastewater (sewer) and water rates.

At the City Council meeting on September 20th, the recommended rate adjustments and increases along with utility overviews were presented by the Public Works Department. Staff was looking for and received approval to send out the required **ballots to customers (numbering 63,767), who can vote yes or no for the rate changes**, along with a **required public hearing, which is targeted for the November 15, 2016 Council meeting.**

Ballots were then mailed on or about October 1, 2016. If approved by the utility customers, the proposed rates will go into effect January 1, 2017.

The ballot process is a bit complicated, but designed to allow each **affected parcel** to protest or approve the rate changes and increases. There are **not** 63,767 affected parcels. Here is the breakdown of actual affected parcels:

**Water:** 28,345

**Wastewater:** 34,075

**Solid Waste:** 31,120

So, tenants can actually receive ballots even though they do not own the affected parcel. The owner also receives a ballot, but if he/she doesn't return the ballot, a tenant vote would count. **Only one vote per parcel is allowed.** And if there are two spouses living in an affected parcel, they may receive two ballots, but only one counts.

It is important to note that if no ballot is returned, it is considered a “yes” vote.

Each affected parcel has until **November 15, 2016** to return the completed ballot to the City of Redding. That is the day of the Public Hearing. After the hearing, the City Clerk's office will be charged with counting the returned ballots. That process can take 2 days, depending on how many ballots are returned. They check to ensure only one vote per affected parcel.

Once the ballots are counted, the results will be reported to the City Council and a determination will be made as to whether or not there are enough “no” votes prevent the rate changes and increases. **A majority (50% plus one) of affected parcel votes would be required in order to prevent the rate changes and increases.**

In 2013, only 6,500 ballots were returned. That was far below the majority that would have been needed to prevent the rate increases, and increased rates were implemented for the three years beginning in 2014.

## *New Matrix of Services Support Local Mental Health*

On December 8, 2015 the Shasta County Supervisors adopted a “Mental Health Services Act Innovation Plan” to be submitted to the state Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for final approval.

The “Plan” was approved and has moved forward. It allows Shasta County to provide a **Community Mental Wellness Center**, whose primary purpose is to increase access to services by providing “*after-hours*” mental health services in the community.

The Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, after a competitive bid process, has contracted with **Hill Country Health and Wellness Center** to operate the after-hours mental wellness center in the community which will include the following: peer support (or buddy system) services to those individual navigating services; education groups for individuals, family members, and caregivers; pre-crisis and emergent crisis access to a clinician; case management services; transportation services; respite care for adults and youth; youth center services; access to transitional housing; and peer-run resource center to provide services such as assistance with Medi-Cal applications, parent/family supports, and referrals to other community-based organizations.

This Wellness Center, which has been named the **Community Mental Health Resource Center** will be located in the former Shasta Charter School location at **1401 Gold Street** in downtown Redding. It will be open from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The main focus for this project is to improve outcomes as a result of an increase in accessing after-hours services.

Two main goals of the center are to reduce the number of mentally ill people turning to local emergency rooms for help, and to provide a place for law enforcement to bring people who need help but aren't in crisis or suspected of crimes. During fiscal year 2013/2014, county health officials responded to 1,274 emergency room mental health visits.

Funding for this program is **\$739,222** for fiscal year 2015/2016. The center will be Medi-Cal certified, but will still be open to all residents of Shasta County. The County intends to offset expenses through Medi-Cal reimbursements.

The Community Mental Health Resource Center will be **one part** of a matrix of services to support the mentally ill in Shasta County.

**Another part** of the matrix of services to support the mentally ill in Shasta County has now been funded as well.

On May 16, 2016 Shasta County Health and Human Services (HHSA) applied for an **additional** “Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant” with California Health Facilities Financing Authority in the amount of **\$565,098.26**. The grant was **approved** on May 26th, but only accepted retroactively by the Shasta County Supervisors at their October 18, 2016 Board meeting. These funds will be used to develop a **Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)** for the period of May 26, 2016 through December 31, 2017, and will include property renovation, furnishings and equipment, information technology, and up to three months of program start-up costs.

The location for the CSU has not yet been established.

The CSU provides up to 23 hours and 59 minutes of care in a secure and protected environment. The program is medically staffed, psychiatrically supervised, and includes continuous nursing services. The primary objective of this level of care is for prompt evaluation and/or stabilization of individuals presenting with acute symptoms or distress.

The ongoing cost of operating a four-bed CSU is about \$2 million a year. The County's HHSA department is prepared to provide **\$1 million in funding per year** through the use of Mental Health Service Act funding, state realignment, and Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation. The other \$1 million per year that is needed has not yet been officially identified.

The Redding City Council has placed Measure D, a half percent sales tax increase, on the November 8, 2016 election ballot for voter consideration in the City of Redding. If it should pass, the City has said they will dedicate \$1 million a year for 10 years toward the operating costs for the CSU. The HHSA is hoping that this occurs.

Should Measure D not pass, the HHSA will need to come back to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors to seek guidance on how to proceed with offsetting revenue.

## *Updated News and Notes*

Shasta VOICES is continuing to monitor and follow many issues of interest to our supporters and the community. As part of our efforts to keep you updated and informed, here is a brief update of some of these issues.

**Two Companies Interested in lots at Stillwater Business Park**—**Emerald Kingdom Greenhouses**, a *local* high-end manufacturer of greenhouses, geodesic domes, and other fabricated buildings, has begun using automation in their manufacturing and seeks to expand. Additional staffing of up to 30 employees with hourly wages from \$15 an hour up to \$30 an hour would be hired if they are able to negotiate with the City of Redding for Lot 5 in the Stillwater Business Park. The other company is **D & S Family LLC**, and they are negotiating to buy lots 4 and 5 in the Stillwater Business Park. Little information is known about this business, but City Manager Kurt Starman has said they are a high tech company. They are based in Mountain View and this would be a second location for them. Negotiations are in the very early stages. City Council member Brent Weaver has said that the City is looking for the right “fit” and thinks they should hang on a little longer. It isn’t clear exactly what that means, but both the City of Anderson and Shasta Lake have industrial parks as well, both on the I-5 corridor, and both with the same train track, to name just two competitors who happen to be nearby. Perhaps the City should have a more welcoming approach...and negotiation.

**New Subdivisions in Redding Approved—Others Extended**—Redding’s Planning Commission has approved several new residential subdivisions in the past month, as well as extending approvals on others:

**Mountain Air Group LP** received approval to subdivide 4.55 acres into eight residential lots located at 3880 Laver St. in Redding. The project site of 4.55 acres is a result of a remainder parcel from the Clover Acres subdivision map recorded February 2006.

**Julie Garcia** received approval to subdivide 26.9 acres of property located at 3600 Argyle Road into 51 single-family residential lots.

**Star Estates LLC** received approval to develop The Riverway Villas Planned Development Subdivision, which will subdivide approximately 4 acres located at 2375 Star Drive into 11 multiple-family residential lots and develop 18 duplexes (36 units total). All units are approximately 1,650 square feet in size, are two-story with three bedrooms, and have an attached two-car garage.

Additionally, the following ***seven*** separate and individually approved tentative residential subdivision maps in Redding received approval of three-year extension requests:

Tentative Subdivision Map S-17-04, The Reserve at Gold Hills Subdivision, Unit 1

Tentative Subdivision Map S-4-05, The Reserve at Gold Hills Subdivision, Units 2 and 3

Tentative Subdivision Map S-10-05, Tuscany Villas Subdivision

Tentative Subdivision Map S-21-04, The Cottage at Bel Air Subdivision

Tentative Subdivision Map S-19-03 West Ridge II Subdivision

Tentative Subdivision Map S-4-04, West Ridge III Subdivision

Tentative Subdivision Map S-14-06 Tierra Knolls Subdivision

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