



The VOICE

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Did you know...

- There were **6 new** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in July 2021, for a total of **92** in 2021. There was **1 Carr Fire** single family rebuild permit issued in July 2021, for a total of **19** in 2021. That is **20 fewer total** single family home permits issued than the same period last year. There was **1** permit issued for new commercial buildings in July 2021, for a total of **10** in 2021. That is **13 fewer** than for the same period in 2020.
- There were **306 residential** homes sold in July, 2021 in Shasta County, for a total of **2,071** in 2021 so far. The 2021 year-to-date average sales price of residential homes sold in the City of Redding was **\$405,772**. The average sales price per square foot was **\$234** in July 2021. There were **420 active MLS listings** in Shasta County at the end of July 2021.
- Redding Electric Utility (REU) will celebrate its **100th birthday** on October 8, 2021.

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New County Sheriff Sworn In City of Redding To Provide Interim Police Chief in Anderson

On July 27th, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors officially appointed the City of Anderson's Police Chief, Michael Johnson, to fill the position of Sheriff-Coroner, after a heated discussion regarding the process of filling the open position took place at the July 20th Board of Supervisors meeting between the Supervisors. Supervisor Patrick Jones was the only "no" vote.

On **August 13, 2021**, Michael Johnson was officially sworn in as Shasta County's 23rd Sheriff. He will hold this appointed position through the first Monday after January 1, 2023, and has stated that he will run for the position in the November 2022 general election.

Sheriff-Coroner Michael Johnson presented some of his priorities after he took his oath of office from Superior Court Judge Jody Burgess:

- Unity of County law enforcement and other agencies in the County.
- Confront homelessness.
- Confront an overcrowded jail.
- A new focus on illegal marijuana eradication by going after cartel growing operations.

With the swearing in of Sheriff-Coroner Johnson, the City of Anderson now has a vacancy for the position of Police Chief. The Anderson City Manager, Jeff Kiser, approached the City of Redding with a request to fill that vacancy with a Redding Police Department Captain while the City of Anderson recruits for the position.

Redding's Chief of Police, Bill Schueller, indicated in his staff report to the Redding City Council on August 17th that, "because of the proximity of the two cities to each other, matters occurring in Anderson frequently impact and influence the residents of Redding. Having an RPD employee temporarily filling the Anderson Police Chief position also supports the City of Redding." RPD has the capacity to assist Anderson because "...RPD is down several police officer positions due to vacancies and injuries. It has been unable to fully staff the downtown bike team and half of the NPU unit." This allows RPD to move people from those units around to maintain a full command staff. "At the end of the contract with Anderson, the downtown bike team and/or NPU should be fully staffed."

The two cities agreed on a Professional Services Contract, which was attached to **consent item 4.9(b)** on Redding's August 17th Council meeting agenda, and **approved**:

- Anderson agrees to pay Redding its fully loaded cost to employ **Captain Jon Poletski** for each day he provides services to Anderson.
- The term of the contract is for **four months**.
- While Captain Poletski performs duties on behalf of Anderson, he will take direction from Anderson's City Manager and Redding will relinquish all rights to control his work.
- Anderson will provide appropriate office space and necessary equipment, including a vehicle for Captain Poletski.
- Captain Poletski will be required to attend all mandatory RPD training and firearms qualifications. He will carry a firearm and ammunition authorized by RPD policy, and he is not permitted to wear the uniform or uniform badge of Anderson Police Department while on assignment to Anderson.
- Captain Poletski will remain an employee of Redding, who retains all responsibility for the payment of all benefits and salary.

Redding Rancheria Tribe Asks Redding For Support

On August 2, 2021, Redding Rancheria sent a 15 page document to Redding City Council, asking to engage the City in “substantive discussions to address the City’s stated concerns regarding the Tribe’s proposed Casino Relocation Project.” The controversial project would be located on 232 acres of undeveloped land in Shasta County known as the strawberry fields, near the southwest corner of the I-5 and Bonnyview interchange. A draft “intergovernmental agreement” for review was attached to the letter. This is the first time the City has received anything in writing from the Tribe, and due to the high interest in our community in this Project, we are providing ***lengthy but important information*** below.

The items contained in a 14 page “draft agreement” are intended to address the City’s August 20, 2019 letter of opposition to the Project. Some of the items suggested for discussion include:

- Mutual cooperation to facilitate the ***annexation*** of the I-5 Property (Strawberry Fields) into the City;
- Tribe to make “Non-recurring Infrastructure Payments”—one-time payments to ***make improvements*** to the City’s water and sewage service systems, to road improvements including Bechelli Lane and South Bonnyview Road intersection, the I-5 overpass including on and off ramps and traffic controls, and expenses of road improvements to any arterial roads that serve their project;
- Tribe to make “Non-recurring ***Law Enforcement Payment***” to help fund the costs necessary to hire, train, equip and staff new officers, purchase police vehicles, and cover the cost of administrative support for the officers;
- Tribe to make “Non-recurring ***Fire and Emergency Services Payment***” to mitigate impacts of the Project on fire and emergency services to help fund the costs to hire, train, equip and staff new firefighters and specialized equipment;
- Tribe to make “Non-recurring ***Transfer of Rights and Property***”—engage the United States to seek an assignment and relocation of the Tribe’s BLM contracted water rights;
- Tribe to dedicate former ***River Tasalmi Golf Course*** property to the City for express purpose of a public park;
- Tribe to make “Recurring ***Infrastructure Maintenance Payments***” for the City’s water and sewer infrastructure, pay for water and sewer service, and contribute to roadway and traffic controls maintenance;
- Tribe to make “Recurring Law Enforcement Payments” ***annually*** for the City’s provision of Redding Police Department law enforcement services to the Project;
- Tribe to make “Recurring Fire and Emergency Services Payments” ***annually*** for the provision of the City’s fire and emergency services to the Project.

In return, the Tribe asks that the City provide correspondence to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), that it ***supports*** the application of the Tribe to take lands, identified as the I-5 Property Site, into trust for gaming and respond to inquiries about the Tribe’s trust application from the BIA. They also ask the City to acknowledge and agree that “the payments provided herein will ***fully address the impacts*** to the City associated with the Project.” Additionally, they ask the City to “affirmatively ***oppose any effort by any third party*** to enjoin the construction and/or opening of the Project and such traffic mitigation improvements.”

The Tribe suggests that the duration of this agreement, once effective, “shall be in full force and effect until the earlier of December 21, 2049, or the date the Compact that is in effect on the opening date expires or is terminated.”

Redding City Councilman Mark Mezzano, during the ***August 3rd*** Council meeting under agenda item 12, brought this letter from the Tribe up for discussion. The purpose of item 12 is to see if there is a ***majority*** Council member consensus on bringing an item of interest by one of the Council members forward for discussion as an agenda item for a future meeting. If agenda item 12 is agenda item 12, it also becomes open for public discussion.

Mezzano said he had looked at the Tribe’s proposal and felt Council owed it to their constituents to determine if the City’s objections to this Project had been addressed. He felt that this is an opportunity to open a dialogue on the subject. Mayor Erin Resner, saying although she respected his opinion, felt it was ***highly inappropriate*** that Mr. Mezzano was asking for this to become an agenda item, given the fact that the Tribe was his largest donor during the 2020 election, and suggested that he should recuse himself on any item or discussion relating to the Tribe. Mezzano responded that he “shares that opinion,” but believes it’s fair to bring the information forward to see how it benefits the community. She did not agree.

Councilman Mike Dacquisto said the letter was the first thing he had seen in writing, that it was an appropriate item for discussion at a future meeting, and felt it shows some good faith on the part of the Tribe. Council member Julie Winter had not read the letter and wasn’t ready to make a decision yet. Council member Kristin Schreder was absent. Therefore, there was ***not a majority consensus*** to bring the item forward, yet, as three votes are needed. This item will be coming back to a future item 12 for consideration, hopefully with all five Council members in attendance. Stay tuned!

Civic Auditorium Lease Extended 3 Months

In October 2011, the City of Redding entered into a lease agreement with Advance Redding for the operation and management of the Civic auditorium. The City was confronted with the risk of closing the facility, due to years of deficit and disrepair. At the same time, Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM) needed a learning facility for its students. Bethel Church brought a proposal to the City to have a non-profit manage the facility in a way that would revitalize the building for the community while providing a place for the students to gather. Out of that proposal, Advance Redding (a 501c3 public benefit non-profit) was formed. The term of the lease began in January 2012, for a minimum of 4.5 years, with an option to extend to 9.75 years. In September 2015, the lease was amended to extend through **September 30, 2021**. The current lease rate is \$22,034 per month.

With the upcoming expiration of the current lease on September 30, 2021, the unfortunate Covid 19 closures and now anticipation of the eventual resuming of business, together with the planned construction of a new campus for the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry, the environment around the Civic is changing.

To study more closely the operations, markets and impacts, a committee was assembled in March 2021 to work with Advance Redding to develop a new long-term lease agreement. The committee members are Josh Devine and Tony Lewis representing the City of Redding Community Service Advisory Commission (CSAC), Redding City Council Mayor Erin Resner and Vice-Mayor Kristen Schreder, and Julie Dyer from Advance Redding.

That committee has now met 3 times, and at the August 17th City Council meeting, asked for a 6 month lease extension to continue discussions towards development of a long-term lease agreement.

City Council members questioned why so much more time was needed, and why there is no agreement yet. Mike Dacquist wanted to consider putting out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to see if there are others out there interested in the contract. However, after learning that the RFP process takes a long time and would leave the City without a lease agreement of any kind after September 30th, Dacquist suggested that the City extend the Advance Redding contract for **only 3 months**. Council member Julie Winter recused from the discussion, and Council member Kristin Schreder was absent. The remaining 3 Council members voted to approve the 3 month extension to continue the lease through December 2021.

It remains to be seen if an RFP will be considered at a future time. Stay tuned!

County Unveils Plan To Mitigate Illegal Cannabis Cultivation

On August 24th, the Shasta County Supervisors held a special meeting for the purpose of considering a plan to mitigate runaway illegal cannabis cultivation in the unincorporated areas of Shasta County.

The first order of business was to **reinstate the Sheriff Marijuana Eradication Team** and accompanying budget amendment, transferring **\$350,000** from Contingency in the County's General Fund. This team had been disbanded after the 2015/2016 fiscal year, when State and Federal funding for this purpose ended. This reinstatement is considered an immediate, short term plan. A long term plan with identified long term sustainable funding will be "reviewed during the regular budget preparation cycles and return to the Supervisors for consideration."

Immediate eradication action will be focused on the Oak Run, Fall River Mills, and Merry Mountain areas.

An "**Urgency Ordinance**" was also approved, which amends existing administrative penalties. It **increases penalties** for unlawful cannabis cultivation violations to "up to \$10,000 per day, per violation and up to \$20,000 per day, per violation for repeat violations." The Ordinance also states that "the person determined to be responsible for the code violations, the owner of the property, and the possessor of the property, shall each be jointly and severally liable and responsible for any and all penalties imposed." Additionally, the penalties "shall be imposed immediately, as opposed to being imposed after allowing an opportunity to correct or otherwise remedy the violation." Violators will not be able to escape liability. There are exceptions written into the Ordinance if tenants or persons other than the owner of the property is in possession of the property, or that the property owner can provide evidence that the rental agreement prohibits the cultivation of cannabis, and the property owner did not know the tenant was illegally cultivating.

A "resolution of intent" was also adopted to consider amendments to the County's Zoning Plan to regulate (prohibit) **outdoor advertising signs** of commercial cannabis activity in the unincorporated areas of Shasta County. County Counsel will now study the matter, propose amendments to the Zoning Plan, and submit the proposed amendments to the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation. Following their recommendation, the proposed amendments will be presented to the Supervisors for consideration.

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.

Shasta County Supervisor Les Baugh Will Not Seek Re-Election—After serving 4 terms, Shasta County District 5 Supervisor Les Baugh announced on August 8th that he will not be seeking a fifth term as District 5 Supervisor. He plans to complete his current term, which ends in January 2023. Baugh was first elected in 2006, replacing Trish Clark who retired after serving 4 terms. With this decision, Anderson Mayor Baron Browning becomes the only candidate so far for the upcoming 2022 election for the District 5 Supervisor's seat. Baugh explained that he is now the full-time senior pastor at Anderson Community Church, where he has worked as a part-time pastor on a volunteer basis for 16 years.

Interest High for Stillwater Business Park—Lots in the City of Redding's Stillwater Business Park have been selling well lately, despite the pandemic. Lot 3 was sold to Pace Engineering, and they are nearly finished with construction of their new company headquarters, expecting to move in this fall. They will have the first completed building in the Park. Lot 4 has a Letter of Intent (LOI) from Beneficial Insectary, whose corporate offices are in Belgium. Lot 5 was sold to Electric Innovations/Maas Energy, who is currently working on construction plans. Lot 6 has a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Main and Main for development of a food distribution facility. Lot 7 sold to Jeff Bell of Cool Valley Holdings, who plans to open a window manufacturing business and a cultivation business (plans not submitted yet). Lot 11a was sold (property exchange) to Cal Fire for future headquarters. Lots 11b, 12 and 13 are currently in escrow with Panattoni Development. That makes eight out of the sixteen lots either sold or in escrow as of this writing. The City of Redding is now in the process of completing infrastructure improvements at the Park, including street lighting, paving, and a traffic signal at Airport Road. It seems to have taken a long time, but Stillwater Business Park is becoming a successful venture for our community!

City of Redding Receives Grant To Help Secure Flight Service to Denver—On July 29, 2021, the City of Redding announced that it has received a grant from the Department of Transportation for **\$760,000** to help secure flight service from Redding Municipal Airport to Denver, Colorado with United Airlines. While the grant does not guarantee the flight service will be secured, it gives the City of Redding a tremendous advantage in the efforts to continue to expand air service from Redding. It will take additional financial support from community partners to secure the funding needed to support the flight service with a revenue guarantee, similar to what was provided to United when flight service between Redding and Los Angeles began. Denver is a reliable hub with an abundant number of connections. The value of an eastbound service is that passengers can save time while traveling east, creating greater efficiency and convenience for the Redding traveler. If everything goes according to plan, flight service to and from Denver could begin as early as summer of 2022.

Sitework Starts for New Redding Costco; Existing Location To Be Repurposed—Phase one permits have been issued for Costco to start clearing trees and brush from the property at the northeast corner of Bechelli Lane and South Bonnyview Road, the site where Costco will be building a new 152,000 square foot facility. The property also will be graded and utilities will be brought to the site before the property is winterized. The work should be completed by the end of the year. Costco is moving forward despite pending litigation from the Bechelli Bonnyview Coalition opposition group. There are also plans to convert the existing Costco and its parking lot on Dana Drive into a shopping center after Costco moves to its new location, and there is already interest and leases being signed for that center. So far, Chili's has signed a lease to open a restaurant in the southwest corner of the center, and would occupy about 5,700 square feet in a yet-to-be built new building. There is a deal in principle with a dental office, and interest from some coffee shop tenants to occupy new buildings as well. The 110,000 square foot existing Costco building also has a not yet publicly named anchor tenant that will occupy 90,000 square feet.

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