



The VOICE

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Greater Shasta County, CA

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Did you know...

- There were **7** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in February, 2016. That is a decrease of 22 permits, or 67% less than were issued in January and February of 2015. There were no permits issued for commercial buildings in February 2016.
- On January 29th, excavators began tearing down the Hilltop Lodge located on Hilltop Drive next to CR Gibbs Restaurant. In 2013, City of Redding code enforcement officials inspected the motel, found substandard conditions, cited and fined the owner and gave him time to fix the problems. The owner never resolved all the issues, eventually shutting down the motel, and instead chose to tear down the motel, with plans submitted to the City in 2015 to build a new **Holiday Inn Express** in its place with 93 rooms covering a 51,000 square foot three-story building.

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Tier Zero Blueprint Recommendations Implemented for Pubic Safety Improvements

At a special meeting held on March 8th, City of Redding and Shasta County officials outlined their plans to implement about 90 percent of those recommendations made in the Blueprint for Public Safety document which were referred to as “Tier-0” because they did not require additional revenues to implement.

City Manager Kurt Manager first outlined 2015 items to enhance the provision of public safety **already in place** as approved by City Council:

- added 4 police officers for a neighborhood unit using one time general fund reserves
- hired 2 retired annuitants for enhanced code enforcement
- made 5 former grant funded police officer positions permanent using general funds
- provided additional funds for replacing older police vehicles
- completed new police facility next to City Hall
- in process of replacing records management system and has replaced RPD radios
- adopted shopping cart and sit-lie ordinances
- partnered with Colt 45’s baseball team management for private security at the field
- put stronger emphasis on neighborhood watch program
- working partners with Merchants Crime Watch group and Good News Rescue Mission
- authorized Adopt-a-Block program
- created bicycle patrol units for downtown and the Hilltop Drive corridor
- retained 9 firefighter positions using general fund revenues when grant expired

Sheriff Tom Bosenko reported on the custody division focus of the Blueprint, saying they are working currently on ways to be more efficient with **sharing jail/probation statistics** not just with their public safety partners, but also with the community. The County Jail **added one additional sobering cell** this year, where up to 4 people can be held until they are able to be safe in a regular cell. He believes that the existing jail, which was built in 1983-84, does not provide enough space, but would need at least \$10 million a year to solve that problem. Therefore, they are creating an assessment tool for **alternative custody arrangements**.

Redding Fire Chief Gerry Gray reported that most of the 22 recommendations made for his department were not new and related to implementing industry standards, and which were already under way. An interesting note was made that **in the next 5 years, 35 firefighters will be retiring**, therefore driving a formal process for an internal mentoring program for newly promoted supervisors. He mentioned that in their most recent recruiting effort, they **received hundreds of quality applicants** and felt there would not be a problem replacing those retiring. Other issues being addressed are expanding mutual aid arrangements year-round, implementing the new computer system to interface with Shascom, joint training with Cal Fire, maximizing grant opportunities, creating more efficient inspections systems, and having a single point of contact for media relations.

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Tier Zero Public Safety Improvements (continued from page 1)

Redding Chief of Police Rob Paoletti reported that his department had already identified most of the Tier-0 items before the consultant created the Blueprint. The existing **records management system** is out of date, and in the process of being replaced. The new \$2.2 million system (previously approved and funded) will provide real time data and coordination with all of the justice system partners in Shasta County, as well as integrate crime analysis functions. It could be up and running this fall. Recommendations for stronger partnerships with a long list of community organizations will grow and continue. He believes the recommended **balanced approach to the homeless issue** is already in place with partners such as the Good News Rescue Mission, advocacy groups, and the addition of bike patrols, but his officers will continue to enforce the law regardless of an offender's housing status. **Training in homeless outreach** is already being done, but he believes mandatory officer training comes first. The Blueprint identified an **unusual number of vacant, budgeted positions** in the department for a variety of reasons, including officer injuries and a "dried-up pool" from which to fill open lateral positions because of pension changes. He said he has recently **filled 7 of those vacant positions**, with only 2 current openings left to fill. And **4 other positions** that were filled using general fund reserves last year will continue to be funded for one more year, with a recommendation to make them permanent during the next Council priority setting workshop in 2017. He reported that he and the police unions are **studying alternative shifts**, and that they are still doing the math before going back to 10 hours shifts.

Chief Paoletti also reported that the suggested policies and training programs to deal with the homeless and mental health issues are counterproductive—the County says it doesn't have the resources for law enforcement to "take these people to." He said that in 2015, his department made just under 1,000 arrests. He feels what is really needed is a **sobering center** or **crisis mental health outpatient center**.

One such center is, in fact, in the process of being created right now, with **\$739,222** in funding available from the State for fiscal year 2015/2016, with continued funding for up to 5 years. This **Community Mental Wellness Center** is being designed 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. It's at least possible that a sobering center, which is also currently being discussed, could co-exist with this center.

So, at least some of the "additional revenue" required items are moving forward, as the revenue sources **do** already exist.

Existing Funding, Revenues and Resources Already in Place

Shasta VOICES has been researching the **existing criminal justice system resources** in our community for the quite some time. In response to some of the "recommendations" made in the Blueprint, and the quoted "additional revenues" that are needed in order to provide some of these recommendations, we have found that there are, in fact, already "funds" in the budget specifically designated for items that have been said to need "additional revenues," particularly in the County.

Shasta County has contracts already in place, some since 2012, to address the "**alternative custody arrangements**" that Sheriff Bosenko spoke about. The following agreements are for housing Shasta County offenders in jails in other counties who might otherwise be part of the "revolving door" trend at the Shasta County Jail, showing the **cost per day** for each inmate. These are not the only contracts, but they do illustrate those alternative custody arrangements. The cost to house each inmate at the Shasta County Jail is about **\$100 per day**. The costs to house them elsewhere is actually less:

- **Lassen County**—\$69 per day; • **Nevada County**—\$70 per day; • **El Dorado County** — \$90 per day

Additionally, there is an agreement with **Butte County** to provide appropriate facilities and programming for the housing of wards of the juvenile court in Shasta County. There is a population of juveniles here who can benefit from the highly structured custodial Butte County Juvenile Probation Camp called **Camp Condor**, according to the County's Chief Probation Officer. The goal of this program is to re-integrate these youth's into the community and eventually, successful completion of probation. Costs related to this agreement are **included** in the County Probation Department's adopted budget.

And, the County is contracted with **Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc.**, located in Riverside, California and categorized as an **Institute for Mental Disease**, to provide long-term residential treatment for adults with severe and persistent mental illness as an alternative to placement in an acute inpatient care setting or a State Hospital. The contract for fiscal year 2015-2015 provides **\$2.5 million** of compensation to Vista Pacifica, and through the 2016-2017 fiscal years the entire agreement provides compensation totaling **\$6.7 million**. The costs paid by Shasta County for this service come from "department discretionary revenues" and is borne by Mental Health Realignment.

These and other already existing funding and resources are certainly designed to address exactly the troublesome issues associated with public safety in the Shasta County area. Those resources ought to be **fully utilized or reallocated, fully accounted for, and show demonstrable results** to the local citizens before any new revenues (i.e. more taxes) are sought through ballot measures.

Shasta County Supervisor Candidates Set for Presidential Primary Election on June 7, 2016

The Presidential Primary Election will be held this year on June 7, 2016. Locally, there are **three open seats** for the office of Shasta County Supervisor on the ballot. March 11th was the deadline for local candidates to file for qualification for this election.

The qualified candidates for **District 2** are: **Leonard Moty** (Redding), incumbent and his challenger **Jerome Venus** (Anderson)).

The qualified candidates for **District 3** are: **Janet Chandler** (Burney), **Pam Giacomini** (Hat Creek), incumbent, and **Mary Rickert** (Fall River Mills).

The qualified candidates for **District 4** are: **Steve Morgan** (Shasta Lake), **Bill Schappell** (Redding), incumbent, **Walter Albert** (no address given), and **Wally St. Clair** (Redding).

The ballots for vote-by-mail will go out on May 9th, and must be received by the May 31, 2016 deadline, seven days before the Primary Election on June 7th. If any one of the candidates in their district receives at least 50 percent plus one vote, there will not be a “run-off” election in November during the General Election process, and the winner of that district will become the Supervisor, beginning their term in 2017. If **none** of the candidates receives at least 50 percent plus one vote in their district, then the top two vote getters in the district will face a run-off during the November 8, 2016 General Election process. The winner of the General Election will become the Supervisor, beginning their term in 2017.

City of Redding Utility Rate Update Under Way Community Advisory Group Participating in the Process

Every three years or so, the City of Redding undergoes utility rate reviews and updates to determine what, if any, customer rate adjustments are needed. The last update was completed in 2013, so here we are again, 3 years later in 2016 to take a look at the utility rates for **water, waste water and solid waste**.

The consulting firm NBS was selected from several proposals to guide this process and offer recommendations for the next three consecutive fiscal years through 2018/2019. Assisting the City and NBS is an Advisory Group (AG) with broad representation of local community citizens who will provide input throughout this process. The AG includes Joe Chimenti, Michelle Goedert, Sami Kader, Mary Machado, Randall Hempling, Keith Hunting, John Wilson, and Gary Blanc.

There are many challenges facing our utilities including (but not limited to) aging infrastructure, growing and changing regulation, and a slow local economy. The AG will provide input on how the City is managing the utilities, the related costs, utility rates that make sense for our community, and how best to present the findings to both customers and City Council for public discussion.

It is anticipated that the final report with recommendations will be completed by the first part of June, 2016.

\$15 Minimum Wage Measure Qualifies for Ballot in California

A measure that would gradually raise California’s minimum wage to **\$15 an hour** has qualified for the state’s ballot in November.

Alex Padilla, California’s Secretary of State, announced on March 22nd that the initiative had received the 400,000 signatures needed to appear on the statewide ballot.

The proposal would hike California’s minimum wage from the current \$10 an hour to \$11 an hour in January 2017. The wage would then increase by \$1 per hour each year until reaching \$15 per hour in 2021. The state already has one of the highest minimum wages in the country.

The initiative supporters have until June 30th to pull the measure from consideration. If they do not, it will be certi-

fied for the ballot.

There is at least one competing initiative aimed at boosting the state’s minimum wage. The second proposal, filed by advocacy group “Fight for \$15” and the SEIU California union, would increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020.

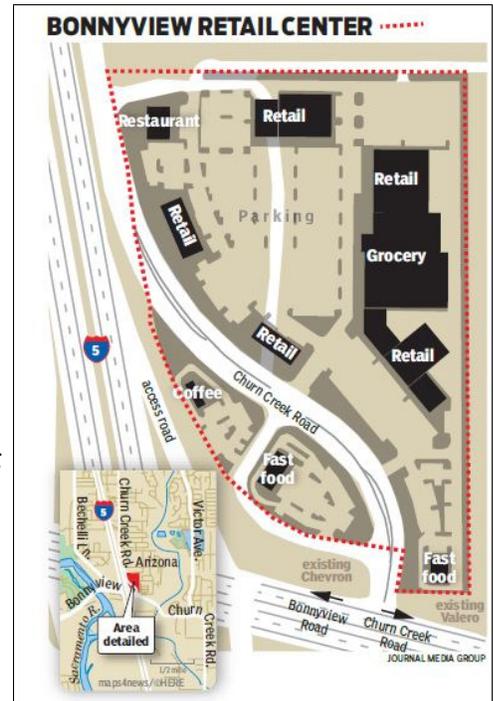
It’s not clear at this point which measure would be put before voters in November, or if the state’s lawmakers will act to address the concerns raised by minimum wage proponents **before** the June 30th deadline and eliminate the need for a ballot measure. There has been talk of a tentative deal between lawmakers and labor unions to raise the statewide minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour in 2017 and gradually increase it to \$15 an hour by 2022.

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.

K2 Land and Investment, LLC Obtains Permit for Former Dicker's Building Project—K2's redevelopment project, the former Dicker's Department Store building in the Market Street Promenade, 1551 Market Street in downtown Redding, received initial funding in April, 2015, now 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. 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**. Additional AHSC Grant funds are available of up to **\$20 million**. K2 and the City of Redding are project co-applicants for such grant funding for this project, a move that was approved by City Council on March 1. With their combined resources, the project is a strong, competitive project for the additional AHSC grant funding. To help facilitate the development of the affordable housing units and to secure long-term affordability covenants, gap financing from the City of Redding of about **\$4.8 million** has been committed, with funds from the City's Housing Loan Program. This amount represents the City's housing resources and allocations from the state and federal government over the next five years.

Bonnyview Retail Center Project—California Gold Corporation, based in Sonora, has applied for a use permit for a commercial retail center to be built at the former Kenworth Truck facility on Churn Creek Road, Northeast of the I-5/Bonnyview interchange. The use permit is for 149,410 square feet, and would be anchored by at 50,000 square-foot grocery store. The developer has a purchase agreement for the property which is **contingent** on the project getting approval from the City of Redding. There was another commercial retail shopping center already approved at this location in 2009, which would have included 200,000 square feet of retail development, but that approval has expired, and California Gold Corporation now needs a new use permit. The prior project developer, Vitalis Partners, went through foreclosure and the property eventually went back to the bank in 2013 before being auctioned off. It appears that the new project won't come before the City Planning Commission for discussion and potential approval before the fall.



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