



# The VOICE

Your independent news source

Greater Shasta County, CA

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### Did you know...

- City of Redding water usage has dropped significantly in 2014. With drought measures implemented, water usage has dropped by **16%** year-to-date.
- A forgivable loan for \$28,700 was approved by the City of Redding to facilitate the development of a medical services facility and an independent living apartment complex to serve **veterans**, to be built on 16 acres owned by K. Maurice Johannessen on Knighton Road. This amount represents the cost of City permit fees, and if the project does not proceed, the forgivable loan would be due and payable at the end of five years.
- Redding approved a Development Funding Agreement for \$300,000 with the Shasta County Women's Refuge (One Safe Place) utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds to assist with rehab costs for its new client and shelter facility.

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### Giving Thanks...

In the spirit of Thanksgiving season, Shasta VOICES would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the people and events that contributed to making 2014 a year of transition towards an improved economy locally.

Thanks go out to Redding City Council and City Staff for moving an important project forward in 2014. Ground was broken and construction of the much-needed new **Redding Police Facility** finally began on May 19, 2014. Exterior walls are now up, and progress is highly visible. The \$7.4 million project includes a patrol building west of City Hall on Cypress Avenue and remodeling the second floor offices in City Hall when the Redding Electric Utility (REU) staff who now occupies that space is moved to a new building on Airport Road. If all goes as planned, both the Redding Police Department staff and REU staff will be in their new quarters next spring.

The **City of Redding's updated Development Impact Fee Program** became effective on January 1, 2014. Some economically beneficial changes were made to the way the fees are applied, thanks to the Advisory Group and City Staff who worked diligently together for an economically feasible program. These include the elimination of "change of use" fees in shopping malls/strip centers, water and wastewater hookup fees now based on the meter size rather than the "household equivalent factor," and a new method of calculating traffic impact fees. These changes allowed and is continuing to allow several new and expanding businesses to move forward in 2014 and beyond. In addition, the new fee program has helped boost the number of new homes being constructed and sold in Redding.

The **Shasta Wine Village project** at Old Oregon Trail and Holiday Road in Mountain Gate broke ground on September 18, 2014. It will showcase 15-17 local wineries, two restaurants and retail space. If all goes well, construction could be completed and the Village may be open by next summer for the "tourist" season.

**Ed Rullman** (CR Gibbs/Best Western Hilltop Inn) deserves some major credit (and a special award) for organizing the Redding Merchant Crime Watch group, which has successfully deterred criminal behavior throughout the Redding area. With his leadership, this program works to make our community a safer place to live, work, shop, and play.

We are **very** thankful that the **General Elections** are finally over! Now that some major questions have been answered by the voters in all areas of Shasta County, it's time for our leaders to move forward and implement the will of their constituents: Enforce the Medical Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance; Charge sales tax on marijuana collectives in Shasta Lake City; Move forward with the Turtle Bay Land Sale to McConnell Foundation so that the planned Sheraton Hotel can finally be built; and perhaps most importantly, work **together** as elected officials and provide the leadership that is necessary to implement **solutions** to those difficult and often controversial issues you are faced with, including public safety and rising salary and pension costs.

Lastly, thank you to all the supporters of Shasta VOICES. We are making a positive difference to the economic opportunity in our community because of you.



## ***“Safe City Project” Hosts Crime Solutions Event Top 11 Solutions to Reduce Crime in Redding Presented***

The Safe City Project in conjunction with the Redding Police Department hosted a presentation on November 13th at the Civic Auditorium to present the ***top eleven solutions to reducing crime*** in the City of Redding to the general public, in the form of a town hall meeting. Around 1,000 people were in attendance. The presentation was coordinated by local resident April LaFrance, and a committee of 10 people each presented one of the eleven ideas:

1. Establish a Redding ***reserve police officer program*** made up of volunteer retired police officers or academy graduates. A funding source would need to be established
2. Create ***neighborhood watch “guardians”*** in target areas to report crime issues.
3. Increase accountability from owners of troubled motels and homes that generate continual calls for police service through ***enhanced code enforcement*** with increased penalties to pay for permanent code enforcement officers.
4. Create and open an 8-bed ***sobering center*** where officers can drop off people picked up only in Shasta County for public intoxication (1,200 arrests in 2013) rather than take them to jail. This would require \$250,000 for start-up costs, as well as funds for continual operation, but could help solve the problem of too few officers on patrol by freeing up their “arrest” time.
5. Create a ***community court system*** to handle petty theft cases and other low-level offenses. Sentences would be to “pay-back” through community service/work release programs to clean up the City. There would finally be a consequence for their actions. A funding source would need to be found to run the court system.
6. Somehow find the \$1.3 million needed to ***renovate the existing jail annex***, creating another 65-80 beds for bad guys, and another \$2 million each year to operate and maintain it. Donations from local businesses and using inmate construction crews was suggested for the renovation. No funding source was suggested for annual operational needs.
7. Construct a new ***work camp*** in Shasta County (such as the existing Sugar Pine Camp). 40 acres have been donated already, and a funding source and/or donations to build and operate the detention center/camp would need to be identified.
8. ***Increase funding and support for addiction recovery centers and mental health services.*** Shasta County’s addicted offender program has a 90% success ratio, and they, along with other successful non-profit services, need more money and volunteers to address the unmet needs. No funding source has been identified.
9. ***Reclaim spaces from illegal encampments.*** Laws already exist to aid in this process. Creating an online hub to report illegal encampments on the Redding police website would a good place to start.
10. ***Establish a one-way bus pass program.*** The Good News Rescue Mission has a plan to do this beginning in 90 days.
11. ***Establish a coalition that brings all Churches together,*** working to provide services such as mentoring, feeding the hungry and offering work.

At the end of the presentation, April LaFrance suggested that some of the funding solutions could be to consider privatizing or closing the Redding Library (saving \$2 million per year) and outsourcing a portion of parks and recreation services. The reaction in the community was swift—a resounding “no,” that’s a really, really bad idea. But the Safe City Project ideas, some new, some not so new, deserve further study and consideration. Of course, if both the City and County had the money to fund such ideas, we wouldn’t be having this discussion so often. Now it’s time for the policymakers to get to work!

## ***Communicator of the Year Award Goes to Mary Machado***

Following a discussion regarding decorum at the January 7, 2014 Redding City Council meeting, Council member Missy McArthur tasked City Clerk Pamela Mize with selecting either a member of the public or a City staff member who demonstrates exemplary communication skills and, at the end of 2014, to present a Ronald Reagan coffee mug in honor of being the “Communicator of the Year.”

In making her selection, Pamela Mize said she looked for someone with the following qualities:

- Limits comments to only matters on the City Council meeting agenda, or, if part of public comment, to matters under the jurisdiction of the Council;
- Honors the time guidelines;
- Is respectful toward the Council, staff, and fellow citizens by keeping comments professional;

And, most importantly, someone who:

- Advocates for their position by sharing new information or insight regarding the matter before the Council (in other words, they have done their homework).

At the November 4, 2014 Redding City Council meeting, Pamela Mize introduced her selection for this award, **Mary Machado**, Executive Director of Shasta VOICES. Mary was given the Ronald Reagan (Great Communicator) mug in recognition of this honor.

Although the presentation of this award had been listed on the agenda for this Council meeting, the winner had not been identified to anyone, not even the City Council members. Therefore, the presentation was received with great enthusiasm from all in attendance, especially the gracious recipient.

## 2014 General Election Results

The Shasta County General Election day occurred on **November 4, 2014**. The General Election includes statewide candidates and measures, but we will concentrate this particular informational article on **local** candidates and measures.

There were **97,933** people registered to vote in Shasta County—**54,568** of them cast ballots. That represents voter turnout of **55.72%**.

The results of the City Council races in Shasta County are as follows:

**City of Redding: 3 seats won by:**

Brent Weaver: 24.39%; Kristen Schreder: 19.37%; Francie Sullivan: 15.89%

**City of Anderson: 2 seats won by:**

Norma Connick: 34.19%; Baron Browning: 33.39%

**City of Shasta Lake: 2 seats won by:**

Incumbents Richard Kern and Pamelyn Morgan who ran unopposed.

The results of local measures are as follows:

- **Measure B:** Shall a portion of Resolution No. 2014-025 approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the McConnell Foundation to sell 14.17 acres within the 60 acres of land currently leased to the Turtle Bay Exploration Park for the price of \$600,000, an amount which exceeds the highest appraised value of the City's leased-fee interest by \$157,000, be adopted? The vote was **YES** with 53.43% majority. This means that the sale will move forward, and plans to build a Sheraton Hotel on the property will be reignited. However, the Northeastern California Building & Construction Trades Council has initiated a new Prevailing Wage coverage determination on that project. That may or may not stall construction once again. We will monitor and report on how this will affect the project.
- **Measure F:** Shall the City of Redding adopt a *one-quarter cent* transactions and use tax to sunset in six years, for the special purpose of reducing crime and public nuisances associated with effects of AB 109 and other criminal activity by hiring additional police officers and other personnel within the Redding Police Department; funding offender work programs; and funding incarceration outside of the County, all to address problems associated with release of criminals due to lack of local jail space? The vote was **55.65% yes**, but it needed a 2/3 positive vote to pass—therefore, the measure **failed**. It now remains to be seen just how the City and Shasta County will cope with the ever-increasing costs of reducing crime locally.
- **County of Shasta Measure A:** Shall ordinance SCC 2014-02 (Medical Marijuana Cultivation in the County's Unincorporated Area) be Adopted? The vote was **YES** with 58.26% majority.
- **City of Shasta Lake Measure C:** "To provide funding for general City services, shall an ordinance be adopted to impose a tax at a rate initially set at 6%, and not to exceed 10%, of gross receipts on Medical Marijuana Collectives and Cooperatives operating in the City of Shasta Lake?" The vote was an overwhelming **73.57% YES**.

The newly elected City Council members will be seated at the regularly scheduled December 2, 2014 City Council meetings.

## Costco at Oasis Road Update

Costco is continuing to make progress towards the construction of their planned new facility at the northeast corner of Oasis Road and I-5. According to Redding staffers, they have always wanted all things ready to go with cost certainty before they "pull the trigger" on construction, and they are getting closer to that goal.

Recently, environmental permits have been obtained with the condition of putting conservation areas into individual parcels being met.

Roadway right-of-way appraisals on third-party right-of-way have been completed and agreements on cost with

property owners are pending. Offsite improvement engineering plans should be 60% complete by December 1st, and advertising these construction projects is targeted for spring of 2015.

Relocation of the PG & E transmission line is targeted for spring of 2015, and the Thomasin Flood Plain Release is still in process.

Fortunately, these are not new issues and Costco remains committed to their project. Perhaps we will all see some dirt being moved by the end of April next year!

## *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:

**Redding adds two Code Enforcement Positions**—At the November 4th Redding City Council meeting, the council members approved a plan to hire a retired City of Redding Police Officer and a retired City of Redding Building Inspector (or similar position) on a temporary basis to augment the existing Code Enforcement Program. These two positions would focus on three specific problem areas: 1) Illegal camping on public and private property; 2) Motels with code enforcement issues that generate an inordinate amount of calls for service for the Redding Police Department; and 3) Vacant houses and structures with code enforcement issues that are being illegally occupied by transients and others. It is estimated to cost about \$110,000 for the remainder of fiscal year 2014-2015. This would be a one-time expense, unless the City Council subsequently decides to extend the program. The funding will come from the City's reserves.

**Moody Flats Quarry Draft EIR Update**—A first amendment to the agreement with the Moody Flats Quarry project to fund the required Environmental Impact Report (EIR) extended the term of the agreement until certification of the EIR, or to June 30, 2015, whichever comes first. The draft EIR (DEIR) is now available for review at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, or at the Shasta County Library. The proposed project site is in the Mountain Gate area of Shasta County, about one mile west of the Old Oregon Trail/Interstate 5 interchange, and adjacent to the north city boundary of the City of Shasta Lake. The proposal is for a 345 acre quarry with a 75 acre processing area including an aggregate crushing, screening and washing plant, a Portland cement concrete plant, and asphalt concrete plant, a recycled construction materials processing plant, truck and railroad loading facilities and access roads. Total acreage owned by the 3M Company is almost 1,900 acres, and has what they are calling a "100 year operational life." The property is located in unincorporated Shasta County. During the EIR process, there were 72 potential impacts to the environment identified. Nine of those are identified as "significant and unavoidable," and relate to aesthetics, noise, air quality, and traffic. Perhaps the most damaging of those "unavoidable" impacts is that the existing hillsides to the West of I-5, currently a tree-filled attractive mountain view that can be seen for miles, will become highly visible "scars" that will remain open for as long as it is mined and operational (100 years). The pictorials created by 3M aren't pretty, but at least the company was honest about the degradation. There is sure to be opposition to this, as well as other unavoidable impacts. Written comments on the draft EIR are due before 5 p.m. on December 18, 2014. All comment must be addressed before the DEIR becomes a final document (EIR), and the project can be considered by the County Planning Commission and eventually the Shasta County Supervisors.

**Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers Clubhouse at Clover Creek**— In September 2013, the Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers were given approval by the Redding City Council for a lease agreement so that they could construct a clubhouse at the City's Clover Creek Preserve, a natural area park located on Shasta View Drive, for the purpose of hosting meetings and educational outreach classes related to fly fishing skills for both their members and the general public. The 3,300 square foot clubhouse was approved by the Board of Administrative Review on November 12th. The project site is located on the north side of the Preserve, with the building facing south towards the driveway, and adjacent to the improved access road serving as its main access and parking. This project will add 10 parking spaces to the existing 42. Public restrooms will be constructed at the northeast corner of the building and will be accessible by the general public from the existing walking path. Currently, the 130-acre Preserve includes a perimeter walking trail, natural surface interior trails, a pond, drinking fountains, benches, and opportunities for wildlife viewing. The clubhouse project was found to be "well designed and fitting to its surrounding" by the Board during its approval.

***Join Shasta VOICES today.***

**We depend on membership and other contributions.**

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Mary B. Machado, Executive Director