



# The VOICE

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Greater Shasta County, CA

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### Did you know...

- There were 11 single family dwelling permits drawn in the City of Redding in the month of July, bringing 2012's total to 76. There were a total of only 34 permits drawn for all of 2011, 59 in 2010, and 68 in 2009.
- This year—October 4th to be exact—is the City of Redding's 125th birthday. Redding grew from railroad roots and, through a long and colorful history, has become the commercial and government hub of Northern California. A milestone in that evolution was its incorporation in 1887, creating the City of Redding. The 125th anniversary is referred to as Quasquicentennial.
- The City of Redding, by Resolution, has declared 2012 as **Megan Rapinoe Year** in recognition of her outstanding performance in winning a gold medal in the London Olympic Games.

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## General Election Candidates are Set

In the local primary election held June 5, 2012, a total of 45,233 votes were cast in Shasta County. This represents 47% of registered voters. Of those, 31,583 were vote by mail ballots.

As of August 15, 2012, there are 95,352 people registered to vote in Shasta County for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General election. Of those, 19,759 are registered as non-partisan, 25,758 are registered Democratic, 44,955 are registered as Republican, 3,386 are registered as American Independents, 453 are registered as Green, 681 are registered as Libertarian, and 267 are registered as Peace and Freedom, with the remaining 93 registered as "other."

The following local candidates have qualified to run for the available seats as we approach the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Elections:

**U.S. Congress**—State Sen. Doug Lamalfa (R-Richvale), a rice farmer; Jim Reed (D-Fall River Mills), an attorney.

**1st Assembly District**—Rick Bosetti (R-Redding), Businessman, Redding Councilman; Brian Dahle (R-Bieber), Rancher and Lassen County Supervisor.

**Shasta County Supervisor— District 4:** Cheri Beck, retired office manager; Bill Schappell, businessman/educator.

**Anderson City Council (3 seats open)**— James Yarbrough, business owner/incumbent; Susie Baugh, small business owner; Melissa Hunt, incumbent; Christine Haggard; Sandy Konkol, electrician/instructor.

**Redding City Council (2 seats open)**—Richard "Dick" Dickerson, incumbent; Missy McArthur, businesswoman, community advocate, incumbent; Gary Cadd, retired field technician.

**Redding City Treasurer**— Allyn Feci Clark, CPA.

**Shasta Lake City Council (3 seats open)**—Larry J. Farr, incumbent; Greg Lewis Watkins, civil engineer, incumbent; Rosemary Betchart Smith, appointed city councilwoman; Dolores Lucero, business owner; Terry Everet Huber, retired electrician; Etterene Ward, store manager; Lori Chapman-Sifers, community volunteer.

More than 150 candidates have qualified in Shasta County for the general election. They are running for seats on school boards, city councils, college boards of trustee, county supervisor, fire protection and water district boards and community service director.

US Presidential Candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are scheduled to have three debates before the election. First—October 3, 2012, University of Denver, Colorado, 9:00 p.m. EST; Second—October 16, 2012, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, 9:00 pm EST; Third—October 22, 2012, Lynn University, Boca Raton, Florida, 9:00 p.m. EST.

There a Vice Presidential debate on October 11, 2012 at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, 9:00 p.m. EST.

## *City Parks Maintenance Division Adheres to Plan*

In May, 2011, at the prompting of the private sector, the City of Redding sent all local private landscape contractors, totaling seventy-eight, a notice of Request For Quotation (RFQ) to provide basic parks maintenance services to the City (using a sampling of 4 pocket parks only), a move to determine if the private sector could help reduce the costs of providing such services. Eight bids were received, with the lowest bid proposed at an annual cost of \$5,977.50, and the highest bid proposed at \$47,580.00.

The City concluded that their cost to provide the same basic services was \$4,286.92 per year, or \$34.57 per hour. This estimate was arrived at by using temporary employees who are defined as “employees hired for occasional or seasonal work for a period not to exceed one thousand hours in a fiscal year...but shall not be eligible for sick leave pay, holiday pay, vacation pay, insurance coverage, retirement plan participation or items of a similar nature.”

The City chose to implement a new “model” in the Parks Maintenance Department starting July 1, 2011. This model utilizes temporary workers (full time up to 1000 hours per year and part-time) to provide the basic mowing, blowing, pruning, and trash collecting duties. The “budget” showed the elimination of two full time gardeners in the department replaced with temporary employees who are paid around \$15.96 per hour in the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Because temporary employees are not eligible for City benefits, costs can be greatly reduced. Additionally, the bargaining unit that represents public maintenance workers (IBEW) gave approval for year-round part-time employees to perform these tasks beginning this season. The agreement allows in-house temporary workers to work less than a 40 hour work week, which had not been allowed prior to March 18, 2011.

The private sector was unable to compete with this new model of using City-hired temporary employees. Had this new model not been implemented, they may have proved to be more competitive. Their numbers would offer savings to the City if compared to a regular full-time City gardener.

Redding City Council voted 3-2 on June 7, 2011 to implement six cost saving measures for the parks maintenance department, including using in-house temporary full-time and part-time workers with no City benefits for basic landscaping tasks such as mowing, blowing and pruning, beginning with the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

So, the question then became, will the City really adhere to this plan? Shasta VOICES followed up to see if they did. Here's what we found:

- In fiscal year 2011-2012 (7-1-11 through 6-30-12), the Parks Maintenance Division budgeted for eleven 1,000 hour positions, including temporary full-time and part-time employees who would assist in the basic maintenance of the City's parks, trails, open spaces, and medians.
- Additionally, the Hilltop Business Improvement District entered into a contract with the City for the landscape maintenance along Hilltop Drive. The contract was implemented in May 2012.
- A total of 14 temporary employees were actually hired. Of the 14 temporary employees utilized, six were part-time and eight were full-time during the fiscal year. Twelve of the temporary employees were not included in the City's benefit program. The remaining two were enrolled in CalPERS prior to employment as temporary help with the City of Redding.
- The total salary and benefits for all 14 temporary employees in fiscal year 2011-2012 was \$143,017.93. That averages out to approximately \$10,215.50 each.
- The total benefits cost (social security, Medicare, worker's compensation) for all 14 temporary employees in fiscal year 2011-2012 was \$25,312.42. That averages out to \$1,880.00 each.
- The highest paid temporary employee earned \$15,135.97 in salary for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The City Parks Maintenance division did, in fact, adhere to the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The cost saving measure of utilizing in-house temporary employees to provide basic maintenance services was clearly successful, reducing expenditures for the City and the taxpayers while at the same time, maintaining the level of service that we have come to expect.

Shasta VOICES was persistent in their efforts on behalf of the private sector to have the City at least *consider* whether or not outsourcing basic parks maintenance services would be an efficient cost-saving measure. Although we would have preferred a less-flawed process, the end result of reducing costs for these services was achieved.

## ***Local Wineries Looking for Growth and Recognition***

When a US winery wants to tell you the geographic pedigree of its wine, it uses a tag on its label called an Appellation of Origin. Appellations are defined either by political boundaries, such as the name of a county or state, or by federally-recognized growing regions called American Viticultural Areas.

About 29,000 acres in the Shingletown area may soon be added to the federal list of American Viticultural Areas (AVA). Wines from the proposed Inwood Valley Viticultural Area would be subject to certain regulations, once they have been established as an AVA:

- Evidence that the name of the proposed new AVA is locally or nationally known as referring to the area;
- Historical or current evidence that the boundaries are legitimate;
- Evidence that growing conditions such as climate, soil, elevation, and physical features are distinctive;
- Required to use USGS maps to both describe and depict the boundaries;
- Once the AVA is established, at least 85% of the grapes used to make a wine must be grown in the specified area if an AVA is referenced on its label.

Local vintner Reverge Anselmo, owner of Anselmo Vineyards in Inwood, launched the plan to become an AVA more than four years ago. The designated area would include several other Shingletown-area wineries, including Lassen Peak Winery. Having wine grown in this region that is able to carry its own appellation, which says "Inwood Valley, California" on the label would enable vintners to develop a reputation of having good wines from a distinct location.

In addition, the Shasta County Planning Commission recently approved a new development called the ***Shasta Wine Village***, to be located in the Mountain Gate area at the southeast corner of Old Oregon Trail and Holiday Road. The approval is for a 5,000 square foot restaurant with 96 indoor and 56 outdoor seating, a 1,500 square foot café consisting of a deli and bakery with 40 indoor and 40 outdoor seating, wine tasting/sales activities consisting of 13,000 square feet of public retail space, 15,600 square feet of warehouse/storage space, and a vineyard for demonstration and educational purposes.

The 35,000 square foot Shasta Wine Village hopes to draw more wine tourism to the north state wine industry. It is designed to bring together wine and food in a high quality atmosphere with regional viticulture and tourist attractions in the region. Some of the wineries who are interested in participating in this project include Moseley Family Cellars, Dakaro Cellars, Bertagna Son Kissed Vineyard, Indian Peak Vineyards, Intermountain Vineyards & Winery, and Northern California Specialty Wines.

The growing wine industry in the north state is certainly encouraging. The recognition that goes along with producing premium wines may also produce increased investment and tourism in the north state.

## ***Northern California Veterans Museum Receives City Funding***

At the August 21st Redding City Council meeting, Rob Burroughs, Director of the Northern California Veterans Museum and Heritage Center, provided an update of where the Museum stands concerning Phase One of the 17 acre Museum Campus to be located at the Redding Municipal Airport. Council had enthusiastically approved a Letter of Intent with the Center on June 15, 2010.

The Museum has been diligent in raising funds to complete the required preliminary environmental studies and F.A.A. approval of the site. Additionally, pledges have been received for donated labor towards the eventual construction of Phase One of the Museum Campus totaling \$1.2 million. The total project costs will eventually be around \$50 million.

The Museum is currently in the "Project Use Permit" phase, and asked the City for a donation totaling \$193,800 to be used towards architectural documents, civil documents, traffic studies, and environmental studies. Rob Burroughs gave a thorough presentation of the benefits to the community of having such a unique Museum in our midst. He was followed at the podium by 25 deeply supportive citizens who talked about what our veterans, and a Museum to honor them, mean to us. They talked about freedom, citizenship, education, veteran respect, patriotism, preservation of history, healing, pride, sacrifice, love of country, giving back, investment in the community, creating a travel destination...and putting our money where our mouth is to prove that we support our veterans.

The Council voted 4-1 (Sullivan dissenting) to donate the \$193,800 to the Museum, using recently acquired funds from the abandonment and sale of the Hemsted Drive (East Cypress Avenue frontage road) to Lithia Real Estate for \$280,000.

## *Updated News and Notes—I-5/Deschutes Interchange Project*

Shasta VOICES is continuing to monitor and follow many issues of interest to our supporters and the community. In our last (July) issue of *"The VOICE,"* we provided an update of the I-5/Deschutes Road Roundabout Project, which is now under construction. Here is that update once again, along with additional information relating to how the award of funding from the California Transportation Commission affects existing traffic impact fees that have been and continue to be collected for the same project.

- ***I-5/Deschutes Road Roundabout Project***—The construction of the City of Anderson's I-5/Deschutes Road roundabout and corridor improvement project, which is funded by the State, was awarded to ***local contractor Eddie Axner Construction*** of Redding on July 17, 2012, in the amount of **\$4,769,633.80**. An additional 15% has been approved for project change orders as needed. On April 26, 2012 the California Transportation Commission allocated \$6 million to the City of Anderson for construction capital and support for this project. The overall objective of the project is to improve access to Factory Outlets Drive and Deschutes Road. In addition, the project will improve traffic operations along this corridor and improve accesses to the area surrounding the interchange. The project will construct a new off-ramp from northbound I-5/Deschutes Road, a roundabout intersection at northbound I-5 ramps (Exit 667B)/Deschutes Road/Locust Road, and numerous other related improvements. Construction should begin around September 1, 2012.

The City of Anderson has been charging a traffic impact fee specifically for the "Deschutes Interchange" in the amount of \$1,598.52 (single family home amount). The City appears to have used this money for the design phase of the project, which would be appropriate. Now that the construction phase has been awarded, the City would have to re-evaluate the need for any further "Deschutes Interchange" impact fees, or at the very least, a large reduction in the fees to reflect the percentage of the project completed with other funding sources.

Shasta County's Public Works Department has also been charging a traffic impact fee, currently \$1,452.80 (single family home amount) specifically for the "Deschutes Interchange." The fee was initiated in April, 2005 for what is referred to as "Phase I" improvements and re-worked (increased) in January, 2006 to include what is referred to as "Phase II" improvements. It appears that Shasta County has some territory within the adopted area of benefit within the City of Anderson's jurisdiction, and that is the reason for the fee. Therefore, whatever amount of money has been collected from these fees must be used for this particular project only, according to the Mitigation Fee Act. So far, that has not happened. If the County does not contribute the collected fees (if any) towards this project because it has now been funded by the State, it would have to refund those fees. The County would also have to re-evaluate the need for any further "Deschutes Interchange" impact fees, or at the very least, a large reduction in the fees to reflect the percentage of the project completed with other funding sources.

It is certainly good news that this project has been funded, and construction has now begun. It should also be good news that traffic impact fees that would be assessed to those 92 parcels on 632 acres in the zone of benefit can now go away, or at the very least, be greatly reduced.

We have asked a lot of questions about this situation, but so far have not received many official answers. As soon as we do, we will pass the information along! Stay tuned.

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