



The VOICE

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Greater Shasta County, CA

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Did you know...

- There were **9** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in November 2018 for a total of 105 so far in 2018. That is **1 less** than those issued in the first 11 months of 2017, a 1% reduction. There was **one** permit issued for commercial buildings in November 2018, for a total of 8 so far in 2018. That is **23 fewer** issued than for the first 11 months of 2017. It should be noted that the one commercial permit issued in November was for the new mixed-use building at 1551 Market Street (former Dicker's location), valued at \$14.8 million.
- Local funding for a Revenue Guarantee of \$1 million to United Airlines to secure new airline services from Redding to Los Angeles is close to being secured. The local Economic Development Corporation has \$894,000 in commitments from private businesses, individuals, the cities of Redding, Anderson and Shasta Lake, and Shasta County. Funds need to be made available by January 19, 2019. The EDC feels confident they will complete the remaining gap, and start those flights as soon as March 9, 2019.



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Previewing 2019

Shasta VOICES has been tracking, monitoring and participating in many issues that affect economic opportunity in our community since we began our work in 2007. We have grown to over 1,300 supporters in the last almost 12 years. We have accomplished much thus far, and will continue to pursue issues of economic importance in the Shasta County area in 2019. Here is a partial update of probable issues:

- **Carr Fire Rebuilding Efforts**—The Carr Fire debris clean-up process in Shasta County and Redding is nearly complete, and permits are now being submitted by those who are choosing to rebuild their homes (see page 4 for complete update). We'll follow that progress throughout 2019.
- **River Crossing Marketplace/Costco Project**—The final Environmental Impact Report for this project, planned for 25 acres at the northeast corner of South Bonnyview and Bechelli Lane in Redding, was re-circulated on November 27, 2018 for 60 more days. Another public hearing will be scheduled in early 2019.
- **Dignity Health Wellness Center Project**—Dignity Health North State plans to build a \$50 million wellness center on 12.5 acres near the former Raley's on the corner of Hartnell Avenue and Hemsted Drive, which is north of the Henderson Open Space area. An Environmental Impact Report for the project is underway, and should be completed in early 2019, and available for public review.
- **Downtown Revitalization Projects/New Courthouse**—A \$37 million four-story mixed use project at the site of the former Dicker's Department Store in downtown Redding, a bicycle-oriented café and depot at the site of the former Bell Rooms on Shasta Street, the demolition of the former Police Facility on California Street, a proposal to redevelop the downtown Redding Yuba-Butte Street parking structure site into a mixed-use site, and the long-awaited new Shasta County Courthouse will all be proceeding through various stages of the planning and development process in 2019.
- **Bethel Church Expansion Project**—City Council approved this \$96 million, 172,000 square foot project to be located at 2080 Collyer Drive on December 5, 2017. Preparation for construction began in 2018, and will continue in 2019.
- **Rescinded Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan**—Redding City Council rescinded their August 2018 approval of this Plan on November 6, 2018 after a lawsuit was filed saying the Plan didn't go far enough to address management of flammable materials in the City's 8,000 acres of open space. The Plan will likely be properly addressed in 2019, and include public hearings.
- **Redding City-wide Fire Fuels Management District**—A plan to place the entire City in a benefit assessment (property tax) district to create funds for improved management of the fire fuels in the City's open spaces will likely come forward for consideration in 2019.
- **Funding Plan for Redding Public Safety Personnel**—Proposals will be coming forward for existing City "programs" that could be modified to find the \$800,000 per year that would be needed to maintain three firefighter positions and four police officer positions that could otherwise be eliminated July 1, 2019.

County Resource Management Department Making Progress With Customer Service Improvements

With a new leader at the helm, the Shasta County Resource Management Department is focused on making some long awaited improvements to the delivery of customer services, particularly in the building division. Paul Hellman took over as Director of Resource Management in August, 2018. It's the first time in more than 30 years that someone from outside of existing County staff has been hired for this position. Early results are highly encouraging, and customer complaints are down significantly.

Staff realignments and moving people into positions that better serve customers has had an immediate positive impact. Staff members are happier, and so are their customers. The **online electronic permit processing system**, called Trakit, is up and running. Online permitting has already reduced the amount of foot traffic—good news for everyone. Although it is used primarily internally by County staff, there is now access to information, including the ability to look at old records (back to 1997) online, saving a tremendous amount of time for everybody involved, including the customers. Prior to this improvement, one had to literally walk over to the County Administrative building and manually look up this information. It's not perfect—only records stored electronically are available online. But it's a big help. Additionally, code complaints, issues with neighbors, and permit issues can now be made online for the first time. Once the complaint has been put online, the system assigns a case number for future reference. Reports will help ensure that these cases are handled in a timely manner.

Sequencing for all types of County inspections will be the next Trakit system update, as well as electronic review of building plans. These are "budget items" that are pretty high on the priority list...we can only hope it will be sooner rather than later.

There have been some very helpful improvements to the County's website homepage—improvements that were strongly urged by Shasta VOICES at a County Supervisors town hall meeting on May 30, 2018. We asked to make **customer access to the website easier**. If you haven't visited the homepage lately, give it a try. Not only is it easier to navigate, but the information is actually **consistent and correct now**, particularly all information put out to the public regarding current building and impact fee information.

Director Hellman will be analyzing the issue of an across the board **reduction in development impact fees**, as well as reviewing **permit and zoning fees** to determine if lowering some fees is justified, another request made by Shasta VOICES 6 month ago. He plans to bring a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in early 2019. The timing couldn't be more appropriate now, given the unprecedented Carr Fire disaster in 2018, and the upcoming rebuilding of our community. We must do whatever we can to assist in that process, and we will!

Long Awaited Sobering Center Becomes Reality

The County of Shasta has entered into an agreement with Empire Recovery Center in Redding to provide sobering center services locally. The agreement **started immediately** with the approval of the Shasta County Supervisors on December 11, 2018, and will continue through December 31, 2020. The County will provide **\$476,000** from the Whole Person Care (WPC) Grant Pilot program that serves Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are high users of our local hospitals and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Sobering Center is one component of the program.

The agreement allows Empire Recovery Center to help individuals experiencing active intoxication in accessing a path to recovery, and is an **alternative to incarceration or hospitalization**. Critical overcrowding of the emergency departments in Redding are impacted due to housing of intoxicated individuals who require time to sober up before being discharged. The Center provided through this agreement will offer an alternative to hospitalization for individuals who are intoxicated but are not in need of further medical attention. The Center will provide an alternative to law enforcement in handling individuals who are intoxicated but don't otherwise require incarceration.

Center services will include sleeping facilities, hydration, light meals, personal hygiene facilities, needs assessments, and the monitoring and management of symptoms of intoxication. Referrals to the Center will be accepted from County designated referral sources, primarily local hospitals and law enforcement. Walk-ins and self-referrals are not included in this agreement. Individuals who receive services at the Center will also be given referrals to resources appropriate to the individual's needs and will be encouraged to seek treatment from appropriate drug and alcohol services.

Eligibility criteria for these services include the following: 1) must be 18 years or older; 2) agreeable and non-combative; 3) ambulatory and able to shower independently; 4) verbally responsive and able to communicate; 5) does not suffer from any sleep disorders; 6) possesses written medical clearance information from a local licensed medical professional that satisfies admission protocols; 7) is not a self-referral or walk-in.

Clients referred to the Center are linked with appropriate resources to address the following: substances of use, physical health issues, mental health issues, biological and social needs, motivation to continue treatment, detoxification services, and eligibility to other WPC services.

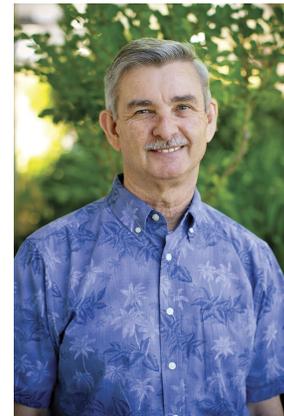
Monthly accountability reports to the County will be required showing the total numbers of clients served, duration of stay for each, disposition of and referrals made for each, and total number of those referred to detoxification services who stayed at last 72 hours.

A Tribute to Our Frank

by Mary Machado

He was our Frank. Nobody personified great leadership, character and integrity more than this highly dedicated, energetic, and visionary man. He was the heart and soul of our community for 25 years, so very generous and always looking to help others during his entire lifetime. He was an Army veteran, having served our Country proudly in his early years. And he was a loving and dedicated family man to his wonderful wife Carol, and children Robert and Stephanie, who he was so very proud of. Although he left this earth physically on November 25, 2018, he will remain in our hearts forever.

Frank Strazzarino was the President and CEO of the Redding Chamber of Commerce for 22 years. He retired from the Chamber in 2015. During his tenure, he embraced each and every challenge, and there were *so many* challenges, with a positive “can-do” attitude, and always took a genuine interest in the people around him. He had an innate ability to quickly understand what was needed and why, and figured out how to elicit cooperation. His enthusiasm was highly contagious—he could motivate almost anyone to do things they may or may not choose to do on their own, and support them in their efforts. His integrity was obvious to all who knew him. He accomplished many extraordinary things during his tenure—we would need to write a book to name them all. But those accomplishments can be summarized by saying he skillfully guided the Chamber through good times and bad, and sacrificed much personally for the good of the Chamber and the entire Redding community. He was our Frank.



Away from his duties at the Chamber, our Frank was the ultimate volunteer, giving back to those in need and sharing his talents at every opportunity. His idea of retirement was continuing his habit of rising at 3:45 each morning, not wanting to waste a single minute. His 4:00 a.m. emails always put a smile on my face (when I woke up much later to read them)...yep, he had already read several newspapers and shared many articles with me and others, as he headed out to the gym for a workout. He did more before 7:00 a.m. than the rest of us do in an entire day! Even at that, his day was just beginning. He worked tirelessly for his church, and for the non-profit that he founded, Piano Angels. He loved playing the piano, and through this organization, donated over 100 pianos to youngsters who did not have access to them. And it certainly didn't end there.

Upon his retirement from the Chamber, we were thrilled that he joined our Shasta VOICES crew, both as a Board member and selling memberships to the organization that he was instrumental in forming back in 2007. Our Frank was the very first and proudest member of Shasta VOICES, a fact that he “mentioned” at every opportunity. Yes, I believe he was perhaps our most ardent and loyal supporter, very persistent in believing that everybody should be a member of Shasta VOICES....and, in fact, added hundreds of members to our organization. And yes, he did this in addition to all of his other retirement activities until he moved to Chico to live closer to his family in early 2018. That was our Frank.

Frank often conducted business meetings over lunch. His go-to favorite lunch was at Mary's Pizza Shack—the lunch special “Pizza Combo” with one topping (always pepperoni), always with anchovies on the side, and with a small Caesar salad. Yes, that was our Frank. As a remembrance, you must have what I will now call “Frank's Special” at Mary's next time you eat there, and offer your “salute” to Frank. Tell your “Frank” stories over lunch. It will bring a great smile to your face, and to his.

Personally, I was so blessed to have worked with our Frank for the past 25 years. He was a tremendous mentor for me and many others, always the consummate business professional, and a true pillar of our community. I learned so much from him. I am a better person for having had him in my life. And above all, he was my friend. I will miss our friendship. We will all miss him. He was, quite simply, the best of the best. Yes, he truly was our Frank.

Please join in the celebration of life for our Frank, which will be held on January 19, 2019. Here are the basic details, with **full information to follow soon**, so for now, mark your calendars:

Frank's Piano and Pizza Remembrance

**When: Saturday, January 19, 2019
4:00 p.m.**

**Where: Redding School of the Arts (RSA)
955 Inspiration Place, Redding, CA**

(off of Shasta View Drive, across the street from McConnell Foundation facility)

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.

New Redding Mayor for 2019—At its December 4, 2018 Council Meeting, newly elected City Council members Erin Resner and Michael Dacquisto were sworn in, as well as Kristen Schreder who was re-elected. All will serve four year terms. Once officially seated, the Council members voted to have Vice-Mayor Julie Winter serve as Mayor for 2019. Council member Adam McElvain will serve as Vice-Mayor, and Erin Resner will serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Competitive Bid Thresholds Have Changed—On August 20, 2018, Governor Brown signed AB 2249. This bill modified the bid thresholds set forth in Public Contract Code for “force account work and competitive bidding.” As of January 1, 2019, the monetary threshold for force account work is \$60,000. This would authorize construction projects of \$60,000 (from \$45,000) or less to be performed by City employees. The bid threshold which would require the use of either informal or formal bidding procedures will be \$200,000 (from \$175,000). This would authorize public projects of \$200,000 or less to be allowed to contract by informal procedures, and require projects of \$200,000 or more to contract by formal bidding processes.

No Increase in Redding Electric Rates—Redding Electric Utility (REU) officials have announced that there will not be any increases proposed for electric rates in 2019. Although retail sales are down for REU due to energy savings measures, transmission expenses are also down. The most current financial statement shows that there is \$60 million in the REU reserve account.

City Finance Director Retires—The Finance Director for the City of Redding, Dennice Maxwell, gave her final quarterly financial update at the City Council meeting on December 4th. She will be retiring this month, having worked for the City since 1991. A search is underway for her replacement.

Carr Fire Debris Removal Nears Completion/Rebuild Begins—Nearly four months ago, the Carr Fire ripped through Shasta County destroying homes in the community. California Offices of Emergency Services (OES) originally projected the first week of December as the deadline for having debris removal complete. As of December 7th, that process of clearing fire debris from community properties is nearing total completion.

The City of Redding and Shasta County had a total of **1,047 properties enrolled** in the joint Cal OES and CalRecycle debris removal program. Of those, 228 reside within the City of Redding limits. All but 5 have had all Carr Fire debris completely removed. County-wide, 600 properties (197 within the City of Redding) have received final approval. The remaining properties that have yet to receive final approval are awaiting erosion control to clear the final hurdle. Of the 36 City of Redding property owners who chose to opt-out of the Cal OES program, 29 have been certified as complete with 8 still completing debris removal, soil testing, and erosion control. Of the 62 Shasta County property owners who chose to opt-out of the Cal OES program, 39 have been certified as complete, with 23 parcels still waiting for testing and erosion control. To date CalRecycle contractors have removed 525,000 tons of material with 430,000 going to local landfills, mostly West Central Landfill.

City of Redding Building Department staff has received **32 plans submitted for rebuild**. Twelve plans have been approved and **five building permits have officially been pulled**. Construction has already begun for some residents in the City.

To date, **Shasta County** has issued **353 Carr Fire related permits**, and a total of **29 single family residential applications**, 1 manufactured home application, and has **issued 7 single family residential permits**. Construction has already begun for some residents in unincorporated Shasta County.

Yes, the rebuilding process has officially begun.

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We depend on membership and other contributions.

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Mary B. Machado, Executive Director