



FALLBROOK REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



May 2010
Volume 2, Number 5, Five Pages

Contact:
Vince Ross
(760) 505-0820
vinceross55@sbcglobal.net

MAY'S FEATURED PROGRAM:

General Update on San Diego County

Presented by Bill Horn, 5th District Supervisor

Fiscal responsibility was at the top of Bill Horn's list when he was elected 5th district supervisor 15 years ago and it remains a priority today. In a wide ranging presentation before the Fallbrook Revitalization Advisory Council, Horn talked about San Diego's top credit rating, budgetary planning challenges and misconceptions about the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant Program.

The county turned in a mixed fiscal report card, he said. On one hand, San Diego County retains a top AAA bond rating, which allows it to borrow money at a favorable interest rate. That is far cry from what the county faced in 1995. At the time, it was on the verge of bankruptcy. Today the county is among the best managed in the country. Although finances in the county remain strong, cutbacks on the state level are affecting how the county operates. Horn told the audience of about 30 that the county will not be filling about 600 positions that are currently vacant and that many employees impacted by work force reductions are being relocated to other positions. He told the group that the county will not "use one-time money to fund programs" even though the county will be losing a "a lot of good people" because of the job cuts.

Horn also told Fallbrook community leaders to enjoy the \$2 million his office doled out to non-profits and community groups because next year the total will be cut in half. Horn was the only supervisor to oppose a recent measure to cut back the community grant money allotted each supervisors from \$2 million to \$1 million. He said the fund was established in 1997 as a more direct way to get sales tax revenues to 38 unincorporated areas of the county he oversees. He said the funds in the past were used to pave Main Street in Fallbrook, build the Fallbrook Sports Park and put up eight libraries,

including the new one that will open early next year in Fallbrook. Given the effectiveness of how the funds have been used, Horn railed against critics who accused him of creating a “slush fund” with the monies. He said applications for the grant money are closely monitored and it is audited every year.

Given that the county’s overall annual budget is more than \$5 billion, he said the \$2 million he supervises on behalf of his unincorporated constituents was a drop in the bucket.

Horn, a Valley Center resident and avocado rancher, also has been a strong advocate for enhanced public safety and fire protection services. He was proud of recently released report on fire service services in North County that gave the region an adequate rating while others in the county came up deficient. He said steps have been taken to upgrade volunteer participation, firefighting equipment and helicopters in the region. “Still, we don’t have enough aerial equipment,” he pointed out. “But it’s adequate for what we have to do.” After a particularly wet winter, he said, there is more wild fire fuel throughout the county than there typically is. He hopes to apply the \$5 million saved from the cutbacks in community grants to help pay for use of a versatile Canadian air tanker that can reload with water without landing.

Horn also assured the audience that he will not let the county downzone property in unincorporated areas as a result of the General Plan 2020 update. The supervisor is aware that the county's long-delayed zoning revision, could rezone, reducing a property’s value. He wants to make sure that farmers are compensated for the loss of their property value due to downzoning, as the equity of the land is a critical factor in enabling farmers to obtain loans.

In April 2005 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted a Transportation Impact Fee ordinance in order to comply with state law and provide funding for the construction of transportation facilities needed to support the increased traffic generated by new development. Today Horn thinks they are too high and don’t reward communities that mitigate traffic. “It needs to be cut in half,” he suggested.

Since the adoption of the TIF ordinance, citizens and local community groups as well as applicants and developers have expressed concern that the industrial and commercial fees are too high, producing a heavy strain on economic growth and development in unincorporated communities.

Horn, one of two supervisors opposed to the fees, said the formula for calculating TIF fees is out of whack and doesn’t reflect reality.

“We need credits,” he said. “We only have penalties for driving a car.”

Horn told the audience he’s against Prop B, a measure on the June ballot that imposes term limits on the top elected officials in San Diego County. He said experience of serving multiple terms and accumulated knowledge make a difference on the board’s ability to make the right decisions. “You can vote against me if you don’t like me but don’t put terms limits on the supervisors,” he said.

OTHER REPORTS:

Supervisor’s Corner: *Dealing with Social, Resource Challenges*

The San Diego Board of Supervisors approved a recommendation from Supervisor Bill Horn to explore implementing a sex offender e-mail alert service and maintain a San Diego County sex offender pin map.

“We’ve taken a major step to increase community awareness of dangerous sexual offenders who move into neighborhoods,” said Horn. “Once we work out the details, an e-mail alert system will let County residents know of registered sex offenders living in their neighborhood, especially those who have just recently moved into an area. It is important to ensure that residents receive up-to-date information without having to check sexual registrants pin maps on a weekly basis.”

Once the system is in place, an interested person can sign up and receive an e-mail when an offender either moves into the subscriber’s neighborhood or is added to the sex offender’s registry. The e-mail will contain the offender’s name, address, photo, and information about them, including their crime, and conviction date. Currently the County has a similar e-mail alert system for land use and planning items, public works projects, and Board agendas.

The county board of supervisors also supported Horn’s recommendation to support the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010. The action endorses a bond on the November 2010 ballot that would provide much needed funding to help fix the state’s broken water system.

“Water is the life blood of our existence,” said Horn. “It is the foundation for agriculture, business and everyday life. With passage of the bond measure, San Diego County stands to gain \$227 million in dedicated funding, which includes money for projects that include local reservoirs, supply reliability, and environmental protection and restoration. There is also \$1 billion for recycling and seawater desalination.”

For more information go to: www.waterforca.com

Tahoe Basin Community Model for Fallbrook

Gordon Tinker with the Fallbrook Village Association said he and Vince Ross visited Incline Village, Nev. to learn more about the community’s pioneering Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, an umbrella organization that promotes non-profit collaboration and philanthropy. The foundation is housed in the \$6.6 million Donald W. Reynolds Community Non-Profit Center, a home for nine of the region’s more than 60 non-profits. Tinker said non-profit organizations come together in the center – they share office and meeting space, services, resources and ideas. With non-profit funding drying up for Fallbrook area’s more than 160 non-profits he said, Parasol and the Incline Village model is something that should be considered for Fallbrook. Case in point-- he said grant requests to the Fallbrook Healthcare District this year nearly doubled to almost \$800,000 at a time when funds are scarce. Tinker suggested that the Incline Village model and collaboration could help alleviate funding uncertainties. In 2006, the Parasol Foundation directed more than \$2.1 million toward community non-profits. In addition, \$1 million in-kind donations and support grants were provided to the non-profits.

Row, Row, Row Your Raft for Fallbrook Beautification Alliance

Don McDougal with the **Fallbrook Beautification Alliance** is looking for four-person rubber raft teams to compete in the 4th of July regatta that is part of the fireworks extravaganza at the Grand Tradition. Rafts and paddles are provided but there's a \$200 entry fee for a chance to win a \$2,000 prize. The event is the sole fundraiser for the FBA, which was responsible for planting live plants in the median of Mission Boulevard, the downtown flowerpots and is in the process of turning Beech Street Park into a children's art park. Over the last five years, a generous donor provided the funds for the fireworks but this year the money dried up. But the show will go on thanks to community donations and funds from a county Neighborhood Reinvestment Funds grant. Last summer the 5th annual July 4th Celebration at the Grand Tradition attracted 2,500 people and raised an estimated \$30,000 for the Fallbrook Beautification Alliance.

Barn Starting to Take Shape

Judy Gillespie of the **Fallbrook Historical Society** said the Donald J. Rivers Interpretative Center, fondly known as the "Barn," is actually starting to look like a museum and not a building under construction. But she said there are no plans yet for a grand opening for the 4,400-square-foot addition that will give the group badly needed elbow room and exhibition space. The "Barn" is the third addition to the growing Fallbrook Historical Society's 5-acre campus. In addition to the main museum building, the grounds also include the historic Pittenger House, a ranch house built by William Pittenger, Civil War hero and first recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. For more about the museum call (760) 723-4125 or go to www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.com...

Here and there... John Compoginis plans to open the **Gnarly Vine** wine tasting and tapas bar in Jackson Square in the next couple of weeks... Marlene Rantanen said **Fallbrook Arts Inc.** – formerly Fallbrook Center for the Arts Group, Inc. – and its five arts-related member organizations are keeping busy. At **the Fallbrook Art Center** the 13th Annual Galaxy of Glass show runs through June 27. The exhibition is open Mon-Fri 10 a.m. -4 p.m. and Sun 12-3 p.m... Manny Gratz announced that **Connections Networking** group will kick off its Hot Summer Nites series 2010 June 11 with Sports Cars. Hot Summer Nites offers special downtown events on the second and last Friday of June, July and August... Richard Kennedy, executive director of the **Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce**, said the turnout at the 2010 Avocado Festival was among the biggest in recent memory thanks in part to the good weather... Brian Jacobs, superintendent of the **Fallbrook Union Elementary School District**, said his schools are taking part in statewide testing and in the midst of major reorganization... Anne Burdick with the **Fallbrook Community Planning Group and Keep Fallbrook Clean and Green** said all the "major players" are in place for annual community cleanup will take place on Sept. 25 in an empty lot adjacent to Stater Bros. Paper shredding, battery cell phone and e-waste recycling will be offered. She said the planning group has forwarded the community plan to the county planning commission., Even though

there are a few pieces left to fill in she said the planning document encouraged additional parking in Downtown Fallbrook... Jerri Patchett with **Friends of Fallbrook Library** said construction of the new Fallbrook Library is running one week and one hour ahead of schedule. She also said the public got a preview of what the “green roof” of the new library will look like after visiting Altman Specialty Plants in Escondido... Wallace Tucker with the **Fallbrook Land Conservancy** said he met with representatives of Camp Pendleton about acquiring land near the San Luis Rey River... Gordon Stone with **San Diego County Parks Department** said the Fallbrook Community Center is offering a wide range of wonderful summer activities, including dance and exercise classes and day care. On July 23 the county will offer a free outdoor screening of the movie *Alvin and Chipmunks: The Squeakquel* in Fallbrook Park... Jeannie Hathaway with **Village Square Park** said the vital Friday and Sunday farmers markets are proof that Downtown Fallbrook does not close its doors on the weekend... Budd Sutliff of the **Historic Downtown Merchants Association** said his group is planning a Lady’s Night event that will include a fashion show and multi-course dinner at Café De Artiste. He also announced that Dominic’s II deli has opened in the former Lace Apron site on Main Street... Jackie Heyneman said the **Save Our Forest** subcommittee of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy has worked enhance to the “urban forestry” of Downtown Fallbrook since 1995. Over the years she estimated that SOF has planted 2,950 trees, including 1,000 that went into preserves... Scott Harry said the **Village Rotary** will hold its annual fundraiser – Luau at the Hukilau on the Green – at the Fallbrook Golf Course on June 5 from 5-9 p.m. Tickets are \$49.50 per person or \$480 for a table of 10...

THIS MONTH’S FEATURED PROGRAM:

Richard Kennedy, executive director of the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce, will talk about the **New Chamber of Commerce** on June 17 at 10:30 a.m.

The Fallbrook Revitalization Advisory Council was formed by San Diego County 20 years ago to serve as a forum for community organizations where information about important Fallbrook issues could be exchanged. The networking group, which is made up of key members of municipal, private, non-profit and for-profit organizations, serves as an advisory body to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

The Fallbrook Revitalization Advisory Council meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Fallbrook Public Utilities District office at 990 E. Mission Road. Meetings are open to the public.

This newsletter is produced and distributed by [Parallax Communications](http://www.parallaxcommunications.com), Temecula, CA. (951) 302-1045