



The Cotati Independent

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Desperation Grips Council Race

Story and opinion by staff reporters

(Cotati, CA) In the five-way race for city council, former city councilman George Barich is as popular as ever with the voters by one look at all his campaign signs around town. But John Moore, City Hall's unofficial cheerleader and hatchet man, is trying to change all that. For years now, Moore has

waged a private war against Barich and vowed publicly to run Barich out of town to anyone willing to listen simply because Moore takes deep offense to Barich's politics, outspokenness, brutal honesty, and refusal to take campaign contributions (unlike his opponents).

If elected, Barich, an independent moderate, has promised to help steer Cotati back in the

right direction with common sense leadership and has shown he won't bend under the pressure to go along just to get along. Barich's ownership of this monthly newspaper, which includes his editorials, infuriates Moore, who has political ambitions of his own. Moore apparently has filed a complaint with the FPPC (Fair Political Practices Commission),

charging that this newspaper is not a newspaper at all, but merely a tool of Barich's current campaign for a seat on the city council which was never reported as a campaign expense or in-kind contribution. Despite the fact the FPPC usually dismisses such complaints, (See Page 8) it appears that this is just another one of Moore's political stunts.—More on Page 4

Cotati Crosswalks: From The City Hall Traffic Experts Who Want To Put Two Roundabouts In Your Way

Story and opinion by Greg Karkaker

(Cotati CA) Typically, before you award a multi-million dollar project to a company or organization, you want to see a few examples of their work.

This is why every Cotati voter should look closely at the two traffic islands that were built in on East Cotati Avenue several years ago, on the watch of City Manager Dianne Thompson and City Engineer Damien O'Bid.

For the past few years, a concerned citizen named Eric Kirchmann has frequently told the city council and staff about the obvious design and construction flaws of these two traffic islands, which look like they have been hit more often than Sylvester Stallone in all five Rocky films.

The city's weak response was to install a reflective yellow strip around the base of each island. As you can see from the picture above, this strip looks like a can of chili opened by a raccoon.



That would be funny, except for one thing. This pitiful mess is brought to you by the same people who want to spend 3.5 million dollars, most of which they don't even have, on a plan to build two roundabouts on Old Redwood Highway and reduce the lanes. So, why would you trust them with that large, complicated project when they can't even build a simple traffic island that isn't a failure?

La Jolla Fire Captain Says One-Lane Traffic and Roundabouts Have Changed Emergency Response Times to Dead Last

Story and opinion by Greg Karkaker

(Cotati, CA) In a series of public meetings, the City of Cotati showed a video of roundabouts in the Bird Rock neighborhood of La Jolla, an upscale district of San Diego, CA claiming that roundabouts moved traffic safely and efficiently.

In making their public safety case to skeptical citizens, the City of Cotati paid retired Novato Fire Chief Jeff Meston \$1,045 for his "professional opinion". Meston, not surprisingly, gave the city's single-lane roundabout plan his approval.

However, this reporter thought a more credible opinion would come from an acting fire chief who has actually had to deal with single-lane roundabouts in the real world. So, on October 20, I had a conversation with San Diego Fire Department Captain

One of La Jolla's five roundabouts (Note the narrow bike lane) Photo credit: the leucadiablog.com



Robert Bilz, from Station 13 in La Jolla, CA which is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the city's five roundabouts.

-Continued on Page 4

Cotati Chamber of Commerce Refuses to Host Traditional Candidate Night in Cotati

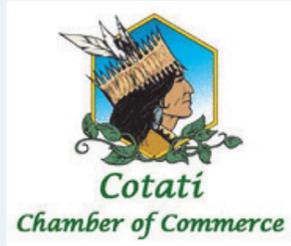
Story and opinion by George Barich

(Cotati CA) For many years during election season, The Cotati Chamber of Commerce (CCC) would host an "Evening with the Candidates", an attempt to showcase the city council candidates to the community in a lively controlled debate. Unfortunately, complaints were lodged at the CCC that they refused to ask candidates any questions from the audience that would question the validity or the value of the Chamber itself, and played favorites. The event was so poorly orchestrated over the years and so biased towards the incumbent candidates that the Sonoma County League of Women Voters was asked to step in and take the event over and host the evening to bring fairness back to the event.

This worked well for many years. How-

ever, the League of Women Voters told this newspaper they were not hosting the event in Cotati this year. When pressed for a reason why, we were told they simply didn't have the time or the staff to host the event. The CCC was informed of this fact but also chose not to host the event making this the first year without a Candidate Night in Cotati.

-Continued on Page 4



Should This Newspaper's Publisher Be Fined For Bringing You The Truth?

Story and opinion by Greg Karkaker

(Cotati, CA) One of the finest and most-quoted statements ever uttered in politics is "I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

It's a principle that has made this country unique in the world, and thousands of people have made it a fundamental right by fighting and dying for it.

Evidently, John Moore of Cotati thinks it's a right that Cotati citizens should not be allowed to have, because the state should regulate free speech and control newspapers.

Moore claims that he has filed a formal complaint with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, charging that this newspaper is not a genuine newspaper but is only a political brochure, so the publisher should face an official investigation and a possible fine.

In an interview with The Community Voice newspaper, Moore said, "It (The Cotati Independent) does not meet the criteria set by the FPPC... it doesn't meet even the barest minimum requirements of journalistic standards regarding fact-checking accuracy and political impartiality, purposefully blending 'story and opinion' by George Barich and other writers."

In other words, he thinks the publisher of this paper should be fined for exercising his right of free speech as an American citizen and should keep his opinions to himself.

So, by tying up the resources of a state agency whose job is to find real, intentional abuses of state laws that regulate political campaign contributions and expenses, Moore is attempting to sink this newspaper in a sea of expensive distractions once and for all.

Unless Cotati secedes from the United States and sets up its own totalitarian regime, Mr. Moore's pitiful efforts to take



John Moore, FPPC complainant

away this newspaper's First Amendment rights — and your right to read what you choose — won't happen.

In fact, to teach Mr. Moore a civics lesson he should have learned in the sixth grade, here's an offer:

In the December edition of The Cotati Independent, he can have a half page (up to 1,400 words) in which he can explain to the citizens of Cotati, the members of the FPPC, and the ghosts of the Founding Fathers why his sneaky, back-door attempt at censorship should trump my right to write this article, Mr. Barich's right to publish it, and your right to read it. This newspaper will publish Mr. Moore's words unedited, and take special care to remove no misspellings, grammatical errors, or just plain lies. On the other half of the page, we will present our view of his anticipated rants. Stay tuned.

Cotati Lawmakers Also Law Breakers

Story and Opinion by George Barich

(Cotati, CA) The Cotati city council members know, or should know, that Cotati's sign ordinance states clearly that political signs on residential property cannot exceed 12 square feet, total for all signs (Cotati Muni. Code 17.38.035). Yet local lawmakers act like they are above the law by installing numerous political signs on their own front yards, violating the spirit and the letter of the law.

This newspaper took many photos and made numerous complaints to the Cotati City Manager's office about these and other political sign violations by her bosses on the city council, yet the City Manager has simply ignored the problem over the last few weeks for fear of biting the hand that feeds her. Can the corruption be any more obvious?

Let's look at who are allegedly the biggest offenders of the sign ordinance, and we have the photographs to prove it: City council members Janet Orchard, Pat Gilardi, Susan Harvey, John Dell'Osso, former mayor Lisa Moore, long time resident Pru Draper, and Executive Director of the Cotati Chamber of Commerce, Suzanne Whipple just to name a few.

Photos of the offending residential properties were taken and made available to the City Manager for enforcement purposes. After a month, nothing has been done about the problem, suggesting that our local lawmakers and local "shakers" are simply unshakable. See, in Cotati there is one set of rules for the ruling class, and another set of rules for the rest of us.



More photos of signage clearly exceeding the 12 foot maximum square footage can be found on Page 6

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If City Hall is broken, LET'S FIX IT !

I care about Cotati. A person does not attend every city council meeting and public workshop for 15 years speaking his mind without a deep concern that those in charge are simply inept, out of their league, too complacent, too quick to make excuses, and don't take the managing the taxpayer's money seriously, in my opinion. Anybody who really knows me knows I am solution-oriented and care about people and giving business folks a fair shake. I don't kiss up to people; I believe in straight talk, don't sugarcoat the facts, look people in the eye, and take my duty as a citizen very seriously. I take great pride in dusting off old principles that work so well, hard work, sacrifice, self reliance, healthy competition, and responsible government.

I never criticize local officials and their staff members without trying to have a solution at my fingertips that I am happy to share whether they want to hear it or not. Unlike so many city officials at City Hall, past and present, I refuse to sweep Cotati's problems under the rug. I always hope the community appreciates that some citizens are watching the store, even though our current crop of city officials are doing something quite different.

For over a year, I have tried to bring a new perspective to the issues facing Cotati through this newspaper, exposing the corruption, the cronyism, the special interests, the waste, the doubletalk, the racism, and the reasoning behind the entire city council's feeling that Cotati truly deserves to be subsidized by the State of California and the federal government. It has really been something to behold watching it all live and it is why I think the council meetings and Planning Commission meetings should be televised. I think these meetings are extremely telling.

I have offered space in this newspaper to my detractors time and time again to no avail. Apparently, they can't risk putting their thoughts in print. Either they are cowards, intellectually deficient, or are simply trying to boycott this newspaper in hopes it will simply wither away and die a slow but sure death. By now, I thought the city council and their friends (who do most of their work behind the scenes) would have been regular contributors to this newspaper, but now we know why. They want the state government to shut this newspaper down anyway possible by apparently persuading John Moore of Cotati to file outrageous complaints that this newspaper is purely a political tool and nothing more in violation of state campaign disclosure laws. These are bogus charges with no case law to support the charges whatsoever. I have never seen a close group of political hacks make a bigger political error than to try to shut down a newspaper and violate my free speech rights. I never thought even the far left in Cotati would be so twisted to think such a thing even remotely possible. But apparently, this is why council members and their campaign contributors have chosen to boycott this newspaper and want to see its writers prosecuted.

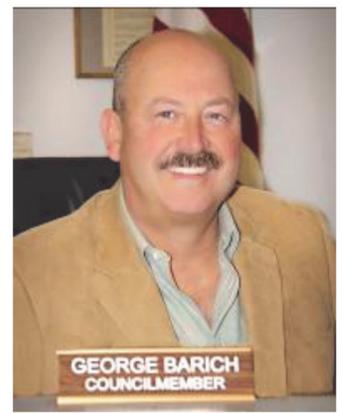
At a recent council meeting, Councilman Mark Landman made a baseless charge that this newspaper is nothing more than a TEA Party newspaper, outraging some citizens in the room who stood up in its defense. This newspaper has survived attempts to have it torn up in the news racks, survived direct threats upon its advertisers, and survived demands to retail stores like Oliver's Market to have this newspaper removed from the eyes of their customers inside the store. That's a fact.

Through all the trials and tribulations of starting a modest, little, monthly newspaper, The Cotati Independent has survived and continues to gain respect in the community. The writers of this newspaper, its readers, and its advertisers, are committed to promoting free speech, healthy debate, sharing ideas, denouncing racism, and much, much more. Even our local Fire Chief Frank Treanor has embraced this newspaper to inform the public what it needs to know about fire safety and the fire department's financial challenges. Cotati's police chief Michael Parish, on the other hand, gets paid five times what our fire chief makes and has decided to turn down our offer to provide him ample space in this newspaper, free of charge, to inform the community of the state of our public safety department. How do we reconcile these two men? The answer is easy, our fire chief answers to a Board of Directors who see the value of bringing the voice of the fire district to the people through a newspaper like this. Our police chief, conversely, is being told what to do and how to do it by a city manager half his size, who has little or no credentials, is someone who leads our city council around by the nose, and has even banned this newspaper from being displayed inside City Hall. Every time we bring a stack of free newspapers into City Hall for public consumption, within an hour, they are all gone; they disappear. This can only happen under the orders of a city manager and is a local disgrace. City manager Diane Thompson could protect this newspaper if she wanted to, but she refuses to because it reports the truth that she doesn't want the community to read.

Enough is enough. I say VOTE for the candidate(s) who you believe will put our town back on track to fiscal sanity and responsible leadership. People like Pru Draper of Cotati's Historical Society believe that Cotati's greatness will be achieved by becoming more subsidized by the federal government and this will help prevent Rohnert Park and Cotati from ultimately merging together as one town to cut costs. Draper couldn't be more wrong. More city debt, more borrowing, more bailouts for Cotati, more lame excuses are not the answer; they are the problem.

City Hall should not be spending money it can't afford to waste on things the city doesn't absolutely need. This is not the time to be narrowing the busiest streets in town and installing single lane roundabouts that are a complete waste of precious tax dollars. It's not free money. Pedestrians need cars to stop completely for them, and roundabouts only urge cars to keep moving, especially during peak traffic hours with a line of cars behind them.

If it is not broken, don't fix it. That is one reason Measure U was put on the ballot: to keep our streets wide and keep traffic moving. As publisher of this newspaper, I urge a YES vote on Measure U. There is nothing wrong with the current highway design on Old Red', just a lack of street striping and traditional traffic calming measures the city is too stubborn to consider or implement. So, what is pushing my opponents into such an unpopular plan to constrict traffic and force more traffic into the neighborhoods? Why are they trying to fix something that is not broken? Because my opponents in this council race never saw a tax dollar they could not resist spending, and this is surely the case with this new street redesign which could be subsidized by the federal government if President Obama is re-elected and the Congress does not pull back the funds for such city beautification projects.



Former Cotati City Councilman George Barich

"Just My Two Cents"

We should not be spending tax dollars on anything the town does not absolutely need, especially tax dollars that the federal government will need to borrow before sending to Cotati, debt which will be placed squarely on the backs of our children and future generations. If there was ever a time in the history of Cotati to be frugal and responsible with our precious and limited tax dollars, it's now. It's now or never, folks. It's time to be part of the problem or part of the solution. Cotati can show some leadership or cave into special interests and the construction firms that are salivating at the chance of being awarded these long term construction contracts with Cotati that will likely go over budget with cost overruns.

We can move our town over a fiscal cliff as the current city council and my opponents suggest, or move our town towards fiscal constraint and fiscal responsibility. It is time for Cotati to do the right thing and send the grant money back to Washington DC and put it to better use somewhere else, like the public schools, healthcare, public safety, or reducing the national debt. If not us, who?



The people of Cotati are being heard loud and clear these days. They are not buying what the Press Democrat and The Community Voice are selling: more bought and sold politicians, more government intervention in our daily lives, spending money we don't have or can't afford to pay back, more cronyism and corruption at City Hall, more lying down to special interests, and less transparency in our city government. Cotati citizens are telling me they want their schools better funded, the city streets repaired, the city park bathrooms cleaned and open for "business", and more honest hardworking police officers on patrol to stop the increase in crime we are witnessing in our community.

The city council is caught in a mindset that they must control more and more of our lives and can't break out of it. They just can't break the cycle of dependency on bailouts, defeatism, and complacency. The No on Measure U proponents are simply lying to the community to cover their tracks. The Main Street Village Plan which will narrow the busiest street in town is nothing more than a cruel hoax, backed by big money and subsidized by your tax dollars. Look for yourself and read the city flyer in your recent water bill that you paid for.

This election is not about George Barich at all, but about the future of Cotati, protecting our small town charm, getting our fiscal house back in order, OR throwing caution to the wind and risking it all on transforming our little town into rows of four-story buildings mandated by the Downtown Specific Plan, a poorly designed plan to turn our town into a pedestrian mall, where bicycles, motor scooters, rickshaws, skateboards, and golf carts will be the only vehicles that can traverse safely through town. Motor homes, travel trailers, big rigs, buses, horse trailers and more will be unable to navigate through a series of roundabouts and will be forced to take other routes around Cotati. It's dumb, dangerous, and will backfire on us if fully implemented.

We can either go forward and fix what is broken or in need of a simple facelift, or ignore the inevitable: frustration, anger, long wait times sitting in traffic as the traffic backs up over the slightest traffic snafu. Everything is on the line right now in Cotati. We are at a crossroad, forward off a cliff with this city council, or put the brakes on a runaway city council who have clearly thwarted the will of the people of this town and are determined to do anything, even lie, to ensure their plan to impose their will on the electorate by spending thousands of dollars to drive home their message. Look at the fancy No on U pieces in your mailbox. Who is backing this plan and funding this campaign? Where are they getting all this money, through the back door of the big construction companies in the county? The city council is in a box and can't break out, blinded by their own egos, unable to see the handwriting on the wall, unwilling to admit they made a terrible mistake. Mark Landman is leading the roundabout campaign, still strong arming local merchants to support expensive roundabouts because he has no skin in this election. They should all be ashamed of themselves. Not one member of the city council has lifted a finger to make their case to this newspaper why Measure U is bad for Cotati. Why? Because they are afraid of being challenged or being exposed. They are afraid of healthy debate. They are terrified of real transparency. They can't deal with a newspaper that could care less about turning a profit. Our city leaders are being led around by the nose by a city manager who has no formal training in government or public administration.

The city council are simply promoting an ideology which has little public support. "Spend Baby, Spend!" Even with the citizens giving them an earful about this silly roundabout plan, they are committed to cramming this project down our throats if it is the last thing they do. You have three votes for city council, use them wisely.



Cotati's Last Second Chance

By Eric Kirchmann
Cotati

Apparently, I need to make things that should be obvious crystal clear to all. So let me make it clear this piece of writing is my opinion. I am not paid for it; I don't trade for it, or expect profit or gain from it. I am reporting some things that happened, but I am not a reporter and this article may or may not be journalism on the level of the PD, Community Voice, Clarion or assuredly the award winning Paramount newspaper.

I have some major differences with the editor(s), publisher(s) and other contributors. We are not working in conjunction or on an agenda, and I do not agree with all they believe, or say, or write. I do support the right to freedom of thought and expression. I do not know what other articles will appear in the issue you are now reading. I do not have access to anything but my keyboard and what I submit. I only know that it will be coming out shortly before the election and after the baseball playoffs. The term "bashing" applies to both baseball and elections, it probably is not appropriate or productive in either, but it seems very popular locally. It also would appear that baseball is a little easier to understand, during and after the game is played, and at the close of the season.

I am going to shift perspective slightly and share some words of Pru Draper which appeared on page 17 of the 2011 Cotati Chamber of Commerce Community Guide and Business Directory. I cite the author and the source because that is what one should do and the fact finders can locate the material as needed. I print it here as no copyright is listed and I am only taking excerpts from the larger work in my review. Since I am taking small pieces in my analysis some meaning may be lost or taken out of context. This happens and is not intentional any more than it would be in say politics...

"In 1915, the Plaza took a drastic change when the state opted to run the Petaluma-Santa Rosa Highway", (Old Redwood Highway???)...." through the middle of Cotati. Local merchants were pleased to have more traffic coming through town to generate business. Garages, auto dealers, and restaurants appeared among the farm supply and general stores that made up Cotati's business district."...

"In the 1920's, the Cotati Volunteer Fire Department was formed...." The article goes on to give an insightful narrative in summary of Cotati's development and interest in independence as a city and for individual citizens. It skips over roadhouses and motor inns and how people used to spend the night or longer vacationing in and around Cotati. It does not talk about newspapers, or property development, or Nokia, or Lucky's Supermarket... There is a rich history that can't be captured fully in a few pages, and the then Mayor (Orchard's) Message on page 3 alludes to that, and the deep rooted history we hold in Cotati. It is worth reading and getting behind the Chamber President Andre Morrow's message on page 5 of the Business Directory when he states: "The times require that we come together and work on projects that we can get behind. We can create a happier community, a beacon on a hill, an example of what happens when you inject positively into the equation."

My fellow citizens of Cotati, we are facing very divisive times, and the issue is not so much about roundabouts as it is about run-a-rounds or even end runs. We are the smallest city in Sonoma County, yet we do not have the smallest city staff and certainly not the lowest salaries. Less than five percent of that staff chooses to live in the city that pays their salaries. So much for riding a bike to work or going into town for shopping opportunities, So much for community pride or loyalty. City staff and even former council members move out and beyond Cotati. There has been a great deal of talk during city council meetings about "outsiders". Well folks, the outsiders are sitting in city chairs along the side of the room commanding large salaries and doodling on city provided technology, smiling on their way home to other communities.

When we talk about safety we have only one mechanized lit blinking light crosswalk and it is not downtown, it is not even near shopping. The "traffic calming measures" planned by the often suddenly departing city staff are scarred from cars running over them, and yes pedestrians have been hit and injured as well. More injuries, more accidents, more litigation, and less calm.

Oliver's Market, one of our largest employers planned to spend tens of millions of their own dollars to develop retail commercial property in the Northern Gateway, in our Cotati. That is no longer their plan... Why? Or more to the point, Why NOT?! Is there a need to change our present traffic flow pattern in the Northern Gateway at this point? Are there pending projects and development? Are funds in place to complete all aspects of this project? Is there approved development with signed tenants? Are we projecting, hoping or speculating? There is a shopping center presently at the corner of Williams Street and Old Redwood Highway, one of the proposed roundabout locations.... folks the place is empty and we wish to develop more? The Northern Gateway was Paul Marangella's dream when he was City Manager in the 1990s. That was a long time ago and the area is not empty because of a lack of signals or roundabouts. Take a look at things now folks and realize saving money can be a matter of staying at home rather than spending a great deal at Costco (you know next door in Rohnert Park, north of our gates where traffic flows on multiple lanes.) Some of us do shop locally and do not save trunk loads of money buying impulse items that are scrutinized in Mother Jones' liberal pages. When the city talks about saving millions it is not using the same perspective as our choosing between going to True Value or Lowe's....

Business is not coming to Cotati, business is not staying in Cotati. A standalone Lowe's home improvement store is not a shopping center and the property is for sale. There is plenty of "opportunity" all over Cotati built and ready to develop, but it is not the roads that are keeping business from settling here.

The issue is not roundabouts, but it is queer that there appears an Impartial Analysis by the City Attorney as well as a projected "Potential" costs and impacts generated by the City Treasurer. I guess both of these city paid employees wrote these statements on their own, perhaps on their own time, or perhaps they were directed to do so, and were paid for their time, and for their impartial statements and projections. The statements I received last night in a political advertisement use these projections and the arguments against Measure U do not cite sources or data to support the statements.

There are emotional pleas. The ballot initiative is brought by citizens signing petitions in favor of the measure, not one lone citizen. This is what brought rent control to Cotati before the Council feared a lawsuit and subverted the people's initiative and Cotati became the only city in California to overturn the protections in place and later worried about seniors being displaced... after thoughts and actions based on fears of what might happen, uh projections. The material is borrowed but not substantiated: Loss of Taxpayer funds 3.7million, injuries increased by 80% all collisions increased by 51% new unnecessary traffic lights making our commute even longer... This is emotional stuff ; it creates fear. This advertisement reads just like the argument against the people's initiative which is signed by only one Cotati resident who happens to live next door to a standing Cotati City Council Member. The remaining four do not live in Cotati. Coincidentally the person signing the argument for the measure is a former city council member and lives next door to another former council member as well. It matters little, but the facts and figures are unclear as presented in the arguments and ads and seem to be projections and the basis for sales promotions more than thoughtful clear impartial analysis.

I could of course be ill informed and completely wrong, but the Downtown Specific Plan, which cost over a million dollars to create and approve, determined that what we have right now on Old Redwood Highway, two lanes going north south with existing signals, is satisfactory for present and projected traffic flow. The projected flow of traffic is 3400 cars passing. The close to half a million dollars spent on traffic consultants to sell reduction of two lanes each way to one lane North one lane south going through two signals and two roundabouts sets traffic flow at 2500 at present and 2600 in the peak projection. Do these numbers add up, did I make them up? How did Oliver's traffic engineers come up with numbers different than the City? How can it be that Oliver's traffic studies differ from the City's projections? One who was responsible for the lanes being expanded in the Northern Gateway in the first place? Who approved this? What study was used? Who paid for it? Was it a fear of traffic from Hewlett Packard's eight building campus? (Uh, that was a projection the campus had three buildings at its peak before closing entirely). The lanes were expanded perhaps for the same reason that lanes have been added to Highway 101. I have to believe there are reasons for such expansion or adding lanes. There is a cost for moving all the signals on Old Redwood Highway and Redwood Drive, for raising the underpass etc. These costs are not listed nor is the concept of adding lanes explored in terms of our freeway versus our highway. At present there is still one lane going south off 116 into Cotati the same as it has been since 101 was built to replace Old Redwood Highway.

I have said it before and I will say it again and apologize for bringing the memory of real loss up beyond the nebulous nature of projections, but here goes: Where we need a signal and or a roundabout is at Madrone Avenue and Highway 116. Two people have lost their lives there. A cyclist is blind and paralyzed as a result of a hit and run. This is not projection; this is reality. Has the Chair of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority been contacted by our representatives? Is this important to our Council and their associates? Thomas Page Elementary School is on Madrone Avenue and this is a serious safety issue.

I have only lived in Cotati for over 33 years, less than many, more than every present Council Member, and far longer than all city staff. In that time many things have been built and changed and acquired by the City of Cotati. The intersection in the center of our city at Old Redwood Highway and East Cotati Ave and West Sierra once was controlled by stop signs. It was changed to a signal despite traffic consultants acknowledging that stop signs are safer than traffic lights, despite a plea from citizens for a roundabout. Am I making this up or can anyone explain why we do not have a roundabout in the center of our city?

Some of you may have experienced being detoured to parts of La Plaza, a six sided sort of hexagon traffic circle. As you drive past signs stating "Business open during construction", you may be diverted to La Plaza, it is sort of like what happens during the Cotati Accordion Festival. I bring this up so you get the idea of what traffic might be like in the projected future. Years ago people used to use the design and take the easiest path to their destination. That was before Arthur Street was blocked off to through traffic. Eve O'Rourke, a liberal former Cotati mayor and councilperson along with friends and neighbors physically blocked the road and added more and more rubble until the city gave up and made the street closure permanent. What reasons were given for the closure by the Arthur Street residents and later the city? Safety? Traffic Flow? What use to happen is that drivers would turn right on E. Cotati Ave and go down Arthur St. and not always stop at George Street and then go right again to go north at the proposed new roundabout. Drivers do a version of this at Charles Street at both ends not always stopping before turning, which is why many roundabouts are indicated for smooth traffic flow. The issue is that roads have been blocked due to diverted traffic flow in residential areas. It happened at Arthur Street. It remains closed due to "safety" concerns. The roundabout experiment on Myr-

tle Street went away... Why? I am not against roundabouts, I am against a pattern of planning that involves ongoing do-overs and tear-aparts, city councils that approve signals and then damn them, councils that approve traffic calming or create it themselves on their streets but then deny it on other streets. Folks, we have had roundabouts and they were removed. Dare we ask, and in fact demand, why this happened? Why was Arthur Street closed, and by what reason did the City spend taxpayer dollars to maintain that closure? Why was a signal light installed in the center of our city when a roundabout was proposed and voted down by the Council? If the statistics listed in the arguments and rebuttals are correct, why doesn't the state create more roundabouts, and shouldn't our representatives demand one at Madrone Avenue where actual fatalities have occurred rather than projections?

The issue is not traffic flow. The issue is business, and people are not buying the runaround. Business has left Cotati and the opportunity is not being grabbed as the city council claims someone will come along and be anxious for the chance. Oliver's chose not to move forward, and they have their reasons which I will not project upon. But I have to believe that "dealing with the City" had some influence on their decision to abandon their business plan and absorb the costs of their initial expansion and studies and focus on other communities but not expand their flagship store.

Development is at a standstill. Businesses have left. Redwood Reliance is gone, Backdoor is gone, two gas stations have gone. In 1915, bringing a highway to Cotati meant growth and expansion, now that highway is being reduced and funneled, and Cotati is a pass-through town that people pass through on their way to somewhere else, a turnstile on the way to something else. Cotati has council members who flip flop and are more interested in outside endorsements than a legacy of success for citizens. I was told that a train would not pass through Cotati in one council member's lifetime... I believe he is still living. but not in Cotati. Like so many, he has moved on, too.

It seems we are building a Northern Gateway road whether there is funding or not, whether there is business or not, whether there is reason or not. We cannot build or even widen the turn on Madrone from 116, and we live with out of town consultants whose figures clash and whose projections are just that. We add lanes, we take them away, we hide parking, we cut down trees, we talk about a better day in the future. It seems like maybe we are ignoring history, not doing our chores, or our work, and are taking the easy path until someone roadblocks us.

By all means, vote for the candidates that represent you and know that they know it is a "three vote world". I hope to see Carl's Car Sales sometime in the future on Old Red' as Carl has always done what he can for the citizens of Cotati. He has invested in Cotati, served in many capacities, and volunteered. You shouldn't mess with Santa Claus. That said, he has put in sidewalks at his own expense, added trees as the city directed, removed the same full grown trees when the city decided they didn't like the trees, and now waits to resume what he used his lot for, for years and which his neighbor did as well; before the shopping center cut down trees and paved, and now stands at 40% occupancy...In 1915 people sold cars. Now the city has reversed their laws on selling cars on the street and three car sit parked for sale for weeks on George Street where the new roundabouts will be. Those cars sell from time to time, and no doubt taxes are paid to Cotati...

Carl has been working for years to satisfy the City and sell a few cars or more to the point allow others to sell cars on his lot. When the candidates take down their signs from his property, perhaps they should consider allowing business to take place in Cotati. Perhaps they should allow business to do business instead of projecting what they should do. They might ask: "What can we do to help you start and succeed in business?" This would be a positive step in the equation rather than explain that the roadblocks are really for their own good.

There is plenty of opportunity in Cotati. I spend far too much time going to a lake in the High Sierras, the last hour of which is on a winding two lane road which oddly opens up to two lane roads in each direction with signals... The last thing I pass as I leave California is the projected great Chateau Project funded by redevelopment funds that was going to be a convention center and a great boon for the local community. It is a blighted eyesore as all that was built was the ground floor and it lies as testament to projections and plans that do not blossom or fit the needs of people or the equation. I have heard that there are roundabouts over in Truckee, CA but I have not gotten over there yet to see them...one of these days. I hope Cotati does not keep reminding me of the last days in the movie "Chinatown", I hope things change.



Desperation Politics Could Backfire on Moore

(From Page One)

Barich has responded to the alleged complaint by saying, "I have received no copy of any complaint by anyone." The fact is, this newspaper was established in August 2011 and began publishing input from the entire community, and has been doing so every month ever since proving it is a legitimate newspaper protected by law... I think Moore could have been put up to this by the power brokers in town who are simply desperate to silence me and my supporters once and for all.

First, my opponents boycotted the newspaper by scoffing at it. Then they failed to contribute their own thoughts to the newspaper and failed to refute its contents. Then they said nothing about a woman ripping up our newspapers in the news stands for three months straight and appeared amused by her illegal acts. Now, as a last resort they are trying to destroy the newspaper any way possible."

Barich went on to say that he warned the city council that if they supported single-lane roundabouts on busy streets (subsidized by the federal government), they would literally launch Barich back onto the city council by angry citizens who have simply had enough.

Even though this newspaper has made numerous attempts to allow John Moore and his political cronies to speak their mind in this newspaper, Moore and his comrades on the city council have chosen instead to boycott it for over a year. Barich says this is a huge missed opportunity for Moore and my opponents in this race who continue to want to keep Cotati citizens in the dark and out of the way of their agenda to transform the town with federal tax dollars.

Furthermore, it appears this complaint to the FPPC is just more sour grapes. Moore knows he is not physically or mentally stable enough to take on the responsibilities of a leadership position on the council. Others agree and urged John not to run for council at this time.

Moore has thus chosen to risk the reputation of himself and his family to embark on another unsuccessful campaign of revenge. In years past, Moore has even stooped so low as to bring his own small children into a city council meeting and lead them up to the microphone to explain how they would like to see George Barich's views and opinions silenced once and for all asking the city council to take legal action against Barich's own personal website. The public spectacle was really troubling and something to behold. The city council failed to respond to the children's plea.

Barich says John Moore and his co-conspirators, if any, must be brought to justice for filing a false, malicious, frivolous, warrantless complaint for purely political purposes. He goes on to say, "To use the FPPC as a weapon for pure political gain is actionable in a court of law, and I am considering taking legal action against Moore in Sonoma County Superior Court. Barich claims John Moore has become more than just a political operative of the far left in Cotati doing the dirty work for his opponents but has become a local menace who hasn't bothered to show up and stay awake for a city council meeting in years. Furthermore, Moore works behind the scenes for his friends delivering political hit pieces door to door against candidates he opposes and Barich has actually seen Moore in action on the street.

In a scathing letter to The Community Voice, former Cotati city councilwoman Patty Minnis blasted John Moore for his most recent antics as "dirty politics".

Greg Karraker, a reporter for this newspaper added, "In 1948, as legend goes, Lyndon Johnson was slipping badly behind in a race for Congress. He turned to his campaign manager and said, "I want you to start a rumor that my opponent has sex with his pigs." His campaign manager was shocked. "You can't say that... it's not true." Johnson was probably the first politician who really understood the role the media play in elections, and his answer has defined modern politics. Johnson told his campaign manager, "Just let the *** of a ***** deny it."

Karraker also asks, "What does any of this have to do with the November 6th election in Cotati? If you read the headline on The Community Voice dated October 12, 2012, you'll see a headline that reads "Barich Faces FPPC Complaint". This is blatantly untrue. There is a world of difference between facing a complaint BY the FPPC, and being harassed by a citizen complaint TO the FPPC. When I called the FPPC for clarification on this issue on October 22nd, ten full days after the Community Voice article, I was informed that the FPPC had not even OPENED the complaint yet."

The Community Voice had no official document(s) from the FPPC regarding whether the FPPC was going to take action on this complaint or completely dismiss it. So their headline had zero basis in fact.

The question of what is and what is not a campaign expense or donation becomes even more complicated when some people like Moore might argue that a candidate being interviewed on a radio program to discuss politics should be claimed as a campaign donation. Or, if a candidate discusses politics at one of the local bars in Cotati, if he must declare the cost of the beverages he purchases for himself or others. Basically there is no limit to how far some people will argue that everything a candidate does or says during election season is a political and should be claimed on a state form and regulated by Big Brother.

Some call political campaign season, "Silly Season", but there is nothing silly about dirty politics. Desperate people do desperate things. The question people in Cotati are now asking is:

Has John Moore Hit Rock Bottom?

Cheered on by people like Joan Simon and Ed Patterson of Cotati, the answer could be, yes. Has Moore duped the Community Voice reporter/columnist Jud Snyder into becoming another stooge of the far left in Cotati? Let's examine that question more closely.

Newspapers are a lot like people. They have many differences, but usually decent people and decent newspapers follow a code of conduct based on high standards for honesty and fair play. For a newspaper editor, protecting and respecting free speech and more importantly the freedom to speak one's opinion should be one of the most cherished

and respected Constitutional rights. But for some baffling reason, Jud Snyder has consciously chosen to become a party to Mr. Moore's attempts to silence this newspaper, or discredit it for the first time ever, and we can't figure out why.

Competition is good for business, even between small local newspapers. But some people just don't like their turf being challenged. It is interesting that since the very first edition of The Cotati Independent, the Community Voice has never welcomed the Cotati Independent to the journalism community, never written a story about the new Cotati newspaper, never tried to cross advertise with the C.I., never followed up on C.I. stories, never questioned C.I. journalistic ethics until now. Reasonable minds want to know what took them so long to attack their friendly competitor?

We at the Cotati Independent simply can't believe John Moore uncovered something juicy that got past all of the seasoned journalists at the Community Voice. How is that possible? The C.I. has been writing about hot local political topics for over a year. The Community Voice couldn't be threatened by hard-hitting journalism by its competitor, could they? Even on a slow news day, a headline story based on one man walking into your office with a complaint to a state agency with no proof that it has been legally filed cries out for further investigation before going to print.

Wouldn't any real journalist first make a phone call to the FPPC and see if the citizen complaint had even been received by the state agency? What was the rush here, to destroy a candidate who doesn't lay down and swear allegiance to the Democratic Party? Is there any oversight at the Community Voice anymore? Maybe objectivity has no place anymore in journalism in an age where you really don't know how much longer your newspaper is going to be in business.

Is the need to scoop the story from the Press Democrat so strong that seasoned reporters need to bypass the most basic steps in fact checking? Knowing John Moore as most people do, shouldn't Jud Snyder have asked Moore to blow into a breathalyzer before even talking to the man? Shouldn't Snyder have asked Moore, did anyone put you up to this? Are you getting paid anything for this, Mr. Moore? Did you file complaints against any of the other candidates for interviews they did on the radio and TV that they failed to declare with the FPPC as a contribution?

Why didn't Moore name other people in his complaint who wrote letters to the editor praising Barich, or arguing against traffic roundabouts? Why wasn't Tony Adler named in Moore's complaint who has advocated more socialism in our lives? Why weren't the chickens that were evicted from the FrogSong cohousing community named in this complaint? Because this is all about politics, nothing more, nothing less.

When bonafide newspapers, protected by the Constitution, are targeted for simply criticizing local government, the system has collapsed. When someone prints something good about a candidate, and the fair market value for that printing becomes a campaign contribution, regulated by the State, we are entering dangerous territory. When newspaper publishers who become candidates for local office cannot speak freely in print, the First Amendment has been crushed.

The fact is, the grip on Cotati is finally being challenged. The far left in Cotati rarely attends city meetings anymore. They appear to be running for cover, and in crisis mode. What these people don't seem to understand is that moderates, independents, and conservatives need to have some hope and change too, hope that this country can wake up and stop the madness before it becomes too late to do a darn thing about it. It's quite a shame that as Cotati approaches its 50th birthday, the town is essentially broke, its reserves are dried up, and the community is divided on whether or not the town should be transformed into the vision of a few.

No Candidate Night Invitational In Cotati for 2012

(From Page One)

Some suspect the CCC simply did not want to host the event fearing the incumbent candidates would not show well and might face a hostile crowd posing questions about the proposed roundabout plan on Old Red'. Others we canvassed suspect that because few members of the public ever show up to these "debates" it was simply not worth all the trouble and expense. The only people who usually show up to these "candidate nights" are the family members of the candidates, city staff members who live out of town, and members of the CCC, many of whom don't live or vote in Cotati.

During one of these debates as a candidate some years ago, I looked at all the people in the room, about 30, and felt there was not a single mind in the room that had not already been made up in advance. So, I felt it was a complete waste of time and energy to participate, but I couldn't resist the fun of challenging my opponents to defend their records or expose their lack of experience.

Longtime Cotati resident Tony Adler recently gave me a copy of a video he recorded of the Candidate Night in the year 2000. It clearly showed John Moore of Cotati coming up to Mr. Adler and demanding Adler turn off the video camera claiming that the public did not have the right to videotape the event. It is one of the most hilarious videos I have seen of Moore in action, and I urged Tony Adler to post the video on YouTube.

Moore was completely irresponsible for attempting to remove video cameras from a public debate between the candidates with members of the press in the room who witness the argument between Adler and Moore that ensued. But to John Moore, bullying, and stifling transparency is just how the man rolls.

Will Candidate Night in Cotati ever return? Will the Cotati city council determine that the event is important enough to support? It will take bold new leadership to insure such an evening is not passed over for political expediency.

Single-lane Roundabouts Frustrate Southern California Fire Department

(From Page One)

According to Captain Bilz, before La Jolla Blvd. was narrowed to one lane each way, with five closely spaced roundabouts, emergency vehicles from Station 13 were always first or second to arrive at emergencies in the neighboring community of Pacific Beach, and "sometimes, a close third."

Since the single-lane roundabouts have been in place, Captain Bilz said that their response times have dropped to "dead last on first alarm assignments."

Captain Bilz further stated that the single-lane plan, with parallel parking, leaves his equipment no way to get around stopped or stalled traffic, but they are forced to wait for motorists to figure out what is needed, and drive all the way through the roundabouts, clearing the way for his vehicles.



I also spoke with a member of our own Rancho Adobe Fire District who is opposed to roundabouts. According to this firefighter, who asked to remain anonymous, years ago, RAFD and the city tested the concept of roundabouts at the intersection of Old Red and East Cotati Avenue.

They placed a series of traffic cones in a circle, simulating a roundabout, and had a few motorists drive through with a fire engine following behind. All went smoothly the first time around.

On the second try, the driver of the fire engine turned on his lights and siren. What happened to the motorist in front of him? *She panicked, hit the brakes, and stopped dead, afraid to move.*

In a real life situation, this would have created an impassable obstacle for the emergency responders, and caused a delay that could have led to greater fire damages, or even loss of life due to slow response.

Is that what you want in your town?

Cotati City Staff Salaries and Benefits Hit New Highs

By Greg Karraker

Several months ago, The Cotati Independent ran a story about the compensation packages of Cotati city staff, which many readers were shocked to see. Among other items, we reported that Cotati City Princess Dianne Thompson is paid \$192,000 in salary and perks.

Unfortunately, that was last year's budget. From the city's website, here are the 2012-13 salary and benefits figures for the city staff you pay with your tax money, and whose packages are approved by the city council you voted for:

City Manager Dianne Thompson: \$213,577, plus a leased Toyota Prius at \$9,000/year to go back and forth to work.

Police Chief Michael Parish: \$237,620

Director of Administrative Services Jone Hayes: \$168,612

Director of Public Works Damien O' Bid: \$176, 563

Director of Community Development Vicki Parker: \$137,767

Deputy City Clerk Tami Taylor: \$104,894

Note: No exact compensation figures are available for newly hired Assistant City Manager Micah Hinkle, but his compensation is at least \$100,000/year. We sincerely hope he earns it.

Cotati Follies

I don't make jokes; I just watch the government and report the facts. - Will Rogers

Pru Draper of Cotati is backing the No on Measure U campaign which supports small roundabouts and narrowing the city streets by contributing her money to defeat Measure U. She is also going so far as to tell some people in Cotati that if you vote for George Barich for city



council, she will throw eggs at you. Eggs? Really Pru? Surely you jest. We've heard of subtle arm twisting when it comes to politics before, but in Cotati some people just take their politics a little too seriously. Maybe it's the fact that the Downtown Specific Plan would eventually force the city to purchase Draper's commercial property downtown at a premium price?

I submit, would it really shatter the egos on the city council to engage in a little healthy debate once in a while? Would it be so bad to have a dissenting vote on the council? Is it really lady-like to go around threatening to throw eggs at anyone for any reason?

Pru may not be serious about throwing eggs, but the hint of intimidation and hardball politics is crystal clear, and some people just don't appreciate it and see it as in bad taste. It's this "my way or the highway" bullying that is at least one reason Cotati is on a collision course with merging with Rohnert Park because Cotati has no current city leaders taking the city's problems seriously, no city leaders that have any business sense whatsoever, and city leaders that keep kicking the can down the road.....



The sign above can be seen hanging high over the dumpsters at Veterans' Park in Cotati and has been in place for years. The problem is there are no video cameras recording anything at this site. For those who think the city always tells the truth, go down to Veterans' Park and see for yourself. Furniture is dumped illegally onto this site every week. I would like to know if anyone has ever been



cited and fined for illegally dumping furniture or garbage at this park. If anyone knows of any convictions, please let us know with a letter or email to the editor.....

Ever wonder how some organizations get to place signs in the city parks? How does this work? From the Exotic Erotic Ball signs in town, to Fall Ball signs,



everyone apparently is having a ball hanging signs in Cotati. Many of us can't wait for all this to be over which appears to be wishful thinking.....



Talking about signs, here is some great advice for bicyclists wishing to get home in one piece. I guess some bicyclists still need to be educated as to the basic rules of the road.....

The Cotati Police Department recently recruited two fine reserve officers that the town desperately needs. As soon as Chief Parish submits a press release to this newspaper, we will be proud to publish it for the community. Throw us a bone, Chief. This is a free newspaper and we need your public relations person to start doing his/her job and providing press releases. Boycotting newspapers hurts everyone.



Email works just fine.....



Beauty must be in the eye of the beholder. here Maybe this is just a nice way of saying we can't afford the water. Think about it. Sonoma County exports millions of gallons of water to Marin County every month.

No, your car is not getting bigger; cities are just requiring the parking spaces be smaller to force us into smaller vehicles.



Pretty soon, only golf carts will be able to fit in these new parking spots.....



How would you like to live next to a junk pile like this for 15 years? Above is a recent photo of the front yard of one of our city's Design Review Committee members, Chris Davis who resides at 160 West Cotati Oaks Court. These are the people who are in charge of making decisions about what is beautiful and what is not when it comes to permits submitted to the city. I think a requirement to being on the Cotati Design Review Committee should be that the city council go out and inspect the front yards of these commissioner's homes to see if they are in compliance with the law before allowing them to make rulings on other people's properties. I know that makes just too much sense.



She's back. Linel Hardy of the 2006 money laundering case in Cotati showed up to the October 10th city council meeting, but has yet to break her silence on her 2010 conviction by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

ABBOTT and COSTELLO Discuss UNEMPLOYMENT

COSTELLO: I want to talk about the unemployment rate in America.
ABBOTT: Good Subject. Terrible Times. It's 7.8%.
COSTELLO: That many people are out of work?
ABBOTT: No, that's 14.7%.
COSTELLO: You just said 7.8%.
ABBOTT: 7.8% Unemployed.
COSTELLO: Right 7.8% out of work.
ABBOTT: No, that's 14.7%.
COSTELLO: Okay, so it's 14.7% unemployed.
ABBOTT: No, that's 7.8%.
COSTELLO: WAIT A MINUTE. Is it 7.8% or 14.7%?
ABBOTT: 7.8% are unemployed. 14.7% are out of work.
COSTELLO: IF you are out of work you are unemployed.
ABBOTT: No, Obama said you can't count the "Out of Work" as the unemployed. You have to look for work to be unemployed.
COSTELLO: BUT THEY ARE OUT OF WORK!!!
ABBOTT: No, you miss his point.
COSTELLO: What point?
ABBOTT: Someone who doesn't look for work can't be counted with those who look for work. It wouldn't be fair.
COSTELLO: To whom?
ABBOTT: The unemployed.
COSTELLO: But they are ALL out of work.
ABBOTT: No, the unemployed are actively looking for work. Those who are out of work gave up looking and if you give up, you are no longer in the ranks of the unemployed.
COSTELLO: So if you're off the unemployment roles that would count as less unemployment?
ABBOTT: Unemployment would go down. Absolutely!
COSTELLO: The unemployment just goes down because you don't look for work?
ABBOTT: Absolutely it goes down. That's how Obama gets it to 7.8%. Otherwise it would be 14.7%. He doesn't want you to read about 14.7% unemployment.
COSTELLO: That would be tough on his reelection.
ABBOTT: Absolutely.
COSTELLO: Wait, I got a question for you. That means there are two ways to bring down the unemployment number?
ABBOTT: Two ways is correct.
COSTELLO: Unemployment can go down if someone gets a job?
ABBOTT: Correct.
COSTELLO: And unemployment can also go down if you stop looking for a job?
ABBOTT: Bingo.
COSTELLO: So there are two ways to bring unemployment down, and the easier of the two is to have Obama's supporters stop looking for work.
ABBOTT: Now you're thinking like the Obama Economy Czar.
COSTELLO: I don't even know what the hell I just said!
ABBOTT: Now you're thinking like Obama.

REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME. VOTE



Double Decker Lanes

Sunday Night Family Special
CHECK IN BETWEEN 5 & 7 p.m.

Includes:

- *2 Hours of Bowling
- *Shoe Rental
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SUBWAY



Letters to the Editor

Email: editor@thecotatiindependent.com

Dear Editor,

I love your newspaper. You do a great job letting us all know what is going on in our city. Sorry I didn't attend the last council meeting as planned. Thanks again.

Pat Maston,
Cotati,

Dear Editor,

Food giants, lead by Monsanto, Du Pont, Dow, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Dean Foods (Horizon Organics) oppose Proposition 37 and consumers' right to know whether their food is genetically modified. Their reasons? They claim a huge increase in food costs, government bureaucracy, and lawsuits. Each is a lie and each is an emotional button these monopolies hope will deceive the voter. GMO labeling has been in place in Europe since 1997 and none of these things has happened. Do we want to eat corn injected with the mutant bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* ("Bt")? It explodes the stomachs of bugs that bite the corn. Fed to rats it weakens their kidneys and liver. What does it do to us? We cannot know because these corporations won't allow independent studies, and our government relies on the corporations' own opinions about the safety of their altered seeds and the mutant plants they create. Can we trust Monsanto, et al.? They told us that DDT and Agent Orange were harmless. Is the rise in food allergies only a coincidence dating from the first release of GMOs into the market in 1996? Can we know the facts? These corporations know evasive tactics similar to those used by the tobacco industry, thanks in part to the anti-37 campaign's treasurer, Republican lawyer and former tobacco lobbyist and outside counsel to Philip Morris, Thomas Hiltachk. Why is so much money, upwards of \$37 million, devoted to defeat our rights? The answer lies in the morality of the food giants – profit over safety. We must have labeling. Vote Yes on Proposition 37.

Julia Hawkins
8635 Water Road
Cotati, CA 94931
(707) 792-5938 juliah@svn.net

Dear Editor,

MAKE CITY HALL LISTEN – VOTE YES ON U

Most people in Cotati wonder why City Hall is determined to narrow Old Red from four lanes and a turn lane down to one lane each way with two roundabouts only 600 feet apart. People also wonder why a city that can hardly maintain its own parks wants to build a landscaped 18 foot center strip where a useful street used to be.

The answer to both questions is that the city manager has a vision of turning this busy street into a cute little Downtown Disneyland where people shop and play all day while their cars are half a mile a way in a hidden garage. Of course, this fantasy can only be built with \$73 million of Federal grants, which aren't growing on trees these days.

The \$3.5 million the city says The Village Main Street Plan will cost is just the first step towards this impossible goal. And they only have a grant for \$1.1 million. How long do you think it will be before they try to raise your sales taxes again, like they did with Measure A?

There are many more reasons to vote Yes on Measure U and make the city council respect the wishes of its voters instead of indulging the whims of the city manager. To see more reasons, go to www.noroundabouts.com

Dear Editor,

Had George Barich not thrown his hat in the race for Cotati City Council, it would have been another embarrassing uncontested election in Cotati, just like in Rohnert Park, no hope, no change. Barich is to be commended for giving the people a choice, giving himself once again so unselfishly to turn this sorry ship around, rather than business as usual. Barich is the only person willing to stand up to the city's bloated debt, the cronyism, the corruption, the overspending, the dirty politics, the mismanagement in the City of Cotati, and why he has my vote.

Instead of praising Barich, The Community Voice newspaper continues to discredit Barich because he is a direct threat to runaway government and their newspaper's readership. The CV's is clearly just protecting their turf writing about Barich and making a mountain out of a mole hill. The CV wants a monopoly and people should take notice of what is going on in our community. Competition in the media is good, unless you are a Marxist, I guess.

J. Lewis

CORRECTION: LIST OF COTATI BUSINESSES THAT OPPOSE ROUNDBABOUTS:

In the October edition of this paper, we challenged the claim that the majority of Cotati businesses support the traffic-choking, one-lane roundabout plan.

We published a list of local merchants who had signed a form that said: "I am opposed to roundabouts in Cotati, and you can use my name in your website and advertising."

We accidentally published an earlier draft of the article that contained the names of three businesses who had not signed the form: Carl's Body Shop, Joel and Ron's Harmony Garage, and The Tradewinds.

We wrote each business a letter of apology, and hand-delivered an explanation to the city council, which we also read aloud at the city council meeting on October 8. This paper takes accuracy very seriously, and we hope this clarifies the record.

Below is the correct list of businesses who are opposed to roundabouts that we intended to publish:

- 8 Ball Tavern
- A Downtown Auto
- Angelina's Aesthetics
- Arch's Glass
- Backstage Service
- Cotati Jewelers
- Cotati Market
- Cotati Oaks True Value Hardware
- Cotati-Rohnert Park Physical Therapy
- Cotati Yacht Club
- Dos Amigos Restaurant
- Ferrari Salon
- Gravenstones
- Hines Signs
- Loud and Clear Music
- John Osborn, ORH Property Owner
- International Burgers and Shakes
- Miller Driving School
- Mezzetta's Deli & BBQ
- Mi Pueblo Restaurant
- Mi Ranchito Restaurant
- Masala Jack's
- Rancho Realtors
- RMS Management
- Royal Coach Car Wash
- Spa-Land

City Leaders and their friends biggest sign ordinance violators (From Page One)

Mayor Susan Harvey



Councilwoman Janet Orchard



Chamber Executive Suzanne Whipple



Councilman John Del'Osso



Former Mayor Lisa Moore



Recall Headquarters, Friar Tucks



Pick Your Plan

and Download mobile application to your smartphone or access through Call Back Service

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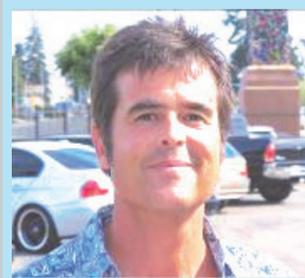


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Life 'n Liberty...Prop. 37 & 31...

By James Bennett

It's time for us "vote". We identify, pick and choose that which the process has brought before us. The "process" we employ by engaging ourselves and others is a powerful thing. It's beneficial because we expand our awareness and the political consciousness. Now, because of the pivotal crossroad we find ourselves at, our decisions could be life or death if we don't see past the B.S.. That's a fact.

Two propositions speak to how and if millions of us will live. It could be said that as a penalty of our complacency, we find ourselves staring at insanity presented to us with a straight face. Prop. 31 on the ballot IS U.N. Agenda 21 oppression containing all of its earmarks. Prop. 37 is Agenda 21 implementation as well. Giving control of our food supply to a few. It's fascist because it picks winners and losers, monopolizes. It accommodates one of The New World Orders goals which is population reduction through mass sterilization and in effect...poisoning. Hard to believe, but true.

I looked at the propositions, reconciled the often misleading information with what I've learned about the goals of The Powers That Be (TPTB), which has become easier to understand now that I've familiarized myself with UN Agenda 21 Sustainable Development/ICLEI for the past 6-8 years. That is their Plan, a plan of global control and oppression. Having a rudimentary understanding of the prevalent force in our political landscape makes reconciling the deceptive verbiage easier. It seems the Attorney General wording of the Propositions in very confusing, deceptive language; no means yes, yes means no. The very opening description of the proposals can be initially misleading. Unfortunately these times require us to forfeit the built in goodwill that we took for granted as being the very premise of our government. The fact that these propositions made it to the ballot should serve as a sobering wake up call and define our current state of affairs.

Like Prop. 37. Should corrupt multi-national corporations that make pesticides and herbicides like Monsanto be able to infiltrate, poison and engineer our food supply? Should they be able to do so without being labeled accordingly? Seems pretty obvious, huh? It's a tough one to swallow, guess that's why the likes of Monsanto, DuPont, DOW Chemical, Nestle, PepsiCo and others are spending over \$35. Billion to shove it down our throats. There is nothing good about genetically altering, modifying, actually engineering pesticide/herbicide into the genetics of an organism. Making crops resistant so more Roundup or insecticide is required. Unless of course you are a luciferian New World Order globalist corporation. Hell bent on the monopolization of that which belongs to all of us. Expensive proprietary seeds. Sabotaging farmer's ability to feed people and make a living? Poisoning the Earth, water supply, all living organisms including us?

One of the U.N./globalist goals is a significant reduction of the population, GMO foods are certainly in keeping with their dark Agenda. Originally pitched as a way to increase yield and feed people, it has proven the exact opposite. Ruining the free market, health and lives of millions of people, (India took the bait, thousands of their farmers have committed suicide) sabotaging their livelihood and way of life. Despite Monsanto's efforts to prevent study, more recent results have been conclusive. Lab rats fed their "transgenic maize" or drank water with "acceptable" (FDA definition) levels of Roundup were 600 times more likely to grow enormous tumors, get cancers, suffer organ failure or premature death. The entire world has taken notice. Approximately 50 countries have required labeling, or banned GMO completely (including Russia and

China). The cost of labeling is 2/10th of 1% of the products price, despite the propaganda. Monsanto employees and scientists won't eat GMO. They won't serve it in their cafeteria. The global elite including Bush, Clintons, Obama and Romney are obsessed with organic food. Yet Obama has filled many key FDA/USDA posts with Monsanto minions including his "food safety czar". Our health and that of ecosystems and the lives of farmers have already been greatly damaged. To say Monsanto and DOW have a bad humanitarian track record would understate their dark history. Question: If the environment was a genuine concern of our government, do you think GMO insanity would be promoted? **YES on Prop. 37, enough said.**



Prop. 31 IS UN Agenda 21 implementation. Approximately 8000 words, it seeks to amend California's Constitution and is longer than our U.S. Constitution! Although it includes warm 'n fuzzy terms coined to resonate with voters like the title "Government for Performance and Accountability" and "Transparency". This proposition includes all the earmarks of oppression including the characteristics that define a Soviet model of governance: Regionalism and the empowerment of unelected, unaccountable councils. Both of which disenfranchise the people, by design. It also incentivizes/extorts/appropriates funding based on the communities adherence to the Agenda 21 model which includes "Transit Oriented" "Human Settlements" and promotes many other tenets fundamentally opposed to our founding principals and your freedoms. "Super Councils" would grant funding to local governments that adopted "Action Plans", (which Santa Rosa has already passed) through the "Performance and Accountability Trust Fund". Another layer of bureaucracy, tasked with rewarding our oppression. The "Super Council" would supersede everything you learned in civics class. Dictating over local jurisdiction, no more 2/3rds majority vote to pass our State Budget which would stay in place 2 years instead of 1. This Proposition will formally institutionalize U.N. Agenda 21 right out of the book into our State's Government (including the "Three Es"; Equity, Economy, and Environment). Reducing our whole political dynamic to an "ISM" complete with communitarian, socialist and "collective" postulates in which a small group will determine the "greater good" for the populace. Funding for Smart Growth gulags would be in overdrive and anything pursuant to country, rural, or suburban life or services would be in reverse. Single family homes (and all private property) are the antithesis of The Plan. Regionalism is bad, look at the European Union. Socialism is bad, look at history. We stand to forfeit what freedoms, sovereignty and voice our communities might still have. People who never vote should come out of the woodwork for this one. A resounding NO on Prop. 31!

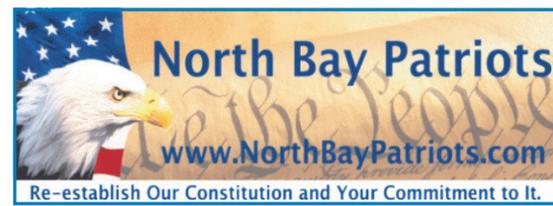
Prop. 31 and 37 in my view are by far the most important, in the interest of space I'll summarize the way citizens who

would enjoy liberty would likely vote. Get your sample ballot off the kitchen table, let's take a look:
 Prop. 30: NO. "Temporary Taxes" are never temporary. Let's not fund an Agenda 21 hijacked educational system. Look into what is/is not being taught to your kids. Learn about the "Common Core" curriculum being pushed in public schools. Google Charlotte Iserbyte's The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America. Schools are the go to button pushed when we're being worked over for more money. Besides, we could do lots 'o good with the \$100 Billion for an uncalled for High Speed Rail between L.A. & S.F..
 Prop. 32: YES. This will help neuter special interest, union, corporate contributions which are obviously out of hand.
 Prop. 33: YES. Auto insurance. Helps close a loop hole which penalized consumers for having a lapse in coverage (for whatever reason). Rewarding responsible drivers, sounds good.
 Prop. 34: A YES vote would eliminate the death penalty. Tough call. If not for corruption in our legal system, I would likely vote NO. Should a human being be able to commit the unthinkable, then should we pay \$50.K a year to house, feed and care for them? In a small number of cases, unfortunately a human might have to be put down. Much like a rabid dog, and I love dogs.
 Prop. 35: YES. This would deal human traffickers a firmer hand. More prevalent than we might think.
 Prop. 36: NO. A no vote preserves the Three Strikes Law. Much weight should be given to the caging of a human being. Many innocent people are in prison. Our prison system is a huge tax subsidized industry which our legal system feeds more than it should. However we must preserve our safety. The criminalization of cannabis is absurd, especially when viewed from an asset vs liability financial perspective and the drain on our prison system.
 Prop. 38: NO. Going to the school well again, the well is dry. Over \$100. Billion in another unaccountable bureaucracy.
 Prop. 39: NO. More taxes. More incentive for business to do business elsewhere. Creates fertile landscape for more "clean energy" boondoggles.
 Prop. 40: YES. Why fix what isn't broken. More accountability, less money spent.

On a local level, as we've covered, Cotati has a very unique opportunity having un-contaminated representation in City Hall with George Barich. The transparency that having a truthful news paper lends could be unprecedented. If we look through this little window of truth we stand to learn a lot as to why things are the way they are in Cotati and beyond.

Learn about it, think about it, talk about it...VOTE.

You can contact Jim Bennett: jamben143@yahoo.com



The Cotati Independent

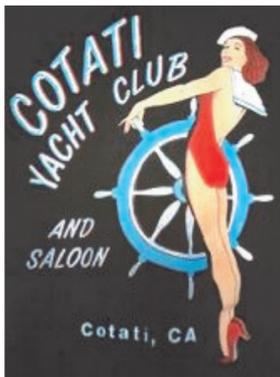
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More than two years ago, the Fair Political Practices Commission ruled that local newspapers that report the news regularly, just like The Cotati Independent, should not be fined for supporting or opposing political candidates. Read the ruling below for yourself.

In a case against the publisher of The Dixon Independent Voice newspaper and two of its regular writers, a disgruntled Dixon citizen filed a complaint with the FPPC against the newspaper, and the case was later dismissed after the election.

Any similar complaint filed against The Cotati Independent should certainly meet the same fate. John Moore owes the community an apology for filing a frivolous, harassing complaint in an attempt to sabotage this election.

