



The Cotati Independent

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Volume 2

Cotati's ONLY locally owned hometown monthly newspaper

September, 2011

City to Buy Prime Commercial Property for City Park

By George Barich

(Cotati, CA) - The economic revitalization efforts in Cotati went from bad to worse on August 10th when the City of Cotati announced its intent to purchase the large parcel of land located at 7883 Old Redwood Highway in the heart of Cotati's Commercial district from Paul Oliva and Joel Rosenblum for a cool \$1.475 million dollars.

Rather than give the State of California back millions of dollars in redevelopment funds that Cotati has been generously entrusted with to administer on behalf of the state so hopefully California can pay down the its \$26 billion dollar budget shortfall, the city plans to do something quite selfish with the state's money; build a new city park on prime commercial property with all the amenities. So much for the public schools getting any of that money.

Massive amounts of exhaust fumes and the deafening noise from thousands of passing cars normally don't go well with city parks and young kids. But hey, this is Cotati. People come here because it's a bit weird, funky, or can we say, different?

News that the purchase offer was held under wraps for months, and negotiations were conducted behind closed doors has many people in town scratching



their heads and asking, "What in the world is the city doing? Who authorized the city into negotiations without a public hearing? Where is Cotati getting the money from since they're always crying poor mouth? Why not put more cops on the street instead? How will yet another city park on a busy city street spark economic revitalization for a city full of empty storefronts and declining sales tax dollars? Why this prime piece of commercial property? This seems like a big waste of prime retail property. Why now? Is a new city park located near the freeway the best use of this land? Why wasn't there a public hearing or workshop? Don't the citizen's opinions matter anymore?"

There was a time when Cotati zoned certain properties "commercial" to insist that these properties be developed in a way to create jobs, generate profits, and bring in desperately needed tax dollars to the city, the state, and our hugely indebted federal government. I know that must sound so 19th century.

Cotati's City Manager, Dianne Thompson, and the five city council members who sign her paycheck, took it among themselves, without any public input, and decided that building yet another park with state redevelopment money is not theft, but a legitimate use of state funds, like it or not. **-Continued on page 3**

C.I. Newspapers Flying Off Table at City Hall

By staff reporters



Here one minute, gone the next. One might think newspapers have wings at the rate City Hall is going through the first edition of The Cotati Independent newspaper at City Hall. Cotati City staff and/or visitors to City Hall have been going through an average of 50 newspapers a day since August 1. The odd fact is, there are less than 35 employees at City Hall. So, why in the world are city staff and the handful of visitors to City Hall consuming so many C.I. newspapers is the question being asked. "This is an incredible number of newspapers for City Hall to be consuming, and more than a bit suspicious", said Kathryn Wickstrom of Cotati.

Tami Taylor, the Cotati City Clerk, gave the publisher permission to place a small stack of Cotati Independent newspapers inside City Hall right alongside the display of The Community Voice newspaper. But within an hour, the stack of twenty Cotati Independent newspapers was completely gone without a trace. A replacement stack of papers was placed on the table several times throughout the day with the same results, gone within an hour. The table was wiped clean of this newspaper. The stack of The RP/Cotati Community Voice newspapers in the photo above appeared abundant in number and un-molested all day long.

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Public Outcry Forces City to Reopen Park Restrooms

Report and photos by George Barich



Bicyclists in Cotati are smiling these days out of sheer relief that the bathrooms are finally open again at Helen Putnam Park in Cotati. After months of public outcry that the city had the audacity to close the park bathrooms as a cost saving measure was cruel, insensitive, and an utter embarrassment bringing pain and inconvenience to many.

These bicyclists who ride through Cotati each week expressed that a working restroom with running water and toilet paper at Helen Putnam Park in Cotati was long overdue. They said they could not understand who would lock up the bathrooms in the first place, denying adults and children alike the basic right to relieve themselves in private rather than behind a bush or in the creek adjacent the park.

Thousands of residents and tourists visit this park on a regular basis each year. Many were shocked and angered at the fact when they needed a bathroom most, the Putnam Park bathroom doors were lock causing hundreds, maybe thousands of children and adults to pack up and find a respectable alternative elsewhere or break the law and relieve themselves right there outside the bathroom.



Citizens offered to bring in a portable restroom at their own expense, but this option was rejected by the city council who were intent on ignoring the issue, refusing to accept responsibility, and doing absolutely nothing about the problem for well over a year.

Citizens had complained before the city council on numerous occasions, and even during candidate debates, that park goers were being forced to relieve themselves behind the bushes, behind the restroom walls, and in the creek which created an obvious health hazard. But the city refused to comment on these reports or address the ongoing citizen complaints.

-Continued on page 7

City Turns Blind Eye to Graffiti on Old Red'

Story and photos by George Barich



Some say this malicious graffiti artist must have had U.S. Treasury Secretary Timmy Geithner in mind when he/she produced this mess at 7840 Old Redwood Highway in Cotati which just won't go away. Welcome to Cotati's Northern Gateway.

Unfortunately, the one lone Cotati police officer on patrol on any given day or night in Cotati was apparently not enough to deter whoever did this from breaking the law on undoubtedly the busiest street in town. For weeks now, this graffiti continues to be an eyesore for thousands of motorists who travel up and down Old Red' in Cotati on a daily basis. How many times the Cotati City Manager, city cops, and city officials have driven past this code violation per day ignoring their duty to do something about this is anyone's guess.

This act of destruction clearly illustrates that graffiti remains a problem for our community and especially our city's law enforcement who are asked to do more with fewer officers on the beat. This comes at a time when Cotati's City Manager Dianne Thompson gave her department an extra \$200,000 a year, partly for a personal assistant who will spend the majority of her time at City Hall writing grant applications to the federal government for the remote possibility of "free federal money", as councilwoman Pat Gilardi likes to call it.

The damage to public and private property from graffiti is a constant reminder to us all that the City of Cotati simply cannot, or will not, take code enforcement seriously. Even weed abatement has been overlooked.

Walgreen's, on the other hand, was quick to repair it's sign on Old Red' within a few days after it was vandalized by graffiti artists. The wheels of government move a bit slower in Cotati or simply don't move at all. But either way, we still get the bill..



Plastic Bags May Be the Next Thing Outlawed in Cotati

By Greg Karraker

When you or I visit the friendly local supermarket, the nice people at the cash register have a simple question: "Paper or plastic?" In many cases, the answer is "No thanks, I brought my own," and that is very considerate of you. Heck, unlike some others, I even do it myself occasionally.



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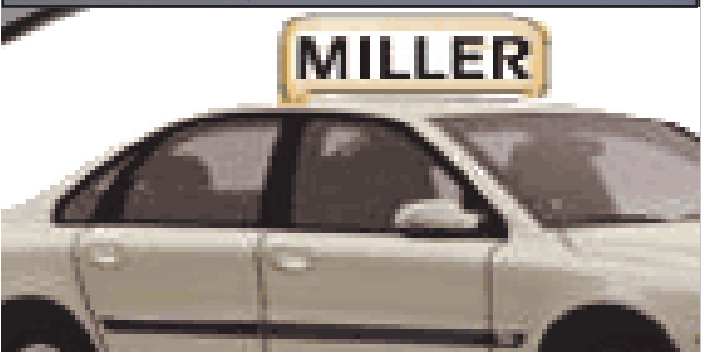
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Is Cotati too big to fail?

Apparently not, according to Cotati City Manager Dianne Thompson who said as much during the City's Budget Crisis Meeting held at City Hall in 2009. She said that if the city did not raise more revenues (TAXES) on the community, the city could face bankruptcy protection or municipal disincorporation (which essentially means dissolving the city's status as a municipality altogether and letting the County take over operations in Cotati).

As a city council member at the time, I remember sitting there in the room listening to this "train wreck" of a speech that I saw coming down the pike a decade earlier. The city refused to read the handwriting on the wall that it was simply spending beyond its means, drawing down precious city reserves needlessly, and chasing most new business applications and land developers out of town. Some of us warned the city of these dangers until we were blue in the face.

The city's over-regulation, its "Green" agenda gone wild, the mounting lawsuits against the city, and its attempt to protect the city's archaic rent control ordinance had come back to haunt the town. The council even placed a proclamation on the agenda to impeach President G.W. Bush three months before Bush's term ended in 2008. This was brought forth by none other than Adrienne Lauby, socialist extraordinaire. Councilwoman Patti Minnis stated on the record she would have actually liked to see President Bush hang from a tree in La Plaza Park. Business people who ever gave a thought about setting up shop in Cotati were well aware of these zany antics in Cotati and more.

By 2009, the big spending liberals on the council had spent down the city's \$2.5 million in reserves we had in the bank six years earlier, because these "regressives" never saw a buck they could not resist spending or giving away to charities and service organizations to gain votes and political power.

I remember that evening when the city council was giving away thousands of dollars of taxpayer dollars to charities that lined up one by one at the podium at City Hall, salivating at the mouth, and giving their sales pitches why they were so deserving of a city handout of our hard-earned tax dollars. City leaders were really making friends that night with charities of all shapes and sizes, many who would later become valuable campaign donors and volunteers to my political opponents come election time.

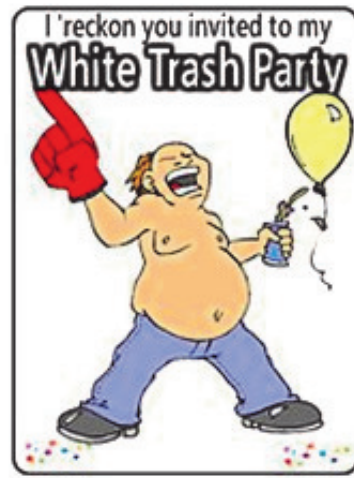
According to the late city councilman Bob Coleman, he made it clear on the record in 2009, (as if he had five votes all to himself), that no matter what, Cotati would remain a city in some fashion or form regardless of how bad the financial condition of the city became, or how many cutbacks in city services the community would be forced to endure. Here was a man who valued the legal status of a town MORE than the quality of life of its citizens. It was shocking, but more importantly revealing about how one's ego can completely blind one's better sense of judgment. For me, I always appreciated and admired the passion of Coleman's rants, but was disappointed by the lack of his common sense, his bullying from the pulpit, and gargantuan sense of self.

More news from Cotati, and why it's truly "The Funky City"

The city is leasing three shiny new police cars because it can't afford to buy them outright or simply rebuild the drive trains of ones they have. So the old police cars, with only about 100K miles on them, will go to auction or be salvaged for scrap. Problem is, the cost to lease the three new police vehicles and completely outfit them with police gear instead of buying them outright for far less money is a whopping \$93,000. To make matters worse, the city refused to answer questions from the citizenry at the August 10th meeting of the city council as to what kind of cars they were actually leasing, who are we buying the cars from, why was there no competitive bidding process, and why were the police not considering rebuilding and refurbishing the existing police cruisers. Rebuilding the entire drive trains of the existing cars would have been totally "GREEN", reducing the city's carbon footprint. The city council refused to answer these questions, and quickly moved to lease three new vehicles. If anyone can convince me that Cotati practices open and honest government, I will buy John Moore a free taxi ride home from Quincy's Pub in Rohnert Park for an entire week. Someone needs to ask councilman Mark Landman, who enjoys strong-arming local business people to take down campaign signs that he disagrees with, that if the city is not broke as you claim, Mark, why does the city need to lease three new police vehicles? Hmmmmm



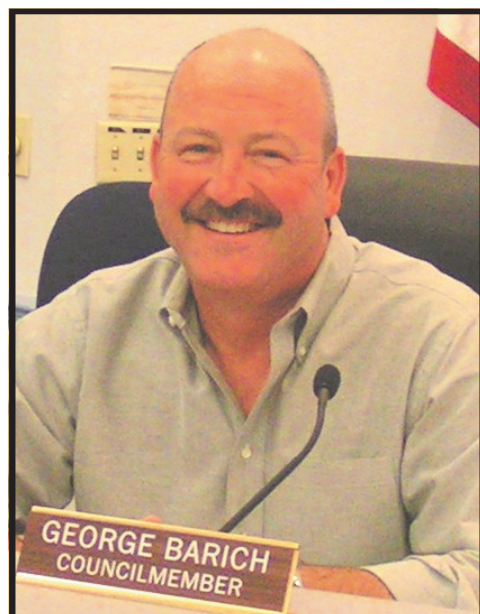
Cheryl Nixon, owner of Friar Tucks in Cotati, took racism in Cotati to new heights on August 6 with a "White Trash Party" at her bar. What's next, Cheryl, a Black Trash Party? Here's a woman who denounced me for dressing up in "brown face" on Halloween for a nightclub costume contest and has the gall to host a White Trash Party in her own bar. No word that The Cotati Chamber of Commerce is revoking Cheryl's membership for a flagrant violation of their charter as a result of this incident. There's no indication how many Cotati chamber members attended the party either. The image on the right is the graphic used on a Face Book page to promote the party in downtown Cotati. The website requested that all people, "Come dressed in your best White Trash clothes!" There has been no official statement or reaction from the NAACP. Rumor has it Joan Simon of Cotati was seen in attendance signing people up for all white yoga classes and soliciting donations to The Daniel Pearl Foundation. Andre Morronw, of the Cotati Chamber, who claims to be working on economic development in Cotati, was unavailable for comment. Web link: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=252376141447770>



Drive through Cotati with any regularity and you're bound to come up behind a vehicle with this bumper sticker proudly affixed to its rear end. Cotati in many respects is weird, funky, disjointed, and a central planning nightmare that took decades to screw up by city leaders. Most of these folks were simply unprepared and unqualified for the job, led around by the nose by city staff, naïve, and simply out of their league. My jaw dropped in 1996 when I attended my first meeting of the Cotati City Council. The incompetence, ignorance, and self important rhetoric that made little or no sense was so bad I nearly had to chomp down on my writing pen to prevent me from screaming at the top of my lungs in agony. After attending city council meetings in many cities over the years from Berkeley to Santa Rosa, I was dumbfounded. I thought am I witnessing this city meeting in the enlightened state of California? It was hard to believe that I was sitting in a town of well educated individuals who I thought would dazzle me with their education, experience, and brilliance. I was so disappointed and upset to see business people, land developers, and average citizens in the audience storm out of the city council meetings in anger and frustration swearing to never come back to City Hall again. Cotati City Hall antics are legendary. Its reputation around the county may take decades to overturn. Some say, Cotati's "Weirdness" may never be undone and very much a part of our town's identity. Our town's future is in our hands. Get involved. Join the discussion. Speak your mind. It's our town and ours to lose. Cotati IS NOT too big or too small to fail.



Former Cotati City Councilman



George Barich

"Just My Two Cents"





Nerve Struck... Worried Already?

Guest Editorial by Michael Ceremello

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly my detractors come unglued when called on their political positions or how thoughtless they are in adopting those stances. After some 16 years of writing column after column criticizing local, as well as State and Federal idiocy, a characterization that officials far and wide have so competently earned, I will give my opponents the same admonition I always do: "Read the column again as you obviously haven't comprehended the statements, and I don't expect you to agree with me; I expect you to check the points out for yourselves and make up your own minds." I have always found it very difficult for the emotional members of our society to argue with facts.

I will briefly respond to some of the diaphanous complaints and misplaced critique of my first column. Yes, I do know what a fascist is, and I also know how to spell it. A liberal fascist is a person who has loving intentions for the society he or she believes needs direction as well as concern for the Earth. To achieve compliance with that person's perspective, he or she believes that government should have the ability to force others to do what they would not do themselves. Does that strike too close to home for you?

Another point made was that this person "reverses the Constitution". What part would that be? The part known as the 10th Amendment which gives the States all rights not given to the Federal government or prohibited to them? How exactly do you show this adulation? Aren't you just going along with the constant unconstitutional usurpation by the Federal government of State's rights because you have become "dumbed down" by the acceptance of the masses of this obvious error?

As with most liberals who want to have their cake while chomping on it, this critic speaks to the freedom of speech out of both sides of her neck. You can't allow "free speech" while restricting the manner of delivery or its content which you want to subjectively judge as "abusive". Being a harsh critic of the left and far, far, far left, I would be remiss in attempting to sugar coat my detest for principles and positions that are anti-libertarian.

Finally, this paper does have a tilt. The respectability of this paper is not achieved based on your dotage or applying your seal of approval for presenting evil and insidious governmental machinations in a mild and civil manner. Respect is not given, it is earned. Anything less is a cave in to lunacy, the sickness of the progressive mind.

They say you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. When referencing the left, it is usually the more long eared braying equine that is more appropri-

ate in this situation. However, I will continue to attempt to educate and cure even if the patient doesn't want to live ...

Speaking of liberal incivility, I had the misfortune of attending a Cotati City Council meeting during the last week of July where your mayor in all of her self proclaimed importance got miffed that her constituents were whispering in the back of the room. Rather than asking if there was a problem, which there was, Janet OrChild displayed her petulance in demanding silence. What was extremely amusing was the fact that she had just got done questioning the very thing we were whispering about.

It seems that there was some confusion about the agenda item pertaining to the Capital Improvement Plan and whether or not it was part of the consent calendar. Her exact words were "I was confused by the placement of this item so I asked for an explanation but I was not confused about it." Huh?

Consent calendar items are items that should generate no discussion by the public or council. As the council chooses to rubberstamp everything that comes before it 4 to 0 as one member was absent, it is only the public that would speak or question it. George Barich wanted to address the item and is allowed by law "to address it either before or during its consideration."

Another example of extreme rudeness was exhibited by councilman Mark Landmine who never bothered to even look up during Barich's comments. This type of dismissal of the public is one of many reasons why Cotati is finding itself wallowing in the mire of financial distress.

It is extremely unfortunate that those of you who choose not to participate in the meetings can't view these meetings at home either via cable television, or the internet. You could see the debacle for yourself ...

One final item of note is on the article by Jeremy Hay of the Press Democrat speaking to the launching of this alternative to the pap provided by cheerleading apparatchiks of our competitors. It is in extremely bad taste to mention specific "advertisers" as if that is newsworthy or pertinent. Schemes to harass businesses in an attempt to boycott the paper are usually a little more surreptitious. It should also be noted that these references have been pulled from the archived edition at the Press Democrat's website.

Other than that, Hay's thinly disguised attempt at discrediting the factual content of this publication's material is misguided at best. Either Hay is either grossly naive or not all that sharp, neither of which I think is the case. The purpose of this paper is to provide an alternative viewpoint and a conservative dialogue before the residents of Cotati so they can decide for themselves who is best serving them, in print as well as government.

Do yourself a favor, Jeremy, don't attempt to run with the wolves when you have been defanged. You will only get hurt ...

City Hall to Force Auto Repair Biz Out of Downtown area (from page 1)

But the community is asking how a new park will assist in economic revitalization and bring in desperately needed tax dollars to help balance the city's books.

The current tenant, Nick Collins, runs a successful auto repair business on the property, which is part of an industry that is the backbone of this country. Collins says business is booming with customers in Cotati and the surrounding area who need local auto repair and are trying to get the most out of their vehicles in an attempt to be "green". He questions the logic of the city buying him out of his lease, relocating his business, and compensating him for lost profits with taxpayer money.

How will a new city park on one of the most prime commercial parcels of real property right on the busiest street in Cotati generate more taxes? It won't, and anyone with a third grade education can figure this one out. Parks suck tax dollars from a municipality and are terribly expensive to maintain, patrol, insure, and manage. The affordable housing element to this park project won't see light of day for many years because there is no market for more housing, especially in the downtown area.

Unfortunately, City Manager Dianne Thompson didn't offer any explanation of how another city park makes money for a city that is committed to "looking for any money wherever it may be hiding", to quote the late Mayor Bob Coleman. The city is broke and in a state of decline by spending every dime it can get its hands on, can't seem to save for tomorrow, and has its hands out for any gift, grant, or tax dollar it can extract from the community, the state, and the federal government.

But Cotati citizens can take their best guess what the true long term financial cost of a new park will mean to Cotati with the loss of property taxes over many years and the loss of commercial income on the property. How we can keep the city running at this rate is difficult to fathom.

Forget just for a moment that the city desperately needs to generate sales tax dollars for the City's General Fund, not to mention its Reserve Account, which has become a joke. Forget that the loss of these tax dollars would have helped fund the police department and other vital city services. Forget that the east side of town has all the parks in town and the west side of town has none. Forget for the moment that city parks do nothing to stimulate economic activity.

This parcel is located smack dab in the middle of the Cotati commercial corridor and seen by many as one of the town's greatest hopes for any real economic revitalization for the city in the coming years. As thousands of motor vehicles drive up and down along Old Redwood Highway through Cotati each and every day like clockwork, people with any business sense see these motorists as money-toting spending machines ready and able to pull over in Cotati and spend money, if only there were something worthwhile to pull over for.

To make matters worse, this property is graced with an old building of historical significance in Cotati built with beautiful redwood lumber from the region long ago. The building obviously will be demolished without a whimper. Unfortunately, Cotati has no real historical society that has any concern for protecting any historical buildings like this one, nor does the City have a historical preservation policy in place to review and determine the historical value of old buildings in Cotati. Citizens have argued the need to preserve historic buildings from demolition to preserve our history until they were blue in the face. But city leaders and self-proclaimed local historians have shown little or no concern for this building.

So, what's going on here? The answer lies in the fact that millions of dollars of state redevelopment funds that California Governor Brown needs to get back from Cotati to pay the state's bills are being committed in Cotati as fast as humanly possible to protect the money from going back to its rightful owner, the State of California. City officials fail to realize that Redevelopment is in fact a State of California agency that has simply entrusted Cotati to manage state funds for the state according to strict state guidelines. These funds have always been subject to be taken back by the state at will. Entrusting a city with state money is quite different than giving the city money to do whatever it pleases. But Cotati, like many cities has decided to hijack these funds at the expense of the public school system, state prisons, state pensions, etc.

The City of Cotati had originally planned to see developers build three and four story buildings all along Old Redwood Highway from the freeway to the Historic Downtown District in the coming years. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) came to Cotati for a city workshop recently and explained that such a plan for tall buildings running the length of Old Red' would cause automobile exhaust to fill the air along the street corridor and become stagnant according to their studies. This would create a classic example of a "Smog Corridor" in Cotati as the BAAQMD representative explained it, just the thing citizens in Cotati have been yearning for, right? But the market has dried up for expensive retail storefronts with offices and apartments on the upper floors where children who live there play in the back alley ways. Tall buildings downtown would also clearly block the view of the surrounding countryside and mountains. Plus, the city council hates automobiles and especially auto repair shops which are so 19th century.

People are also asking why do we need another park just two blocks from La Plaza Park? The City has taken it upon itself to commit these funds for another city park without prior public comment which raised concerns who the city council really represents.

So, it seems to be a safe move for the city to spend, spend, spend and worry about the consequences down the road. The thought of a public park just one block from the freeway on prime commercial property could just be the tipping point for Cotati in the worst economic climate since its inception.

The new park will be located across a new street or next to the new Oliver's Market proposed to be built next to Hwy 101 in Cotati. The idea is after you go shopping at Oliver's Market along with the tourists who pulled off the freeway to experience Cotati, you will head over to the park and relax. A city park next to a grocery store that will probably be approved with inadequate parking is the city's game plan for now. "It's all about the children", says Ken Coleman of Cotati. "As if one city park surrounded by speeding traffic downtown is not enough."

Sonoma County is Art Friendly

By Amanna Rendall
Cotati, CA



I have been enjoying exploring the local scene since I moved up here from Crockett a year ago. Before that I lived in a few different places in Oakland, but that is another story. I think the good air and the beauty of the land create an enlightened atmosphere which contributes to the grounded openness that makes me feel like I have come home after searching long and far. I am really pleased to be writing about the local arts scene for the Cotati Independent.

I have readily embraced Cotati's offbeat quirkiness. The people here are wonderfully unique. It seems to me that folks here are so used to the ebb and flow of the SSU student population they can easily accept anyone else who appears a bit 'different' and just take it in stride. This kind of acceptance is very good for artists and I



wonder if there are more than a few artists who call Cotati home because of it.

The SOFA Artwalk 2011 is now history. Several hundred folks came to see our open studios in the SOFA (South A Street) Arts District on Aug 6th and 7th. My studio is in a complex of eight other studios, two other complexes like ours and two other galleries and other businesses. It was really fun to talk to a wide variety of interested visitors and share my creative processes and ideas with them. People were actually able to walk into my studio and I noticed a couple of people intently perusing not only the art on display, but my notes, photos and personal mementos. I felt very 'seen' and appreciated for my creative work. Everyone seemed excited and very happy to be there. A couple of people even thanked me for being there, day after day, doing my creative work, taking it seriously, making culture. A few folks told me they were passing through the neighborhood and had come in to see what was going on and now that they

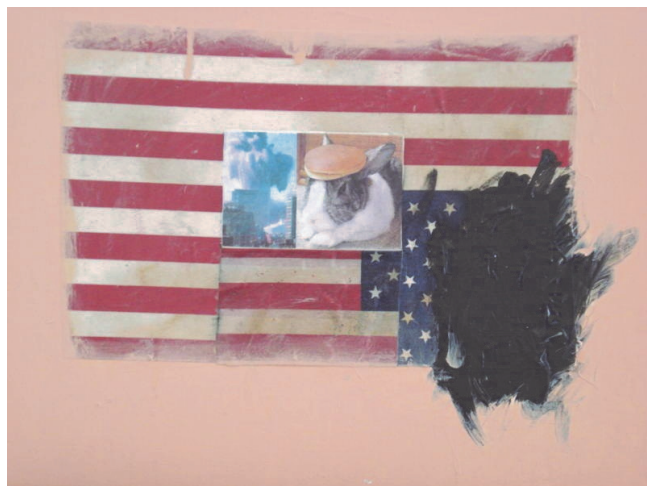


knew, would be back!

Our next event will be our monthly Sunday Salon on August 28th from 2 to 4 pm. Many studios and the galleries will be open in the area - also Atlas Coffee. Mario Uribe will be doing a demonstration/lecture about his work from 3 to 4 pm at Uribe Studios. Mario was part of a recent article in Santa Rosa Magazine about building alliances through local connections. He is a great community organizer and a terrific artist. His demo will be very interesting I am sure. Consider yourselves invited!

In my upcoming columns, I will be exploring the local arts scene in the county and beyond. I will be providing reviews of shows and local art events and info on 'must see' exhibitions and local art news. I hope my information will inspire you to get out and see some of the wonderfully diverse art that is all around us in Sonoma County.

Amanna Rendall is an artist who lives in Cotati; her studio is in SOFA Santa Rosa -- South A Street. She considers herself a Sonoma county artist. Her email address is artgirl510@sbcglobal.net



Do They REALLY Hate America?

by Richard Geertson



Although I thoroughly enjoy a tedious intellectual debate, especially with someone of the opposite political persuasion, in the end, I am most comfortable distilling things down to their essence; the 'root cause' as it were. Talk show host Michael Savage did essentially the same thing when he coined the phrase (and book title) "Liberalism Is a Mental Disorder."

My wife, no linguini-spined progressive, bristles every time I conclude (and loudly declare) that leftists simply "hate America!" No doubt like those who disparage Savage, she feels my conclusion is simple-minded and devoid of thoughtful reason...when actually, the exact opposite is true. I come to this conclusion out of frustration and only AFTER an incredible amount of logic, reason, fact and historical precedent is applied to progressive political platitudes. While I truly wish I could utter some poli/psy profundity to be referenced for the ages by future conservatives, after exhaustive deductive reasoning I always come to the same conclusion: if it walks, talks and squawks like a turkey, it's a turkey.

To some degree I can excuse the stupid and the ignorant, but the true died-in-the-wool progressives; the Barney Franks, Harry Reids, Barbara Mikulskis, Bernie Sanders, Cynthia McKinneys, Barack Obamas, and their ardent colleagues and pundits, are neither stupid nor ignorant. These politicians and like-minded supporters truly believe in higher taxes, more bureaucracy, social engineering, wealth redistribution and endless regulation. They believe an economy must be planned and controlled from a central government; that We the People are too stupid, inept, corrupt, or helpless to run our own lives and businesses. They believe in cradle-to-grave government intervention, from pre-natal, to end of life, and at every decision point in between, while they disparage the very working class (we top 10 percenters) who PAY for over 70% of their social engineering.

Consider the recent budget debacle in which Senate majority leader Harry Reid was lamenting the possible loss of a Cowboy Poetry Festival in Elko, NV should "draconian" budget cuts be imposed; the man said this on the Senate floor, on C-SPAN, with a straight face! Even more astounding responses to fiscal conservatives were accusations from President Obama and Vice President Biden that "the TEA Party was holding a gun to the head of the American people and...acting like terrorists!" Democrat Rep. Jan Schakowsky went even further, accusing Republicans of holding the country hostage, of holding a gun to the President's head, of causing all of the problems, of having no concern over the economy, and of using scare tactics.

The leftwing media has been vicious with its hateful rhetoric; in a NY Times op-ed Joe Nocera wrote: These last few months, much of the country has watched in horror as the Tea Party Republicans have waged jihad on the American people. Their intransigent demands for deep spending cuts, coupled with their almost gleeful willingness to destroy one of America's most invaluable assets, its full faith and credit, were incredibly irresponsible. But they didn't care. Their goal, they believed, was worth blowing up the country for, if that's what it took.

During the debate over ObamaCare, Democrat representative Alan Grayson said that Republicans "just want old people to die quickly." And who can forget one of the most egregious examples of leftwing hate speech from ABC's purported "race expert," Julianne Malveaux, who famously stated of Supreme Court Justice Thomas: "I hope his wife feeds him lots of eggs and butter and he dies early like many black men do, of heart disease....He is an absolutely reprehensible person."

I could give many other examples, but why belabor the point? Just tune into MSNBC and watch (along with its four other viewers) Ed Schultz or Rachael Maddow. On any given night, they will hurl similarly vacuous and hateful slurs. The revolting Keith Olberman was a more reliable verbal tyrant, but even MSNBC decided his lunacy was too much of a liability, and sent him packing.

It is crystal clear to me that when otherwise intelligent people; people in positions of influence and power; make these types of vile and baseless comments; they reveal their true political belief system.

Our national debt stands at just under \$14.3 Trillion. Government spending gobbles up over 24% of our GDP, the highest level since our nation was immersed in World War II. This year's federal budget exceeds revenues by \$1.65 Trillion and these levels of deficit spending are projected to continue into the next decade. Those "draconian Republican cuts" Harry Reid la-

mented, amount to approximately 1% of the federal budget; the equivalent of cutting \$385 from your personal budget while you carry a credit card balance of \$143,000!

TEA Party Republicans were accused of "scare tactics" and "inflammatory rhetoric" and even "lying" for addressing the largest drains on the federal budget, ENTITLEMENTS; specifically Medicare and Social Security. Democrats and their media minions claimed conservative warnings had no purpose but to frighten old people. Yet in its semi-annual economic revue, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported that Social Security will effectively run a \$45-billion deficit in 2011 and continue to run deficits totaling \$547 billion over the coming decade while the Medicare Board of Trustees warns that nearly half of Medicare spending is now borrowed money.

Economists have repeatedly demonstrated that the complete confiscation of all wealth over \$75,000 would NOT balance our budget, so why do liberals constantly rail against "the wealthy" for "not paying their fair share?" The top 1% of wage earners – the fabulously wealthy Learjet-flying, yacht-sailing, caviar-eating, Cristal-swalling, Bentley-driving, mansion-living rich folk the left so loves to hate – pay more in total tax than the entire bottom 95% combined! Top marginal tax rates were lower during Reagan (28%) than presently, but government revenues nearly doubled during President Reagan's 8 years. Clearly, the key to stoking federal coffers is NOT higher taxation, but a robust economy.

Democrats, progressive pundits, and their friends in the media are NOT IGNORANT. If I can access these facts, they can access these facts. Why then do they choose instead to regurgitate information they know to be patently false? Why would these well-educated, well-connected, well-informed people knowingly repeat false statements? Why, when faced with a crushing debt, high unemployment, business flight, and dire prognostications from the CBO, OMB, Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and other ratings agencies, would the LEFT continue to call for higher taxes, while arguing against spending cuts? And when faced with facts, WHY do leftists resort to smearing the very 'salt o' the earth' middle-class Americans they claim to represent?

Another outrage perpetrated by this White House has been the prosecution of states attempting to do what the Federal government refuses to do; control illegal immigration. Again, because they lack any cogent reasoning, progressives resort to vile epithets, branding anyone who opposes unfettered illegal immigration, "RACIST." Obama Attorney General Eric Holder is suing the states of Arizona and now Alabama for attempting to curb out-of-control illegal immigration. How can anyone make a reasonable argument that the Fed ignoring its most fundamental Constitutional responsibility, controlling our borders, is OK? Worse, WHY would progressives prosecute We the People for enforcing immigration laws?

One can only conclude that their anger and opposition to limited, Constitutional, responsible, sound and principled government stems from their anger and opposition towards our core values: personal responsibility, individual liberty and limited government. While I would never accuse the left of wishing for the physical destruction of this land mass we call "America," it is clear they wish to destroy the essence of what makes America, AMERICA. Sure, within our borders we do enjoy an abundance of natural resources, but so does Zimbabwe. What differentiates America from all other countries, past or present, is our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. From these documents we have been endowed with unalienable rights, chief among these is LIBERTY. To preserve liberty, our Founders were purposely brief and vague on the role of the Federal Government, deferring all responsibilities not clearly spelled out to the states and to We the People.

Today's leftists ignore our founding principles and by doing so, expand the government while violating our liberties. Unbelievably, their quest to grow government isn't slowed by a lack of revenue or even dire levels of debt. Their progressive views on wealth redistribution – 'taking from those with means and giving to those with need' – are right out of Karl Marx. When confronted with facts from the opposition, the left resorts to character assassination, yet another tactic used by tyrannical leaders throughout history. With full knowledge and malice of forethought, the progressive juggernaut simply ignores and impugns truth, fact, history, common sense, and America's foundational principles, while assaulting those who wish to steer the ship of state back on course.

After weeding out the ignorant and stupid, all that remains is a leftwing cabal intent on remaking this republic in the image of their socialist, statist, Stalinist mentors. Why would anyone desire to commit such treachery, unless they REALLY DO hate America?

Unusual disappearance of hundreds of newspapers at City Hall

(from Page One)

We were unsuccessful in reaching City Councilman Mark Landman for comment on the disappearance, or unusual demand for Cotati Independent newspapers at City Hall. In 2010, Landman was instrumental in asking business owners in Cotati to remove political signs of his political opponents from their storefronts. He verbally warned these business owners if they did not, they could experience a serious loss in business. With ladder in hand, Landman was seen removing political signs opposing Measure A, Cotati's half sales tax increase in 2010 after strong-arming merchants with soft threats of boycott.

City Manager Dianne Thompson was interviewed in person and asked if she thought it was unusual that a small stack of newspapers was being delivered many times a day, yet they were gone, often within minutes or hours. Thompson said, "I am too busy to notice such things and in meetings most of the day." Completely dodging the question of whether or not the massive "demand" for newspapers at City Hall was unusual, this isn't the first time the City Manager has been unable or reluctant to answer a simple question. In any investigation, these are usually bad signs the person being interviewed is not telling the truth and has something to hide.

Phil Maher of Cotati said, "This is typical of the cronyism at City Hall. Frankly, I'm not surprised. This is nothing more than another public relations disaster for City Hall that could have been avoided by responsible management".

On August 16th, The Press Democrat ran their own story about the huge loss of C.I. newspapers at Cotati City Hall. Since that time, the theft, confiscation, or misuse of these newspapers has been diminished considerably. We thank Jeremy Hay of the Press Democrat for running the story in a timely fashion.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

FROM THE CLOSET COTATIAN

This recession has hit everybody really hard.

My friend got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

CEO's are now playing miniature golf.

Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.

My uncle saw a Mormon with only one wife.

If the bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds," you call them and ask if they meant you or them.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

A picture is now only worth 200 words.

When Bill and Hilary travel together, they now have to share a room.

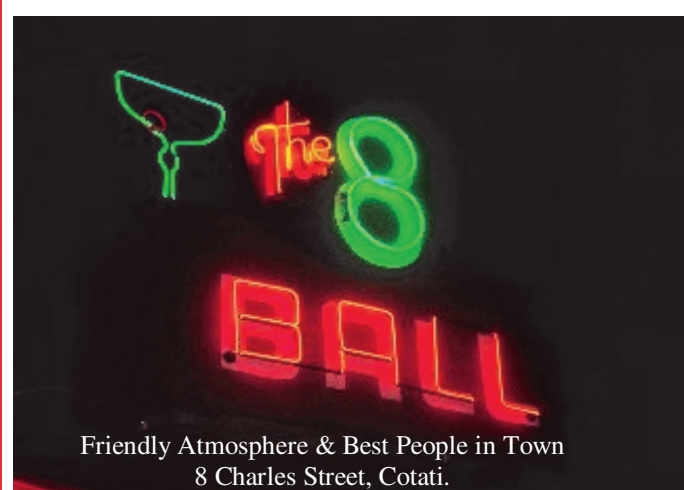
History will re-name this President "Owe" Bama.

And, finally: I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Pakistan, and when I said I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck.

Submit your letters to the editor online at

editor@thecotatiindependent.com

Sept 10th, The 8-Ball is hosting its Annual Golf Tournament, and this year it will benefit four local charities - Cotati's Police Dog, Animal Care, Schools and Military Families. There will be a silent auction and a raffle with wonderful donated items and services from locals and patrons throughout Sonoma County. Please join us Sept. 10th to give back to those who need our help and do so very much for us every day. Or, you may donate monetarily beforehand - Tax ID's available upon request. Call [795-9859](tel:795-9859). Thank You!



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Thank you to all who have contributed generously.



Letters to the Editor

Email: editor@thecotatiindependent.com

Dear Editor,

Congrats on your first issue of The Cotati Independent! I have to say, that you are a person of action and not just words. I even saw you out at the old Shell station property cutting down weeds not that long ago. Impressive!

Your paper did bring up a lot of good issues. I have to admit that I skim articles (especially when they're long) and didn't read any of them in their entirety (yet).

I have been having a personal experience with both the new Interim Building Official and the new Community Development Director, and have the same questions as to "why do we need them". I think it's time for a full house cleaning, from the top down.

Thank you, and keep up the good work!

Dennis Key
Cotati



Dear Editor,

I read with pleasure about the launch of your new monthly newspaper serving Cotati. Another monitor of city government -- especially one willing to forthrightly challenge the misinformation machine-- is most welcome and sadly necessary.

Nina Zhito
Santa Rosa

Dear Editor,

Thanks for delivering your newspaper to our porch. We've read it cover to cover and were enlightened and delighted that someone can bring us the real scoop about what's going on with our Cotati representatives. We contributed to the "police dog fund" and are dismayed that they are not even using him! Seems like that's a little like FRAUD? Elicit contributions for the dog, and then not use him? Think we could get our money back? Thanks for all your hard work,

Noelene and Mike Balani
Cotati

Dear Editor,

Please do not leave this trashy, egocentric diatribe in my driveway again. "The Cotati Independent" would be laughable if it weren't for the frightening thought that some people might believe Barich's incredible absurdities.

Shirley Goodin,
Cotati

Dear Editor,

Just read the article in the PD, where may I purchase hard copies, or is it just online? The time has come for this publication...tired of the bias from the PD. I will support any business that carries the paper or advertises in it! Keep up the good work. Looking forward to each issue.

Helm Jordt

Dear Editor,

I found your first edition on my front porch and was immediately interested since I'm a new Cotati resident. I must say that it took me a few minutes of perusing before I realized the "tilt" of your paper. I have a very large objection that has much less to do with the opinions expressed than with how they are expressed. I am a liberal and proud of it. But leaving that aside, my objection is to the name-calling and what can only be called verbal abuse heaped on those of my political persuasion by your "investigative reporter", Mike Ceremello. Is it really necessary to characterize us as "hating the Constitution"? I for one revere our Constitution. Is it necessary to imply we are not "real Americans"? As far as I can tell, I'm as American as the next citizen, having worked my entire adult life, paid my taxes on time, reared my children to have strong morals and values, voted in every local and national election, and supported our troops. Is it necessary to call me a "facist"? Does he know the meaning of the word? Is it necessary to imply that I am not "productive", or that I have no "core values"? This is not civil discourse, it is hate mongering. Mr. Ceremello is entitled to his opinion and the free speech rights guaranteed under our Constitution. But his offensive rhetoric accomplishes nothing but perhaps relieving him of the stress of so much built-up anger. If you wish your publication to be respectable, you should ask Mr. Ceremello to stick with the facts, to engage in well-thought out arguments, and to present his case without the vitriol, instead of behaving like a schoolyard bully.

Linda Gray,
Cotati



Oh where, oh where has our Recreation Department Gone?

September, 2011

by Ken Coleman, Cotati

After we citizens were told that the Cotati Recreation Director's position was cut entirely from the city budget in 2009 (over the vocal objections of Councilman George Barich), I was curious to find out what happened to the Recreation Department. I have a daughter who could have benefited from a vibrant and active city recreation department. I knew the city had cut the Recreation Department in 2009, and was interested to find out how and why Councilwoman Susan Harvey and City Manager Thompson were claiming the Rec Department was alive and well at a city council meeting. Hmmm.

So, I got to work to find out what's going on. I contacted City Hall by phone and inquired into exactly what recreational classes and/or activities were available for my daughter and I. I was told by City Clerk Tami Taylor that the Recreation Department schedule was online. So, I searched for the information on the city's website. I couldn't find a thing. Frustrated, I called the city hoping to get some answers. The city staff person explained that maybe the page in question had been taken down, and maybe I should come down to City Hall and pick up a brochure from the Recreation Department. Am I the only one having this problem? In fact, why is no one talking about the Recreation Department anymore?

In this day and age, I expected the city to have all its city programs online so we can save on paper. But, I had to get into my vehicle and make my carbon footprint a bit bigger by driving to City Hall before they closed by 5PM. After running up the steps to City Hall, I found the building closed each and every Friday. In the coming days, I finally got to the Planning Department and got myself a Recreation Department brochure. I opened it up and was disappointed. There were classes offered for children, but none for adults.

Since having the personal experience of being dissatisfied with City Hall on an ongoing basis, I was happy to hear they had finally hired a staff person to run the Recreation Department. Why couldn't City Hall give me that information? What is her name? Why did it take so long? Why didn't she call me back? Does she have an office? Where is it? Why the runaround?

The city keeps asking citizens for more money, but I don't see the benefit. All they do is hire more staff to make their workload lighter. Our police department walked door to door to pass an increase in sales taxes to save their jobs claiming that would keep the community safer. I even voted for Measure A. But the cops haven't seen a dime to put another officer on the street, nor has the Recreation Department seen any of the money. All I see is us being taxed more and getting less from City Hall. Post the Recreation classes online and give us our money's worth. Return a phone call once in blue moon. And why you're at it City Manager, why not put some of our tax dollars in reserves for a rainy day that you have depleted to pay all your consultants and high priced assistants?



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Independent Forum

Postcards from Cotati or West Virginia, I'm not sure

Opinion by Greg Karraker



NW corner of Old Redwood Highway and Hwy 116. Abandoned since 2002, with no new development in sight.

The three Sacramento consultants who are being paid \$500,000 to revise Cotati's General Plan have decided to have a photo contest about what makes Cotati special. This is a real challenge for the judges, because Downtown Cotati has looked just like these recent pictures for years.

On their website <http://cotati.generalplan.org/content/general-plan-update-photo-contest> you'll find the details, but basically, citizens are asked to submit photos in the following categories: **The Hub, Architecture, Community Life, Going Green, and The Essence of Cotati.**

After visiting Cotati two or three times every day since 2000, I have my own special way of seeing downtown, which I'm sure many of you will recognize. So I entered these photos in the contest. They only allow three, but I have more to share, complete with why they belong in each category.

You might be wondering, like I have, for years, why so much of downtown is nothing but chain link fences and weeds. I always thought it was because the town is too dirt-poor and hapless, just like West Virginia, to afford anything better. If that were the case, I wouldn't be complaining, since I don't believe in kicking people when they're down. Instead, what we have is a downtown that has been deliberately held back to satisfy the egos of a few misguided council members, administrators, and planners in an heavy-handed way to keep Cotati weird..



My entry for Going Green: 7900 block of Old Redwood Highway: No business means no lights, no heat, no air conditioning, no auto exhaust, zero carbon footprint.



My entry for The Hub: The SE end of Arthur Street. This illegal barricade was erected by residents in 1978, in Cotati's first effort at traffic calming. Years later, the city council decided this blockage was legal, for some reason or other.

But what really keeps Downtown Cotati from looking like prosperous Sonoma County downtowns, like Petaluma, Sebastopol, or Healdsburg? As far as I can tell, it's not lack of interest or lack of dollars. It's a 76-page, \$2.3 million dollar document called the Downtown Specific Plan.

Instead of letting businesses build naturally one at a time, city staff decided they needed a master plan that would spell out exactly how your new downtown would look. So in 2005, they held a series of group hugs called a Design Charrette, where a small minority decided that traffic calming, pedestrian use, and green practices were more important than real buildings and real jobs. In 2007 they released this plan. By trying to turn Cotati's few downtown blocks into a baby version of Downtown Windsor, they effectively guaranteed that nothing would be built that didn't match their narrow vision of what your city should be.

The worst part? City staff freely admit that this is a 20-year plan that can only be built if the Federal government magically finds \$73 million for the infrastructure this plan needs, including almost \$40 million for "strategically located park-once parking."

What are the prospects of this grandiose plan being realized? At one point, the city was counting on Orrin Theissen, who developed downtown Windsor, to build a baby Windsor in Cotati. But between the bad economy and a less than enthusiastic reception for this style of urban infill, Mr. Theissen was recently forced to file for bankruptcy.

Of course, city staff can keep begging the Federal and State governments for \$71 million left to finish the Downtown Specific Plan.. But after wasting \$773 billion on the Stimulus package, and getting roundly kicked in the last election, the federal government won't be backing trucks full of cash up to City Hall in the near future.



Architecture: There could have been a thriving Lucky Market on this site since 1994. Instead, there might be an Oliver's in 2014. Were all those years of looking at this worth the wait?



The Essence of Cotati: Rancho Adobe Fire Station. This fiscal year, the Cotati Redevelopment Agency will spend \$4.3 million. Between 2010–2014, they plan to spend over \$18 million. For years, the Fire District has asked the city for \$50,000 of these funds to replace the warped siding on this blighted building, which is literally at the heart of town. The city constantly refuses, but loves to spend your property tax money on traffic calming, urban infill, and other new-agey clichés.



"We like our weeds..." so said Councilmember Pat Gilardi responding to criticism of Cotati's downtown landscape in 2009.

I used to laugh at governments that are this delusional. Then, one night at a city council meeting in 2009, I held up pictures like these and complained about the weeds and chain link fences everywhere. I stopped laughing when councilmember Pat Gilardi smiled smugly and said, "We like our weeds." Now, I'm just outraged by the way they are keeping their foot on the neck of this poor little town.

Next time you're driving around, open your eyes wide, and ask yourself if this is the way you want your town to look for the next 20 years. If you think Cotati deserves better, the City Council meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 7 PM, at City Hall, 211 School Street. During Citizen Business, you can tell council members and city staff to drop the Downtown Specific Plan, and let Cotati grow naturally. I hope to see you there.

Greg Karraker lives just outside Cotati. The City Council has inspired him to write a book called "The Little Picture: How Liberals, Progressives, and Twits in Local Governments Are Strangling America". Excerpts from this book can be seen on his blog: www.thelittlepicture.net

Why the Bell Scandal Happened and What Can Be Done

by TERRY FRANCKE Voice of OC Open Government Consultant and General Counsel for Californians Aware

The explosive self-dealing scandal that has in a matter of weeks blown away the city of Bell's senior administrative tier was probably inevitable, given the gaps in the Brown Act and the newspaper publishing tradition that once provided small towns with a watchful eye and a voice to be reckoned with.

But that community and others like it need not let such a thing happen again.

First, the newspaper vacuum. Since 1980, when I signed on as legal counsel with the California Newspaper Publishers Association, a series of economic shifts has sapped the viability of almost all family-owned, local, community newspapers in the state and the nation.

In the '80s, weekly newspapers, and even small dailies, lost their monopolies as advertising vehicles for big local retailers like supermarkets, car dealers and real estate offices when "shoppers," consisting of nothing but ads on newsprint, were bulk mailed or driveway-thrown through-out town to provide "total market coverage."

What many of the otherwise no-longer-viable weeklies had of principal remaining value was their names, attached to a judicial decree of their essentially monopoly status as a "newspaper of general circulation" eligible to publish city ordinances and other legal advertising.

Meanwhile many single-community weeklies had been expanding to capture the advertising and news of neighboring suburbs, themselves growing in the post-WWII boom. By the early 1960s, for example, the Bell Industrial Post, founded in 1924, had become the Bell-Maywood-Cudahy Industrial Post.

Those names and decrees were increasingly harvested and combined through the '80s and '90s, especially in the greater Los Angeles area, by out-of-state newspaper chains. These multi-community publications attempted to be the same watchdogs over local councils and school boards that their individual predecessors had been but were spread far more thin.

The former Industrial Post (last known as the Community News) went through several chain companies' hands until disappearing as even an independent name. And whatever close coverage of local news it had into the 1990s has been gone for the past decade.

Brian Hews, publisher of the Los Cerritos Community Newspaper Group, recalls in a recent column:

It was years ago that Bell had a community newspaper; it was called the Bell, Maywood, Cudahy Community News. I know this because it was part of a larger newspaper group my family owned. Art Aguilar was the editor at the time and, suffice to say, you did not mess with Art. Coincidentally, we sold those papers in 1998, right around the time Bell hired its highly over-paid City Administrator.

This is exactly why cities need a vibrant community newspaper. We are the watchdog for the residents, keeping in check what goes on in the city. Johnny-come-lately bloggers have no chance at a story like this unless they are lucky, and then it is not in print. It takes someone like LCCN Editor Jerry Bernstein to spot salaries such as Bell's and call them out in the newspaper.



unique to newspaper-trained journalists with experience watching small-town politics.

Now to the Brown Act gap. California's open-meetings law for local government, even if perfectly complied with, does not make it hard for Bell-like excesses to creep in.

For example, while the City Council's approval of salaries for four out of five of its members approaching \$100,000 a year should have been done in an open meeting, and may well have been, and while such an action should have been listed in clear language on the agenda for the meeting at which it occurred, and may have been, the Brown Act requires only that the agenda be posted in a single physical location within the city, and has no requirements for open meeting minutes.

It does not require Internet posting, and although Bell's web page does display council agendas and minutes, they cover only the current year and show no such action.

As for the three hyper-compensated employees, their per-



formance -- cited as the basis for their astonishingly high salaries -- is not required by the Brown Act to be reviewed in public, and the law also allows closed sessions for the council to consider the basis for any pay increase. Final action on any raises or benefit increases must take place in open session, like that of the council's own remuneration, but needs to be given public notice only on a single sheet of paper under a thumbtack or staple on some wall in the city.

How these employees' resignations were handled shows further Brown Act shortcomings. The law allowed the council to take the question of how the trio would depart into a closed session on "pending litigation" on the apparent pretext that a "settlement" was needed to prevent lawsuits by these ex-employees. Settlement agreements are by law public records, but these, as of this writing, have not been released, and possibly not even requested by an inquiring citizen.

In sum, the long absence of a community newspaper covering the city closely left Bell not a perfect storm but a perfect swamp. The Brown Act, cultivated over more than a half century by the newspaper industry, virtually assumes that newspaper reporters will be on hand to use it in scrutinizing government behavior. But even reporters require a bit of periodic training to help them decode agendas and read between the lines of official meeting bureaucratise that the Brown Act is just vague enough to permit as barriers to ordinary citizens.

What's needed by Bell -- or any newspaperless town that wants to avoid becoming another Bell -- is steady, consistent coverage by competent observers with journalistic talents and instincts (whatever their publication medium or platform) and some rules better than what the Brown Act now provides.

For example, the Brown Act might be amended to say that the council's performance evaluation of any employee paid significantly more than the average salary for his or her position in the same size cities statewide must be done in open session with unambiguous advance notice. That way superior pay for superior performance would be more than a flip self-serving claim after the fact -- it would be assured by public scrutiny and community control.

No such Brown Act amendment is likely to happen soon, given the certain resistance of local government lobbies. That makes it a logical element to head the menu of a strict local sunshine ordinance either adopted by the city council itself at popular urging or, if the council refuses, by a ballot measure launched by citizen initiative.

The nice thing about small towns like Bell is that getting enough signatures to put such a reform on the ballot is a smaller task as well. If even half the people who have been storming Bell council meetings in recent days to protest the revealed abuses were to organize into a sunshine ordinance drafting and circulation committee, they could literally write (and pass) their own ticket to a transparent city hall.

Terry Francke is Voice of OC's open government consultant and general counsel for Californians Aware. Please contact him directly at terry@calaware.org.



In short, the Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned diligent news coverage by veteran newspaper reporters, or at least smart reporters led by veteran newspaper editors. The result need not be on paper, but it must be done with the community memory and professional savvy almost

City Re-opens park bathroom. Relief to hundreds or more

(from Page 1)

City leaders and city staff ignored one of the community's most basic rights as taxpayers, to find public park bathrooms open, working, clean, graffiti-free, and containing running water.

Unfortunately, earning over \$170,000 a year, City Manager Thompson felt the city just could not find the money anywhere in the budget for toilet paper and a daily maintenance routine for this lone park bathroom that served so many in Cotati for so many years. There was absolutely nothing structurally wrong with the bathroom that was closed, as some people assumed. This closure was to make room for the 3% pay raise given to city workers in the last year, and help pay for more administrative staff at City Hall.

Citizens even volunteered to maintain the park bathroom, but this idea was shot down by then Mayor Bob

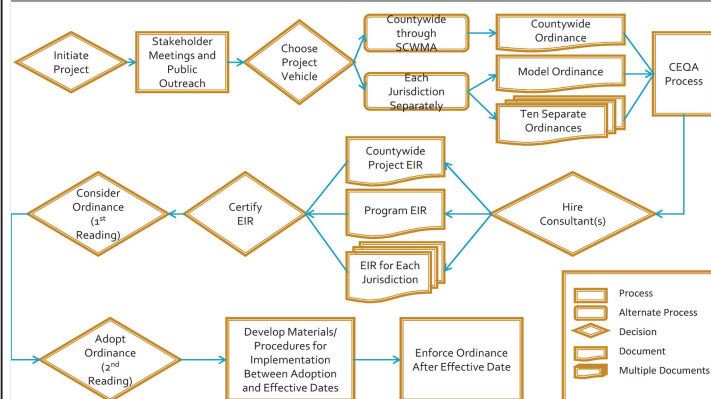
Coleman and the City Manager, claiming that there was a liability issue of citizens getting hurt doing city jobs that city employees were trained to do. The City Attorney advised that only a simple waiver of liability was needed to allow citizen volunteers to take some of the workload of city employees outside the police department. But Mayor Coleman, along with the city council, agreed that closing the bathroom might also help pass a sales tax measure in Cotati to raise the tax rate if people could actually see and feel the pain in terms they could understand.

"They threatened to cut back on the police, but I never thought they would stoop so low as to start locking up the park bathrooms for the sake of keeping city staff pay raises on track year after year", said Ken Coleman who regularly takes his daughter and Chocolate Labrador to Putnam Park..

Plastic Bag Ban (from Page 1)

I believe that paper v. plastic should be my personal choice and yours. Not the choice of a city council, 40% of whom weren't even elected. Because the real facts about what plastic bags from Cotati do to the turtles and dolphins in the Pacific are just a bit debatable. I'll get to

Project Flow Diagram



that in a minute, but first, let's look at something that is easy to prove: How much it would cost to ban the bag.

These are the steps it would take to pass and enforce a plastic bag ban in Sonoma County. Best case cost: \$272,440. Worst case: \$3,036,120.

Henry Mikus and Patrick Carter, from Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, have been visiting all 10 Sonoma County jurisdictions with the presentation above. This presentation never questions if it's a good idea to ban the bag. It only looks at three different ways to do it. If you want the details, they're at <http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us/app/assets/managed/meetings/COUNCIL.07132011packet.pdf> (Page 23) But for now, just look at this slide from their PowerPoint, and you'll see how complicated your government can make a simple decision. And how expensive. At the Cotati city council meeting, this was enthusiastically received, and they voted to endorse the least expensive version, which is only \$272,440. These funds come from fees collected at the county dump, so no direct taxes are involved, but is this the best use of your money?

The plastic bag: Mass murderer of dolphins, turtles and seabirds, or just some ugly litter?

I'm not a marine biologist or a polymer chemist, but it was easy to learn that there's more than one opinion about the bag. Here are two interesting ones:

What environmentalists say:

Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and seabirds die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food. Turtles think the bags are jellyfish, their primary food source. Once swallowed, plastic bags choke animals or block their intestines, leading to an agonizing death.

When plastic bags break down, small plastic particles can pose threats to marine life and contaminate the food web. A 2001 paper by Japanese researchers reported that plastic debris acts like a sponge for toxic chemicals, soaking up a million-fold greater concentration of such deadly compounds as PCBs and DDE (a breakdown product of the notorious insecticide DDT), than the surrounding seawater.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a trapped mess of floating plastic bags, bottles, and dissolved polymers that is two times the size of Texas.

What others say:

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is invisible to the naked eye. There is plastic in the water. This is a bad thing, but it is dissolved into microparticles that range from 0.3 - 5 mm (about the size of a grain of rice.)

* In a white paper on marine debris, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found no evidence of plastic bags causing hundreds of thousands of mammal deaths. They suspect the real cause is abandoned nylon fishing nets.

* For years, environmental groups have used the same five (5) pictures of turtles killed by plastic bags. If there is proof that bags kill wildlife, why don't environmentalists show it to you?

* The actual size of the Pacific Garbage Patch is 1/100th the size of Texas.

* Long before the invention of plastics, military ships, cargo ships, and cruise ships from all nations have dumped their garbage at sea. All U.S. ships have stopped doing this, but many foreign ships still do, and decades of this are likely the real source of floating plastics in the ocean.

What do you think?

Personally, when I see conflicting claims like this, I assume the truth is somewhere in the middle. Undoubtedly, there are some bad effects of plastic bags, including roadside litter and beach litter, but there are already existing laws against littering.

This proposed law bans bags at checkout, but says nothing about the plastic produce bags you use, or the plastic bag that your morning paper comes in. It also says nothing about Sonoma County forcing the Chinese to stop dumping their plastics and other garbage in the ocean.

So next time you're at Oliver's, just make your own decision whether you want paper, plastic, or the bag you brought.

More importantly, ask your city council the same simple question I ask government every day: Just how much should I pay you to tell me what I can't do?

Join Us
HONOR OUR TROOPS NIGHT!
Our Tour of Duty: To Serve Those Who Have Served Us

10TH Anniversary of 9/11

OPERATION: HEART LIFT

Sept. 10, 2011 Petaluma, CA
 5:00 pm BBQ 6:30 pm Program

Unite Veterans



Invites You to Join Us!
As we roll out the Red Carpet To Honor our Troops & Their Families

Saturday, Sept. 10th, 2011
 5:00 pm BBQ - 6:30pm Program
 \$10.00 per person - \$12.00 at the door

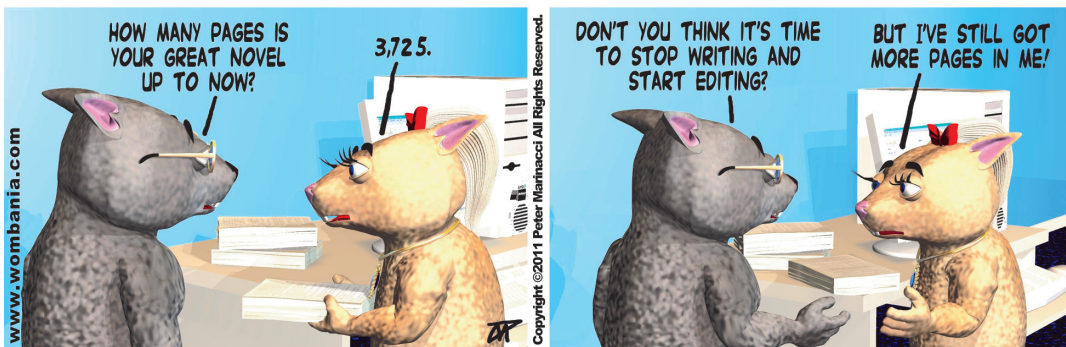


Guest Speaker: Brian Sobel,
 Author & Father of Wounded Afghanistan War Vet

Location: Petaluma Church of Christ
 370 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy
 Petaluma, CA
CONTACT: (707)322-3632

Great food - Bounces for the kids & All-out Tribute to our Troops! **Send Check to: Changing Worldviews / Operation Heartlift**
 PO Box 750624 Petaluma, CA 94975-0624

WOMBANIA™ by PETER MARINACCI



The Haircut

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week". The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week." The cop was happy and left the shop. The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a "thank you" card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, "I can not accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week." The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it. BOTH POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS NEED TO BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON! (author unknown)

Retraction:
 Joyce Garcia has made many contributions to the cause of responsible, open government in Cotati. Due to editorial differences, she has chosen not to be involved with future editions. Joyce's writings in their entirety about Cotati and other issues can be found on www.norcalcrush.com We wish her well.

Just a Pinch
 Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons
 By Janet Tharpe

Make Melt-in-Your-Mouth Doughnuts At Home

"These simply melt in your mouth. It is hard to stop eating them."



Peggi Ann Tebben
 Allendale, MO (Pop. 52)

Ooey gooey goodness! Few things taste yummiier than warm, melt-in-your-mouth glazed doughnuts, and thanks to this recipe from Peggi Ann Tebben, you don't need to leave home to enjoy them. For variety, try coating some with granulated or powdered sugar, as Peggi suggests.



See step-by-step photos of Peggi Ann Tebben's doughnut recipe and thousands more recipes from other hometown Americans at:

www.justapinch.com/doughnuts
 You'll also find a meal planner and coupons for the recipe ingredients. Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

Mom's Raised Doughnuts

What You Need
 1 2 cup wam water (not hot)
 2 pkg active dry yeast
 3 4 cup lukewam milk
 1 4 cup sugar
 1 tsp salt
 4 to 4 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour (not self-rising flour)
 1 3 cup shortening
 2 eggs
GLAZE:
 1-2 tsp wam water (thicker is better)
 1 2 tsp vanilla
 1 cup sifted confectioners sugar

Directions

- SOAK yeast in 1 2 cup wam water for 5 minutes. (Tip: Add about 1 tsp sugar.)
- SCALD milk. Melt shortening in the wam milk.
- POUR milk over sugar and salt in a bowl. Stir until dissolved. Make sure this mixture is only wam and not hot.
- ADD 1 cup of flour, eggs and yeast mixture. Beat until smooth.
- ADD remaining flour to make a soft dough. When dough leaves sides of bowl, turn out onto lightly floured board.
- KNEAD until dough becomes smooth and elastic. Place in lightly greased bowl. Grease top of dough and cover with waxed paper. Allow to rise in wam place (80-85°) until doubled (1-1 2 hours).
- ROLL OUT dough to 1 2 inch thickness and cut with a #2 can that has been opened with a tadpole can opener to leave a sharp cutting edge. Use a pill bottle or the center of doughnut cutter to make the center hole. Remove centers.
- LET RISE on the board until very light (40-60 minutes).
- DROP into deep hot fat (325° - 350°) and turn when doughnuts are just barely brown. Turn once again when browned sufficiently.
- DRAIN on absorbent paper. While still wam, coat the doughnuts with glaze or dust each with granulated or confectioners sugar.

Submitted by: Peggi Ann Tebben, Allendale, MO (Pop. 52)

www.justapinch.com/doughnuts

johnny's java

In the Apple Valley Shopping Center.
 8492 Gravenstein Highway, Cotati

Our Fallen Heroes: The Americans Who Died in Afghan Chopper Crash

<http://www.uncoverage.net/2011/08/our-fallen-heroes-the-americans-who-died-in-afghan-chopper-crash/>

NAVY

- Lt. Cmdr. Jonas B. Kelsall, 32, of Shreveport, La.
- Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer Louis J. Langlais, 44, of Santa Barbara.
- Special Warfare Operator Senior Chief Petty Officer Thomas A. Ratzlaff, 34, of Green Forest, Ark.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer Kraig M. Vickers, 36, of Kokomo, Hawaii.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Brian R. Bill, 31, of Stamford, Conn.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer John W. Faas, 31, of Minneapolis.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Kevin A. Houston, 35, of West Hyannisport, Mass.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Matthew D. Mason, 37, of Kansas City, Mo.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Stephen M. Mills, 35, of Fort Worth, Texas.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Chief Petty Officer Nicholas H. Null, 30, of Washington, W. Va.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Robert J. Reeves, 32, of Shreveport, La.
- Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer Heath M. Robinson, 34, of Detroit.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Darrick C. Benson, 28, of Angwin, Calif.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher G. Campbell, 36, of Jacksonville, N.C.
- Information Systems Technician Petty Officer 1st Class Jared W. Day, 28, of Taylorsville, Utah.
- Master-at-Arms Petty Officer 1st Class John Douangdara, 26, of South Sioux City, Neb.
- Cryptologist Technician Petty Officer 1st Class Michael J. Strange, 25, of Philadelphia.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Jon T. Tumilson, 35, of Rockford, Iowa.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron C. Vaughn, 30, of Stuart, Fla.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Jason B. Workman, 32, of Blanding, Utah.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Jesse D. Pittman, 27, of Willits, Calif.
- Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas P. Spehar, 24, of St. Paul, Minn.

ARMY

- Chief Warrant Officer 4 David R. Carter, 47, of Centennial, Colo.
- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan J. Nichols, 31, of Hays, Kan.
- Staff Sgt. Patrick D. Hamburger, 30, of Lincoln, Neb.
- Sgt. Alexander J. Bennett, 24, of Tacoma, Wash.
- Spc. Spencer C. Duncan, 21, of Olathe, Kan.

AIR-FORCE

- Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown, 33, of Tallahassee, Fla.
- Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Harvell, 26, of Long Beach, CA
- Tech. Sgt. Daniel L. Zerbe, 28, of York, Pa.

The Good, the Bad, and the Inedible



Candid reviews of Wine Country restaurants, bars, cafes, food vendors, and farmers markets.

by Kathryn Wickstrom - Cotati
Foodie, gardener, wine lover, and consumer of all things edible in Wine Country.



TAXPAYER UPDATE

From the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Standing on the Shoulders of a Giant

August 15, 2011 By [Jon Coupal](#)

Its been 25 years since California lost one of its finest, Howard Jarvis. Sadly, this means that few who are not middle aged or older know much about this titan of the taxpayer movement.

There was a time when we relied on oral history. Stories of our heroes who contributed to the welfare of the clan or tribe were repeated around the campfire or before the hearth. With today's high-tech instant communication, history is now yesterday's tweet or e-mail and there is a tendency to consider what happened before then as irrelevant.

So here is a little refresher on a man whose words and deeds are as important today as they were a quarter century ago.

In the early 1960s, Jarvis was one of many Californians who were becoming increasingly concerned about a property tax system that was tied to the escalating market value of property, with no relationship to the owner's ability to pay. Each county set its own tax rate with the average being 2.6 percent, and a 10 percent increase in a home's value would trigger a 10 percent increase in taxes owed. Jarvis recognized that Californians were being taxed on paper profits which they had not realized while tax collectors insisted on cash.

Jarvis had already begun to organize like-minded taxpayers, when on a visit to the assessor's office he saw a middle aged woman drop dead of a heart attack while pleading for relief from excessive taxation on her home. Seeing this woman die fired up Jarvis even more and this tragedy inspired his campaign slogan for Proposition 13, "Death and taxes may be inevitable, but being taxed to death is not."

Jarvis was fearless and would not give up his crusade for tax reform. He would respond to setbacks by quoting Churchill, who, in refusing a Nazi demand for surrender during the darkest days of WWII, said, "What kind of people do you think we are?" Later he wrote about those times when the taxpayer movement was struggling, "We believed that although every American is different from every other American, no American has the right to be indifferent or apathetic when liberty and freedom for all Americans are on the auction block. We knew we had to prove again that the American system of freedom and liberty is the greatest in the world."

From an initial handful of taxpayer activists in Los Angeles, the movement grew to hundreds and then thousands throughout the state. Still, they were taking on the entrenched power structure and nothing was easy. After qualifying Proposition 13 for the ballot, which established a statewide property tax rate of one percent and limited annual increases in assessed value to no more than two percent, it was opposed by nearly every politician in the state including Jerry Brown, who appointed himself as the chief spokesman for the opposition, and Pete Wilson. The California Chamber of Commerce and most major business interests also weighed in against tax relief for property owners. Then, as now, many in the business community supported taxes on regular folks out of fear that tax relief for others would result in higher taxes on themselves.

But because of the pugnacious Jarvis and the tenaciousness of thousands of taxpayers he inspired, Proposition 13 was overwhelming approved and recent polls show Proposition 13 remains just a popular after 33 years.

After the passage of Proposition 13, Jarvis continued his work. He reached out to other states where citizens were fighting to limit taxes -- he was very proud of the success of Proposition 2 1/2 in Massachusetts. And he helped to promote what became President Reagan's tax cut of 1982, which set the stage for a national economic resurgence.

To the end of his days Jarvis continued to write, speak and inspire. He always believed in the importance and wisdom of individual Americans who, acting in concert, could and should control their own government. He said if we had bad politicians running things, we had to accept responsibility, and we the people must work harder to replace them with more worthy leaders.

Following the course Howard Jarvis set means hard, sustained work, but the rewards in freedom and liberty are immense. He liked to refer to the words of the Star Spangled Banner, "...the land of the free and the home of the brave," and he would say, "You must be brave to be free."

At the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association we stand on the shoulders of a giant.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

Legend: ***** Perfection
**** Great
*** Good
** Needs Improvement
* Not Worth Going

Prices: \$\$\$\$ Expensive (over \$30 pp)
\$\$\$ Mid-Range (\$18 - \$30 pp)
\$\$ Average (\$8 - \$18 pp)
\$ Bargain (under \$8 pp)
(Excludes beverage, tax, and tip)

Cafe Salsa

8230 Old Redwood Hwy. Cotati CA
707-795-7068
Category: Mexican
Open: 7-days Sun-Thu 11am-9pm / Fri-Sat till 10pm



Beer and wine served.

*** 8/8/2011 \$-\$\$

Quaint cafe-style restaurant with umbrella tables outside to watch the Cotati crawl go by and a few tables inside with a full menu of the "usual suspects" - taco salads, quesadillas, soft tacos, burritos and full dinners. Really good burritos, and I am not a huge fan, but the Burrito Manadero (wet burrito - \$8.95) is not only good, it's huge -- enough for 2 to share or, take home for another meal. Your choice of meat. Such a deal! Do try either the fish taco, a whole filet of sea bass with mango salsa, black beans and rice (\$9.75) or, fresh salmon taco (2) grilled fresh salmon with mango salsa, cabbage slaw, avocado, lettuce and cilantro (\$9.95) both are yum yum.

Risibisi Restaurant

154 Petaluma Blvd N. Petaluma CA
707-766-7600
Category: Italian



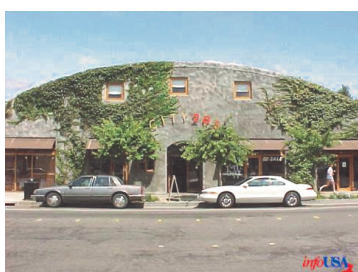
Open: 7 days Mon-Thu 11:30am - 9pm
Fri-Sat 11:30am - 10pm
Sun 4pm - 9pm (dinner only) Full bar.

**** 8/3/2011 \$\$-\$\$\$

Stopped in on a Sunday evening to check this 5-year old restaurant out. Busy at 6pm... might be an indication this place is good or, perhaps due to the fact Cucina Paradiso is closed on Sundays, and they were getting their business? Since we like a cocktail before dinner, we went straight to the tiny but well stocked bar. Turns out the bartender was also the owner; a good looking Italian with a friendly personality. I asked several questions about the menu, in particular his signature dishes. For the antipasti, he recommended Caprese, \$10.95 - heirloom tomatoes, fresh Burrata mozzarella, basil and of course EVOO. I believe the mozzarella was house-made and what a treat. Creamy texture that spread like butter on the toasted baguette bread served with the dish. Next, house-made gnocchi (Gnocchi al Cinghiale, \$18.95) with wild boar sauce. Excellent pasta but the sauce was a touch over salted. The owner recommended 2 exceptional Italian wines by the glass for each of my courses, an '09 Soave, Pieropan-Veneto, \$10 and a '09 Primitivo (Italian Zin) Matane-Puglia, \$8. I will revisit this charming restaurant to sample other dishes and sit out in their lovely riverfront patio. Prix Fixe lunch special and private dining available.

Petite Syrah

205 - 5th Street Santa Rosa CA
707-568-4002
Category: Small and large plates,
Open: Mon-Thu 11:30am - 9pm
Fri-Sat 11:30am - 10pm
Closed: Sun



Beer, wine & spirits.

***** 8/3 & 7/6/2011 \$\$\$-\$\$\$

Turn an ordinary afternoon or evening into an extraordinary one by eating here. If you liked the old Syrah, you should love, love, love Josh Silvers newest addition or, recondition, of one of my favorite restaurants in Santa Rosa. The decor is fresh and inviting, the food and wine pairings, thanks to a deft staff made my afternoon memorable. Small plates are the hot ticket for foodies around the Bay and this menu is both eclectic and exciting. On my first visit since the reincarnation, I sampled a 3-course meal with 2 wine pairings and was wowed from start to finish. First course, a lovely, cool cucumber with 3 kinds of fresh melon balls, thinly shaved, dark, smoky cured beef with salad of frieze

and a basil infused oil. Refreshing, light and clean. Second course, tempura-like, deep fried squash blossoms with dipping sauce and wonderful house blended seasoned salt served with sliced avocado. I've always stuffed my blossoms with cheese and herbs, then deep-fried them. Good, but this dish brought out the delicate flavor of the blossom. Third course, pear sorbet with olive oil powder, (What? try it, it's good!) Maldon sea salt and micro celery fronds. OMG.....the Maldon salt brought out everything in this semi-simple desert that lingered on the palate, making you want more. Get Thee to Petite Syrah and enjoy a great meal.

Trattoria Due Amici

8492 Gravenstein Hwy. Cotati CA
707-792-2665
Category: Italian
Open: Tue-Fri 11:30am - 8:30pm
Sat-Sun 5-8:30pm
Closed: Mon



Beer & wine.

** 7/21/2011 \$\$

This restaurant came with a very good recommendation. Unfortunately, the food did not meet expectation. Too much undercooked tomatoes in the sauces, which left the pasta tasting a bit sour. And, though the chef told me he spent time in Tuscany learning to cook (he's really from Madrid, not Italy), somehow the recipes he was taught are nothing like dishes I've eaten there or cook at home. In my opinion, it would take so little to fix his interpretations to bring them back to the true, clean taste of Italian cooking. On the plus side, the place is friendly and the chef/owner does come out frequently to speak to his patrons. All very nice but, I doubt we will return unless it's to have a salad and a steak!

Rendez Vous Bistro

614 - 4th Street Santa Rosa CA
707-526-7700
Category: French
Open: Mon-Thu, Sun 11:30am - 12am
Fri-Sat 11:30am-2am



Full bar.

**** 7/11/2011 \$\$-\$\$\$

WOW....knock your socks off good, at least for lunch. Great service, too. Best salad Nicoise I think I've eaten outside of Paris. Great Pommes Frites, too (took several forkfuls off husband's plate). Not an overly evolved wine list but some worthy French wines to be sure. Hey, I'm not saying this restaurant is in the same league as Cyrus or Bouchon. Actually I could say, "thank God" it's not anywhere near the stuffy and overly pretentious Cyrus in Healdsburg. This restaurant delivers what its name implies. Honest, bistro food that is exceptionally prepared. Great outdoor dining area, weather permitting. Definitely going back to check out their crepe menu, sip some more white wine and reminisce about days spent near the Seine at a French bistro.....Kid friendly, kids under 10 eat FREE every day!

Windsor Farmers Market

Old Downtown Windsor - Town Green



Rain or Shine!
Sundays - May-Dec 10am - 1pm
Thursdays - Jun-Aug 5pm - 8pm

**** 8/7/2011

What a great outdoor market to shop for all your veggies, flowers, sweets, breads, cheeses, and artisan items. Really well done layout for the vendors with ample room to stroll on each side. We stopped by to check it out on a Sunday morning, after having breakfast at KC's Downtown Grill (to be reviewed next issue but, here's a hint: YUM!) and were so impressed with the variety of produce offered at this market. Also present, Santa Rosa Seafood with large display tables of different varieties of fresh whole and sliced fish, shell fish, smoked salmon, shrimp (colossal and regular size), all in large, individual tubs of ice. If the Santa Rosa Farmers Market is just too big to deal with, take a drive down to Windsor. This one has a lot of small town appeal with lots of great things to buy, see or taste. And don't forget to bring your appetite. Plenty of food vendors from Charlie's BBQ to Cold Stone Creamery to feed you. Get thee to Windsor Farmers Market!

Till next month, Bon Appetit!

STOLEN
911

List, Find & Recover Stolen Property

View Thousands of **STOLEN** iPods, iPhones, GPS, Laptops & Cameras.

Attention Cotati Independent readers, help us find this stolen musical equipment taken from a local band rehearsal studio in late June. The victims and police can use your help. If you have any information **Call or Text a Tip to 260-STOLEN-7.**



Stolen Fender Marcus Miller Jazz Bass Item # 11607



Stolen Fender Precision Bass Item # 11608



Stolen Ibanez 5 String Bass Item # 11609



Stolen Yamaha QY-700 Sequencer Item # 11610



Stolen Focusrite Saffire Pro 24 Item # 11611



Stolen Yamaha MG 14/4 Mixer Item # 11612

Get more information about these items at

Stolen911.com

Text or Call an Anonymous Tip to 260-STOLEN-7

(260) 786-5367

Visit Stolen911.com to post your FREE listing and generate leads about your stolen property.

Stolen911.com cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Items posted as of August 15th, 2011. Do not try to recover stolen property yourself. Stolen property must be confirmed with a law enforcement agency.



Call 1-800-9-CAUGHT

(1-800-922-8448)

or Text

408-355-0999

WANTED



Fugitive Watch ID# 11-245

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect in this photo. According to Detective Mike Morarity, on July 14, 2011, at about 12:20 PM, this female suspect entered a check cashing business located in Windsor. The suspect allegedly presented a "Walden House" counterfeit check to the teller and requested the check be processed. The suspect presented a counterfeit California driver's license with a stolen identity. Fortunately, the clerk became suspicious of the transaction and notified the Windsor Police Department. The suspect fled the area prior to the arrival of officers.

FUGITIVE.com

If you're a law enforcement officer, bail agent or regular citizen that's been the victim of a crime and you have a named fugitive or surveillance video or photo that you would like featured on Fugitive Watch, you can submit it to us by sending the information and photo at the **Submit a Fugitive** page on our web site www.fugitive.com, email us at tips@fugitive.com or call us at phone number 408-929-4444.

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