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What You Need To Know This Week

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Sacramento City Council

The turnaround of the notorious Franklin Villa neighborhood -- rechristened Phoenix Park -- will be detailed at Tuesday's council meeting.

After a \$84 million city effort, the crime-ridden community has seen problems plummet. Improvements include renovated homes and a computer center.

The council will discuss the issue at its 2 p.m. meeting at City Hall, 915 I St.

-- Terri Hardy

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Supervisors will discuss the likelihood of raising an array of fees to help ease the county's budget woes when they meet Tuesday.

Raising user fees is one proposal in an 11-point plan to close what was projected to be a \$33 million budget shortfall for the year ending June 30, 2008.

County budget officers will present the board with a list of every fee charged to residents, businesses and others who interact with the county. Staffers, however, won't yet offer their list of fees they'd suggest increasing or decreasing. That information isn't due until March 2008.

The issue is scheduled to be discussed at 10:15 a.m. at 700 H St.

-- Ed Fletcher

Elk Grove City Council

A bid to entice the Towe Auto Museum to Elk Grove from its home in Sacramento is on tap Wednesday night at the council meeting.

Towe's property lease with the city of Sacramento expires in February 2008, and its relocation to Elk Grove would be a plum for the city, business representatives Robert J. Gluck and George Potiris wrote in an Aug. 3 letter to the City Council.

Gluck, of Pimerica Financial Services, and Potiris, of Steele Realty & Investment Co., wrote that the museum in Elk Grove would lead to new jobs and to business patronage from the thousands of visitors who come to see the cars.

They asked the council to write a letter of support.

Also up for discussion is a council committee recommendation that the city establish health care benefits for retirees.

To do this, the city would need to establish an irrevocable trust and deposit \$1.5 million from the city's reserve fund to pre-fund the future liability, according to a report by Deputy City Manager Frank Oviedo.

The recommendations are the product of the Retiree Healthcare Committee, composed of two council members, Pat Hume and Michael Leary.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. in City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way. The start time could be delayed if a 5 p.m. special meeting of the City Council lasts more than an hour.

-- Loretta Kalb

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Supervisors on Tuesday will consider options for managing the skate park at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville.

The board and the Placerville City Council last month adopted ordinances requiring skateboarders, skaters, bicyclists and scooter riders to wear safety gear and adhere to specific rules of conduct at Joe's Skate Park.

The park, which is on county-owned property, has operated largely without supervision since it opened in 2003. Officials say the skate park and adjoining parking lot have been the site of vandalism and drug use, as well as dangerous activities by park users who fail to wear safety gear.

Alternatives for managing the park include charging user fees of \$1 or \$2 per day and hiring parks operation assistants to supervise activities. With the \$1-per-day fee, the park would be open about 57 hours a week. The \$2-per-day fee would allow the park to operate 80 hours per week.

Both proposals would establish separate hours for use by skateboarders and skaters, and for bicycle and scooter riders.

The board also will receive a presentation at 10 a.m. regarding operation of the El Dorado County Community Health Center.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the board meeting room, 330 Fair Lane, Building A, Placerville.

-- Cathy Locke

Placerville Planning Commission

Commission members Tuesday will consider whether a media assembly and supply facility is an appropriate use for property at 669 Bee St.

The applicant is Millennia Media Inc.

Also on the agenda is a review of plans to remodel a residence at 946 Lincoln St., within the Clay Street-Bedford Avenue Residential Historic District. The applicant proposes to alter the exterior of a covered porch. The project would involve new windows and new siding.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, 549 Main St.

-- Cathy Locke

El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission

The commission will discuss Wednesday a draft report on cemetery services in the county.

The study is among a series of municipal services reviews that LAFCO is required to conduct under state law to determine whether public agencies are providing adequate service. The review is a prerequisite to update spheres of influence, agencies' potential service areas.

The study covered cemeteries maintained by public cemetery districts and community service areas, the city of Placerville and the El Dorado County General Services Department.

The report notes that the county, because of its Gold Rush heritage, also is home to more than 200 historic cemeteries, many of which are on private property and not maintained by any public agency.

The commission also will receive a presentation by Valerie Zentner, executive director of the El Dorado County Farm Bureau. She will discuss the bureau's projects and goals, and the state of agriculture in the county.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Building C hearing room, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

-- Cathy Locke

El Dorado County Planning Commission

The commission on Thursday will discuss possible changes in county policies that require 30 percent of land in planned developments to remain open space.

A staff report says the policies are causing difficulties in developing infill projects and providing affordable housing.

The commission will consider options that would allow greater flexibility for planned developments and encourage a wider range of housing in the county.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Building C hearing room, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

-- Cathy Locke

Rancho Cordova Planning Commission

The commission on Thursday will review designs for three residential projects and an office building.

Reviews of floor plans and architectural styles are scheduled for units in the North Douglas Villages project, north of Douglas Road and 2.2 miles east of Sunrise Boulevard.

Beazer Homes also proposes changes in the building facades and floor plans for townhouse "villas" to be constructed in the Capital Village development, east of Zinfandel Drive, south of Data and Disk drives and extending south past International Drive.

Also on the agenda is a design review for the first of two two-story office buildings planned on a 15-acre parcel on the north side of Peter McCuen Boulevard and east of Old Placerville Road, on the Mather Office Campus.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2729 Prospect Park Drive.

-- Cathy Locke

Natomas Unified School District

A workshop on preventing gang violence is scheduled at Tuesday's board meeting.

Members of the Sacramento Police Department will present a report on gang awareness and the audience will be able to ask questions.

The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Natomas High School Theater, 3301 Fong Ranch Road, Sacramento.

The district will offer a community forum Wednesday to discuss enrollment trends, boundary areas, new schools, multi-track schedules and new grade configurations, such as K-8.

The meeting is planned from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Bannon Creek Elementary School, 2775 Millcreek Drive, Sacramento.

-- Laurel Rosenhall

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

The board of trustees will hear a presentation on the 2007 standardized tests results and recommendations for action at its regular meeting Wednesday.

Assistant Superintendent Karen Schauer will present a report from the 2006-07 Wellness Committee to the board of trustees.

The board also will consider approving a partnership between the district and Springboard Schools, a nonprofit network of educators committed to raising student achievement.

The board meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Bill Murphy Library, Greer Middle School, 248 W. A St.

-- Melissa Nix

River Delta Unified School District

The board of trustees will meet in closed session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to discuss anticipated litigation as well as to negotiate the sale of Birds Landing property.

The open session will begin at 7:30 p.m., at which any action taken during the closed session will be disclosed.

In the regular meeting, the board will be asked to approve an administrative services agreement with the Delta Elementary Charter School for the 2007-08 school year.

It is also being asked to approve a \$6,000 consulting and peer mentoring service from the California Institute for Social Change for elementary school principals, to approve a \$14,000 contract with Spark Program for after-school recreation program development and training, and nearly \$29,000 in service contracts with Frontier Communication Solutions for T-1 line maintenance and installation.

The board meets at Isleton Elementary School, 412 Union St.

-- Melissa Nix

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