

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of August 17, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

Lew C. Bauman, CAO

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- Pajaro Neighborhood Park again in spotlight
- Dispatcher receives national award
- Giving Campaign fun



Pajaro Park Selected for National Project of the Year



The playground area of Pajaro Neighborhood Park.

The Pajaro Neighborhood Park has been honored many times since it was completed in 2014. The latest award to be given to the county for the project is from the American Public Works Association (APWD), which has selected the park for its Small Cities/Rural Communities Project of the Year for 2015.

Criteria for this national award includes requirements that the project promote excellence in demonstrating creativity, ingenuity and efficiency in the

delivery of a Public Works project that has had a profound effect on the community. This award is given for the impact the project has in the community rather than its size or dollar value.



Pajaro Neighborhood Park has certainly profoundly changed this small community. The park boasts a three-acre synthetic surf sports field, a basketball court, two small playgrounds, picnic and barbecue areas and a 40-foot diameter pavilion.

Project Manager Nick Nichols explains that the staff of the former Redevelopment Agency had worked with the residents of Pajaro since 2007 to develop the project concept, obtain grant funding, acquire the land, and complete the design and permitting of a new five-acre community park. The project was just entering the construction bidding phase when the State legislature dissolved and disbanded redevelopment agencies statewide in 2012. At that time, management responsibility for the project, along with some key staff members, were reassigned from the now defunct Redevelopment Agency to the Resource Management Agency; it was under RMA management and direction that the construction and eventual transfer of the finished park to the Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District were completed in 2014.

“If it were not for RMA staff’s flexibility and willingness to accept this unanticipated workload, particularly on the part of the RMA Finance Section, six years of effort and planning to bring this much needed improvement to this under-served community would not have come to fruition,” says Nichols.

RMA and project contractor Granite Rock will each receive a plaque recognizing this achievement at the APWA Annual Awards Recognition Ceremony at the International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona on August 31st.



Dispatcher Receives National Recognition

Juan Rodriguez, who was named Monterey County’s Dispatcher of the Year this year, has now received a prestigious national award for his outstanding work.

This week at the Association of Public Safety Officials International Conference, top honors were announced in a national awards program. The PSAP Awards, Public Safety Communications Program, recognize individuals for their exceptional performance and contributions to public safety communications. Each year, winners are selected in four PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) categories: Director, Line Supervisor, Technician, and Telecommunicator of the Year.

Monterey County's Emergency Communications Department nominated Juan Rodriguez for his outstanding work, and he was selected as the Telecommunicator of the Year.

Rodriguez has worked for Monterey County Emergency Communications for nine years, starting when he was just 21. He earned the department's Customer Service Award in 2013 and this year was named Dispatcher of the Year.



(l-r) Lew Bauman, CAO; Juan Rodriguez, Dispatcher; Olivia Madrigal, 911 Center Manager.

Juan was nominated for his work during a tense call involving a gunman at a local eatery. Here is a description of what happened and why he was honored for his outstanding work:

“In March 2014, Dispatcher Rodriguez was working the Salinas Police radio channel and was on the phone with a restaurant employee reporting a man with a gun in the business. This person was speaking Spanish. While Dispatcher Rodriguez was speaking to the employee he actually heard the shots fired over the phone. This is where Juan’s exemplary dispatch performance was seen. He was able to switch from Spanish to English instantly while making split-second decisions. He had to tell officers to respond

to the shooting Code 3, and in the meantime (within milliseconds), he entered the command SHOTS FIRED into CAD, and also started a Fire and Ambulance request into the system. Juan remained clear and professional throughout this chaotic situation, always mindful of officer and public safety, his multi-tasking skills are extraordinary.”

Because Juan could not attend the conference, he will receive his award from the national corporate sponsors of the award next month, who will travel to attend the Emergency Communications' September Dispatcher meeting to meet Juan. Congratulations!



Employee Giving Campaign is Underway – Let the Fun Begin

The 2015 Campaign's fun event “Rock the Park” at Toro Park is this Sunday, August 23rd. A big thank you from campaign organizers to those who have helped make this event possible and to those who have bought tickets. See you Sunday!

Now that the annual Employee Giving Campaign is underway, make sure your wallet is fully stocked when you come to the office.

While the heart of the campaign is the generosity of county staff who are able to support favorite charities through payroll deduction, there is much more going on during the campaign time period. Departments are getting very creative with fundraising events that raise money for campaign charities.

Here is a sample of some fun events this week:



White chocolate popcorn

These sweet treats are still for sale through the Clerk of the Board's Office. They are certainly a hit, \$135 in sales has been raised so far. They are \$5/bag, and they come with an extra bonus - each purchase earns the buyer entry in a special drawing to win a ticket for the Clerk's drawing for a Kindle Fire.

Kindle Fire HDX

Want one of these? You could win one by purchasing tickets from the Clerk of the Board's Office. Drawing for this great item will be September 2nd. Tickets are \$5/each or 5 for \$20.00.



Tostada/Taco Salad Lunches

The Auditor-Controller's Office held a delicious Tostada sale on Thursday, August 20th. There was a big turnout for this fun lunch, tallying up \$453.00 for the Giving Campaign. There was also a dessert sale which benefited flood victims in Burma which raised \$171.43 for a worthy cause.

On Friday, August 21st it was a Taco Salad fundraiser at the same location.

Lunchtime Movie Event

Information Technology Department held its Pizza & Movie Lunch fundraiser on Thursday, August 20th. The featured movie was “50 First Dates.” Admission was \$7.00 and it proved to be a great break in the work day as well as raising \$100 for the 2015 Campaign.

Be sure to check out upcoming giving campaign events from departments on the [Employee Giving Campaign 2015 webpage](#).

