Castroville Overpass Provides Safe Passage and a Great View

The long-awaited Castroville Bicycle/Pedestrian Path and Railroad Overcrossing is complete. Read more about how this overpass came to be, then use the link on the next page to take a video tour of the span.

Construction on the overcrossing began in December of 2016, but the need and planning for creating a safe crossing in this area goes back much further.

Locals and dignitaries who gathered Thursday, May 31st to officially open the

County Notes

Would you like to learn how to help youth in crisis? Find out about Youth Mental Health First Aid training. There is a session on June 5th in Salinas.
crossing spoke about the many years of concerns for students who would walk or bicycle to and from school through this area, which has an active train track as well as farm fields and crosses busy Castroville Boulevard. One teacher spoke to the crowd about the horror of seeing a group of students crossing the tracks and being separated on either side of the tracks as a train came through.

The new overcrossing changes all of that. The span parallels Highway 156 and features a bicycle and pedestrian path that is three-quarters of a mile long, eight feet wide and a bridge that rises 24 feet over the Union Pacific tracks. Want to experience the crossing? Take a video tour of the new span.

Besides safe passage for students to Elkhorn Elementary and North Monterey County High Schools, it also provides a link in our local bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, as evidenced by the many cycle enthusiasts who turned out for the opening event.

The cost to build the overcrossing was $10.6 million, a combination of state, federal and local funds from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and Monterey County who were partners in this project. Many thanks also to Caltrans, Union Pacific, PG&E and the Castroville Community Sewer District for collaborating on the project.

Local cyclists are among the first to cross the new overpass after the opening ceremony.

Elections Energizes Young Voters

The Elections Department provides voting outreach in many ways, but seems to really enjoy engaging with young voters.

The Department hosted its 2nd annual High School Voter Registration competition, partnering with area high schools to make sure our community’s youth are prepared to vote.
Of the participating local high schools, the Everett Alvarez High School / Vote group took first place with the highest number of students registering and pre-registering to vote - 326! On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor John Phillips commended the students for engaging in the democratic process at such a young age. In addition to presenting students with certificates from the Board of Supervisors, each student received a certificate of recognition from Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

Supervisor Mary Adams presented awards at York School. It had the highest rate of student participation, 35% of eligible students registered or pre-registered to vote during the competition.

The program, designed by the Elections Department, provides all local high schools the opportunity to participate in the State-designated High School Voter Education Weeks.

“Studies show that people who have a positive experience voting early on are more likely to become lifelong voters,” says Claudio Valenzuela, Registrar of Voters. “That’s why we work so hard to make sure that every voter has a positive experience either at the polls, voting by mail or with our office.”

In total, the participating schools registered and pre-registered 537 students between the ages of 16 and 18. Students approached their peers about voting in creative ways; activities included lunch hour registration drives, presentations during class, voter registration tables during senior fair and promotion during morning announcements.

Civic engagement and voter participation can change the way our community works. Congratulations to all the students who took part.
Probation’s Glazzard Honored by Child Abuse Prevention Council

When you think of young offenders in the Probation system, foster care doesn’t usually come first to mind. But that is a reality for many youth in juvenile probation.

For his work in youth foster care within the Probation Department and his many other achievements, Gregory Glazzard this year was awarded the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Award.

Each year CAPC honors those who have made significant contributions to child abuse prevention.

Glazzard oversees the Probation Department’s Juvenile Special Services Unit which includes placement of youth out of their homes in foster care or group homes, wraparound services, extended foster care and juvenile mental health court. Chief Probation Officer Marcia Parsons says Glazzard is considered the resident expert in probation foster care and the very challenging implementation of the California Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which are only the tip of the iceberg of his expertise.

“Glazzard has lent his expertise to numerous projects, among the most notable is reviewing and modifying our Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program with the West Coast Children’s Clinic and Monterey County Department of Social Services (DSS) to create a flowchart that outlines the workflow when this department encounters a victim of CSEC,” says Parsons.

Glazzard talks about how he chose the Probation field as a career and his accomplishments.

Q. How did you decide to work in the Probation field, with young offenders in particular?

A. I have always had an interest in the law and criminal justice. I elected to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and after college I worked at a residential placement program for at risk youth. Every month, I would meet with Probation Officers conducting placement visits and became more interested in the Probation Field. I began my probation career with Shasta County in 2001 and was assigned to Juvenile Probation. In 2003, I transferred to Monterey County Probation and was assigned to the Juvenile Division as a Placement Officer. In 2008, I was promoted to Probation Services Manager and assigned to the Juvenile Special Services Unit.

Q. You have been with the Probation Department for 15 years. Do you feel you have been able
to enhance the way the Department works with at risk youth that may give some young offenders a chance at a better life?

A. Absolutely. As the Probation Services Manager of the Juvenile Special Services Unit, I am passionate and advocate for youth who are victims or at risk of abuse or neglect. I am so proud of my staff and the work we do on a daily basis in an effort to provide better lives and futures for the youth and families we serve.

Congratulations Greg!