‘Just the Facts’ Information to Staff about Possible County Purchase of Capital One Buildings in Salinas

As you may have heard in the local news this week, the County is considering the possible purchase of the former “Capital One” buildings located at 1441 and 1448 Schilling Place in south Salinas. Resource Management Agency Director Benny Young is on the team working on this project and has this information to share with county staff:

“At this point, it should be emphasized that this is not a ‘done deal’ by any means, and the Board of Supervisors has not yet approved acquisition of the property. We are simply looking into a prospective opportunity which could conceivably serve a major share of our collective facility needs for many years to come.
There are still many questions which would need to be satisfactorily answered before moving forward. For example, the County would need to perform a careful ‘due diligence’ review, anticipated to take between 60 and 90 days to complete. During this period, a thorough evaluation of the facility would be completed, including preliminary space planning and estimation of associated costs. No final decision will be made by the Board until this review is completed.

If and as we move ahead, it will be important to make certain that the transaction would make sense financially and from an organizational/business perspective. Savings to the taxpayers will need to be quantified and we must make certain that our services to Monterey County citizens would be improved.

At this time, it is premature to speculate as to which county departments or functions would potentially move; however, this could afford the ability to minimize dependence on dispersed leases and temporary (modular) structures, reduce crowding in constrained spaces, and consolidate many of our functions in one location.

Benefits that this particular location would afford for staff assigned there include ample parking, a cafeteria, a childcare facility on site, and even a small gym with showers.”

---

**Natividad Medical Center Auxiliary Celebrates Volunteers**

Many county employees weren’t even born when Natividad Medical Center’s auxiliary began its work 54 years ago.
This organization has certainly proved its longevity, and each year celebrates the volunteers under its umbrella who provide so many services for Natividad Medical Center, its staff and patients.

This year, the volunteer celebration was held Monday, April 21st. Volunteers gathered to enjoy lunch, each other’s company and to be honored by hospital and local officials.

Supervisors Jane Parker, Simón Salinas and Louis Calcagno were on hand for the event.

Congressman Sam Farr was the keynote speaker, sharing with volunteers his passion for affordable and accessible health care, which coincides with Natividad Medical Center’s mission, as well as his support for the hospital which dates back to his days as a county supervisor. Farr commended the volunteers for the critical role they play as ambassadors for the facility.

All the volunteers received certificates of appreciation and souvenirs of the event. A special certificate was presented to a surprised Volunteer Auxiliary President Nathan Fuentes for his extraordinary effort in coordinating NMC’s volunteers.
Victims’ Dedication Ceremony Supports Survivors; Promotes Healing

Each year, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office and the Community Restorative Justice Commission host a Victims’ Dedication Ceremony; it is a moving, emotional and inspirational event which gives the community a chance to remember crime victims and gives survivors an opportunity to come together and remember their lost loved ones.

This was the 15th year for the event which took place April 18th in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in the County Government Center building in Salinas. 200 people attended the program which featured music, inspirational speakers and the “Invitation to Survivors,” during which survivors are invited to announce the name of a loved one who was murdered.

Among the speakers at this year’s ceremony was Travis Phillips, brother of homicide victim Kris Olinger who was murdered in 1997 in Pacific Grove. Travis was only 10 years old at the time of his brother’s death, but in the 16 years it took to bring his brother’s killers to justice, he has become a vocal advocate of restorative justice, and has spoken to some of those involved in the crime that resulted in his brother’s death as part of the healing process.

The ceremony concludes with the tradition of releasing doves in the courtyard in front of the county building. Grief therapy sessions are offered to attendees.

Organizers of the event say the ceremony is designed to educate the community, support those who have lost loved ones as well as acknowledge law enforcement and community resource agencies.