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# P.W. Progress

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## **Somebody Broke Our (Historic) Bridge!**

On May 5, the bridge at Trancas Street/Monticello Road/Silverado Trail which carried eastbound traffic across Milliken Creek, turning right from Trancas to Silverado, was severely damaged in a collision.

Crews quickly re-striped the adjacent intersection to add a right-turn lane for the traffic which had been served by the damaged bridge. The new lane extends back to the signalized intersection at Trancas and Silverado Trail (north) and thus equals the traffic capacity that the damaged bridge used to provide.

The damaged bridge was built in 1908, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Public Works staff is evaluating options for restoring the bridge to full service for motor vehicle traffic, or an alternative such as bicycle/pedestrian travel only, and will present information to the Board of Supervisors for a decision in the near future.

Important considerations about the bridge's future include preserving its historic value, complying with environmental regulations and modern safety and structural needs.



## **Flood Bypass Begins Construction Downtown**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded the Napa River Dry Bypass Project to Nordic Industries, Inc. earlier this year. The construction work has started and is anticipated to be complete in mid 2015.

As part of the project, approximately 120,000 cubic yards of dirt will be excavated and hauled to the Napa Pipe property for stockpiling from May through September 2014. This volume equates to approximately 200-250 truck trips per day during intense excavation

periods (Mon – Fri).
There are two main haul routes: McKinstry Street (north) to Soscol Ave; and West Street and Pearl Street to Soscol Ave.
Permanent sheetpiles for the inlet and outlet of the Bypass channel will be driven during the in-water work period of June to October.

When complete, the Bypass channel will: 1) carry 50% of the "100 year" flood waters instead of passing through the Oxbow reach of the Napa River; 2) create 4,800 linear feet of recreation trails; 3) provide a kayak launch; 4) create 1.5 acres of additional wetlands; 5) restore 430 linear feet of riparian habitat; and 6) provide an 11-acre park for the community.



Bypass Construction Begins



Deer Park Road Radar Speed Feedback sign

#### **Improving Safety on Deer Park Road**

Napa County applied for and received \$26,000 safety grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration to install solar powered traffic speed feedback signs alongside of Deer Park Road in the area near Sunnyside Elementary school.

The signs were purchased using the grant funding and installed by County Roads crews. Crews also

removed some overhanging tree branches to ensure that the signs would receive sufficient sunlight in order for the signs to operate properly.

The new feedback signs were installed in the same location as existing School Zone Speed Limit Signs and the school zone signs were installed along with the radar signs to minimize the number of

sign posts in the area.

The new signs were installed in March, and began operation in April.



Dry Creek Road slide repair

### **Repairing Landslide Damage on Dry Creek Road**

A retaining wall was recently installed to prevent impacts to the road from a reoccurring landslide on Dry Creek Road. The work included excavation of part of the body of the landslide, installation of piers and lagging, and restoration of the narrowed road to two full lanes.

The project is on Dry Creek Road between Orchard Avenue and Oakville Grade
Road. The slide has been
moving for years and the
road is reduced to one
lane regularly during the
wet season. Even during
summers the slide was
creeping.

Miller Pacific, a Napabased company, provided the geotechnical engineering and project design.

Valentine Corporation, a Bay Area contractor,

performed the work. The cost of the project was \$98,000 for the construction contract. In addition, crews from the Roads Division did significant work (excavation and removal of slide debris, traffic control, road restoration).

Funding for the project came from the Roads budget.

### Fire Safety and Traffic Safety benefit from program



Cal Fire crew Soda Canyon Road

The County has partnered with Cal Fire and various fire safe councils to remove and reduce the fire fuel load along our roadways. County crews provide traffic control, equipment and some tools. CalFire supplies an inmate crew with tools, and the Fire Safe Councils

handle public outreach, coordination with landowners and identifying priority areas.

Soda Canyon and a portion of Sanitarium Road have been cleared, and Mt. Veeder, Knoxville Berryessa, Dry Creek, Deer Park and Pope Valley Roads will be done soon.

Removing and reducing vegetation along roadsides improves both fire safety and traffic safety, and is the biggest part of the Roads budget. This partnership helps get much more work done for much less cost.

#### **Napa River Restoration Continues in Rutherford**

Phase 4 of the ongoing Napa River Rutherford **Restoration Project** continued last summer/fall with the completion of Reach 8 B/C. The purpose of the work is to reduce sediment loads into the river by selectively grading the river channel to stabilize over-steepened banks, install large wood structures to provide habitat for native species, and install various biotechnical features to further stabilize the river channel.

Heavy construction was completed in November, 2013 and then transitioned into the re-vegetation phase of the project which would further establish the reclaimed riparian river corridor.

Invasive plant species that had been previously removed by construction activities were replaced with native vegetation that had been propagated from the Napa River watershed. In addition, vegetation management zones not located within the construction footprint had been previously identified, with the idea of removing invasive plant species and replanting these areas with native species.

Due to drought conditions that were experienced this

winter, re-vegetation activities were delayed until March of this year. Replanting for Reach 8 B/C was completed in early May and the project will now move into the next phase in which the contractor will monitor and maintain the plantings over a 3-year period to assure that they become properly established.

The revegetation work was performed by contractor Hanford ARC of Sonoma, at a total contract cost of \$370,000, with funding from Napa County Measure A funds.



Napa River Rutherford Reach 8 Ready for planting

### **Next phase of Devlin Road Extension under way**

The next segment of the Devlin Road Extension, known as "Segment D," is now under construction.

In 1999, a project known as Napa Airport Centre, Unit 2, created a subdivision of light industrial lots from the property through which the Devlin Road Extension passes.

Segment D was constructed to partial width at that time, as a requirement for the approval of this project. It forms the second block south of Airport Boulevard.

The developer, Barrel Ten Quarter Circle, was responsible for completing the construction but a lack of construction activity in the area delayed the need for it. Their obligation was secured by entering an Improvement Agreement and posting a bond for the value of the work. The County has approved their requests for time extension until now.

With the completion of next-door Segment C, it is no longer appropriate to delay the completion of Segment D. As a result, Barrel Ten Quarter Circle has hired a contractor and work has begun. It is required to be completed by October of this year.

Completion of the Devlin Road Extension has been identified as a priority for both the County and the City of American Canyon. The County is now finalizing design plans for Segment E, which will include a bridge over Fagan Creek and connect to Tower Road.

The County completed Segment C this past January, bringing in the project on time and \$600,000 under budget.





Construction work under way



(Above) Acoustics (Below) Parking, railings



#### **Extreme Library Makeover**

The Napa County Library has gotten quite a makeover recently! The following projects have recently been completed:

Improvement of the acoustics in the main lobby, Community room, reference area, study rooms and conference room; cost \$169,000.

Painting of exterior metal

elements such as railings, to freshen up the Library's exterior; cost \$27,000.

Retrofit light fixtures to reduce energy use; cost \$88,000.

Much-needed resurfacing of the parking lot, which was showing distress; cost \$50,000.

Replacement of the roof at the end of its useful life;

cost \$200,000.

Replacement of outdated/ deteriorated signage to provide improved wayfinding; cost \$120,000.

Installation of solar panels to supply 17% of the Library's energy needs; cost \$260,000.



(Above) Sign being installed (Below) Finished installation





Charge in progress

## Sign Here, Admin Building.

The Admin Building has a new 15-foot high monument sign out front and 8-foot "wayfinding" signs in the plaza behind it! The sign program followed from the recent remodel of the building, as part of an overall effort to improve customer service.

The signs incorporate the

new County logo, and the colors were selected to be compatible with the logo, the new paint job on the building itself, and the neighborhood. They provide directional information to help the public find all of the downtown County and Court facilities, including

the Library, Carithers, and Hall of Justice/Jail.



Wayfinding sign in plaza

### **Electric Vehicles Get a Charge from the Garage!**

It's been one year since the County installed an electric vehicle charging station in the Fifth Street Garage, and it has been a big success!

In its first year, there have been over 1,300 charging sessions, delivering seven megawatt-hours of energy to the vehicles using the system.

Use of this clean energy has reduced 3,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions, helping keep our air clean and healthy and reduce climate change impacts. This is equivalent to saving nine acres of forest!

The County applied to an organization called Charge Point for its "Jump Start" program, thanks to a tip from Supervisor Keith Caldwell. We were selected to receive a free charging station, valued at \$5,000.

The City of Napa was able to use the usage data from the County's station to obtain a \$12,000 grant which will go toward purchasing three additional stations in the downtown area.

Other vehicles waiting to charge



#### **Project Management – The Value of Planning**

As we approach the 45th anniversary of the first moon walk, I'd like to recognize the three astronauts who may have had the most to do with that great engineering feat: Thomas Stafford, John Young and Gene Cernan. Huh? Wait a second...didn't we learn in school that Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon?

Your history teacher did not lie to you, and (except for a small number of conspiracy theorists), we all agree that Armstrong commanded Apollo 11 and landed on the moon in July of 1969. So, who are these other guys I've never heard of? Well, Stafford, Young and Cernan were the astronauts of Apollo 10.

From May 18 to 26, 1969, Apollo 10 conducted a full dress rehearsal for the coming moon landing. Their launch (atop the then relatively new Saturn 5 rocket), trip to the moon, undocking and

redocking of the lunar module while in moon orbit, and successful return to earth and recovery, resulted in many procedural and equipment changes. These changes were incorporated into the planning and execution of Apollo 11. Most importantly, actual lunar gravitational data from the flight was used to calibrate the landing system for Armstrong's landing module. Without the knowledge and experience gained from this "test run", Apollo 11 would have been a much chancier proposition, and maybe wouldn't have come off as "flawlessly" as history remembers it.

So, what's my point as it relates to project management? Simply put, planning matters. While there is always a tendency to just want to jump into things (and there was pressure on NASA to make Apollo 10 the lunar landing mission), the efforts that are expended before "the big event"

Steve Lederer,
Director of Public Works

(whatever that event is), are sometimes more critical than the event itself. The other takeaway? Just because everyone remembers Armstrong (and don't get me wrong, he was a great man), it doesn't mean that Stafford, Young and Cernan were any less valuable. Everyone who has a role in a project is important and necessary, whether they get their name on a plaque or not. And that's something we should never forget.



#### **Stormwater Permit a Success in First Year**

The first year of implementation of the new Phase II municipal stormwater permit is coming to a close. The County was successful in meeting all its Year 1 requirements through cooperation and collaboration with Napa, American Canyon, Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga through the Napa Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program.

Year 1 deliverables included development of an updated Spill Response Plan describing how the County and municipalities respond to illicit discharges into the storm

drain system, and development of new procedures for reviewing erosion control plans for construction projects. In addition, the County worked proactively, ahead of permit deadlines, with other North Bay counties to develop a design guidance manual for land development professionals to assist them in incorporating required stormwater management facilities into their projects. These "bioretention" facilities allow stormwater, which is often contaminated with a variety of pollutants, to be treated as it flows through a biologically active mixture of sand and

compost. Some water will percolate into the subgrade below, recharging groundwater. Flows which exceed the capacity of soil to infiltrate it are discharged via underdrains to the stormwater collection system.

All of this results in a higher quality of water being released to the Napa River and a healthier ecosystem for the plants, animals and humans who depend on it. Applicants for some categories of new construction will be required to incorporate these controls into their project designs starting in late 2014.



#### Napa County Public Works



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A Commitment to Service

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http://www.countyofnapa.org/ PublicWorks/

#### **Airport News**

The *Air Power History Tour* is coming to the Napa County Airport June 10 & 11! For more information go to <a href="https://www.airpowersquadron.org">www.airpowersquadron.org</a>.

Tuesday, June 10 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Aircraft arrive at approximately noon
- Aircraft tours available starting at 2:00 p.m.





Wednesday, June 11 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- B-29 flys at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- Aircraft tours available after 12:00 p.m.
- Supporting aircraft available all day

#### **More Animals on Facebook**

In the same 5 ½ month time period as last year, the Animal Shelter has adopted out 120 MORE animals!

That's 80 rescue hens, 35 more dogs, and 5 more rabbits!



We have been working hard on our marketing and outreach to the community in order to boost these numbers.



With the assistance of Facebook, where we have nearly 6,000 "likes," we are able to feature our animals and at times have over 10,000 people view our posts!

We also have a sponsored full page ad in the *Napa Valley Register* once a month where 18 animals star in their own advertisement. These ads

are sponsored through donations of \$10 for each animal featured.

All this is done with efforts from a dedicated volunteer, at NO cost to the Animal Shelter, and the result is amazing – more animals finding homes!

Way to go, Napa County Animal Shelter staff and volunteers!



#### May 2014 is Watershed Awareness Month!

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed May 2014 as Watershed Awareness Month, noting the importance of the County's three major watersheds (Napa River, Putah Creek and Suisun Creek) in supporting forests, agriculture, urban areas, grasslands, industry and marshes. The proclamation also noted the importance of healthy watersheds for wildlife and plant species, safe and reliable drinking water, and the local economy.

In celebration, the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) Board of Napa County has ramped up its efforts to promote watershed awareness throughout the month of May. Over twenty-five events and activities are highlighted on the WICC website: <a href="https://www.napawatersheds.org">www.napawatersheds.org</a>

The WICC, with support from the Napa County Resource Conservation District, hosted a Watershed Open House Tour on Sunday, May 18th. The open house offered the public six sites to visit throughout the watershed ranging from the marshlands to up valley river restoration, to fisheries monitoring. In total ninety-seven visits were made among the six available sites!





