



Photo by Skye Kinkade

Friends of the Mt. Shasta City Parks donated \$450 on Friday to the Meals on Wheels Auxiliary. The donation is enough to help the Auxiliary land a \$20,000 Walmart grant to help the Mount Shasta Recreation and Parks District purchase a new vehicle for the Senior Nutrition Program, said Auxiliary founder Dawn Fazende, right. Also pictured are Vicki Gold of the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, left, Mike Rodriguez, MSRPD administrator, and Melinda Willey, founder of the Friends of Mt. Shasta City Parks with her dog Sweetpea.

Friends of City Parks help Meals on Wheels

The Mount Shasta Meals on Wheels program will soon be acquiring a new delivery vehicle thanks to a \$20,000 grant and \$2,000 in donations from local citizens, including a large donation from the Friends of the Mt. Shasta City Parks.

The Friends of the Mt. Shasta City Parks was formed last spring when T-Mobile proposed the construction of a cell tower in Shastice Park. To help the Mount Shasta Recreation and Parks board find an alternative revenue stream which wouldn't involve a cell tower, Friends of the Mt. Shasta City Parks was founded by Melinda Willey under the umbrella of the non-profit Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology

Center. On Friday, the group presented a \$450 donation to Dawn Fazende, the founder of the Meals on Wheels Auxiliary and Mike Rodriguez, the MSRPD administrator.

Though Willey had to leave Mount Shasta for several months due to an injury, she said the Friends group has not dissolved.

"During [my] time gone, monthly donations were still coming in," she added.

When Willey returned to Mount Shasta last week, she heard about the Auxiliary's quest for \$2,000 in required matching funds to land the Walmart grant for a

new delivery vehicle.

"It seemed like a perfect match," she said. "The van will serve so many, not only for now, but for years to come. It's extremely practical that we do this."

The Friends of the Mt. Shasta City Parks is looking for volunteers to help in many different capacities, including coming up with ideas for fundraising, assistance with setting up an automatic donation system that alerts donors to make their donation each month through a PayPal account, MsBec, and for those interested in playing a leadership role.

If interested, contact Willey at shastawings.earthlink.net

★ Marijuana shut down . . .

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ugged terrain, said Giannini. "Unfortunately, we have criminal elements who have elected to use public lands to cultivate marijuana on a large-scale basis in Siskiyou County and neighboring jurisdictions," said Sheriff Jon Lopey in the release.

"I consider the influx of these criminals to be a serious public safety threat to our citizenry. It is safe to say that at least some of these offenders are members or associates of dangerous drug cartels, which primarily originate in Mexico," said Lopey.

Although the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office is teaming with federal, state and local law enforcement partners to eradicate this potential threat, it is difficult to mitigate the potential dan-

ger in all portions of the fifth largest county in California.

Lopey asked the public to be especially vigilant at this time of year, because marijuana harvest season is approaching and conflicts between the public and those cultivating the marijuana may occur on public and private lands.

"Citizens should be alert, especially in remote, forested areas," Lopey said. "Report suspicious activities to law enforcement and leave the area if practical. For example, if a marijuana garden is encountered, a nursery or cultivation site in a remote site is observed, a campsite is detected, gardening supplies are seen, and/or unidentified persons are observed in an area engaged in questionable or suspicious activity, it is recommended that you leave

the area and contact law enforcement officials immediately."

Lopey added that it is always helpful if a detailed description of the location, persons, equipment, and/or vehicles can be provided to law enforcement.

"Always advise family members or friends where you are going, when you plan to return, and what route you plan to take," when in remote areas, Lopey continued. "When you visit public lands, take a mode of communication with you and travel with companions if possible."

"Up to this point in time, most marijuana cultivation suspects have fled the area when detected, but some suspects in the past have been observed carrying firearms and a few have been aggressive when confronted. Again, it is better to leave the area and report your observations. It is highly recommended that you do not confront any of these suspects unless you have no other alternative.

"The Sheriff's Department Marijuana Eradication Team will aggressively investigate all reports of suspicious activity," Lopey said.

Those who wish to talk with the Marijuana Team directly or prefer to remain anonymous may leave a message at 842-8328.

Individuals may also report to the Sheriff's Department at 842-8301 and/or dispatch 842-2900.

★ Ambulance costs . . .

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the meeting.

The staff was recommending the current Memorandum of Understanding be terminated and replaced with a new contract that covers those costs.

Darrell Frost of Northern Siskiyou Ambulance said his company would have "no way to absorb the costs" if the county approved the increase. The company would be forced to look at cheaper alternatives for dispatch services such as an answering service.

He also contended that not all the county calls were for ambulance service. If the ambulance companies turned to private dispatch alternatives, the county would still employ the same personnel spending the same amount of time on dispatching emergency calls, he said.

"We're not trying to burden the county with any additional costs," Frost said. "You're not putting this on

anyone else in the system."

Angelo Banos of Mt. Shasta Ambulance Service said some alternatives he has researched would cost as little as \$300 a month.

"So if it's \$50,000 a year versus \$3,600 a year, it's a no-brainer," he said. "Other alternatives would cost significantly less and would accomplish the same goals."

Although District 5 Supervisor Marcia Armstrong said the board is not willing to "gift public funds to a for-profit business," the two men also reminded the board that they "provide a valuable service to the community," which sometimes extends beyond expected duties.

Paul said he would not like to see the companies go the way of private dispatch services.

"The way it works now, all the services are integrated," he said. "It's successful. There's just more of a cost."

District 1 Supervisor Jim Cook said he would like to

see the county recoup costs even though he recognizes the companies provide valuable services. He motioned to terminate existing agreements and have McDermott draw up two new agreements at the \$29 per call rate.

District 2 Supervisor Ed Valenzuela agreed, but Armstrong and supervisors Michael Kobseff and Grace Bennett voted no, so the motion did not pass.

Kobseff and Bennett were chosen to serve as a task force to meet with McDermott, Paul, Banos and Frost to come up with agreements that would benefit all entities.

"I think we need to go back to the drawing board," Kobseff said. "We need to go back and take a look ... because it sounds like the cost factor may not go away if the companies go to private dispatch services."

"I'd like to think there is a balance in there that would work for all players," Valenzuela said.

★ Science building . . .

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members, many recent construction projects at COS have used Forest Stewardship Council certified lumber. According to the FSC website, the FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.

"It's a shame that recycled or FSC certified materials are

more expensive," said Heilman. "We're here to serve the students. Does buying FSC certified, or locally produced lumber help the students? I don't see how it does."

The board decided, after the discussion, to award the bid as planned with the understanding that other materials will be considered.

In other business, the board heard from one applicant to fill the vacant COS board seat. Carol Cupp of Lake

Shastina expressed her desire to get more involved in COS. With a Bachelors degree in behavioral science, Cupp has sat on a number of boards, including the Half Moon Bay City Council.

The board welcomed a new student trustee to the board. Angelica Polkowitz will serve as trustee from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The student trustee is selected by a general election of the COS student body.

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