

THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

Dec. 2011



The residents of Thoroughbred Street in Alta Loma have taken Christmas decorations to a new level for more than 20 years. Photo courtesy of Gene Sasse Photography.

Christmas, my child, is
love in action.

Every time we love, every
time we give, it's
Christmas.

— Dale Evans Rogers

Looking Back at 2011

When I was sworn in as San Bernardino County's Second District Supervisor in December 2010, I knew there was a lot of hard work ahead, many challenges to overcome, and much to learn.

San Bernardino County's image remained tarnished by political scandals, a \$114 million five-year budget deficit loomed, and Supervisors were about to embark on a redistricting process that was certain to make some constituents unhappy.

I wish I could say all of those issues and others facing the County were resolved in my first year, but the truth is the County of San Bernardino still has a long way to go.

Even so, we accomplished a great deal of positive change during my first year in office, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue implementing meaningful reform, shoring up County finances, and instituting business-friendly policies and practices that help create and preserve the jobs needed to ensure our economic recovery.

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Upland Man Turns Pastime into Passion

When Don Taylor was growing up in Upland, he spent a lot of time roaming the foothills and fly-fishing in the babbling streams that snake through the San Gabriel Mountains.

"It was kind of like Huck Finn back then," he said.

Over the years, things changed as more people began venturing into the wild lands that were once pristine sanctuaries for the intrepid few. Litter accumulated along trails, graffiti marred canyon walls, and invasive plants began to take over streambeds.

Taylor — a 58-year-old landscape contractor — did what he could to clean up the mess by picking up litter during

his fly-fishing trips. He did that for more than 20 years before he was introduced to the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps several years ago.

"Now I have people I can work with," Taylor said. "I can have teams of people and get a lot more done that way."

The Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps, which was founded by the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and operates in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, organizes people to clean up and protect streams, rivers and lakes. Taylor also began working with the California Department of Fish and Game to monitor streams by collecting data such as fish counts and water temperatures.

PASTIME, PAGE 3

Christmas Open House Offers Chance to Give

If you don't already have plans, I hope you can join us for tasty appetizers and lots of Christmas cheer from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at my district office at 8575 Haven Ave. in Rancho Cucamonga.

I am hosting the open house event in conjunction with State Sen. Bob Dutton, who will be serving coffee and desserts at his nearby office at 8577 Haven Ave. Suite 210.

Both of our offices will be collecting pre-paid phone, gas and gift cards for the Support Our Troops efforts being coordinated by the San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs.

The cards will be provided to troops serving overseas and their families here in San Bernardino County.

If you aren't able to attend the open house, you can drop of pre-paid cards at any County library or you can mail them directly to County Veterans Affairs, Attn: Operation Troop Support, 175 W. 5th St., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470. Please do not send checks or cash.

Last year, County Veterans Affairs provided more than \$9,000 worth of pre-paid cards for the Support Our Troops efforts. To donate something a little more personal, contact Support 4R Deployed Military—a Crestline-based nonprofit that provides everything from books and magazines to beef jerky and candy to U.S. Military members serving overseas. Call (909) 338-0876 or send an email to support@touchofhomeformilitary.com for more information.

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On the economic development front, the County launched an electronic plan submittal system—dubbed ePlans—that makes it easier for developers to submit and check the status of plans as they work their way through the review process. A \$781-million rare earth mining operation in the middle of the Mojave Desert served as the pilot project for ePlans. The County's system allowed the mine's owner to remotely submit plans, receive reviewers' comments, and submit corrections, rather than driving hundreds of miles back and forth between County offices and the site.

Making it less cumbersome for developers to get their projects on the ground is a critical step in the County's efforts to spur economic growth. Another is removing unnecessary and often costly regulatory hurdles.

While the County has little to no control over most State business regulations, there are a few exceptions. Case in point: the State requirement that restaurants, sandwich shops, convenience stores, youth sports leagues, and other businesses or groups using carbon dioxide gas to serve soda file Hazardous Materials Business Emergency Plans.

After learning the County Fire Department was under pressure to implement this silly regulation, which would have siphoned more than \$2.8 million from the pockets of local businesses, I suggested the County take advantage of a provision that allows local agencies to exempt businesses. The ordinance adopted also exempts florists and other businesses that use helium in balloons from the regulation.

My Board colleagues also joined me in voting to move forward with an ordinance to allow more food truck businesses to operate in the County, which is one of only

two counties in the state that prohibit mobile food vending. The ordinance will pave the way for food truck events to operate in private parking lots and along designated city blocks.

Deserved or not, accusations of corruption and cronyism have plagued San Bernardino County for years. Political donations to Supervisors or campaign committees they control have been at the center of allegations, prompting the Grand Jury to call for campaign finance reform.

In response, I proposed an ordinance to limit the amount of money special interests and individuals can donate to candidates seeking any County office. Violators would be subject to fines or, when appropriate, criminal prosecution. Under the plan, the County would contract with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to enforce new campaign finance rules. The FPPC's staff has the experience needed to effectively enforce campaign limits, and no conflict of interest issues would exist since the agency has no direct connection to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board also acted to prevent County-controlled public funds from being used to build political legacies by adopting an ordinance prohibiting the County from naming buildings, parks, or other public facilities after elected officials who are currently in office. I proposed this ordinance because I do not think taxpayer money should be used to build name ID for politicians.

Supervisors also removed Board discretionary funding from the 2011-12 budget. The move saves about \$2.25 million,

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but, more importantly, it eliminated Supervisors' authority to cultivate political capital by handing out taxpayer money to organizations that support them.

The discretionary funds were inserted into the budget during the housing boom when the County was flush with property tax. The money helped fund some good programs and projects, but it also gave Board members a publicly funded slush fund to reward supporters and pad their staffing budgets. Funding could be appropriated without any public notice or Board approval.

In addition, I have proposed an ordinance to substantially cut Supervisors' benefits package to bring Supervisors' total compensation in line with what Supervisors in Riverside, San Diego, and Orange counties earn. The ordinance,

which has support from the entire Board, will reduce individual Supervisors' annual compensation by about \$54,000.

There were many other positive accomplishments in 2011 such as the formation a Vision Statement for the County through a series of public meetings and continuing to revise the County's internal organization to make it more responsive and financially responsible.

As we all know, however, more work remains, including instituting serious pension reform and continuing efforts to improve the County's business climate, and I stand ready to work with my constituents and my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to continue making positive changes that move San Bernardino County in the right direction.

PASTIME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the past two years, he has participated in more than 20 group cleanups in the forest, including working with local groups and businesses such as the Boy Scouts and Toyota of Ontario to remove trash, cover graffiti, and remove invasive plants.

During one project, Boy Scouts removed more than a thousand invasive plants. Each plant can hog as much as 200 gallons of water a day from the watershed.

"It's making a difference, but it's a slow process," he said.

Taylor is currently working on perfecting a long-lasting concrete-based mortar mix to cover vandals' markings. Unlike recycled paint, which is often used to cover graffiti

in the canyons, the mortar mix comes very close to matching the natural color of the rocks.

Taylor also organizes overnight backpacking and fly-fishing trips into the forest because he wants to introduce more people to the outdoor activities he has enjoyed for so many years.

The trips, of course, also include removing litter from the forest.

If you are interested in participating in a cleanup or one of the backpacking trips, contact Taylor at (909) 519-4027. You can also learn more about the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps at www.frvc.net.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: The inn built in 1892 on 40 acres owned by the Arrowhead Mountain Club and John Mooney was named The Squirrel Inn.

Question: Why is Mount San Antonio—the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains—also called Mt. Baldy?

Contact Information

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Applications Sought for 2012-13 Grand Jury

The San Bernardino County Grand Jury is our citizen watchdog for local government. Over the years, it has helped root out corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse while also providing insightful recommendations on how to improve local government and the services it provides to residents.

For a mere \$25 a day plus meals and mileage, Grand Jurors spend countless hours interviewing government employees and studying tedious policies, procedures, budgets, and other records. Grand Jurors help ensure taxpayer dollars are spent judiciously, they hold government agencies accountable, and they provide potential solutions to make government work better.

If you would like to join the ranks of this essential public guardian, I urge you to apply for a position with the 2012-2013 San Bernardino County Grand Jury

In order to serve, you must be a legal resident of San Bernardino County and at least 18 years old. You must be able to speak, read, and write in English, and you must be of sound judgment and of good character.

You can complete the application by visiting www.sbcounty.gov/grandjury. You can also call (909) 387-3820 or visit 351 N. Arrowhead Ave. Room 200, in San Bernardino to receive an application. Applications are due by Feb. 29, 2012.

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2011	Crestline Connect—a local networking group—meets at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Billy Bear's Restaurant located at 23941 Lake Dr. in Crestline.
December 7, 2011	Supervisor Janice Rutherford will host a Christmas open house with appetizers and refreshments from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at 8575 Haven Ave. in Rancho Cucamonga. Bring a pre-paid gift card to donate to the Support Our Troops campaign and don't forget to visit Senator Bob Dutton's office at 8577 Have Ave. Suite 210 for coffee and dessert.
December 10, 2011	The City of Fontana will host the annual Festival of Winter from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Veterans Park located at 17255 Merrill Ave. Come enjoy holiday related activities and entertainment.
December 11, 2011	Center Stage Theatre in Fontana will present Holiday Follies—a collection of current and past holiday songs—at 2 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. Call (909) 429-SHOW for ticket prices and other showtimes.
December 11, 2011	The Rancho Cucamonga Community Theatre will present A Christmas Carol at 2 p.m. at the Lewis Family Playhouse. Call (909) 477-2775 ext. 3758 for ticket information.
December 12, 2011	First installment of property taxes due.
December 12, 2011	The Crestline Library offers free yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at noon.
December 12, 2011	The Lewis Library in Fontana hosts Mother Goose on the Loose at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays. This interactive event is geared toward helping prepare children age 3 and younger to read.
December 13, 2011	The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will meet at 10 a.m. at the San Bernardino County Government Center located at 385 N. Arrowhead Ave. in San Bernardino.
December 14, 2011	The Lewis Library in Fontana hosts Family Art Hour every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Bring the family to create arts and crafts.
December 16, 2011	The Biane Library in Rancho Cucamonga offers Toddler Time from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays. Children ages 2 and younger can listen to a story read aloud. Pre-registration is required. Call (909) 477-2720 ext. 5075 for information.
December 17, 2011	The Archibald Library in Rancho Cucamonga offers Family Storytime on Saturdays from 11 to 11:30 a.m. This event is perfect for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old.
December 21, 2011	The City of Fontana will host the Cypress Center Wrapping Bash from 3 to 5 p.m. Come wrap your presents or make homemade Christmas cards for family and friends. The Cypress Neighborhood Center is located at 8380 Cypress Ave.
December 21, 2011	The City of Upland will host a free video games for teens from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Carnegie Cultural Center located at 123 D St.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.