

THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

August 2012



Supervisor Janice Rutherford talks with a resident at Billy Bear's Restaurant in Crestline during one of her "Breakfast with Your Supervisor" events.

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.

— William Arthur Ward

It Takes More Than Love—Adoption Services

The staff members who manage adoptions at Children and Family Services have a saying—"It takes more than love."

That's because patience, understanding, compassion, courage, and other attributes are prerequisites for those who want to adopt a child or children through the agency.

"We try to help them be realistic about the challenges these kids face," San Bernardino County Child Welfare Services Manager Nicky Hackett said.

Many children have been placed in foster care after being taken from their birth parents because of abuse and neglect.

Some were born to drug-addicted mothers; some were exposed to domestic violence and other crimes. Some suffer from conditions such as autism or Down Syndrome, and some have other severe learning disabilities or emotional problems. Despite their challenges, these children need the love and support only a family can provide, and thankfully, there are many couples and even single individuals who

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Couple Named Crestline Citizens of the Year



In July, Aaron and Kathy Creighton were busy helping organize Crestline's annual Jamboree Days Parade, as they have over the years, when they got a little surprise.

"Someone told us, 'As soon as you get done with this, you need to get into that car,'" Aaron said.

That car was reserved for the Crestline Citizens of the Year—an honor the Crestline/Lake Gregory Chamber of Commerce bestows on community-minded residents annually.

The Creightons said they don't know exactly why they were selected for the accolade considering the fact that so many residents of the close-knit mountain communities are always willing to help when needed.

"It's almost ingrained in our culture," Aaron said.

The Creightons, who both spent time in the mountains as youth, moved to the alpine hamlet of Valley of Enchantment in 2005. Kathy found a position at the food bank operated by the Family Services of San Bernardino and began working to help down-and-out residents get back on their feet.

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“I got to learn about all of the other needs up here besides just food,” she said.

Kathy began finding services such as United Way’s 211 hotline and various utility assistance programs so she could inform residents about assistance available to them.

Kathy helped start the Rim Community Organization Active in Disasters, which works with County Fire and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to inform residents about fire safety. She also helped start the Crest Forest Community Emergency Response Team.

Aaron and Kathy have also been instrumental in reviving the Crestline Community Development Alliance (CCDA). The organization—founded in 1996—aims to keep the community clean and to promote local tourism and business. The group hosts an annual Rubber Ducky Derby to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of the Mountain Communities, and they organize the annual 4th of July Old-Fashioned Community Picnic. CCDA also organizes volunteer cleanups to pick up litter along roadsides, and the group is currently working to revive a business façade improvement program to give the community’s downtown businesses a Swiss alpine flare.

After learning about students at Mountain Continuation High School who needed decent clothing and food, the

couple talked with the school’s principal about starting a small resource area where students could find the items they needed. Rather than trying to staff the resource center with adult volunteers, Aaron and Kathy invited students to run the program so they would take ownership of it.

“The whole thing is intended to grow on it’s own,” Aaron said.

And grow it did.

Today, the project is known as “The Closet of Dreams” and it occupies a classroom at the school. Students have secured grants to supply the center, including one that landed a donation of blue jeans from Kohl’s, Aaron said. All of the Rotary Clubs on the mountain have been big supporters of the program and are helping spread the word.

“There are similar programs in many California elementary schools but few, if any, in the middle and high schools,” Kathy said.

Aaron is also a member of the Lake Gregory Improvement Committee. Supervisor Rutherford commissioned the five-member group to provide recommendations on how to enhance and sustain Lake Gregory Regional Park, which serves as a central recreational venue for the community’s residents and visitors.

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open their hearts and homes to children placed in the County’s care.

Last year, Children and Family Services facilitated 247 adoptions, and, so far this year, it has found families for 170 children. The agency’s primary goal is to keep children with their birth parents, but that simply doesn’t work in some cases. If there’s no relative willing to take responsibility, Children and Family Services places children with certified foster families for temporary care.

The children range from newborns to 17 years old, and, as one might expect, the younger kids often get adopted sooner than their adolescent counterparts.

“It’s difficult, but it’s possible to adopt an older child,” Hackett said. “There are some amazing stories about families that go the extra mile.”

Many times foster parents will grow so attached to a child or children placed in their care that they will eventually apply to adopt the youngsters.

“They are a family by that time,” she said.

Couples or individuals interested in adopting from the agency undergo a series of evaluations and trainings aimed at ensuring they are capable and prepared to assume responsibility for a child. The certification process can take anywhere from six months to a year. The agency also uses a matching process to help ensure success for children and their adoptive parents.

“It’s a broad time range and ‘normal’ would have to be in quotes because it can take a long time,” Hackett said, noting that adoptive families can receive financial assistance to help them with additional expenses.

While Children and Family Services aims to keep children in California, there are occasions where families outside the state adopt foster care youth.

“There are a lot of people in our country who have a heart for struggling kids,” she said.

Visit <http://hss.sbcounty.gov/dcs/CPS/default.htm> for more information about the County’s adoption services.

Father-Daughter Team Grew Rotolo Chevy

Mariano Rotolo—founder of Rotolo Chevrolet in Fontana—was 19 years old when his father died and left him to care for his mother and four siblings.

Mariano began working to support his family, and he found a niche selling lettuce, tomatoes, citrus, and other produce to local grocery stores. In 1942, he started a wholesale produce company called Rotolo Bros. with his brother, Anthony.

Years later, Mariano's daughter, Marie, who enters this story again a few miles down the road, moved from Fontana and started building a career in fashion merchandising.

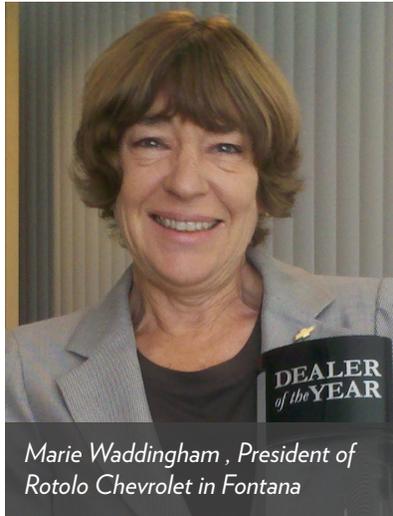
Meanwhile, Mariano began helping a friend with his used car business, and, pretty soon, the two were operating a used car lot on Foothill Boulevard across from the local Chevrolet dealership.

After Mariano's business partner passed away and the Chevy dealership closed in the late 1960s, folks from General Motors came to town searching for someone to take over the Chevrolet franchise. Mariano's name surfaced as a candidate, and, in 1970, he signed on to become the community's new Chevy dealer.

In 1981, Mariano called up Marie, who was living in Los Angeles and working on her fashion career, and asked her to come help run the business because he was suffering from "serious" health problems. Marie resisted because she

still enjoyed her job in fashion, but family members eventually convinced her to come back.

"I should have called his doctor first," Marie said. "All he had was angina, and all he really needed to do was change his diet."



Marie Waddingham, President of Rotolo Chevrolet in Fontana

The transition from manufacturing management to dealership management wasn't easy at first.

"I quit a lot," she said. "And finally I just decided, 'OK, I have to make this work.'"

Rotolo Chevrolet was inching along at the time, and Marie knew big changes were needed to start growing car sales.

She hired a new General Sales manager to oversee sales and began creating an advertising campaign to give sales a boost.

She added a twist to their TV commercials by getting her father, who loved to sing and dance, to perform in them.

The ads caught on, and, pretty soon, Mariano was a local celebrity. Some customers even requested a song before they purchased. Mariano was always happy to oblige.

In 1995, Mariano—then 77 years old—finally gave in to General Motors pressure and agreed to sell part ownership in the company to Marie.

"He didn't plan on ever leaving," she said. "I guess he was just going to die on the showroom floor."

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2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: San Bernardino County is slightly larger than the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island combined.

Question: Interstate 10, which stretches from Santa Monica to Jacksonville, Florida, is also known by this moniker? (Hint: A famous explorer)

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A few years later, Marie began working with the City of Fontana and others to establish an auto center along the newly built 210 Freeway. The new Rotolo Chevrolet opened in the Fontana Auto Center in 2006, two weeks after Mariano passed away after suffering a serious fall at home.

Marie continued to grow the business, and, earlier this year, Rotolo Chevrolet received the 2011 Dealer of the Year Award—an honor reserved for the top 2% of dealers by region. The accolade is based on total Chevrolet sales, customer satisfaction, and other factors.

As for her former career in fashion, Marie said she misses the individual challenge the garment industry offered, but she’s also grown to love the business her father started all those years ago.

“I take a lot of pride in selling quality cars and standing behind what we say we’re going to do,” she said. “You really have to put a committed team together, and that’s hard to do in any business. You’ve got to work at that every day.”

For more information about Rotolo Chevrolet, visit the company’s website at www.rotolochevy.com.

Upcoming Events

August 2, 2012	The Blue Jazz Foundation will present a concert featuring world-renowned Grammy Award winner Pancho Sanchez at the Rite-Aid Center venue located at 27177 Highway 189 in Blue Jay from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. To purchase tickets or for more information please visit www.bluejayjazz.com .
August 3, 2012	Bring the family and come enjoy some good food to help support the community of Upland and local charities. Upland will host the annual Lions Club Fish Fry at Memorial Park from 4 to 8 p.m. For more information contact Michael Stewart at (909) 921-2330.
August 4, 2012	On the first Saturday of every month until October join us from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Lake Drive to celebrate the Crestline and the San Bernardino Mountains. Stroll through the large area of artists and antiques dealers all in on place while enjoying a glass of wine, fun music and food. Art and Wine in the Pines is your chance to enjoy the beauty and charm of the quaint town of Crestline. Visit www.artandwineinthepines.com for more information.
August 6, 2012	Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and bring the whole family out to enjoy the last week of movies in the park. This week’s movie is Tin Tin and begins at dusk in Central Park. The park is located at 11200 Base Line Road.
August 7, 2012	The Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council will hold its monthly meeting at the Crestline Sanitation District located at 24517 Lake Drive. This meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. and they will discuss community issues.
August 11, 2012	Come up to the Mountain Communities and join us for the 33rd annual Run Through the Pines in Crestline. This event features a 5k and 10k run/walk around Lake Gregory and through the mountain community of Crestline. This event will take place from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call (909) 337-7275 for information.
August 17-19, 2012	Grab the family and join the fun at the 73rd annual Rancho Cucamonga Grape Harvest Festival taking place August 17-19 in the Epicenter parking lot, 8408 Rochester Avenue. There will be more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, food booths, wine appreciation areas and continuous live entertainment. The cost is \$5. For more information please visit www.ranchochamber.org/ghf.html .
August 18, 2012	The City of Upland and the City of Fontana host farmers markets every Saturday. The Fontana Farmers Market is held from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of Center Stage located at the northeast corner of Arrow Route and Sierra Avenue. The Upland Farmers Market is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 460 N. Euclid Avenue.
August 18-19, 2012	Bring the family and spend the day at Lake Gregory Regional Park watching the Dragon Boat Races. Teams of 12 paddlers manning dragon boats will compete against each other in a 250-meter race across the water. If you cannot make it on Saturday join us Sunday to watch the professional and club teams compete. For more information or to register to participate please visit www.lgdragonboat.org .
August 25, 2012	Grab your bicycle and join us for the 2nd annual Tour De Lake Arrowhead. The Lake Arrowhead Communities are pleased to invite all cyclist enthusiasts to a scenic ride past lakes, trees, and forests at a mile high elevation. Escape the heat of the summer in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains. For more information visit http://tourdelakearrowhead.com .
August 25, 2012	Fontana will host a car show from 3 to 5 p.m. on the last Saturday of every month until October. This free event features tons of classic and custom cars. It is located at City Hall, 8353 Sierra Avenue. For more information call (909) 349-6900.

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.