



## City Manager's Message by Tom DuBois

February flew by (seems like we were shorted a few days). Lots of good stuff is happening in Sutter Creek. The daffodils are in full bloom. Congrats to the Amador High School Girls Basketball team! Undefeated at home, they made it to the quarterfinals of the CIF playoffs.

With the storms, we've had a lot of downed trees and debris. Your Public Works team has been out cleaning up but if you see any trouble spots don't hesitate to call City Hall.



If you live up in Sutter Oaks neighborhood you may have noticed some activity – a \$1M sewer pipe replacement project is in full swing. Rather than digging up pipe we are using a "pipe bursting" method with new pipe being forced laterally into the ground, bursting and replacing the old pipe. It's the first time we've tried this more cost-effective method.

The Amador Regional Sanitation Authority board has proposed dissolving with Sutter Creek directly becoming the successor organization. The City has operated the joint authority for years. The real change is that we will be directly operating collection, treatment and disposal without another layer of bureaucracy. Dissolving let us cost-effectively and efficiently plan future upgrades. And it saves over \$550,000. More on this in the coming months.

Council has been looking at financial forecasts. Bad news first: if we replace things when they should be replaced (for example repaving the roads over the next 20 years and replacing our sewer mains over 75 years) we are millions of dollars short. The good news: we are doing long range planning and will make purposeful decisions on where to spend your tax dollars. We are seeking all the grants we can to stretch our dollars further (most grants require some matching funds). You may be contacted in March to give us feedback on your priorities for the city.

Finally, there will be some changes in City Hall in March. Jodi Arroyos, our Deputy Finance Supervisor is starting her retirement. Jodi has been with us for nine years and wears a lot of hats - she will be missed. Thankfully, Jodi has agreed to help me with various projects part time for several months to ease the transition. As part of these changes, Holly Boehme has gone from part-time to fulltime. Christy Kafka, with 20 years' experience in City Government will be joining part time. Best wishes Jodi and welcome Christy!

## The Jewel of the Motherlode

### Upcoming Meeting Dates/Events

- March 4<sup>th</sup> City Council
- March 11<sup>th</sup> DRC
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission
- March 18<sup>th</sup> City Council
- March 21<sup>st</sup> ARSA
- March 23-24 Behind the Cellar Door
- April 19 Spring Fling
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Earth Day 5K Walk / Run

Visit our website to sign up for online Sewer Bill Pay

[Sign up Here](#)

<https://www.amadorgov.org/services/amador-air-district/grants-and-programs>

**SCCBF**  
FREE LECTURE  
To Reserve A Seat  
Email  
[Info@SCCBF.Org](mailto:Info@SCCBF.Org)  
(Seating is Limited)  
Lectures are Held at the Historic  
Sutter Creek Grammar School  
Sutter Creek, CA

### Glen Villa

Director of the Miwok Heritage Center

The Miwok Heritage Center (MHC) was founded to preserve, promote and interpret the history and culture of the Miwok people.

**Saturday, March 16, 5:00 pm**  
**A History of the Local Miwok People**

Come Early and Visit SCCBF's museum room at the school.

**PARKING:** Look for a sign on Broad Street to access the large area for parking behind the primary school. If you need a more level access to the rear of the building, the small upper parking lot will also be available. To enter this lot, go up Randolph Street and turn left on Fuller. Follow the road around into the lot. Most of the parking spaces are not marked, so please park diagonally along both sides.

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# An Update from the Police Department

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A Spotlight on Volunteerism by Chief Jim O'Connell

A black and white police car, cruising through any one of thousands of cities across this great country is what most people associate with a police department. The officers driving our streets and responding to the citizens' calls for assistance are often the face of the police department, the ones we all associate as our public safety servants. The Sutter Creek Police Department is **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year operation**. We never close for holidays or weekends.

It takes more than our sworn officers to handle all the responsibilities that come with protecting a community. Because of budget restrictions, SCPD operates without any administrative staff. In 2016, SCPD began a volunteer program to bring interested and civic minded residents into the police department to learn about our operation and to offer supplemental support to the officers. That program continues to this day. Today we have five Police Volunteers. Over time, the simple goals we had when the program was launched have expanded and incorporated more critical and complex tasks that help the agency juggle the ever-expanding mandated clerical requirements.

During a typical week, our Volunteers may assist with inputting citations, responding to records requests, copying reports, and driving them to the District Attorney's Office, transporting evidence to the Department of Justice in Sacramento, or walking up and down Main Street as ambassadors to our lovely Sierra Jewel. Our Volunteers are also critical in assisting in traffic control for all of the many celebrations that occur in Sutter Creek throughout the year. Since the inception of the program, our Volunteers have joined us with diverse personal and professional stories. Our Volunteers come to us as retired police officers, retired state managers, craftsmen, and grocery store managers. The one common denominator is the overarching desire to serve the community and to give back.

Police Volunteer Mark Estey is no stranger to Sutter Creek. Mark served for many years as a Sutter Creek Police Officer. Along his colorful career, he also served as a Grant School Police Officer, an Amador County Sheriff's Deputy, Amador County Sheriff's OES Coordinator, and a California State Security Officer. In addition to helping out at the PD, Mark is also a board member for the Amador County Peace Officers Association, Secretary/Treasurer for the Amador County Secret Witness, Treasurer for the Amador County FAPER-Fire and Police Enjoying Retirement and Treasurer for the True Sportsman Club. Like his fellow Volunteers, Mark is a ready and willing, often on extremely short (or no) notice, to pitch in to help the community. Recently Mark worked with City and PD staff to prepare nearly 40 letters to residents on Code Enforcement matters. When asked recently about why he serves as a Volunteer with SCPD, Mark told me, "It's a way to stay connected to the calling of this proud profession and to see the threats, changes and challenges to the LE community. To support those dedicated officers in a very small way, who respond to those threats, challenges to protect and serve our community".

Each of our Police Volunteers are part of the PD family. We serve this great city together, and pitch in one and all, to make Sutter Creek a great place to live, work, and visit. **If you are interested in joining the team, please email me at [joconnell@cityofsuttercreek.org](mailto:joconnell@cityofsuttercreek.org). We would love to talk to you about our program.**

