

**CITY OF VACAVILLE
SENIOR ROUNDTABLE
Minutes of January 18, 2007**

David Van Kirk chaired the first meeting of 2007 beginning at 8:35 am. The group of 33 introduced themselves.

Dave updated the SRT on the Holiday Party in December at the Outback Restaurant and mentioned the awards given by Councilmember Pauline Clancy, Assemblywoman Lois Wolk and himself. Since one award winner was not present at that meeting, Pauline, Dave and Assemblywoman Wolk's representative presented an award to Donna Fields.

I INFORMATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN VACAVILLE

Cyndi Johnson of the City of Vacaville Housing and Redevelopment Department presented information on affordable housing and housing programs in Vacaville. There are currently 1,149 households on the Section 8 Housing Program of which 516 are elderly households. The City also offers below market rental housing opportunities, offers market rent senior only rental housing and, senior only rental complexes with assisted living. As Cyndi put it, "seniors have priority in Vacaville". Rental availability has stabilized in Vacaville with an overall vacancy rate of 5% and the senior vacancy rate of 1.4%, but rates may now creep upward due to those same low vacancy rates.

Resources available from the Vacaville Housing and Counseling Center include emergency vouchers, utility assistance, mortgage assistance, transportation, internet access job searching and referral information. It also provides resources to help educate the public on mortgages, reverse mortgages, landlord/tenant issues, home purchase counseling and loss mitigation counseling.

Cyndi mentioned the HIP program (Home Improvement Program) and the assistance available to seniors through the FIRST office. Cyndi and her Department are working on several new housing complexes for seniors in Vacaville, while David mentioned the possible development of senior housing in the downtown area. David asked the group what they have noticed about Senior housing needs with members noting the need for a "Del Webb" type community; living on a limited income vs those who have disposable income; and reverse mortgage education. The suggestion was also made that "safe home education" was a need for keeping seniors in their homes longer. Proud seniors who need assistance to stay at home should change their mind set and accept help while maintaining control of their lives. David Van Kirk asked new Public Information Officer Mark Massaferrro to report back next meeting on how to get the word out to seniors on housing education.

II UPDATE ON HIP (HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM)

Cyndi reported that there was nothing new on the table until the next meeting when she will hopefully be able to announce the grand opening celebration. The Father's House, who contributed \$5,000 to the program in December will be recognized at the Council meeting in February for their donation. Discussion surrounded the ADA Registry and getting help for seniors during an emergency situation as well as the board and care facility checks and licensing.

III UPDATE ON THE SENIOR HEALTH SUMMIT

Katheryn Tuberty announced the Summit is scheduled for May 17, 2007 at the Ulatis Cultural Center and she and her committee are working on a key note speaker and planning the break out tracks for seniors and professionals. Senior topics will include: safety and elder abuse; navigating the senior resource maize; and a health screening for seniors. Professional topics will include: diabetes/stroke; dementia and emotional issues in the elderly; and alternative medicine. David Van Kirk suggested a table be placed in the lobby at the Ulatis Center for information on reverse mortgages.

IV UPDATE ON FAST (FINANCIAL ABUSE SPECIALIST TEAM)

Steve Hosking reported on the one year anniversary of the team and it's 40 member group which has reviewed 12 cases and received requests from law enforcement throughout the County to assist. The team is coming up on \$7,000,000 in savings for seniors through cases they have provided help on and are providing training for financial institutions around the County. A "Fraud Fighter" article (bi monthly) will be published in the Reporter, KUIC will be doing it's part with a public service announcement, while Prime Time Seniors will do an interview with FAST staff. FAST has contacts with all media outlets around the County for spreading the word when they receive information on any abuse situation. Additionally, FAST is working with the County Tax Collector who will distribute FAST prepared booklets to those who are facing foreclosure of properties.

V OTHER SENIOR RELATED ISSUES

- The Library at UCC will be offering a 72 hour preparedness course on January 30 at 7:30 pm
- Interfaith Domestic Violence Training is available to clergy as mandated reporters
- The 2007 Vacaville Senior Resource Directory including Solano County updates are available and will be mailed by the end of January
- The City of Vacaville cable channel – CH 26 is up and running 24 hours a day as an asset to the community and will provide valuable information
- Commission On Aging Commissioner Peggy Willson proposed that the SMART HOUSE – experimental home of the future – be brought to Vacaville and is requesting this item be placed on the SRT agenda for discussion.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007, McBride Center, Vacaville, 8:30 am, MP 1 & 2