

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Ides of March are upon us, and March Madness is about to begin. February felt more like Spring than the middle of Winter.

On the 7th, I attended the swearing in ceremony for our new Postmaster, Ramanjit Kaur. She comes to Gustine with a wonderful track record. I believe she will be a great addition to our local Post Office. Please help to make her feel welcome.

February 8th was the Rotary Club's annual Hops & Banger event. This was the 20th year of this great event. Thank you Rotarians!

I also attended the Chamber of Commerce's "Bites, Bottles, & Brews" event on the 22nd. The food was great, with many options. Kudo's to the Chamber. They also recognized Katherine Crinklaw's Art Gallery as the Gustine Business of the Year. Great Job!!!

The Gustine Unified School District held a "Ribbon Cutting" and Grand Opening of the new gymnasium at the middle school. A fantastic addition to the school, and it came in UNDER budget. Congratulation to GUSD.

The City held 2 meetings, one on the Feb. 25th and one on March 4th to discuss options for the center of the roundabout that is going in at HWYs 33 & 140. There were many great ideas shared with the group. No firm decision has been made yet, and the recommendation will have to go in front of the full City Council for approval.

On Thursday, February 27th we held a "Business Expo" at the Al Goman Center. It was well attended. The SBDC (Small Business Development Corp.) was in attendance with several professional consultants. There topics ranged from startup to marketing, to business models. They also had experts there to answer questions one on one.

Progress has been made on the Tennis Court rehab project. We are going to fund it out of our UUT Fund. Our City Engineer Mario Gouveia has graciously offered to do the engineering at no cost for his services. This is a huge savings for Gustine. The engineering alone was estimated at about \$40,000.00. Thank you Mario and staff.

We were awarded a 1.3 million dollar grant to upgrade Pioneer Park. There were 457 grant applications and only 57 were funded. This will be a fantastic improvement to this park. I would like to thank City Staff especially Jami Westervelt for spearheading this endeavor. Also, I want to thank all of the Citizens that attended the meetings at the parks last summer. Your input is what was used for the design.

The Council also came to an agreement with Engie Solar for solar projects at several sites around the city. Over the course of the next 20 years it is estimated to save the City somewhere between 4.7 to 7 MILLION dollars in PG&E costs.

Public Works is in the process of replacing many of our street signs, and more are coming. They are also in weed abatement mode because the good weather has brought out the weeds early.

The Council approved the addition of a K-9 officer for the Police Department. This program looks to be a great force multiplier for our officers.

Our Police Department has also started up a volunteer program for support services to the department. They have also started an Explorer Program for our youth.

Officer Roseen was credited with a stop that led to the apprehension of a suspected car thief and felon, and the confiscation of an assault weapon (with no serial number) and 4 high capacity magazines that were fully loaded. Great job getting this off the streets.

The City is working with several developers who are poised to start building in Gustine. I will keep you posted as new information comes forward.

Don't forget that there is a Linguisa Takeout on Monday the 16th, with proceeds going to the 4th of July Fireworks Fund.

Until next month.

Best regards,

Pat Nagy

Mayor

Gustine City, California