

P.W. Progress

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Through the Years
with *P.W. Progress*

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Napa County Public Works

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Napa County weathers early 2017 storms

Severe winter storms have pelted Napa County and most of California during the first two months of 2017.

In Napa, substantial damage to County roads has occurred at over 40 sites, with initial estimates over \$40 million, for which we are hoping to receive State and Federal disaster relief funding.

One of the most significant damage sites was a landslide on Silverado Trail at Pratt Avenue, at the northern edge of St. Helena. This major artery for the Napa Valley, which serves nearly 10,000

vehicles per day, was closed to all traffic for just over a week, resulting in traffic headaches for those affected. Photos of the slide and the repair are on page 2.

The hills along the western side of the county experienced slides and slipouts resulting in lane restrictions and road closures in many locations. Crews are working diligently to maintain access to properties along Redwood, Dry Creek and Mt. Veeder Roads, though in some locations closures were needed due to unsafe conditions.

Other areas of the county experienced damage as well, including Mund Road and various locations in the communities of Angwin and Circle Oaks, and around Lake Berryessa.

The first priority countywide is to maintain and/or restore access to all properties, with a bare minimum of one lane in restricted areas. Longer-term repairs will require geotechnical evaluation leading to a design solution specific to each site.

Meanwhile, the winter is not over yet! Public Works joins with other first responders in reminding everyone to stay safe!

End of an (editorial) era

by Rick Marshall, Editor

This issue marks my last as editor of *P.W. Progress*. Since the launch of this publication in Summer, 2011 it has been my pleasure to help the Public Works Department “tell its story.” Now, 22 issues later, it is time to move on as I make my plans for retirement in May this year.

I have truly appreciated the opportunity to be of service to the people of Napa County. I have loved this work, as I have for my entire 32-year career in county government. It’s been a privilege to add my small contribution to the ongoing

work of keeping this a special place.

I have especially valued the opportunity to work with a group of people who all share a passion and dedication to serving the community and even leaving the place better than they found it.

Over the years, many topics have made regular appearances as they represent the bread-and-butter of a Public Works department’s activities: roads, big storms (see above!), new and remodeled County buildings, restoring the Napa River, and more.

The list of regular topics got a lot more interesting in the wake of the departmental reorganization a few years ago, in particular thanks to the addition of the Natural Resources Conservation division, but especially by adding the Animal Shelter!

In this issue, I’ve taken the liberty to select a few of my favorite items – *P.W. Progress*’ “greatest hits,” if you will. These are some of the offbeat, unusual stories that were not at all regular.

My favorite kind of story.

Thanks everybody!

Scenes from the Storm Front

Flood Control Project – Oxbow Bypass Passes First Test



Heavy rains during storms of December 2016 and January 2017 triggered flow through the Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Control Project Oxbow Bypass (aka Oxbow Commons) for the first time. The Oxbow Bypass is in the right center of the photograph. In the event of a 100-year storm the bypass is designed to divert half the flow around the Oxbow and back into the Napa River. Completed in 2015, the bypass can begin diverting flow with a 6-year storm event.

Phil Miller, Deputy Director – Flood Control/Water Resources

Major slide on Redwood Road outside Napa



Left: aerial view of landslide which originated at the top of a ridge above Redwood Road, west of Napa. **Right:** about ½ mile from the city limit, about 5,000 cubic yards of material came down on the road. Residents and businesses above this location had to loop around Mt. Veeder Road, a detour of approximately 15 miles.

Silverado Trail/Pratt Avenue Landslide



Top photo: View of slide and unstable uphill slope before repair.



Center photo: Completed repair consists of steel beams drilled vertically into the pavement, which support stacks of concrete “K-rail”. Traffic side is protected by guardrail, painted reflective white for visibility. Reduced road width has been restriped to maintain two-way traffic; bicycles must use caution.



Bottom photo: The new catchment wall got its first test within the first week! Note that the vegetation which came down with the slide material is level with the top K-rail. The wall held and did its job!

Groundwater Sustainability: Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley

The Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin was presented to the Board of Supervisors at a Special Meeting on December 13, 2016.

At that meeting, the Board approved the report and its submittal to DWR. The Report was submitted to DWR on December 16, 2016. DWR provided a 60-day public comment period on the report, which ended on February 15, 2017. DWR has now extended the public comment period until April 1, 2017. Comments may be provided to DWR via the [DWR SGMA Portal for Alternatives and Reporting](#).

A hard-copy of the report is available for review at the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District office, 804 First St., Napa, (707) 259-8600.

The [2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#) provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater resources by local authorities. The act establishes a [timeline](#) - 20 years - to implement actions that achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. It protects existing surface water and groundwater rights and does not impact drought response measures.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is in charge of the [SGMA Program](#) and has developed [guidelines](#) for local agencies to follow. DWR has also prepared a [SGMA brochure](#) to explain the requirements under the Act. A good summary of the SGMA can be found on the

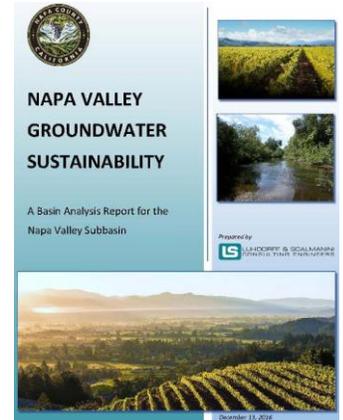
[Association of CA Water Agencies website](#).

Napa County and its groundwater consultant completed work to meet the requirements of SGMA, which was in the form of a Basin Analysis Report (one of the Alternatives to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan defined in the Act). This report, *Napa Valley Groundwater Sustainability - Basin Analysis Report for the Napa Valley Subbasin*, provides an extensive analysis of the groundwater basin and demonstrates it has operated within its sustainable yield and that it is being managed

consistent with the goal of SGMA and DWR regulations.

The completed report can be downloaded from the Watershed Information and Conservation Council(WICC) website: http://www.napawatersheds.org/app_pages/view/8240

For medium and high priority groundwater basins/subbasins, a Basin Analysis Report or other Alternative must be submitted to DWR by January 1, 2017. The Napa Valley Subbasin ([map](#)) is the only basin in Napa County with a medium priority ranking by DWR that is subject to SGMA at this time.



Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Manager



SAVE *the* DATE

5.24.2017

WATERSHED MOMENTS: NATURE'S VALUE
- What is, what was, what can be

NAPA COUNTY WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM
Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 8AM - 3PM
Blue Note, 1030 Main St., Napa, CA 94559





Above: Sheriff John Robertson recognizes Dave Rojas

Below: The "Coin of Community"



A hero among us

Napa County roads worker Dave Rojas was honored Wednesday morning for recently helping a family escape their car after it got stuck in floodwaters on Lodi Lane.

Dave was putting out "Road Closed" signs during the stormy weather when he saw the mother and son in distress.

"They were in a fetal position yelling for help in the car,"

Rojas said. "My adrenaline was 15, but I kept calm. ...I would do it all over again."

Dave was given a card from the family and a coin from the Napa County Sheriff's Office.

Thanks to Dave for his Commitment to Community.

(Photos by Kristi Jourdan/Napa County)

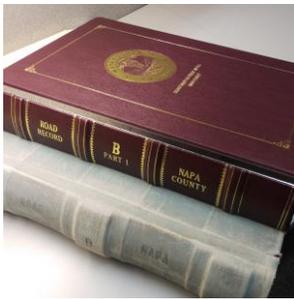


Above: Card received from the rescued family

Below: Public Works management team honors Rojas



Preserving the history of our roads



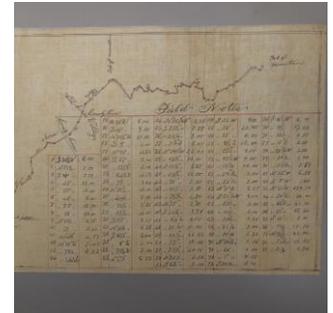
The County Surveyor's office has the responsibility of maintaining the official road records of Napa County. These records date back to the mid-1850s and contain written descriptions of the

surveyed locations of County roads, often with a map of the route attached. They provide important information regarding the history of the road network in our county, in addition to providing a look at both the land and landowners of long-ago.

Bound in massive old ledger books with the maps glued, taped, and folded in between pages, these records were deteriorating quickly. The County Executive Office approved the restoration of these unique records, and in January 2017 we received

the restored books, each carefully unbound, cleaned, scanned, and beautifully rebound to guard against further deterioration.

The newly restored books allow easy access to these records without compromising their integrity. The scanned pages make it even easier to access needed information and provide it to public users upon request. Please contact Surveying Services staff if you would like to view these records or need assistance with research.



Left: new book and old book

Right: an example record

Danielle Goshert, Deputy County Surveyor

Lake reaches impressive levels

Even though it's not operated by Napa County Public Works, it's still big news in the neighborhood!

While the eyes of the state (and the nation) are following the devastating news from dams in Oroville, Morgan Hill and elsewhere, Napa's own Lake Berryessa weathers the storm while quietly reaching near-record heights (of water level, that is).

The water in the lake reached an elevation of 443.5 feet on February 21 – the highest in 11 years.

The lake's spillway is a different design than the traditional surface channels such as has become famous in Oroville. It uses a vertical tube which only receives flow when the lake level reaches 440 feet, at which point it overflows the tube which carries it to an outfall in Putah Creek below. This design is affectionately known as the "Glory Hole."

The highest level ever recorded was 446.7 feet, in 1983. The lake has only reached the Glory Hole 26 times in its 58 year history.



Top photo: How it looked during the drought



Bottom photo: How it looked February 21

2011 – A “ghostly” reminder for bicycle safety



On November 10, 2010, bicyclist Don Mitchell was fatally injured in a collision on Solano Avenue, north of Darms Lane. As a tribute to his memory, and an important safety reminder to travelers on this road, friends and family members of Mr. Mitchell have erected a “ghost bike” in a safe location near the actual collision site.

2012 – Partnering with Business to Find Homes for Cats

The County recently entered into a very successful partnership with a local business, designed to find more homes for adoptable cats in our community.

Pet Food Express, in the Bel Aire Plaza in Napa, remodeled its store to install 12 “cat condominiums” to house these animals in a setting where they will have a chance to find new homes.



2013 – A bright idea for saving energy and money!

As a result, it was determined that not all the vandalized lights needed to be restored, to meet the safety requirements of the area. Priority was given for ensuring the presence of lighting at intersections, for traffic operational reasons.



Additionally, staff identified a creative solution for the lights which were to be restored to operation – solar-powered lights!

2013 – Vets’ Memorial Dedicated at Monticello Cemetery



On May 24, a dedication ceremony was held at the cemetery, featuring remarks by Supervisor Bill Dodd, who also read a letter from Congressman Mike Thompson. Other speakers included Pastor Bob Lee and of course, CeCe Short, whose vision made the memorial a reality.

The Travis Honor Guard presented the colors and a gun salute. Other supporters of the event include the Trancas Steak House, Sal’s Flowers, the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce and numerous residents of the District.

2014 – Which County am I in?

Thanks to a major recent project by our neighbors in Sonoma County, it is now much easier to tell!

Col. J.T. Kingsbury established the line between Napa and Sonoma counties in 1877. Iron stakes were set each mile along the 52 miles of the line.

Since its establishment over 130 years ago little has been done to maintain the monumentation and as a result few of the original stakes remain.

Sonoma County put together a project to restore the monumentation of the line, employing 18 local survey firms in the process! Records of these surveys have recently been completed and are to be recorded soon. This will be an incredibly valuable resource to property owners in the vicinity in both counties.



2014 – Sign Here, Admin Building.

The Admin Building has a new 15-foot high monument sign out front and 8-foot “wayfinding” signs in the plaza behind it! The sign program followed from the recent remodel of the building, as part of an overall effort to improve customer service.



Above: Monument sign
(Note: this photo by your editor is now used on the County website!)

Below: Wayfinding sign



2014 – Somebody Broke Our (Historic) Bridge!

On May 5, the bridge at Trancas Street/Monticello Road/Silverado Trail which carried eastbound traffic across Milliken Creek, turning right from Trancas to Silverado, was severely damaged in a collision.



The damaged bridge was built in 1908, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2014 – Napa area hit by 6.0-magnitude earthquake



Editor's office at press time

At 3:24 a.m. on August 24, 2014, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck southern Napa County. It has been reported as the largest earthquake to strike the Bay Area since the Loma Prieta quake in 1989, which measured 6.9. Substantial damage occurred throughout the community, as was well-reported in local, regional and international media.

2015 – Lights on (and flashing) for safety

Locations on Las Amigas Road and North Kelly Road now feature curve-warning signs which utilize wireless communication and solar power to enhance the warning. LED lights outline the standard "chevron" shape, and they illuminate in sequence to "guide" drivers through the curve.



2015 – Time Capsule Ceremony at Historic Courthouse

During construction of the barrier, crews discovered a "time capsule" in the newel post of the grand staircase, which had been placed there during a remodel project in 1979.

On May 12, a ceremony was held to unveil the contents and commemorate that era.



2015 – Adopt-a-Road Hits Milestone

For more than 20 years, Eagle Cycling Club has helped maintain a segment of Silverado Trail in Napa County, keeping it clear from debris and trash as part of the county's Adopt-a-Road program. Eagle Cycling is one of many organizations that provide this service on roads throughout the County, but is the first to reach the 20-year milestone.



2016 – That's the way the cookie (c)rumbles



The rumble treatment is accomplished using a new product which is made of the same thermoplastic material as the stripe itself. The small disks, known affectionately as "cookies," include crystals for maximum reflectivity during dark hours, and are spaced every couple feet to provide a tactile and audible response when a vehicle begins to leave the main travel lane.

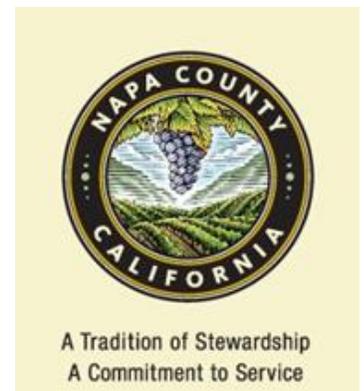
About Napa County Public Works...

The Department of Public Works is dedicated to sustaining health, safety, quality of life and protection of natural resources by providing and maintaining public

facilities and services in partnership with the community and other public agencies for current and future residents, workers, visitors and animals of Napa County.

Public Works values...

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Service
- Teamwork



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