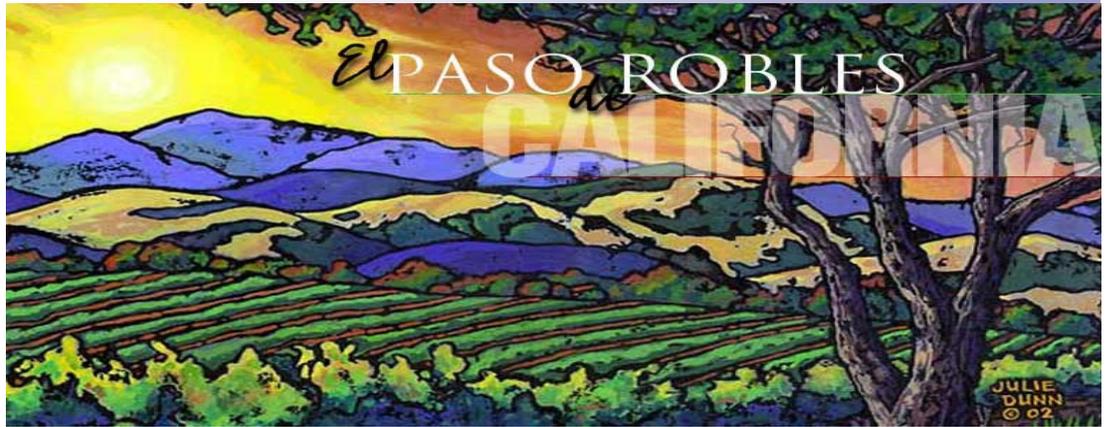


February 12, 2016

Issue 4



**County Supervisor Frank Mecham Offers Wisdom and Insight to Paso Robles Youth Commissioners**

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County Supervisor and former Mayor of Paso Robles Frank Mecham provided student members of the Paso Robles Youth Commission valuable insight into City and County government and offered words of wisdom during the Youth Commission's monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 3 at the Paso Robles School District Office.

Supervisor Mecham offered insight on a range of topics including being punctual. "If you can't be on time, be early," he told the young commissioners. Mecham also encouraged

the students to stand up for their beliefs and remain committed, "Sometimes your vision will go against the grain, but keep at it," he said. The students shared their goals and future plans with Mecham and also learned about current water issues in the County.

The Paso Robles Youth Commission serves as a formal advisory body to the Paso Robles City Council and is currently comprised of seven local high school students. All candidates are interviewed and appointed by the City Council. The

Commission is close to Mecham's heart as he spearheaded the establishment of the City's first Youth Commission in 1999. "The Youth Commission was so important to me because I knew how valuable it would be to hear directly from the youth of our City and learn about their thoughts and concerns," Mecham told the seven Youth Commission members in attendance.

[Youth Commission Continued to page 4...](#)

Special points of interest:

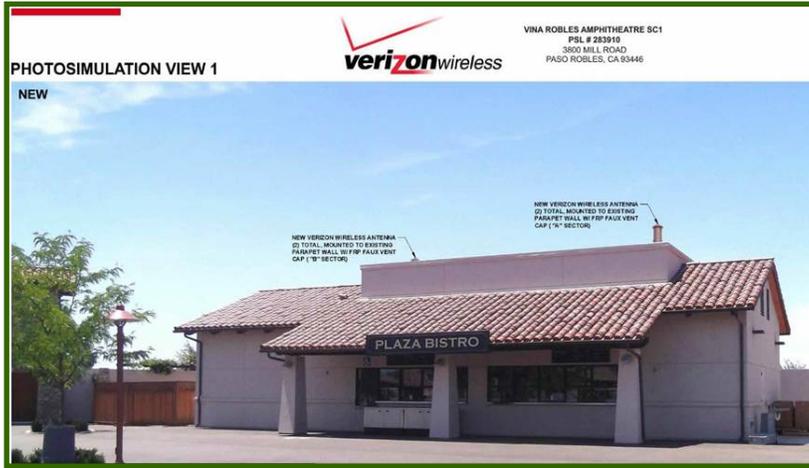
- Verizon Micro Cell Facility Approved
- Watering Zone Map
- Fireplace Safety
- Business Licenses Available at City Annex
- Pay Your Water Bill Online!
- The Wellness Kitchen Youth Cooking Classes



Front Row: (L-R) Youth Commissioners Sofia Moses, Manny Rendon, Cassidy Moses, County Supervisor Frank Mecham and School Board member Joan Summers. Back Row (L-R) Youth commissioner Brian Morales, Samuel Collins (guest), Youth Commissioners Stephen Preston, Ethan Athey, Daniel Callahan, School Board member Dave Lambert, City Councilmen Steve Gregory and John Hamon.

Not pictured: Youth Commissioner, Sophia Baer.

## *Planning Commission Meeting Update – Micro-Cell Facility Approved*



The Planning Commission met on February 9, 2016 and considered a conditional use permit application from Verizon Wireless for a “micro-cell” facility at the Vina Robles Amphitheater. According to Verizon, cellular networks are getting overwhelmed where there are concentrations of people at special events like concerts. To address this, Verizon is beginning to install small “micro-cell” facilities. At Vina Robles, two small antennas will be placed on the roof of the concessions building and disguised as vents. A third antenna will be installed on a pole. The Planning Commission voted to approve the

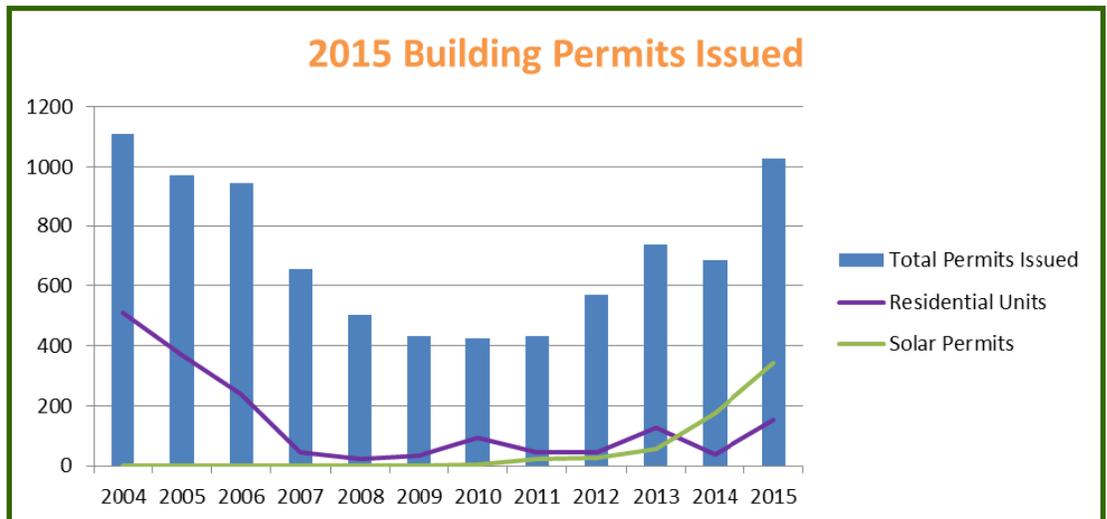
conditional use permit on a 7-0 vote. Staff expects many similar projects from Verizon to be requested, especially around the Mid-State Fair.

## *2015 Building Permit Activity Results*

In 2015 the Building Department saw a 50% increase in total permits issued, with over 1000 permits issued for the first time since 2006. Single family home permits alone rose by 60% last year with a total of 61 new houses. Impressively, residential solar permits doubled from 2014 with a total of 345 solar permits issued. Even with the significant increase in solar permits, staff was able to meet the State’s new 3-day expedited solar plan check turnaround. Increasing solar generation capacity is a key goal of the City’s 2013 Climate Action Plan with the added benefits of creating local jobs and providing financial savings for local residents.

Some of the highlight 2015 projects include the Ayres Resort, a 134,014 square foot hotel with 172 rooms, and Oak Park Phase 2, with 70 new apartment units.

Some new projects we are working on are Up-town Center, a two-story mixed use building at the north end of Spring St., the City Park rehabilitation, and Arbor Ridge, which will create 23 single family homes on Oak Hill Rd.



## 2015/16 Water Conservation Efforts & Rebates

Through a combination of voluntary conservation and mandatory watering restrictions, the City of Paso Robles is meeting the Governor’s mandated 28% reduction in water use for June 2015 - February 2016. To date we’ve saved more than 477 million gallons of water relative to 2013!

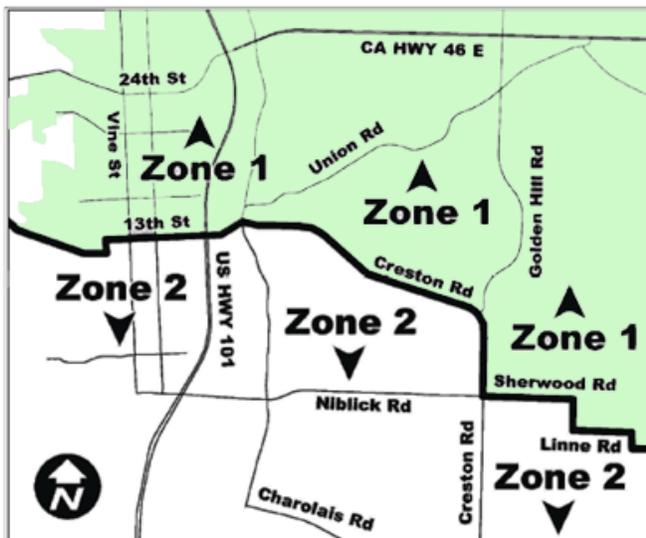
Due to continued drought conditions, the State has extended mandatory conservation requirements through October 2016. Continued diligence and careful use of water will be required to meet the extended regulation.

The City’s current 2-day per week watering schedule and other mandatory conservation measures will remain in place to assist the community in continuing to comply with State requirements.

The City will also begin accepting rebate applications for lawn conversions and high efficiency toilets on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, to allow rebate funds to be fully utilized. Visit [www.pasowater.com](http://www.pasowater.com) or call 227-7250 for more information.



**Water...**  
**Use it Wisely.**



### Watering Zone Map

**Zone 1** (North of 13th St., Creston, Sherwood, and Linne) Water Tuesday and Saturday.

**Zone 2** (South of 13th St., Creston, Sherwood, and Linne) Water Wednesday and Sunday.

No Watering on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Watering is permitted only before 9AM and after 7PM on your assigned days.

**County Supervisor Frank Mecham**  
**Offers Wisdom and Insight to**  
**Paso Robles Youth**  
**Commissioners Continued...**

The February meeting included a team-building activity in which the Youth Commissioners were divided into two groups working in partnership with Mecham, City Council members John Hamon and Steve Gregory, Library and Recreation Services Director Julie Dahlen, and School Board representatives Dave Lambert and Joan Summers. The teams were challenged to build the tallest tower possible using only plastic drinking straws and tape.



Stephen Preston, Samuel Collins, Brian Morales, Cassidy Moses, and Daniel Callahan are assisted by Councilman Steve Gregory during a Youth Commission team building activity.

“The Youth Commission is a strong and positive voice of teens in our community,” said Lynda Holt, Recreation Services Manager. “Commissioners bring forth issues, work on a variety of community service projects, offer the Recreation division ideas for youth programs in Paso Robles and do advocacy work. In the process, they learn a great deal about how city government works.”



Vice President Stephen Preston and President Ethan Athey promote the Youth Commission at the recent Paso Robles High School Club Expo.

Paso Robles School District Superintendent Chris Williams, who attended the group’s recent meeting, agrees. “The Youth Commission provides students the opportunity to connect with local government and to be the voice for our youth,” added Williams. “It is an outstanding opportunity for students to make a difference and to cultivate their leadership skills.”

For more information about the Youth Commission or to apply to be a member for the 2016-2017 school year visit: <http://www.prcity.com/government/advisorybodies/youth.asp> or contact Lynda Holt, Recreation Services Manager at 237-3987. The application deadline for the 16-17 school year is Friday, April 8, 2016.

**Be sure to “like” our Facebook page!**

## *Police Department* *Traffic Safety Program Restored!*

On October 6, 2015, the City Council made the decision to hire an additional police officer position to re-establish our Traffic Safety Program that was lost during the “Great Recession.”

Police Chief Robert Burton is pleased to report that the Department has selected Officer Adam Ketchum as the new Traffic Officer! His assignment started the first week of January and he has already made a significant impact in educating the motoring public and enforcing violations. In fact, Officer Ketchum was just recognized at the last City Council meeting for his strong efforts in Traffic Safety!

Officer Ketchum will now focus solely on traffic-related issues and will be responsible for the following duties:

- Perform directed traffic enforcement based on collision data and community complaints
- Investigate injury and fatal traffic accidents
- Apply for and administer traffic safety grants

In addition, we anticipate Officer Ketchum’s assignment will:

- Reduce traffic complaints from the community
- Control the rise in posted roadway speed limits (i.e. Traffic Survey Results)
- Allow analysis of accident prone locations
- Decrease injury and fatal traffic collisions



*Officer Adam Ketchum, Traffic Officer*



## *Apartment Fire*

On Saturday February 6, 2016 at approximately 2:22 p.m., Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services was dispatched to an apartment fire at 1279 Stony Creek. The first engine fire crew reported heavy fire and smoke in the attic space of a building containing eight apartments. Fire crews stretched two attack hose-lines up to the second floor attacking the fire while a truck company cut ventilation holes on the roof decking to release the fire and superheated gas, allowing for quick fire attack. Two units sustained heavy damage to the main living areas while the remaining six apartments had little to no damage.



## *Fire Training*



Emergency Services fire-fighters participated in hands-on exercises to hone their skills for large building fires. Evolutions included raising and placing the 35' ladder for rescue and stretching large diameter attack lines. Proficiency drills ensure quick and consistent work when on the emergency fire ground.



## *Fireplace Safety*

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.



The United States Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility.

***Fire Stops With You!***

### **A Few TIPS to Remember:**

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Limited air supply can result in creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

## *New Payroll System Live!*



*Theresa Variano,  
Administrative Coordinator*

As part of the City's new finance system, the Payroll module went live on January 1, 2016. This was an extremely large undertaking for the Administrative Services department. Staff members, Martha Cowan and Theresa Variano, were the two key members that spent many days, nights, weekends and even holidays working together to get the system up and running.

Implementing a payroll system is very time-consuming and after a year and a half, the City was able to move from its 25 year old legacy system to a system that now allows for time-entry, leave requests, and complete payroll information all online for the employees.



*Martha Cowan, Payroll*

## *Business Licensing at City Annex*

The Department of Administrative Services is responsible for providing service to the general public, business license applicants and each existing licensee. The objective is to assist each business in obtaining the proper business license and/or permit and to ensure proper compliance to the business license code for all businesses transacting business within the City.

Applications:

- New Business - If you are a new business, either download the Business License Application, pick one up at 821 Pine Street, Suite A, or obtain one by calling (805) 237-3999
- Existing Business (Renewal) - If you are an existing business license holder in the City of Paso Robles
- Home Occupation Permit - If you will be operating a business from your residence
- Massage Businesses - In addition to the Business License Application, the Massage License Application and Massage Facility Supplemental Questionnaire is required.
- Special Event Vendors - If you are participating as a vendor during a special event in Paso Robles you'll need a Temporary Vendor Business License.

**\*\*\*Completed applications can be returned by mail, faxed, or delivered in person to 821 Pine Street, Suite A.\*\*\***



*Pay Your Water Bill  
ONLINE*

*Www.prcity.com*

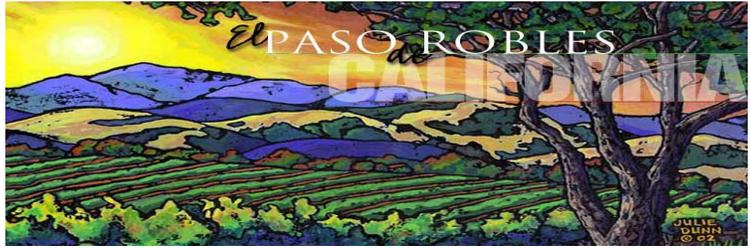


**Water ...  
Use it Wisely**

# City of Paso Robles

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**In a supportive, healing atmosphere, our mission is to provide Healing Foods to those in critical need along with education, resources and nourishing meals for individuals wanting to regain or sustain optimal health.**



We're on the Web!  
[www.prcity.com](http://www.prcity.com)

- The Wellness Kitchen provides children's cooking classes twice a month on Friday afternoons. This not only encourages them to participate and learn important life skills, but allows them the opportunity to learn about nutrition and make healthy meals and snacks.
- The Wellness Kitchen provides other services such as food programs, education, individual consultations, and a gluten-free and Low-Glycemic Bakery. "In a supportive, healing atmosphere, (their) mission is to provide Healing Foods to those in critical need along with education resources and nourishing meals for individuals wanting to regain or sustain optimal health."
- A *Pay it Forward* donation-based model is used which enables those who can afford to pay a little extra to donate to those who need a little more help.
- This wonderful organization is a blessing to many in the Central Coast Community. Please see their website at [www.thewkrc.org](http://www.thewkrc.org) for more information, to donate, or to register for their many classes.



Children's cooking class students chop a radish with help from volunteers at The Wellness Kitchen.

Photo by Heather Young

\*Thanks to the Paso Robles Daily News for photo permission

## Recreational Services Activity Guide

Visit [prcity.com/recreationonline](http://prcity.com/recreationonline) to register for all City of Paso Robles Recreational activities!!

