

Reflections

May 2005 Issue

City In A Tailspin;

What will it take to pull the City of Guadalupe out of a political nose dive? Since January when the new council minus one council person took control, nothing but self serving agendas and derailing tactics have been pushed by Councilman Aguilera and Myrt Parra.

It appears these two individuals have nothing better to do but cause disruption and chaos on the city council. Costing us taxpayers thousands of dollars for staff and unnecessary cost for special meetings that don't produce anything but wasteful dialog. They don't show up for meetings and give last minute excuses to cancel meetings, costing us the attorneys salary and other staff and expenses. Is this the way to run a city? I don't think so, If Aguilera and Parra don't want to serve the people then they should step down and let others who want to do something for the city take over their seats. At the rate they are going the city will be broke and nothing will get done because of their irresponsibility and lack of ability to serve on the council.

I think it's unfortunate at this time that we as citizens have to put up with this nonsense. To the outside world Guadalupe looks like a city going no where, and badly in need of economic development. Progress and business is at a standstill and doesn't look promising down the road. It appears that these two individuals on the council are intentionally attempting to disrupt the progress of our city. One ray of hope to make a difference is to get behind John Sabedra and elect him to the City council at the special election in June. If Sam Arca gets back in then the tailspin the city is in will become a collision of political disaster. J.T..



Save The Royal Theater:

Regarding one of the city of Guadalupe's historical landmarks, the Royal Theater, it should not be sold. First of all the Redevelopment Agency procedure of voting to sell the theater may be questionable. There was no community input or fair warning that the intent to sell was not advertised to the community. It is unfair that two votes on a RDA agency that still has one seat vacant took advantage of the situation. There should have been an agendized item to discuss the possibility of a sale by the city owned theater. Citizens input and options of how to utilize the theater should have been the procedure.

The Royal Theater was built in 1939 and was the most popular place for entertainment for many years. Many families remember the theater as a place to take the kids every weekend for all sorts of fun, for years popular Spanish and Filipino language movies were shown. Famous movie stars and live talent shows came to the Royal. The theater became a landmark and important symbol of history for our city. Over recent years many organizations have been using it for presenting programs and events. The condition of the theater is very good with

some further improvements it can become a wonderful hub for bringing in many types of events. When I was on the city council It is my understanding that the funds were allocated to improve the parking lot and add some dressing rooms to provide accommodations for quality entertainment. Staff members were going to seek funding to make those improvements. With the right improvements and creative planning the theater would contribute to the economy of the city, by bringing in people to attend programs there. These patrons would spend money here. This was proven earlier when UCSB brought in top entertainment such as the San Jose Taiko Drummers, Ballet Folklorico, Marcus Roberts Jazz band and much more. They plan to do more in the future.

It would be unfair and a shame to let two people on the Agency decide to sell the theater without input from the community. I truly believe we as a community should come together and demand that the city save the theater and find ways to help preserve this wonderful historical landmark. If some other group buys it who knows what they will do with it, but if we keep it we can work together to make it work for the community.

Save the Royal Theater!!

By Joe Talaugon,

Creative Ideas:

The Royal can be turned into a important asset to the City. By doing creative improvements, it can become useful and economically advantages to the future of Guadalupe. People with ideas of how the Royal can be used creatively should contact City hall and tell them your ideas and why it should be saved.

Honoring Our Veterans Of Wars:

On Saturday March 26, 2005, at the Royal Theater a documentary called "Soldados" Chicanos in Vietnam was shown. Veterans from many communities including Los Angeles were in attendance.

The guest speaker, Frank Cortinas, re-adjustment counselor for the Sepulveda Veterans Center presented a comprehensive presentation on the benefits available to the veterans.

A Chicken Barbecue dinner was held at the Veterans Building for the vets and families. A super special thanks to Chief Tucker, the Explorers his BBQ team and the rest of the great volunteers.

That was the initial purpose of the sponsors of this event. The information and the process is available to the many veterans who have yet to apply. A few of the veteran attendees have applied and will be receiving assistance. For the veterans that are in need of services please contact Joe Talaugon; (805) 698-6982.

The event was sponsored by; our local American Legion Post 371, the American G.I. Forum Santa Maria Chapter and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center.

The Video tape of "Soldados" is available for purchase. Order forms are at the Guadalupe Center. 1065 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe, CA 93434, or call 343-2939.

Rancho De Guadalupe Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations are in order for the new location of the office of the Rancho De Guadalupe Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. The office is located at 1065 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe Ca. in the building of the Cultural Arts & Education Center. The Chamber has it's own desk and will provide information to visitors. Please call the Chamber President John

Perry for more information, at 343-1515, Rancho de Guadalupe Chamber want to invite everyone to please come by and visit us at the new office at 1065 Guadalupe Street. Thank you.

Candidates Forum:

The Committee to Improve North County hosted a forum today at noon at the Far Western restaurant. Candidates Junie Sabedra and Sam Arca were the guest. They gave their reasons why they are running for Guadalupe city council.

They were asked specific questions about how they would improve the economy and future of the city. Mr. Sabedra said if he was elected he would like to hire a person to market Guadalupe to try and bring in more business and boost a tax base for Guadalupe. Mr. Arca said he would like to improve the public safety and try to instill harmony on the city council.

Sports Hall of Fame:

It's time again for the Guadalupe Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, on Saturday, May 28, 2005. The event will again be held at the Guadalupe city hall auditorium, starting with no-host cocktail at 5:PM, tickets are \$25.00 per person, for a Bar-B-Que top block dinner with all the trimmings. Call Joe at (805) 698-6982 for tickets

The awards ceremony will begin after dinner. There will be thirteen persons inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. The inductees this year will cover a wide range of sports, coaches, and sponsors. Every year we try to cover the various age groups going back to the early years bringing it forward to the contemporary years.

The awardees this year are Ralph Acension Antunez, Boxing, Mili Acquistapace, Football, Tuffy Serpa, Rodeo, Francis Rojas, Coach, Clarence Minetti, Sponsor, Staley Kitagawa, Basketball, Herb Lizalde, Football, Angela Guererro, Coach, Lynn Bautista, Baseball, Victor Saucedo, Wrestling, Melba Nonella, softball, For more information call Joe, at (805) 698-6982, or 343-2939.

Remember When?

It's always fun to remember things when we were growing up here in Guadalupe. For example today we had a nice visit at the Cultural Center from two friends who grew up here in Guadalupe. Nellie Varela and Marcelina Gonzales, they were telling us about their fathers working for the railroad and their families living in the houses furnished by the Southern Pacific railroad company.

There were several families that worked on the railroad. They talked about their fathers working hard on the railroad repairing the tracks all along the central coast. These men had a dangerous job because they had to make sure to get off the tracks before a big train came along.

There is a great history about these railroad workers who came to Guadalupe in the early years and stayed to raise their families. These families were, Isaac and Dolores Varela, Eugenio and Antonia Gonzales, Pablo and Maria Acosta, Natividad and Frances Solis, Pablo and Maria Arechiga, William Jess Hale and wife Ara, Mr. Ben Liggett, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Ira and Alice, name forgotten, George and Eddie Ruth Stewart.

The women told of how Nellies' father got hurt while working, a railroad tie fell on his foot and broke it. They took him to Dr. Nelson at the time but he could not fix his foot. The company stopped the passenger train and took her father to San Francisco to a hospital where they repaired his foot. The Railroad company took full responsibility and returned Mr. Varela to Guadalupe a few weeks later and he went back to work.

Thank you Nellie and Marcelina for a wonderful visit as we looked at old pictures when we were young. So many nice memories. If anyone has pictures of those railroad workers we could make copies.

Call 343-2939, Thank you. J.T.