



ROSSMOOR NEWS

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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News photo by Mike DiCarlo

Marilyn Allen has her food all ready to put into the brown paper bag for the Rossmoor Food Drive. Look for the bag inserted in this week's News along with the other inserts.

Look for the Food Drive bag inserted in the News

The brown-paper bag for the holiday Food Drive is inserted in this week's News along with the other inserts. Residents are asked to fill up the bag with nutritious, non-perishable food and drop it off at Gateway Clubhouse on Monday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Harvest Festival is on Monday. See page 15A.

The donated food can be delivered in any kind of container—boxes or other bags—the main thing is to get the food to Gateway.

Volunteers will be stationed at the clubhouse to collect the food donations. Residents can just drive up and drop off their donations of food—there's no need to even get out of the car. Monetary donations will also be accepted by the volunteers.

Every year, the Interfaith Council of Rossmoor sponsors a Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. After the initial drive on Monday, food barrels will be left in the lobbies at Gateway, Creekside and Del Valle clubhouses throughout the holiday season.

In conjunction with the drive, the Interfaith Council sponsors a Harvest Festival

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Residents fill Fireside Room to find out about shopping center upgrades

By Wilma Murray
Staff writer

For Rossmoor residents who have used the Rossmoor Shopping Center only to conduct business or pick up groceries over the years, change is in the wind. The future shows promise for a welcoming center that will entice people to stick around rather than to simply pop in and out.

But even those who are perpetually in a hurry will find upcoming improvements to their liking, with new drive-through options for coffee, prescriptions and likely food, too.

These are some of the projections delineated at last Wednesday's meeting by Terrence Tallen, CEO of Tallen Capital Partners, LLC, the company that bought the Rossmoor Shopping Center in 2012; and Norman Sears, senior associate architect from SGPA Architecture and



News photo by Mike DiCarlo

Developer Terrence Tallen, left, and architect Norman Sears gave residents an update on the latest developments with the Rossmoor Shopping Center.

Planning, who is responsible for the new design.

Convenience, comfort, choice

In August, Tallen and Sears made a presentation at Creekside (covered in the Sept. 2 issue of the News—see archives for details) on the planned changes for the shopping center. There were so

many people interested that some had to be turned away, so this presentation was given in the Fireside Room. Another large crowd attended and many availed themselves of the refreshments supplied by Tallen Capital Partners.

Following the August presentation, the center owners
Continued on page 4A

Rossmoor Fund donors are honored More than \$488,000 raised for residents in need

By Ellen Gilman
Rossmoor Fund correspondent

The approximately 500 donors to this year's Rossmoor Fund were honored by the fund's board of directors at a recognition reception on Nov. 10 at the Event Center. Close to 250 of the donors attended the brief ceremony followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Board President David Smith issued a warm welcome and introduced the board: Jean Autry, Fritzie Davis, Louise Dibble, Ellen Gilman, Barbara Jordan, Alice Lau, Reta Wilcox, Claire Wolfe and Carol Worthington. Smith expressed appreciation to Comcast for sponsorship of the event.

He said that the Rossmoor Fund does not incur any administrative costs, thus allowing all proceeds to be used for the purposes intended by the donors.

Wilcox announced that in the six years of the Fund's existence it has raised \$488,000; 850 donors have made more than 2,000 gifts. Donations have been received from 70 Rossmoor clubs, and the Boomer House Tour this year alone netted over \$20,000 for the fund.

Since its inception, the Rossmoor Fund has distributed \$283,000 in 242 emergency grants to Rossmoor residents, with the dollar amounts of these grants increasing annually. Program funding has ex-

panded as well, and the fund's endowment has increased to \$114,000.

The Rossmoor Fund is unique, Wilcox said, because all the money raised stays in Rossmoor.

New programs this year included respite care for beleaguered in-home caregivers and access to free legal services. Ongoing projects include: Emergency Response System (medic alert) education and costs; Safeway gift cards totaling \$13,000 for food (amounts are multi-year totals); 19 grants to nine different service providers totaling \$46,000; and 223 grants to 101 different individuals for a total of \$224,000.

Smith, Wolfe and Davis pre-
Continued on page 10A

Comedy legend Mort Sahl performs at the Event Center on Dec. 4

Comedy legend Mort Sahl will perform in the Tahoe Room at the Event Center on Friday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m.

Crowned as leading the new breed of modern comedians by Time magazine in 1960, Sahl was the first entertainer ever to appear on its cover. Before comedy clubs existed, Sahl began performing at the hungry i music club in San Francisco in the early 1950s. He dif-

fered from other comedians, appearing in casual clothing rather than a suit and skewering popular politicians such as Eisenhower, Joe McCarthy and JFK.

Sahl's approach is energetic, tangential and deep and wide in both social and political scopes, inspiring Woody Allen, George Carlin and countless other comedians. A 1955 performance with Dave

Brubeck was recorded and released (without Sahl's permission), selling as "Mort Sahl at Sunset," and was recently recognized by the Library of Congress as the first stand-up comedy record album.

Sahl is number 40 on Comedy Central's list of the 100 greatest stand-up comedians of all time, ranked between Billy Crystal and Jon Stewart.

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Resident plays Scrooge.
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www.rossmoornews.com

Owner of Rossmoor Shopping Center shares latest developments on upgrades with residents

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and architect went before the Walnut Creek Design Review Commission in September and after those comments, came back with some adjustments.

The shopping center will undergo a major facelift, with new buildings, some buildings removed and a fresh façade for those that will stay. Parking will be renovated and efforts made to allow for overall convenience and comfort as well as a wide choice of businesses, including new eateries.

The big coup was the

signing with Starbucks for a 2,000-square-foot coffee venue space near Tice Valley Boulevard on the south side of the center. Nearby, a free-standing CVS of 14,500 square feet will be a “modern drugstore instead of antiquated,” Tallen said. Both Starbucks and CVS will have drive-through capabilities.

Plans are in the works for more food vendors – many with outdoor seating – and one large-scale pet retailer, Tallen said.

Continued on next page



News photo by Mike DiCarlo

Residents filled the Fireside Room to hear a presentation on the Rossmoor Shopping Center last Wednesday.



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SECURITY REPORTS

FROM SECURITAS

The following are the major incidents reported to Securitas, Rossmoor's security service provider. They appear here as they were initially reported to Securitas. After investigation, details of a case may indicate a lesser or different incident description. If the case warrants it, the News will do a follow-up story.

Most of the calls to Securitas from Nov. 5 through 10

were routine, dealing with welfare checks, lockouts and nonemergency assistance, among other things.

Wednesday, Nov. 7

Service to citizen: An Avenida Sevilla resident told Walnut Creek Police if she had a gun, she would shoot down the PG&E helicopters because they are too noisy. She was frustrated over the helicopters flying over her manor.

ROSSMOOR NEWS

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Volunteers: Tom Fryer, Judie Huse and Marilyn Allen.

DEADLINES:

- Wednesday at noon – Religion notices and Club Trips
- Thursday at noon – press releases, club news and event announcements
- Friday at 10 a.m. – Display and classified ads, letters to the Residents Forum and obituaries

The Rossmoor News is legally adjudicated to publish legal notices and fictitious business name statements. The News reserves the right to reject or discontinue advertisements or articles that the manager deems unsuitable. All articles are subject to editing.

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Residents want to know how Rossmoor Shopping Center will be upgraded

Continued from page 4A

The banks will stay, as will the post office, the UPS Store and the Rossmoor Diner, Tallen said. Safeway signed a long-term lease and has committed to renovate and bring the store up to current standards. Those renovations have already begun.

To make the place more welcoming, plans involve a number of places to sit outdoors, including a main plaza next to Wells Fargo. The main plaza will have fixed and removable seating and a possible fireplace, but no water features.

"We're trying to create a wonderful environment," Tallen said.

After review

Sears told the crowd that, after meeting with Rossmoor residents and other neighbors of the shopping center and hearing from the Design Review Commission, modifications have been made.

While some Rossmoor residents clamored for diagonal parking spaces, Sears said the city traffic engineers are not in favor of that. There are more collisions due to sight difficulties in backing out and more cases of people going the wrong way with diagonal spaces, he said.

Instead, the plan is to build approximately 500 90-degree (straight) spaces, but to make them wider than the required size at eight-and-a-half feet per space. The lot will go from six spaces per 1,000 square feet to four in the same footage.

Only 11 handicapped spaces

are required on the site by the city, but based on the community's needs, there will be 34. Also, at the end of each aisle, there will be exceptionally wide regular spaces (nine-and-a-half feet) to accommodate those who have difficulty in parking.

For safety, the throughway in front of Safeway will be narrowed to a 26-foot-wide drive aisle with a flared bump-out and stop sign to slow traffic. Also, the deceleration/acceleration lanes on Tice Valley Boulevard will be reconstructed to a traditional intersection with a new spine right up the middle of the center to the plaza.

The owners have worked to provide optimal bus access. To better serve those needs the bus stop will be placed in the center of the parking lot. There will also be plenty of room for buses to drop passengers off in other parts of the center, Sears said.

"We're increasing the capacity of the project to accom-

modate the buses," he said.

Bike racks will also be placed at the perimeter to encourage people to use alternatives for transit.

There will be sidewalks all around the center, connecting buildings from the edges and down the center. Lighting will be boosted for safety and security and 270 new trees will be planted to replace the 70 approved for removal (which are mostly sycamore that are not in good health or drought-efficient), Sears said.

Resident questions/requests

Many residents were ready with questions at the end of the presentation, covering everything from whether there will be arms on the benches (on some cushioned seats, yes) to whether there will be drinking fountains (no).

Several residents asked about energy and water issues. Though there are no plans for solar shades in the parking lot, Tallen said it was something that could be considered. Wa-

ter conservation has been considered in the choice of landscape materials and there is a plan for runoff with several well-placed biotreatment areas to catch and filter excess storm water.

Someone asked about a parking structure, but Tallen said there is not enough room and it would not be cost-effective. "On this particular site, it's not feasible," he said. There will be shade for parking, however, provided by the many new trees.

There were questions about what kind of restaurants will be included and Tallen said negotiations continue for a variety of food vendors, including ethnic eateries and possibly a steakhouse, as well as quick-serve spots.

The businesses will be open during the construction, Tallen said, which is why it will be phased. The permitting process should take another 10 to

12 months and then work will begin.

Two residents closed off the meeting by thanking the developer and architect for coming to Rossmoor to seek input and for the efforts being made to improve the center, to which there was affirming applause.

Currently, the only hold-up for submitting the plans to the city is CVS. Once those plans have been included, the package will go to the city. There will be another meeting with the Design Review Commission on Tuesday, Dec. 1, and once the commission gives approval, the plans go to the Planning Commission, then to the City Council, then back to the Design Review Commission for one final look.

All public information will be available online at the city website, www.walnut-creek.org, as soon as the plans have been submitted.



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