

Auburn Journal

Sunday Jan 12 2014

Placer group loses in Meals on Wheels shakeup

Daily deliveries out; Sac-based agency to continue weekly frozen dropoffs

By: Amy Lobenberg, Journal Staff Writer

Placer County Seniors First lost ownership of one of its programs Friday after Sacramento-based Area 4 Agency on Aging permanently took over the local Meals on Wheels delivery service.

The program was tentatively taken over in the beginning of November by Area 4 with the hope that Seniors First could regain control in the new year.

Local seniors had warmed-up meals delivered and in-home checkups done daily by the Seniors First Meals on Wheels volunteers. Since the Agency on Aging took over, seniors have instead been receiving a five-pack delivery of frozen meals once a week that they are responsible for storing, freezing and reheating themselves.

Senior First staffers and volunteers worried that this new delivery method will not fully assist seniors with special needs or disabilities.

After hearing the news that Area 4 was in permanent control of Placer County Meals on Wheels, Candace Roeder, executive director of Seniors First, issued a written statement Friday:

“We would like the people of Placer County to know that Seniors First has several programs to help the Seniors of Placer County including our transportation program which includes; Door to Door Rides, My Rides and Health Express. We also provide a Friendly visitor program, Information & Assistance Program, Assisted Living Placement Program, Home Modification and Safety Repair Program and we have eight senior cafes through-out Placer County that provide hot meals Monday – Friday,” said Roeder.

“For those seniors that will not be able to benefit from a frozen delivered meal they can call Seniors First to arrange for a ride to one of our Café locations,” said Roeder. “We remain in contact with our past Meals on Wheels participants and volunteers. Seniors First will continue to advocate for Placer County’s seniors to get them what they need, as well as what they deserve.”

Area 4 on Aging Executive Director Pam Miller and Assistant Director Will Tift could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Roseville & Granite Bay

PRESS TRIBUNE

Friday, January 17, 2014

South Placer Transit Information Center wins Regional Project of the Year

SACOG honors one-stop center

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments named the South Placer Transit Information Center with 2013 Regional Project of the Year as part of SACOG Salutes.

The information center serves more than 345,000 residents by providing transit information, customer service and trip planning for Local fixed-route, Commuter and Dial-A-Ride services for five transit agencies through one phone number, (916) or (530) 745-7560. Transit information for Roseville Transit, Placer County Transit, Auburn Transit, Lincoln Transit and Health Express can also be accessed through a website portal, sptransit.info.org. According to a press release, the single point of contact makes it easier for customers seeking public transportation information.

"We are excited this unique and innovative project continues to meet an important regional transit need and provides a high-quality customer service experience in a cost-effective way," said Roseville Vice Mayor Carol Garcia at the

awards ceremony, which was held in December.

Transit information and assistance is available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and translation is available in more than 100 languages. Prior to the May 2011 establishment of South Placer Transit Information, passengers contacted transit providers individually when inquiring about traveling through more than one bus service area. The city of Roseville played a key role in the development of the South Placer Transit Information Center and operates it in cooperation with MV Transportation, the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and area transit providers, the release added.

SACOG provides transportation planning and funding for the six-county Sacramento region. SACOG Salutes began in 1999 in an effort to recognize outstanding and innovative land use, transportation and air quality planning, programs and activism throughout the region.

~Staff report

Auburn Airport noise complaints touch down at hearing

Placer County airport commission gets an earful from North Auburn neighbors

BY GUS THOMSON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

For Mary Stephens, there is no relief from the noise.

Stephens said she and her husband purchased their dream home in North Auburn not realizing that it would come with an incessant, nightmarish cacophony of noise.

Their house, off Dry Creek Road in a development that was struck by fire five years ago, abuts vacant land. But over the tree line, about 150 yards away, airplanes and helicopters take off from the Auburn Municipal Airport. Many, she said, travel right over her house.

On Wednesday, Stephens approached the Placer County Airport Land Use Commission during a hearing in Auburn to request some form of relief from a daily intrusion of noise from the air.

"It's hugely affecting my life and my sanity," Stephens told the commission, which also sits as the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency board. "I'm one



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As a plane takes off about 150 yards away from the Auburn Municipal Airport, North Auburn resident Mary Stephens demonstrates one of the ways she deals with noise in her backyard coming from the sky. Other approaches include loud wind chimes, earplugs and noise-cancelling headphones.

little person but please consider the little people on the ground."

While the hearing was a chance for comment on a draft negative declaration on airport land-use compatibility plans for Auburn Municipal, Blue Canyon and Lincoln Regional airports, several speakers wanted to discuss the noise from planes landing and taking

off from the North Auburn facility.

The debate over airport noise has been a factor in growth in the North Auburn area for decades and is expected to continue to be as Auburn works on a plan to extend the airport runway.

Stan Nader, a commission member representing Lincoln, said that he understands airport noise

concerns. While he lives 3 miles from the Lincoln airport, he said that he deals with one pilot noisily revving up his plane on a Saturday.

His advice was to continue to communicate.

"I would stress good communication," Nader said. "It's incumbent on the people using the airport to be reaching out. We can't be perfect but

can try to lessen the issues."

Carole Smith, a resident of Rock Creek Mobile Home Park, near the airport, said pilots are creating noise problems for residents as they fly directly over the units.

"We cannot have a conversation and have to turn up the volume if we're watching TV," Smith said. "Some fly so low that

it even vibrates into your mobile home. It does get frustrating.

They shouldn't be coming over Rock Creek at all."

Phil Bearry, also of Rock Creek Mobile Home Park and a former Auburn city planning commissioner, said that one solution would be to put up better signage at the airport to alert pilots who may not know that they should be banking away from the park as they take off.

"The pilots using the Auburn Airport are not observing the airport's rules concerning takeoff," Bearry said. "These rules require pilots to bank 20 degrees to the left upon takeoff."

Bearry said that it's believed that pilots are not doing the straight run over the park deliberately but are just ignorant of the rule.

"This action has created a situation where the noise is not tolerable by the 350 residents of Rock Creek," Bearry said.

While a bulk of the testimony at the hearing concerned Auburn airport noise, the commission moved through the hearing, setting the stage for final adoption Feb. 26 of the negative declaration. The new document fine tunes a 2000 compatibility planning document.

January 23, 2014

Cider maker has eye of governor in route wrangle

Placer County panel backs \$1.3M Canyon Way-80 interchange upgrade

BY GUS THOMSON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jerry Brown is supporting Colfax's Crispin Cider Works in its attempt to solve a wrangle over federal highway regulations that has resulted in the company's truckers being cited on the route in and out of town.

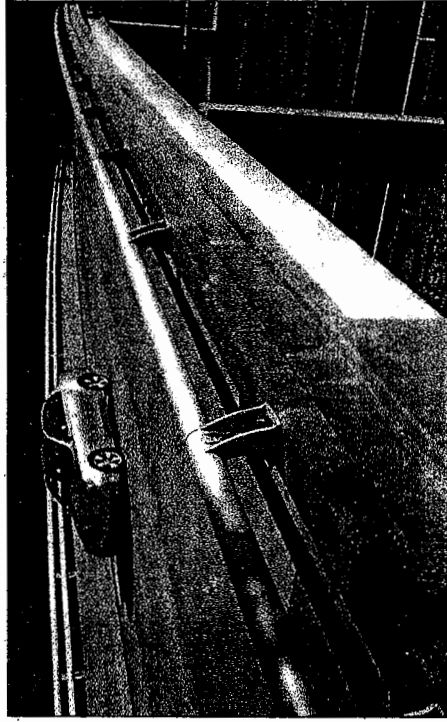
The issue revolves around the narrow turning ratios at the Canyon Way interchange on Interstate 80 and could result in

an expenditure of \$1.3 million in government funds to fix it.

On Wednesday in Auburn, the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency board unanimously voted to pledge \$11,000 in funding to provide agency staff support for an attempt to reconfigure the entrances and exits to the overpass. The changes would allow Crispin freight trucks carrying apples and cider to legally negotiate the turns.

Celia McAdam, Transportation Agency executive director, told the board that the California Highway Patrol had started

• SEE UPGRADE PAGE A6



A car passes across the Canyon Way-Interstate 80 overpass in Colfax shortly after the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency board voted Wednesday to support a proposal that could use California Transportation Commission-approved funding.
GUS THOMSON • AUBURN JOURNAL

continued from A1 ticketing trucks for infringement of federal standards on turns in 2012. The Highway Patrol is currently not ticketing the truckers while a solution is being sought, she said.

But complaints from Crispin Cider Works about citations to their trucks prompted the interest of Brown's office, McAdam said.

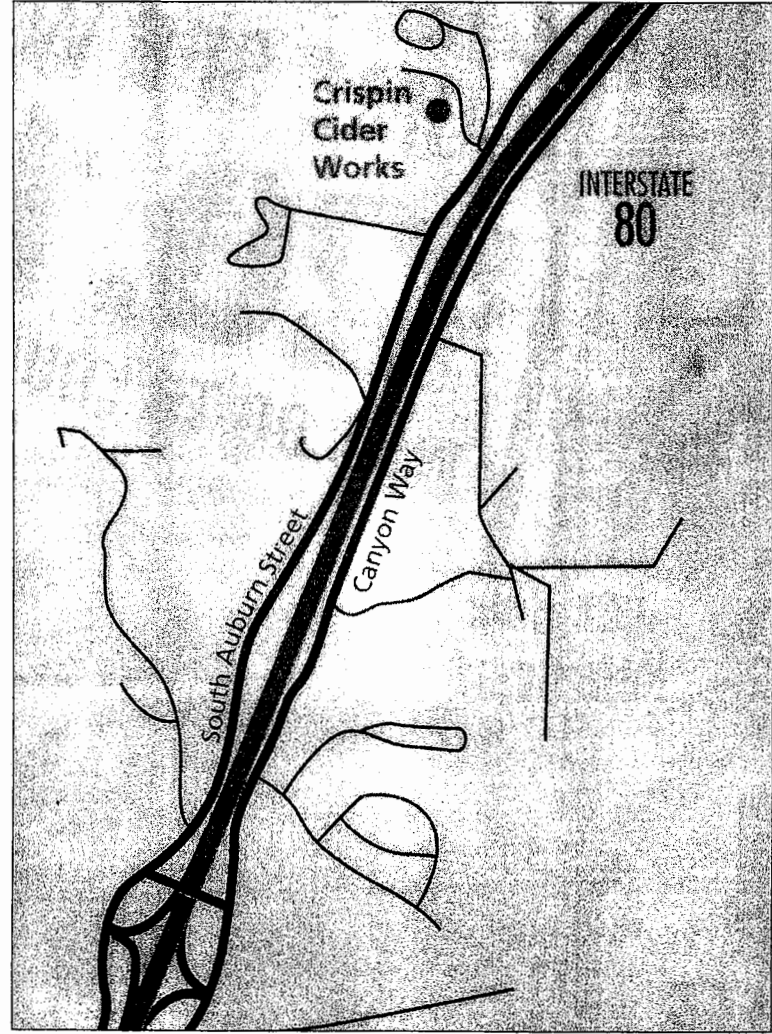
As well as local government support, the solution involves about \$300,000 in Caltrans funding to pay for pre-construction work done by its employees. McAdam said that in-kind work has also been pledged.

The final \$1 million to complete the project isn't available from local government coffers but McAdam said that the Governor's Office interest signals a potential freeing of funding available through the California Transportation Commission. The board voted to support an attempt to secure the \$1 million through the Regional Transportation Improvement Fund.

Colfax Mayor Tony Hesch told the board that Crispin, formerly Fox Barrel, was started by "two young guys both educated in Colfax" and originated in a garage. The business has since been absorbed by the Chicago-based MillerCoors. McAdam said it is one of the largest employers in Colfax.

"It's a true success story but now all of a sudden our roads can't handle it," Hesch said.

Part of MillerCoors' Tenth and Blake import and craft-beverage division, Crispin continues to



JAMIE HAZELTON • AUBURN JOURNAL GRAPHIC

grow at its South Auburn street location. Mark Rasmussen, Tenth and Black communications manager, said Wednesday that he couldn't say what would happen if the dispute over truck turns can't be worked out.

"All I can say is there's support for this at the state and local level," Rasmussen said. "It's something we're obviously supportive of and will ultimately support our busi-

ness and other businesses of Colfax that could use the expanded lanes as well."

While Rasmussen said the corporation isn't publicly discussing volume from the Colfax cidery, Crispin is growing. The Nielsen rating company tracked performance at grocery stores and found that Crispin case sales were up about 200 percent in 2013, he said. Rasmussen didn't have the

number of employees working at the Colfax site.

Michael Herrick, manager of Colfax Mini Storage adjacent to the Crispin plant, said he supports the moves now being made.

"It's a business that helps the city of Colfax by employing people and bringing in revenue," Herrick said. "Crispin has been a good business. I wouldn't want to see them go."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bike commuters can get bucks for new ride

A program aimed at increasing the number of bicycle commuters within the county has been launched by the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency.

The Bucks for Bikes program encourages commuting to and from work or school and help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in the Placer County region. The program will reimburse those employed in Placer County 50 percent, up to \$200, toward the purchase of a new bicycle from a local bike shop.

The incentive is available to Placer County residents 18 years of age or older and who are employed or attend school within the county. Applicants must submit a written quote for a new bicycle from a bike shop within Placer County with their application by March 10 of this year.

Approved applicants will be notified on March 28; they must attend a one-hour, free Smart Cycling Clinic or Basic Bicycle Maintenance class. Applicants will have until April 30 to purchase their new bicycle and must participate in the Sacramento region-wide

May is Bike Month event to log their miles. Visit <http://pctpa.net/cmp/bucks-for-bikes/> to download an application.