

SINGLED OUT: GVUSD Trustee Crumpton on the Hot Seat



By Randy Bailey

“I think she’s hurting us. She’s not helping us.”

With those words, long-time Madera Ranchos resident Warren Parr summed up where he finds himself with Golden Valley Unified School District Trustee, Kathleen Crumpton.

On Tuesday, May 7 at a regularly scheduled GVUSD School Board meeting at Liberty High School, Parr stood up before the Board and the assembled audience and leveled a series of accusations at Trustee Crumpton, contending that she had violated two sections of the California Penal Code and another two sections of the California Education Code by her actions involving a teacher and the principal at Webster Elementary, as well as Superintendent Andy Alvarado. By the time he concluded his approximate

three minutes of “Communication from the Public,” Parr calmly revealed that he was taking the contents of his presentation to the Madera County Grand Jury seeking an indictment of Crumpton, after which he was seeking a referral to the Madera County District Attorney for the prosecution of “... her crimes against the administration, employees and students of Golden Valley School District.”

According to an official document of the Board, on April 17, 2013 Crumpton went to Webster to observe an informal, scheduled classroom observation of a special education teacher. She signed in on campus, put on her Board member badge and then “dropped in” on the observation. Webster Principal Felipe Piedra asked Crumpton to leave, noting that her unannounced presence would disrupt the observation.

Crumpton refused.

Piedra cancelled the observation and called his boss, Superintendent Andy Alvarado. At this point, Crumpton

was in violation of five different areas of law that pertain to keeping anyone from creating a disruption on campus. Board Policy 1250, California Education Code section 32210 and 32212, and California Penal Code section 626.10 and 627.7 all give a school principal the authority to require a person to leave a campus when the principal reasonably believes that person is causing or will cause a disruption. This even applies to a Board member. Anyone violating these laws could be charged with a criminal misdemeanor.

Once Alvarado arrived, the Board document goes on, Alvarado repeatedly asked Crumpton to leave.

Crumpton refused.

Eventually, Crumpton did leave. She felt compelled to relate the events of that day so she logged onto the Madera Ranchos GVUSD Discussion Group on Facebook and filed the following report:

“Today I visited Webster as a board member and the events that unfolded were disturbing to say the least. I have always been honest with my community and so I will be honest this afternoon. Usually I can talk about all the classes I visited and the neat things each teacher was doing in their classroom, but today in sharp contrast to my routine classroom visits, I was rudely and aggressively approached by the superintendent yelling at me. He said I had

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Ranchos Firm Searching Our Past

A Madera Ranchos engineering firm, Bedrock Engineering, is undertaking a massive project in the Ranchos to locate and catalog all of the boundary corner markers in our community, starting with the Bonadelle areas. These are the markers surveyors use to determine where property lines are supposed to be. In our community many of the markers are more than 50 years old and many of them have been covered over, damaged or, in some cases, are missing altogether.

Bedrock Engineering is utilizing specialized GPS equipment to locate and record the precise position of existing property corner markers.

Their survey crews will initially be surveying those markers which are accessible from the public street right-of-way and/or vacant lots, so as to avoid disrupting homeowners. After they have gathered this preliminary information, if it is necessary they will contact selected residents to request access to

the property corner markers in the rear of their lots to complete the survey.

An obvious question is why is Bedrock doing this?

As addressed above, many of these corners are over 50 years old and are showing their age. Bedrock says that once this project is completed, the original locations of these markers can be preserved, minimizing the amount of time required to reset lost corners. It’s that element that can often make surveying a piece of property more costly than it needs to be. Bedrock says that this completed project will allow them to offer lower prices on boundary surveys

for anyone in the Ranchos where the survey has been allowed, immensely benefitting any community member who needs a boundary survey in the future.

Bedrock Engineering is a small busi-

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This is what they’re looking for ... a corner boundary marker. They got lucky this time since many of the 50-year-old markers are either buried, damaged or missing altogether.

Households NOT Completing Essential Ranchos Area Survey

By Tom Zonsius

A crucial survey that can shape the future of the Madera Ranchos has to date received a response by only 7 percent of the residents of the Ranchos.

There have been three open public meetings so far at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. In all the meetings there are three primary topics being addressed. The first, and most important, is getting a good sampling of residents’ input into the Municipal Service Review, or MSR. The survey was developed for Madera County LAFCO, or Local Area Formation Committee, to answer some of the basic questions LAFCO needs answered to set the directions needed to proceed. The survey is currently online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LAFCORanchosSurvey and in written form at the Madera Ranchos Regional Library and at Hurst Hardware.

A letter was sent to all property owners in the area of the Review to please complete the online survey. At our new Su-

pervisor’s Town Hall Meeting, several times people were encouraged to complete the survey. Currently, a notice is going home from all Golden Valley Schools with all school-aged children urging residents to complete the survey. Not only has there been only a 7 percent response to the survey, very few of the responses are coming from the Bonadelle portions of the Ran-

chos. All meetings so far have been held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Ranchos on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. and run to a little after 8 p.m. In attendance at the last meeting were members

of the Local Advisory Committee, County officials from the Roads, Engineering and others departments, District 1 Supervisor, Manuel Nevarez, and a dozen or so residents.

In further attempting to get the word out, the committee has also scheduled two Town Hall-type meetings. These meetings

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ness, founded by members of the local community, and it was feedback from local clients that prompted this radically different approach to surveying boundaries. "This project will make it easier for us to meet our client's needs by giving us all of the information we need to help them before we even begin the project," said Bedrock president, Mike Hartley.



Bedrock Engineers will be out this summer looking for boundary markers in your neighborhood.

Another great reason for doing the project is it allows Bedrock Engineering to continue to employ members of the community.

Throughout the summer of 2013 Bedrock Engineering will be working in the

Bonadelle Ranchos subdivision, which is generally north of Avenue 12 1/2 and west of Road 36, in addition to the portions which are east of Road 36 and north of Avenue 15. Hartley says that if you see any of the Bedrock crews out surveying, feel free to stop and talk to them and offer your feedback and get answers to your questions.

It is important to note that Bedrock Engineering will not enter your property without your permission, and you will be contacted ahead of time if it becomes necessary to access the back of your property. If you have any further questions, contact Bedrock Engineering at 645-4849. Their offices are located at 36961 Ave. 12 in the Ranchos.

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are to provide a process overview, general information, a progress update and allow for questions and answers. The two meetings scheduled are at Sierra View Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room on June 5, and the other will be at Liberty High School in the Cafeteria on June 18. Both meetings will start at 6 p.m. and run until approximately 8 p.m.

At the last committee meeting, the committee set some ground rules and discussed how it wanted to conduct the meetings. A decision was made by the committee to run its own meetings instead of being led by the County Executive. The members confessed possible conflicts or issues they individually came with and agreed that, when deciding issues as body, to work toward a consensus. If a consensus decision cannot be reached reasonably, a super majority vote of 75 percent will be needed to carry the motion. The committee elected community member Mark Toole as chairman to run the meetings and carry out other duties on behalf of the committee. A vice-chairman and secretary were not selected

but it was agreed they would be nominated at a later meeting.

The third topic that was discussed was the continuation of gaining information on the mechanics of writing the Municipal Service Review, and learning the required information needed for the various parts of the Review. A preliminary review of the survey results that had been received so far showed that the information, although interesting, did not provide a good sampling for the Review. In addition, there are other areas the committee needs help from the residents of the Bonadelle Madera Ranchos, besides simply completing the survey. Many residents have skills, talents and knowledge that may be helpful, if only to answer a question. Attendance at the open public meetings by residents will always be appreciated.

Please complete the Ranchos Municipal Service Review survey. The Review will be done and changes will be made, and by not completing the survey, you are agreeing with the 7 percent of the residents enabling the County and LAFCO to make decisions about where you live. The committee is hoping for a more enthusiastic representation and response on such a critical process.

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