

Capay Valley Vision Update

On June 8, a diverse group of people gathered to celebrate the opening of the new CVV office on Yolo Avenue in Esparto. Many thanks to all who supplied local food and drink: Bloom Ranch, Capay Valley Vineyards, FreeHeart Farm, Full Belly Farm, Java Station, Live Oak Farm, R.H. Phillips and Taber Ranch. We'd like to give a special thanks to NAU California Crop Insurance Services for sponsoring the event.

The new office is open Monday-Friday during regular business hours. In addition to housing CVV, the space is intended to showcase the numerous high quality products and services the region has to offer—a sort of welcome center to the region. In addition, the attractive courtyard in back is available for a variety of events. Stop by and say hello.

At the open house, the board presidents of CVV, Sue Heitman, and the Esparto Chamber, Elizabeth Campbell, introduced a team of UC Davis graduate students who presented their proposals for a local economic development action plan based on conversations with many community members and groups. Their three areas of focus were agriculture, downtown revitalization and regional branding/visitor services. A healthy discussion ensued where many participants affirmed that these strategies were appropriate and, if implemented appropriately, could help to strengthen the region's rural character we all cherish.

Economic development is one of three areas of community planning under the Capay Valley-Esparto Region 2020 project that seeks to create a long-term strategy for community enhancement in the region. The other areas are social and physical development. Please give us a call to find out more.

Ag Task Force

In the midst of the abundant harvest and the long days of summer, the Agriculture Task Force will meet on July 7, 7-9 p.m. at the Esparto Library. Topics for discussion include bar coding products for retail sales, the Yolo County Fair, and planning a harvest dinner.

Housing Report

The Housing Task Force wrapped up its initial year of study to assess housing needs for the region. Staff is preparing a report summarizing the study's findings and suggested action steps that is expected to be available in late July.

Among the task force's suggested actions is the diversification of housing models available for rent and purchase targeted at families working in the region, especially agricultural workers, as well as seniors. A project mixing housing with commercial space and a community resource center has also generated much interest. Toward this goal, CVV is partnering with Esparto Unified School District, RISE and the California Coalition for Rural Housing, as well as nonprofit and private developers, to further develop this concept, identify possible sites, and convene a development team. The S. H. Cowell Foundation, a private northern California foundation, has awarded \$25,000 grant in support of this effort.

New Contact Info

Capay Valley Visions continues to work toward a shared vision for the future of the region and facilitating ongoing collaborative planning. If you are interested in finding out more please give us a call at 787-3353, visit us at 16915 Yolo Avenue, or go online to www.capayvalleyvision.org. Please note our mailing address (P.O. Box 799, Esparto) remains unchanged.