

Capay Valley Vision Update

2004 has been an eventful year for the Capay Valley-Esparto Region. One resident remarked that the Valley has changed more in the last five years than it had in the last century. This past year alone has brought new subdivisions in Esparto, the expanded casino resort, achievement advances for our public schools, a farmers' market in the Esparto Park, renovations to the town halls in Guinda and Rumsey, a new park playground and childcare facility in Madison, and the Valley's first spotlight.

While opinions vary on these and other changes afoot, most would agree on the importance of community involvement to help guide and direct change. We recognize that if, we, as a community do not accept this challenge, the direction of the future will surely be far different than we hope for. After all, it is the people that make our community such a special place to live.

At CVV we have tried to provide a forum through which a common dialogue about our future as a region from Madison to Rumsey can occur. In addition to providing information useful to the general planning work of the citizens' advisory committees, CVV seeks to attract resources that help to materialize the community's plans. We thank all of you who participated in task forces, community workshops, and events by investing your time, creativity, and commitment to improving this place we all call home. And we hope many more of you will get involved in shaping your community's future.

Holiday Gift Idea

Are you looking for a unique holiday gift that is functional, supports your local community, and will be treasured by the person who receives it? Consider giving the gift a Capay Valley Grown product or t-shirt.

Capay Valley Grown is a partnership of farmers, ranchers and producers in the Capay Valley-Esparto Region working to improve the marketability of their products. The beautiful logo created by local residents is being used to communicate a sense of place.

You can purchase t-shirts, hats, aprons, tote bags, buttons, and magnets with the Capay Valley "Grown" or "Inspired" logo. Many of these items are available at Esparto's Java Station, the Guinda Corner Store, Cache Creek Mini-Mart, or on our webpage: www.capayvalleyvision.org. You can also find these items and products from local farms and artists for sale at the December 11 Farmers' Market in the Esparto Community Park.

Year Ahead

Capay Valley Vision is looking to have another productive year in 2005. We are pleased to have the help of Esparto resident Chelsea Becker who will be assisting in community outreach. Through the AmeriCorps service program, Chelsea will be working with us full-time.

In the year ahead, we look forward to the continued work of volunteer task forces and collaboratively addressing issues in agriculture, local economic development, housing, recreation, transportation, and overall community enhancement. If you'd like to get involved with any of these, please feel free to contact the CVV office at 796-4160. We invite you to call

us to share your thoughts, concerns and questions about improvements you'd like to see in the community.

Best wishes to all for this Holiday Season and the New Year.