

# *Esparto Park and Pool...is on a Roll!*



A Madison resident remembers talk of an Esparto swimming pool when she was in kindergarten some 50 years ago. She recalls saving pennies in a mason jar and donating them to the project at school. Through the years, there have been many attempts at making this dream a reality. With special thanks to the concerted efforts of many partner organizations and volunteers, 2014-2015 was THE banner year that made all the patience, persistence and perseverance worthwhile.

The most recent effort has spanned about ten years and finally came together, when a piece of property was identified and a successful application for a California State Parks and Recreation grant of \$2.89 million was awarded to Yolo County for a ten-acre park and competitive swimming pool. Next steps included working with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and staff. During this three-year effort, many volunteers and Capay Valley organizations worked to move the project forward as the Board of Supervisors needed assurances that the annual maintenance and operations costs could and would be covered. It took lots of Capay Valley convincing, the willingness of each supervisor to listen, and the ultimate success of both parties caring enough to make this project work.

It was obvious to everyone involved that park and pool usage fees would not be enough to cover the costs of running the operation. So as the BOS conversations were going on, more local volunteers worked with Esparto property owners and in May, they approved a funding measure to help augment the annual maintenance fees.

THANK YOU ESPARTO...the banner reads on the Esparto downtown Adams building.

During this time an endowed fund, the Western Yolo Recreation and Aquatic Fund, was established with the goal of raising \$1 million. When fully funded, the endowment will generate \$50,000 annually to be utilized to sustain the annual operations and maintenance costs of the Park and Pool. Our determined Park & Pool Project volunteers have raised \$625,000 towards that goal since January 2015!

The most recent commitment to the Endowment Fund was from our Capay Valley neighbor and partner, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Tribe committed a three year Community Fund grant to the endowment in support of the Park & Pool's annual operational expenses. Yocha Dehe's partnership launched the Endowment Fund's total well over the halfway mark and significantly made it closer to our goal of securing \$1 million.

This remarkable and generous commitment is a shining example of the extraordinary support that our community has consistently demonstrated for the Esparto Park & Pool Project!

Hopefully, as you read this issue of the Valley Voice, the BOS has signed off on the funding plan and authorized the purchase of the ten-acre property located in mid-Esparto. Certainly there is a lot more to do, a lot for all the Capay Valley non-profits, volunteers, leaders and groups to accomplish. But look out Yolo County because the Esparto Park and Pool project is on a roll!