

October, 2011

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Welcome Home John by Carl Schmid

According to new boundaries proposed by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, Davis will be moved from Mike Thompson's into John Garamendi's Congressional District in the 2012 election. Ironically, Republicans had been among the principal proponents of this new redistricting scheme and are now dissatisfied with the CRC's proposal. They are currently mounting both legal and political challenges to overturn its results. (In a good example of being *careful to get what you wish*,



Patty & John Garamendi with their host, Bob Schneider

Republicans were surprised to learn that fairly drawn election districts in California are most likely to elect more Democrats.)



Pete and Helen McCloskey

On the safe expectation that the CRC's proposed boundaries will eventually prevail, Bob Schneider and Liz Merry hosted a well-attended "Welcome Home John" reception for Congressman Garamendi. Those in attendance would constitute a long "who's who" list of officials in Yolo County and Davis politics including as just one notable example, former Congressman Pete McCloskey, a person who truly epitomized the phrase "Republican maverick" before he became a Democrat. (We Democrats in this difficult time are obliged to remember that there have been great Republican statesmen. Our nation is poorly served when one of its great parties becomes irrational.)

John and Patty Garamendi are not new to Davis. In addition to having four children who attended UCD, John previously represented Davis in Sacramento, and both he and Patty frequently attended DDC and YCDCC events. In 2006, Patty knocked on doors while walking election precincts in Davis!

Although Mike Thompson is a truly great Congressman, we gladly join Bob Schneider in welcoming John Garamendi back home.

Following his then recent election to Congress, Garamendi proudly reports that his became the 218th vote required to pass Health Care Reform. The Congressman proclaimed that ***I love this new job because the issues are profoundly important.***

As an example of the simple ignorance and naiveté exhibited by our new T-party Congress, Garamendi explained how a Republican Committee Chair proposed giving the Department of Homeland Security the power to eliminate environmental review for any projects that are situated within 100 miles of the border including our own coast line, a line going through Roseville!

According to Garamendi, Republicans ***play tougher*** as their ***priority is to make Barack Obama a one-term president, whereas we*** [Democrats] ***want to make government work.*** Along these lines, the Congressman supports expenditures to put people to work by building light rail in Sacramento. ***A modern transit system made here [Sacramento] is exciting.***

Responding to audience criticism that Congressional Democrats are not fighting back, the Congressman recalled a personal story. (Continued p. 2)

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Calendar of Events

Tues., October 4, 7:00-9:00 pm, regular DDC Board business meeting, general members and public welcomed. Davis Library Meeting Room.

Sun., Sept. 18, 4:00-6:00 pm, Fall BBQ, Enjoy a variety of sausages and beverages, served in relaxed surroundings. Hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home 2424 Rodin Pl., Davis: Contact Richard Yamagata 848-8634.

Sun., Oct. 23, 5:00-8:00 pm, Annual Bean Feed, (excellent BBQ chicken and tri tip) Keynote speaker TBA, local, state and national elected officials, former congressman Vic Fazio will attend. Veterans Memorial Center Davis, Contact Bob Schelen <slobadbobs@aol.com>.

Fri., Dec. 2, 5:00 pm, Holiday Party (Place and program TBA)

(Garamendi continued from p. 1) Following a long day at work, he was glad to return home at a late hour, until Patty sternly asked him "Why aren't you speaking on the floor?" At first, he was perplexed by her scolding as Congress had already concluded its day's business. But she then told him to "watch C-span." "Late at night in an entirely empty chamber, the Republicans took the floor and ripped us" all for the benefit of the TV audience on C-span. She ended this family discussion by saying that she expected to see him speaking on C-span starting tomorrow evening. The Congressman working with colleagues formed a team to engage the public in a balanced debate of the issues by answering these daily Republican attacks. John and Patty Garamendi present a strong clear voice for our values.

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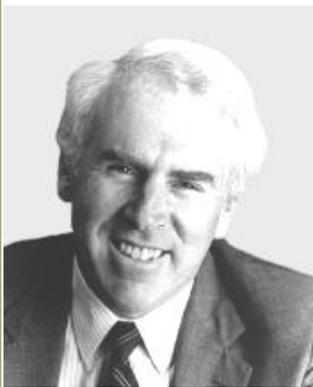
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Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed

Mark your calendar for the Annual Bean Feed at 5:00 pm, Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Veterans Memorial Center in Davis. Former Congressman Vic Fazio will be the featured guest of honor. Although the program is not final, State Sen. Lois Wolk, Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, and local elected officials are expected to attend.



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Fall BBQ

Also, please mark your calendar for Richard Yamagata's (shown below preparing his grill for action) favorite event of the year, the Fall BBQ to be held at 4:00 pm, Sunday, Sept. 18, at the home of Stephen and Robin Souza, 2424 Rodin Pl., Davis. Sausage are accompanied by salads, beverage and good humor; Hawaiian shirts are recommended.



New council member digging right into Davis's challenges by Tim Fenton



Dan Wolk was appointed to the Davis City Council in March to serve out the remainder of Dan Saylor's term. Saying he hopes to represent a new generation of leadership, he has already committed to stand for election in 2012. He enjoys his council service but between that, his work as

a county attorney in Solano County and his family commitments, there is no spare time.

As the council member with the youngest family, he says he views the issues through the lens of the community his two daughters will inhabit in the future. He hopes not to kick any of Davis's major challenges down the road to when those daughters will have to solve them. He noted three challenges in particular; the budget, water and unfunded liabilities, principally city employees' health care and pensions.

Budget concerns return to the council in September. Wolk notes that while the council has balanced the city budget for now, the members must next look at the long-term challenges. That, he says, will require a collaborative process involving the council, city employees, and the public. The city has made promises on pensions and health care for staff that he believes are unsustainable. He sees ours as an era of limited resources and the way ahead on the budget clouded by the need to renew three taxes: the two schools parcel taxes and the park tax. All three will be subject to a referendum in 2012 requiring a two-thirds vote for their reenactment. Wolk also notes that city government needs to have higher cash reserves going forward at a time when people are in no mood to increase taxes.

We talked just prior to the council meeting that would decide upon Proposition 18, thereby, establishing water rates in the immediate future. He said city staff had worked hard to reduce the rates but added that the increases will be difficult for citizens and business to accept. More than 4,000 homeowners returned protest ballots, but Wolk said this was less than needed to block the rate increases. He recalled that back in mid century Yolo County and Davis had missed an opportunity to join in the development of water from Lake Berryessa.

Now the city is dependant solely on ground water and that, Wolk says, is unsustainable owing to a diminishing aquifer, water quality concerns and consequent concerns about waste water discharged from the treatment plant. Considering this last concern, Wolk says Davis must comply with state discharge requirements by 2017 or incur substantial penalties. Toward this end, he supports the proposed Woodland-Davis joint plan for tapping Sacramento River water, the cause of the spiraling water rates.

Other issues he mentioned included the cell tower proposal and Conagra's proposed mixed use development at the old Hunt-Wesson cannery property. He said that the city has approved Conagra's pre-application and that he supports moving to the next stages of development noting the project's inclusion of housing appropriate for young families as well as seniors, who are Davis's fastest growing demographic segment.

Despite the many current challenges confronting our city, Wolk reports that council is conducting its business in a collegial manner and hopes that he is contributing to its positive atmosphere. Having spent an enjoyable visit with him, your reporter feels confident that he is.

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...run for election...

...new generation of leadership...

Depending on ground water is simply unsustainable.

...can't kick challenges down the road...

The council, city employees and the public need a collaborative process.

...era of limited resources...

Democratic Newsletter

Fall BBQ
Sunday, Sept. 18,
4:00-6:00 pm
Relax and join the fun

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