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TITLE-----A smorgasbord of items...!

"Neighborhood Speak"-----by Steve Patterson—Federation of SR Neighborhoods

Downtown Parks and Open Space:

If you have been in Gerstle Park, Albert Park, Boyd Park or even the SR Library Grass area, you may have seen some young homeless men with backpacks hanging out and creating problems. One of the biggest problems is their unleashed and unlicensed Pit Bulls. For all, there are strict leash laws that require all dogs to be on leash whenever they are present in a San Rafael park. They are an intimidating factor to residents who wish to walk their dogs in the parks or take their young children to play.

If you have ever witnessed a Pit Bull attack, it cannot be stopped. Their steel jaw clamping bites can be absolutely devastating in their ability to destroy tissue and bone. Pit Bulls will fight to the death and often need to be destroyed in order for an incident to end. The damage to humans, dogs or other animals is often shocking if they become a victim of a Pit Bull.

Numerous people have reported the presence of these men and their dogs to the proper authorities. They have also reported that areas occupied by these men are often trashed with litter, and facilities are being used in ways they are not meant to be, resulting in destruction. The SRPD has cited these people on numerous occasions, so it will be interesting to see how the legal system responds and prosecutes these violators. Underground sting operations are also planned by the SRPD staff to further keep up the pressure. If you witness such activity, you are urged to call the SRPD (485-3000) or the Marin Humane Society (883-4621).

MMWD election:

In the upcoming November election 4 of the 5 MMWD directors will be up for re-election. This election has really become a referendum on desalination. In San Rafael, south of Puerto Suello Hill (excluding Terra Linda) there are two districts. Recently the Federation held a meet the candidates evening where each candidate came in and met with us individually for about 25 minutes. In district #2— John O'Connor and Glenn Dombeck and incumbent Armando Quintaro, were present and participated.

What was most interesting for District #3 which has about 10% of its votes in San Rafael and then extends into Greenbrae, Ross Valley and part of Fairfax, found only challenger Frank Egger present. MMWD Board President—David Behar, who is running for re-election indicated by his lack of participation, that San Rafael was not worth his time or the number of votes at stake not in his interest to appear. So, he decided to pass and in passing, on campaign events, voters are unable to

ask you any questions or inquire about your positions on issues. It seems the height of arrogance for any elected official to dismiss a candidate event but for Behar, this has apparently been his pattern and part of his campaign strategy.

Massage Ordinance:

For the past 6 months, or so, the City of San Rafael City Attorney's office has been crafting a massage ordinance. As many people have observed, massage studios have thrived in San Rafael and many suspect they have become front operations for prostitution. There have been several opportunities to have the public comment on what is being proposed.

What seems to be evolving is an ordinance that will make it more difficult to be a legitimate masseuse therapist and yet nothing which will create enough clout to really impact alleged prostitution operations. The illegitimate operations are run by entrepreneurs and, as such, they will easily navigate around what is being proposed.

In the next few weeks, our City Council will be hearing this ordinance to determine whether it should be passed into law. If you have an interest in massage or the exploding number of massage studios, you are urged to attend these meetings to help guide our Council and their decision-making. Council meetings take place the first and third Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Fifth Avenue.

Comments or suggestions—Steve Patterson, 453-6541, stephenpatterson.1@comcast.net
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