

Town focusing on growth, activities

By REGAN TUTTLE

Editor | Posted: Monday, December 1, 2014 12:00 am

Norwood may be gaining momentum in its desire as a town to come together, generate ideas and promote successful growth. The March 12 town board meeting welcomed several presentations.

Betty Greager, on behalf of the Norwood Historical Society, reported that NHS was ready to sign the new lease on the cabin on Lucerne Street. NHS has also purchased a thorough insurance policy for liability on the property. Greager signed the new lease onsite, and it takes effect April 1.

From the San Miguel County Fairgrounds, manager Deanna Burbridge requested Summit Street be closed for Star Spangled Saturday June 28, as well as the San Miguel Basin Carnival and the fair and rodeo. In all, Summit Street will likely be closed July 14 through July 27.

“Any festivities in Norwood are good. Let’s close it,” board member Rich Sanchez said.

Norwood Library Director Carrie Andrew gave an annual update. Her statistics indicate that the library sees as many as 100 kids on Thursdays for summer reading. And, while 2009 saw a total of 800 visitors to the library, last year that number jumped to 2,890.

“We are getting busier, and we expect the numbers to keep rising,” she said.

Because of those increases and the need for space — due to events like last week’s Teen Tech Week, where the library quickly ran out of room — Andrew is still investigating possibilities for expansion and partnership.

According to Andrew, the library has hired a professional library consultant to study the idea of the Norwood library joining the Park and Rec District for a shared space that would meet multiple needs in the community.

“We hired him for six months to take us through an exploration process to see how can we best work together with the rec district. We will have meetings in Norwood,” she said.

Andrew said the consultant will give his recommendation this September on whether the library and PRD should move forward in partnership. If he feels the idea is not feasible, he will make a recommendation for the library to proceed in another sort of building campaign independently.

“We are overflowing and don’t have space at the library. We’re already partnering with ACE and the firehouse for room,” Andrew said.

She feels the need to expand could help Norwood organizations join forces to create something of real value for future generations.

“Let’s make these dollars go as far as they can by working together,” she said.

Chamber of Commerce Board President Rebecca Rodgers, along with Vice-President Deon Tempfer, appeared before the town board to discuss the idea of a regional bicycle plan and asked for a letter of support.

Currently, \$600 million is available in grant funding for the purpose of widening road shoulders to promote more family-friendly bicycling. According to Rodgers, this is a need for Norwood.

“Right now it’s passable, but not for families. We have lots of trails, but not roads for riding. We want rest stops and more shoulder, especially the 17 miles from Placerville to Norwood,” she said.

Rodgers and Tempfer also shared the news of their new fundraiser, the First Annual Sportsman Challenge, stressing safety and their vision for the large number of people who will be drawn to Norwood for the September shooting event.

Finally, Grafmyer reported that the town is only \$200 short the amount due for the New Year’s Eve fireworks presentation. Norwood still welcomes donations, and they can be used as a surplus for next year’s show.

Town board meets again April 9.