

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

May 8-14, 2020

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 30



*if trailers arrive
will they form small town like this
on the fairgrounds lot*

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia; haiku by Wanda Sue Parrott

ARE THE FEMA TRAILERS LOST IN LIMBO?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

ANSWERING last week's headline question, "Where have all the homeless people gone?" Vanja Thompson, peninsula writer, emailed:

"Now that fast food places are closed except for drive throughs, Elena (real name, permission to use) told me it's really hard to find a bathroom or get a cup of coffee or soda, which she used to buy and refill cheaply all day at McDonald's. She now finds places to go the bathroom outdoors more often than she used to."

I responded: "If you're interested in writing about homelessness, would you like to be a guest writer for this column?"

"When?" Vanja replied.

"Yesterday," I said.

We discussed the need for more coverage of the greater-than-Covid-19 crisis, or close to it, being homelessness and the housing crisis.

I said, “While you write about what interests you, I’ll see what I can find out about the missing trailers!”

So, she went to work investigating homeless persons on the Monterey Peninsula and, specifically, what she could find out about the housing issues pertaining to homeless people who might or might not have Covid-19, and where, if anywhere, they might or might not be sheltered.

As her findings are received, I will add them to this column or run them as sidebars with her own photos and byline.

Welcome, Vanja!

It is great to know you’re coming aboard.



Vanja Thompson, Guest Columnist

Meanwhile, I dug into the question of missing trailers and found that on, April 15, the County of Monterey’s Office of Emergency Services announced 90-100 FEMA trailers could, *but maybe won’t*, arrive here to help house homeless people who don’t, *or maybe do*, test positive for the Covid-19 virus, with date of possible arrival ranging from May through July.

How non-specific is that?

Vanja is digging deeper. Until her findings are released, does anyone care to bet on where the trailers are - or will be?

Be well, take care, thanks for reading this column, and may the Muse be with you until we meet again!

Wanda



Photo of Wanda Sue Parrott by Ludmila Austin

This column appears online in *Cedar Street Times* at www.cedarstreettimes.com.

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