

**Homeless in Paradise
November 27 - December 3, 2020**

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 57



**Retiring Senator
Bill Monning
has won
"Friend of Puppy Dogs Award"
for Senate Service**

**Retiring Supervisor
Jane Parker
wins "Hottest Hat Award"
Will it fit Wendy?**



FOND FAREWELL TO TWO POLITICAL ICONS

By Wanda Sue Parrott

(Posting this early on Facebook and Nextdoor gives readers a chance to participate in the annual holiday feast described at the bottom of this column. If you want to make reservations, do it now! Have a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving.)

SAYING thanks to iconic retiring public servants is a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving. If it seems I'm creating two imaginary awards, you're right. They're gobblety-gulp unique.

First, the Friend of Puppy Dogs Award is for state Senator Bill Monning, shown here with this doggy at the SPCA. Bill's gentle, kind-yet-firm approach to public service reflects how he treated everyone and everything with honor and grace.

Second, the Hottest Hat Award is for retiring County of Monterey District 4 Supervisor, Jane Parker, seen here in the Pink Pussyhat she wore in dignified loving support of women and girls back in 2017. With Jane is Wendy Root Askew, her long-time aide and successor for the District 4 supervisorial seat on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

Both retiring political figures exemplify how elected public servants could, should and can serve by practicing belief in the worth and dignity and of all living things.

Thank you both as a columnist and Unitarian Universalist who appreciates the fact I have consistently witnessed your dispensation of the oft-difficult duties of your offices according to the UU principle from "What do Unitarian Universalists believe?" by David Rankin.

We believe in the worth and dignity of each human being.

***All people on earth have an equal claim to life, liberty and justice
and no idea, ideal or philosophy is superior to a single human life.***

Will Wendy ever wear Jane's hat? Time will tell. As Wendy Root Askew becomes the new District 4 Supervisor, she shares this message (printed here in excerpt form):

Wendy Says Thanks

We Did It! It has been my absolute honor to campaign these past two years in Seaside, Marina, South Salinas, East Garrison, Del Rey Oaks, CSUMB, and Sand City and to hear about the issues impacting you and your families.

With 33,129 District 4 votes counted, I am honored to have earned your vote to serve as the next Monterey County Supervisor for District 4.

My heart is full today--with gratitude for our amazing campaign team. . . Thank you for believing in our campaign and believing in me.

Canvassing door-to-door in the Primary, I heard from families who want action on affordable housing and a compassionate response to homelessness.

I listened to seniors who are frustrated about sitting in traffic as they traveled growing distances to their work.

I heard from young people who want to know that our plans for economic development include living wage jobs and career paths.

Keeping our community safe during the General election meant spending hours on the phone, talking and texting with voters who want a safe economic recovery that protects public health while getting people back to work, access to healthcare for all, and a renewed commitment to treating everyone in our community with dignity and respect.

As a fourth-generation Monterey County resident, raising my own young family here, my local roots run deep. I care passionately about our community and know that there are so many others who share my love and passion for our County and our future. We may not always agree, but we must continue to work together, honestly and respectfully, to uplift our shared values of fairness and equity for all.

I want to congratulate my General Election opponent, Steve McShane, on a hard-fought campaign . . . I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Steve to serve our shared South Salinas constituents, to advance compassionate solutions for the

unhoused and housing insecure members of our community, and to ensure a safe and responsible recovery from COVID-19. . . .

I've never been so proud to call Monterey County my home and never been so grateful to see so many neighbors fighting for shared values. . .

Onward!

Wendy Root Askew

Monterey County Supervisor-Elect, District 4

Community Thanksgiving Feast Review

The Kiwanis Club of Monterey, Food Bank for Monterey County and City of Monterey Recreation Division offer a drive-thru and walk-up Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Wed., Nov. 25. Masks are required. Each meal will have turkey, yams, stuffing mashed, potatoes and gravy, corn and green beans, salad and pie.

Reservations are required, as are face masks for everyone picking up Thanksgiving meals.

Date: Wed., Nov 25. Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (by appointment/reservation only--every half hour). Location: Dennis the Menace parking lot, 777 Pearl St., Monterey. Details and reservations:

montereyrecreation@monterey.org or 831-646-3866

Shelter Opening And Home-Share Program Updates

The early-November opening date of the Casa de Noche Buena shelter for homeless families with children has been delayed, but appears to still be a “go.” I don’t yet have particulars, but did drive by last week and saw an open door, cans of paint, unlocked chain link fence and several trucks at 1292 Olympia Ave., Seaside.

An interesting online “Roommate Mingler,” co-sponsored by Housing Resource Center (HRC) and Home Match of Monterey County—a Covia Community Service, was held online last week, but information about it is still available for individuals struggling to find affordable housing; Included are those who are letting go of regular maintenance because it’s too much to do themselves; people who feel stressed by the high cost of maintaining their homes or apartments; or those would like to have money for things other than all income going for housing. Home sharing might be the answer.

For specific details, please contact: Doris Beckman (Home Match) dbeckman@covia.org; and Alexa Johnson (HRC) alexajohnson@alexaj@hrcmc.org or try the link

<https://www.facebook.com/events/460764134907628/>.

May the muse be with you and your holidays be gobble-gobble good.

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CREDITS: Photo Bill Monning courtesy of SPCA. Photo Jane Parker and Wendy Root Askew courtesy of Jane Parker. Haiku poems by Wanda Sue Parrott

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During the Covid-19 pandemic, this column appears regularly on the last week of each month in the Cedar Street Times at www.cedarstreettimes.com (and as periodic FLASH columns). It also appears on Facebook, in Nextdoor and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

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