



Helping residents conserve water

■ Public Works employee Mitchell Egert has the tools and tips to make every drop count

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

From March through May it didn't seem like many households had gotten the message that Calistoga and the rest of the state was in the midst of a severe drought – water consumption didn't begin to nudge downward until the state implemented and the City Council adopted stage two water conservation rules.

"It's going to be really hard to have 20% less consumption over a year," said Mitchell Egert, the city's new water conservation technician who has been hired to educate 1,500 account holders on how to cut down their water use. Egert has been passing out free conservation kits at the Farmers Market on Saturdays, walking neighborhoods to place door hangers with tips for saving water and providing rebate and conservation tools in both English and Spanish.

Something is working, because after a big increase in water use from March through May, consumers used 20% less water in August.

When he sets up his table of literature and free water reduction kits at the Farmer's Market most Saturdays, the question he gets asked most is, "Are we going to run out of water?"

"I tell them 'no,'" he said. "But that's for this year. We have enough water to get



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

City Water Conservation Technician Mitchell Egert works out of Calistoga's Public Works building, where he drives water conservation and education to help meet the city's goal of a 20% drop in water usage overall this year.

through this year. Even with high consumption levels that would put us at 750 acre feet a year, that's a big year. Other years it's been 650 acre feet. This year has been a high consumption year because so many people have stayed home; we've had more people move here so there's been a lot of gardening, bread making and cooking."

Egert said there are three groups of people who approach his table at the

market. Those that are in denial of the situation and think there is no drought – that it's a man-made situation and if the state built more dams the problem would go away.

"But the thing is where is the rain coming from to fill another reservoir or dam? I get the angry people, the very frantic people and those who say

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Fairgrounds subcommittee reactivated

■ Council also preparing to start holding in-person meetings with virtual access beginning in October

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Spurred by community input and member Donald Williams, the Calistoga City Council this week reactivated a two-person subcommittee to reopen negotiations to buy the Napa County Fairgrounds.

The subcommittee, consisting of Williams and mayor Chris Canning, will take direction from the council as a whole after a closed session meeting is held to talk specifics, such as price, financial resources and negotiating strategy.

"I think we're at the point where we need to make an offer," Williams told his colleagues Tuesday night. "I think it's incumbent upon us to make at least that initial overture to Napa County – a responsible offer representative of our resources."

Williams has been pushing the council to take action on the fairgrounds issue since the beginning of the year, when a groundswell of community support led to the formation of the grass-roots group, Friends of the Napa County Fairgrounds. Friends, headed up by Molly Towey and Scott Atkinson, launched an email writing campaign that had members urging the council to buy not just half of the 76-acre property but to acquire it all and to do it post-haste.

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Memories of Sept. 11, 2001 still vivid for many



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

An art installation by Spencer Finch, titled "Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning," greets visitors at the 9/11 Museum in New York. The quote from Book IX of "The Aeneid" by the Roman poet Virgil suggests the transformative potential of remembrance and is indicative of the museum's mission to honor and remember the victims of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and Feb. 26, 1993. Each letter was forged from pieces of recovered World Trade Center steel by New Mexico artist Tom Joyce. Every one of the 2,983 watercolor squares is its own shade of blue – one for each of the 2001 and 1993 attack victims – and the artwork as a whole revolves around the idea of memory.

Locals recall their location, thoughts on 20th anniversary of terrorist attacks on Pentagon and World Trade Center

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, 19 terrorists who were members of the Islamist extremist network al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial airplanes shortly after their departures from three U.S. cities. In a coordinated attack, the hijackers intentionally flew two of the planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and another into the Pentagon.

Having learned about the other hijackings, passengers and crew members on the fourth plane launched a counterattack, spurring the hijacker pilot to crash the plane into a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed on that day, the single largest loss of life resulting from a foreign attack on American soil.

The attacks on the World Trade Center triggered the largest rescue

operation in the history of New York City. Approximately 2,000 police officers and nearly 1,000 firefighters were deployed in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center. More than 100 city and volunteer ambulances were dispatched to the scene within the first hour. As the situation at the World Trade Center escalated, civilians with training in first aid, crisis counseling, law enforcement, and fire-fighting made their way to the scene of the disaster. Many responders put their own lives at risk to help and save others.

It seems as though every one alive that day remembers where they were when the first plane – American Airlines Flight 11 – struck the north tower at 8:46 a.m. EDT. We all stopped what we were doing and stared, dumbfounded, at

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