

Modesto Trailway Newsletter

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department

Spring 09



Letter from Julie



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the Virginia Corridor Newsletter! In this issue you will find stories of philanthropy, construction updates and more.

We are pleased to announce that our new design and improvements are courtesy of Hi-Tec Sports. Hi-Tec is a global company focusing on outdoor footwear and apparel. They have offered to design this newsletter and help us with our future website, *InvestinModesto.com*. Please join me in thanking Brett Weitl, Dayna Panales and their entire team at Hi-Tec for choosing to partner with us.

The Virginia Corridor continues to amaze us. Everyday friends and neighbors are out walking, biking, and jogging along the trail. Many of the users stop along the way to pick up litter, making the trail sparkle! We remain committed to continue to moving the trail forward. If you have any comments, please feel free to call us at (209) 571-5582.

Best wishes,

Julie Hannon
Acting Director
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department



Ways to Connect

E-mail: ajohnson@modestogov.com

Tel. 209.571.5582

Trail Highlights



The City is working with its engineering consultant, Briggs Cardosa, on Phase V of the Virginia Corridor Trailway. This phase will continue the existing trail north for 1/2-mile from Granger Avenue to Bowen Avenue, with a bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Briggsmore Avenue. The bridge will be three spans, with four prominent support columns on each side. Construction is expected to begin by September 2009 with completion anticipated in the fall of 2011.

Save the Date



June 6, 2009 - Modesto Centre Plaza
8am - Kaiser Permanente Family Fun Walk registration
9am-10:30am - Kaiser Permanente Family Fun Walk
11:30am-Noon - Awards presentation
9am-3pm - Stanislaus County Office of Education
Indoor/Outdoor Activities and Wellness Exhibits

For Family Fun Walk information

E-mail: dpanales@hi-tec.com

For event information and exhibit space

E-mail: healthylivingexpo@hotmail.com

Lions Junction Park Completion

Members of the Modesto Lions Club have been working nonstop for over a year to erect a new playground on the Virginia Corridor at the corner of Virginia and Morris Avenues. The park is considered to be one of the crowning jewels of the Virginia Corridor Trailway.

The most exciting feature is the new spray structure in the form of a vintage water tower. The tower is complete with bullet holes which were prominent in the Wild West. The structure will be active in the summer months and can be activated by touching a sensor. Water will spray out the bullet holes and the tower's spout. Other park features include climbing boulders, play equipment, benches and a shade structure.

Residents who are walking near this park will see the friendly face of the Modesto Irrigation District's longtime mascot, Splasher. To support the park, the Modesto Irrigation District entered into a three year advertising contract with the City of Modesto. All funds from this contract will be used to preserve the beauty of Lions Junction Park. The Modesto Lions Club and City Staff would like to thank Kate Hora, Public Affairs Specialist with the Modesto Irrigation District for all of her assistance with this project!

Hi-Tec Partnership



The City of Modesto is pleased to announce that we have new partners on the Virginia Corridor Trailway. As you can see, our newsletter has a new look and feel to it. Our friends and Hi-Tec have partnered with us to not only re-design our newsletter but to help us advance to the digital age by making this newsletter available by e-mail.

Hi-Tec believes whatever your adventure or outdoor experiences, any activity is therapeutic for the mind, body and soul. The opportunity to assist the efforts of the City of Modesto's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department is a project near and dear to our hearts. We at Hi-Tec are very excited to help bring awareness to Modesto's own great and growing trail way systems.

We encourage you to walk a trail near you today! To stay in touch and to receive future copies of this newsletter, please send an e-mail to ajohnson@modestogov.com

The Virginia Corridor and the Economy

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire community, thank you to everyone who has donated their time and treasures to the Virginia Corridor Trailway. As you may be aware, this project is completely funded through grants and private donations. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful partners who care deeply about the Virginia Corridor Trailway.

We do not need to remind you that these are tough times, especially in our community where home foreclosure rates are amongst the highest in the nation. However, we are committed to completing the Virginia Corridor and to also raise enough funds to maintain its beauty. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. No donation is too small, if you are able; please take a moment to mail in a tax deductible donation.

Suggestions? Comments? We welcome your feedback!

Are we doing something right? Do you have a suggestion that will improve the Virginia Corridor Trailway? We welcome your feedback. Contact us by sending an e-mail to ajohnson@modestogov.com

Donor Highlight

Dorothy "Dottie" Stevens was born on May 29, 1920 in Fresno, Ca. and graduated from Whittier College.

She passed away surrounded by her loving family on March 19, 2008. Dottie married Ken Stevens on December 5, 1942. (Ken, the love of her life and best friend, preceded her in death in 2007.) After marrying in Berkeley and living in Hawaii, Dottie and Ken moved to Modesto where they lived for more than 50 years.

Dottie proudly raised her six children (Sue, Jennie and Roy from Modesto, Christine from the Bay Area, Patrick from Oregon and Joy from Washington), then became an RN at age 50, working until retirement at age 70. Dottie loved nature, bird watching, growing exotic flowers and helping others. She volunteered for organizations including Stanislaus County Health Services Agency(HSA), Friends Outside, Delta Blood Bank and It's the Townsend Opera Players. In 2002 she was named an "Outstanding Woman of Stanislaus County" honoring her community service including 9,500 hours of HSA volunteer work.

Residing in the area of the Virginia Corridor, Dottie walked miles around the neighborhood and joined the Friends of Virginia Corridor in hopes of replacing the old railroad tracks with a walking park. The Virginia Corridor Bench in Dottie's honor is a loving symbol of the many lasting contributions she made to her family and the community. Dottie's bench is located at the corner of Princeton and Virginia Avenues.

