



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Retirement Certificate of Appreciation for Park & Recreation
Employees

Report in Brief

The City of Woodland in an effort to reduce the General Fund budget without requiring the involuntary discharge of employees encouraged employees to consider retirement incentives. As a result of this effort seven (7) staff members retired from the Park & Recreation Department. The City is proud to honor these employees during the July 14 City Council meeting.

Staff recommends that the City Council recognize Dan Rice, Recreation Superintendent; Susannah Reinhart, Senior Center Manager; Ken Atchison, Administrative Clerk III; Rafael (Ralph) Castaneda, Park Maintenance Worker III; Douglas (Doug) Toal, Park Maintenance Worker III; Raymond (Charlie) Pickering, Park Maintenance Worker II; and Dan Gentry, Director of Parks & Recreation with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedicated service to the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department.

Background

The seven employees who are retiring from the City and the Parks & Recreation Department have made invaluable contributions to the community and their colleagues. The following information summarizes the careers and contributions of these fine individuals.

Dan Rice has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department including managing the operations of the Recreation Division with programs in Sports, Aquatics, Senior Activities, Youth Programs, Special Events and Facility Management. Dan chaired the Special Events Committee for the City of Woodland, a critical role that involved several departments. In addition, Dan chaired and managed the Sports Council, assisted with both the Parks & Recreation and Commission on Aging and acted as the staff advisor to the Woodland Recreation Foundation. Dan is highly valued by his colleagues and the community for his positive attitude and “can-do” spirit.

Susannah Reinhart has had an essential role in the Woodland Senior Center and the Parks & Recreation Department. Susannah developed and managed numerous ‘Focal Point’ Senior Center

programs, edited the monthly *SeniorGram* newsletter, collaborated with community agencies and organizations in the provision of senior services and provided *Information & Assistance* for seniors and their families. Susannah also served as staff liaison to the Woodland Commission on Aging and Senior Center, Inc. and helped to coordinate the big move from the prior Senior Center to the new Community & Senior Center. Under Susannah's leadership, the Senior Center participants became a more diverse group. Susannah supported the Parks & Recreation Department by increasing volunteer program and assisting with Special Events, including the 4th of July activities.

Ken Atchison has had a key role in many department and Senior Center projects including increased efficiencies by creating and maintaining a 'Master Address' Database of individuals involved with the Woodland Senior Center and scheduling, training and supervising the Welcome Desk volunteers. Ken also developed a professional format for the monthly *SeniorGram* newsletter and provided staff support for the Commission on Aging. In order to help provide consistent resource information to participants, Ken created a comprehensive information binder for volunteers and staff and developed procedures and innovative strategies for administrative and clerical tasks.

Rafael (Ralph) Castaneda has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department over the last 35 years including the early maintenance of the Woodland Opera House as it became a State Historic Site, the first full-time staff to maintain John Ferns Park, endless hours keeping playground structures safe and keeping ball fields up and running for youth and adults. Possibly Ralph's greatest contribution was keeping Dubach Park dry whenever possible. Ralph also helped to hire and train part-time staff and provided Spanish-English translation for staff and citizens. Ralph was well known for his commitment to details associated with the maintenance of the parks.

Douglas (Doug) Toal has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department using his artistic skills to hand draw maps detailing various park features, an important task for a park system that predates GIS and similar technology. Doug's horticultural knowledge brought solitude to our parks through beautiful landscape features and he was well known for his determination to make things right. Parks & Recreation colleagues appreciated Doug for his willingness to go the extra mile in the ever changing landscape of Woodland's parks.

Raymond (Charlie) Pickering has had a long and distinguished 37-year career in the Parks & Recreation Department. Throughout this time, no neighborhood park has gone untouched by Charlie. Taking great pride in keeping the parks clean, safe and ready for use, Charlie has taught others the importance of taking pride in their work. Charlie has received many compliments from the public for his hard work and attention to details as well as his friendliness. Parks & Recreation colleagues and Woodland residents will miss Charlie's dedication and attention to details.

Dan Gentry has favorably impacted Woodland as Director of Parks & Recreation through his ability to manage over \$50 million of parks & recreation capital improvements and commitment to high standards. Dan's "signature projects" include the Community & Senior Center (Phase I and II) and Sports Park (Phase I) built with a portion of the half cent sales tax measures enacted by Woodland voters in 2000 and 2006. These projects have favorably changed Woodland forever. In addition, the Spring Lake Neighborhood Park is now under construction and many other park facility rehabilitation projects were completed under Dan's leadership. Dan's passion for excellent facilities

and programs are well known outside of Woodland; since 2008, the City has received two Awards for Excellence in Facility Design and Construction from the California Parks and Recreation Society. Dan has also been a valued member of the City's Executive Team.

Discussion

Employees are the City of Woodland's greatest asset. The loss of these seven employees will have a significant impact on the programs and services associated with these employees. The City and the community are fortunate to have received the outstanding work generated by Dan Rice, Susannah Reinhart, Ken Atchison, Rafael Castaneda, Douglas Toal, Raymond Pickering and Dan Gentry. On the occasion of their retirement, the community and their colleagues at the City of Woodland wish them well.

Public Contact

Posting the Agenda

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council recognize Dan Rice, Recreation Superintendent; Susannah Reinhart, Senior Center Manager; Ken Atchison, Administrative Clerk III; Rafael (Ralph) Castaneda, Park Maintenance Worker III; Douglas (Doug) Toal, Park Maintenance Worker III; Raymond (Charlie) Pickering, Park Maintenance Worker II; and Dan Gentry, Director of Parks & Recreation with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedicated service to the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation

DANIEL R. RICE

WHEREAS, Daniel R. Rice has had a distinguished career in the Parks & Recreation Profession since 1977 (31 years) starting as a Sports Coordinator and has since worked at 10 different organizations; and

WHEREAS, Daniel R. Rice has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since May 1991 (over 18 years); and

WHEREAS, Daniel R. Rice has worked as a Recreation Superintendent, Recreation Manager and Community & Senior Center Manager; and

WHEREAS, Daniel R. Rice has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department including: Managing the operations of the Recreation Division with programs in Sports, Aquatics, Senior Activities, Youth Programs, Special Events and Facility Management; Chaired the Special Events Committee for the City of Woodland; Chaired and Managed the Sports Council; Assisted with both the Parks & Recreation and Commission on Aging; Staff Advisor to the Woodland Recreation Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Daniel R. Rice has been an invaluable employee for the City of Woodland and member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Team; he has always promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks & Recreation Department and other City Departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Daniel R. Rice for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 18 years providing them with dependability and excellent work in our Great City!

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

William L. Marble, Council Member

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation SUSANNAH REINHART

WHEREAS, Susannah Reinhart has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since May 1993; and

WHEREAS, Susannah has worked at the Woodland Senior Center as the *Community Resource Specialist* and the *Senior Center Manager*; and

WHEREAS, Susannah has had an essential role in the Woodland Senior Center and the Parks & Recreation Department: Developed and managed numerous 'Focal Point' Senior Center programs; Edited the monthly *SeniorGram* newsletter; Collaborated with community agencies and organizations; Provided *Information & Assistance* for seniors and their families; Served as staff liaison to the Woodland Commission on Aging and Senior Center, Inc.; Assisted in the coordination of the big move from the prior Senior Center to the new Community & Senior Center; Increased the diversity of Senior Center participants; Co-created policies and procedures in use at the Community & Senior Center; Increased volunteer program; and Assisted with Special Events, including the 4th of July activities.

WHEREAS, Susannah has been a valued member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Management Team and has promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks and Recreation Divisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Susannah Reinhart for her dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 16+ years providing them with outstanding Senior Center recreational programs, *Information & Assistance*, volunteer and senior services for our City's residents.

PRESENTED this 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

William L. Marble, Council Member

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation
KENNETH R. ATCHISON

WHEREAS, Ken Atchison has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since January 24, 2000 (over 9 years); and

WHEREAS, Ken has worked as a professional Administrative Clerk III; and

WHEREAS, Ken has had a key role in many department and Senior Center projects including: Increased efficiencies by creating and maintaining a 'Master Address' Database of individuals involved with the Woodland Senior Center; Scheduled, trained and supervised Welcome Desk volunteers; Developed a professional format for the monthly *SeniorGram* newsletter; Provided staff support for the Commission on Aging; Created a comprehensive information binder as a resource for volunteers and staff; Developed procedures and innovative strategies for administrative and clerical tasks; and

WHEREAS, Ken has been a valued member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Team and has promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks and Recreation Divisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Ken Atchison for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 9 years providing them with dependability and excellent work in our City.

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor
Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member
Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation
RAFAEL V. CASTANEDA SR.

WHEREAS, Rafael Castaneda has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since 1974 (over 35 years); and

WHEREAS, Rafael Castaneda began his service for the City as a Park Groundsman/Gardener and worked his way up to his current position of Park Maintenance Worker III; and

WHEREAS, Rafael Castaneda has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department over the last 35 years including: the early maintenance of the Woodland Opera House as it became a State Historic Site, the first full-time staff to maintain John Ferns Park, endless hours keeping playground structures safe, keeping ball fields up and running for our youth and adults (including keeping Dubach Park dry whenever possible), an instrumental part in the hiring and training of our part-time staff, record keeping and as our in-house translator, and most of all, his commitment to details and the maintenance history of the parks ,and

WHEREAS, Rafael Castaneda has been an invaluable employee for the City of Woodland and member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Team; he has always promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks & Recreation Department and other City Departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Rafael Castaneda for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 35 years providing them with dependability and excellent work in our Great City!

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor
Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member
Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation
DOUGLASS TOAL

WHEREAS, Doug Toal has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since 1979 (over 30 years); and

WHEREAS, Doug Toal began his service for the City as a Park Maintenance Worker I and worked his way up to his current position of Park Maintenance Worker III; and

WHEREAS, Doug Toal has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department using his artistic skills to hand draw maps detailing various park features, his horticultural knowledge to bring solitude to our parks, his determination to make things right, and his willingness to go the extra mile in the ever changing landscape of our city parks and

WHEREAS, Doug Toal has been an invaluable employee for the City of Woodland and member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Team; he has always promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks & Recreation Department and other City Departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Doug Toal for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 30 years providing them with dependability and excellent work in our Great City!

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member

Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation
RAYMOND CHARLES PICKERING
(CHARLIE)

WHEREAS, Charlie Pickering has been an employee of the City of Woodland in the Parks & Recreation Department since 1972 (over 37 years); and

WHEREAS, Charlie Pickering began his service for the City as a Park Groundman/Gardener and worked his way up to his current position of Park Maintenance Worker II; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Pickering has had a key role in the Parks & Recreation Department over the last 37 years, no neighborhood park has gone untouched by Charlie. Taking great pride in keeping the parks clean, safe and ready for use, Charlie has taught others the importance of taking pride in their work. Charlie has received many compliments from the public for his hard work and attention to details as well as his friendliness, and

WHEREAS, Charlie Pickering has been an invaluable employee for the City of Woodland and member of the City of Woodland's Parks & Recreation Team; he has always promoted good customer service and teamwork between the Parks & Recreation Department and other City Departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Charlie Pickering for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for 37 years providing them with dependability and excellent work in our Great City!

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor
Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member
Martie L. Dote, Council Member

City of Woodland

Certificate of Appreciation
DANIEL W. GENTRY

WHEREAS, Daniel W. Gentry has had a distinguished career in the Parks & Recreation Profession since the 1980's and has worked in faraway places such as Australia, Yucca Valley, Salinas and the world famous city of Rialto in addition to Woodland; and

WHEREAS, Daniel W. Gentry has been the Director of the City of Woodland Parks & Recreation Department since March 2002 (over seven years); and

WHEREAS, Daniel W. Gentry has a passion for developing excellent programs, fabulous facilities, detailed master plans and is dedicated to developing the means necessary to build community through people, parks and programs ; and

WHEREAS, Daniel W. Gentry has favorably impacted Woodland through his ability to manage over \$50 million of parks & recreation capital improvements, including the Community & Senior Center, Sports Park, Spring Lake Neighborhood Park, park facility rehabilitation, cemetery improvements, installation of new playground equipment, replacement of public landscaping as well as development of new programs at various facilities that have been recognized Statewide for excellence; and

WHEREAS, Daniel W. Gentry has been an excellent employee for the City of Woodland, a valued member of the City's Executive Team, and a well respected Parks & Recreation professional in California.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council does hereby recognize Daniel W. Gentry for his dedicated "Public Service" to the citizens of Woodland for seven years providing them with excellent facilities in our Great City!

PRESENTED this the 21st day of July 2009.



Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member

Martie L. Dote, Council Member