



Butte County Department
of Water and Resource
Conservation

308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965-3302
Phone (530)538-4343
Fax (530)538-3807

Email:

bcwater@buttecounty.net
Website: [http://
www.buttecounty.net/
waterandresource/](http://www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource/)

Butte County RCD Website

<http://buttecountyracd.org/>
BC-RCD@carcd.org

Water and Resource Conservation Staff

- Vickie Newlin,
Assistant Director
- Kristen Hard,
Manager, Program
Development
- Lynne Pillus,
Administrative
Assistant, Senior

Butte County Water Commission

Mark Kimmelshue, Chair
DC Jones, Vice-Chair
George Barber
John Carlon
Larry Grundmann
John Lane
Ryan Schohr
David Skinner
Susan Strachan



Water Solutions

Our Mission:

*“To manage and
conserve water and
other resources for
the citizens of Butte
County”*

July 2007

Butte County General Plan 2030 –Charting the Course for Butte County’s Future

By Dan Breedon
Principal Planner

(1st part of a two-part series on the County’s General Plan update process)

The Butte County General Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update process is fully underway. This effort, officially named “Butte County General Plan 2030” includes the update of the Butte County General Plan, a new Zoning Ordinance, and an Environmental Impact Report. The update process began in September 2006 and is expected to conclude with the final adoption by the Board of Supervisors in September 2009.

Butte County’s water resources are the focus of one of 18 Chapters contained in the soon to be released “Setting and

Trends Report”, a vital component of Butte County’s General Plan 2030 process. The “Setting and Trends Report” will document Butte County’s existing conditions and trends. The Report will form a picture of many differing aspects of Butte County, and acts as a base from which other documents will build upon throughout the General Plan 2030 update process. As the update process is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Setting and Trends Report will also help to document information that will make-up a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR), required for the General Plan 2030 project.

Another document entitled the “Butte County General Plan 2030 Briefing Book” acts as a much smaller companion document to the “Setting and Trends Report” and can be viewed on the General

Plan 2030 website, www.buttegeneralplan.net Copies of this Briefing Book, which is geared to the general public, are also available at the Butte County Department of Development Services. For those interested in more details, the “Setting and Trends Report” is expected to be released as a public draft in early August, and will be posted on the General Plan website.

The Butte County General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee, which held its initial kick-off meetings in November and December of 2006, is now fully engaged in the update process, with meetings already held on the specific issues to be addressed by the General Plan. The second meeting devoted to the development of Plan Alternatives will be held on August 2nd, and is open to the public. The Citizens Advisory Committee is

(Continued on page 2)

Relay for Life is Inspiring

By Vickie Newlin



Every year, the American Cancer Society sponsors a "Relay for Life" event in Chico to raise money for the prevention and cure of cancer. This year's fundraiser was my tenth year of participating in this inspiring event for Team In-Motion, which is one of the local gyms that have teams from the community.

This year, the Relay for Life was held at the University Stadium at CSU, Chico on June 9th and 10th. The relay lasts 24 hours and each team is required to have a representative either walking or running the track at all times. The relay is kicked off with a "survivor lap", which includes participation from folks that have been diagnosed

with cancer and have survived this destructive disease. This group consists of people of all ages, even children, because cancer isn't very particular about whose life it invades. Every year I am inspired by the individuals making this trek around the track at various stages of recovery from this deadly disease, some confined to wheelchairs and others wearing scarves to protect their bald heads from the sun, each hopeful of a cure in the near future. This year there were 321 registered survivors at the event.

Each recognized team is committed to raising money and awareness regarding the various strains of cancer. Many participate because they have a family-member or friend who has either survived or succumbed to cancer in one form or another. The total dollar amount raised within our community this year was over \$350,000, for this 24 hour period. Team In-Motion took the top award for the team that collected the most money overall. Our team brought in \$21,000 this year.

The day is a great educational opportunity disguised as a family

outing. There are booths with food and games and live music throughout the day. But, as you walk through to these fun things, you are oddly drawn to the white paper bags that line the track decorated with the names of those who are still struggling with the disease or may have lost their battle to it. At night, these bags house lit candles that emphasize the depth of the disease on our little community. These luminaries pay tribute to the courageous individuals, who have done combat with cancer, with some having lost. The key word for this event is "hope" and for those of us participating, we "hope" that soon there will be a cure for this disease that ravages so many lives. For me, it is an honor to participate in this event and work toward that end.



(Continued from page 1)

made-up of a broad cross-section of experienced citizens from throughout the County, appointed by the Butte County Board of Supervisors.

Each Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is a part of a Meeting Series that also includes a Public Workshop, a Planning Commission Study Session, and a Board of Supervisors Study Session. Each of

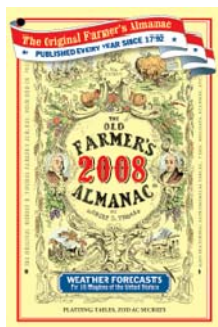
the 8 planned Meeting Series is devoted to separate tasks needed to complete the General Plan 2030 update.

Why is the Butte County General Plan 2030 process so important? Once the plan is adopted by the Board of Supervisors in September 2009, it will become the working policy document used for day-to-day development decision making in Butte County. If you have ques-

tions about Butte County General Plan 2030 process, or wish to provide some comments, please contact Dan Breedon, Principal Planner, 530-538-7629. You may also visit the website at www.buttegeneralplan.net. Next month's article will discuss the Butte County General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles, the community meeting process, and outreach to the County's 5 incorporated cities.

The trusty Old Farmer's Almanac

By Kristen Hard



You may have relied on the Farmer's Almanac a time or two to plan life events in the past, I know I have. Usually it was to determine the weather for camping trips or other summer recreation, I can't say I've ever reviewed it for when best to plant crops! You can now access and order the Almanac online at www.almanac.com as well as check out many other fun weather facts.

To mark its 216th anniversary, the 2008 edition will feature:

- the most accurate astronomical data under the sun, with where and when viewing advice every month.
 - weather predictions for every day and climatic trends for each season.
 - garden features on dwarf vegetables, scented flowers, popping corn, and more.
 - recipes for the very best baked goods: blue-ribbon winners from county and state fairs across the country.
 - amusing and enlightening articles, ideas, hints, and charts that provide simple solutions and shortcuts to everyday challenges.
- and much, much more.

Here is a bit of history on the origin of the Almanac, also available online.

History of The Old Farmer's Almanac

The premiere issue of *The Farmer's Almanac* was published in 1792 under the guiding hand of its first editor, Robert B. Thomas. Although many other almanacs were being published at that time, Thomas's upstart almanac became an immediate success. By the second year, circulation had tripled from 3,000 to 9,000 and cost only six pence (about nine cents).

Based on his observations, Thomas used a complex series of natural cycles to devise a secret weather forecasting formula, which brought uncannily accurate results, traditionally said to be 80 percent accurate. (Even today, his formula is kept safely tucked away in a black tin box at the Almanac offices in Dublin, New Hampshire.)

The Almanac Hits Its Stride

The new editor, John H. Jenks, was helped by the fact that Thomas had already calculated the astronomical material for several future editions. In 1848 Jenks permanently and officially added the *Old* to the title of the Almanac. In 1861, Charles L. Flint became editor and provided his readers with a heavy emphasis on farming. The next two editors, John Boies Tileston and Loomis Joseph Campbell, served short terms and did little more than keep the Almanac going in the traditional format.

Robert Ware took over as sixth editor in 1877, but his main interest was the publishing business, and he probably delegated many of the editorial tasks. Ware's brother, Horace, took the reins in 1900. During his 19 years as editor, he began to orient the book toward a more general audience by replacing the scientific agriculture articles with general features on nature and modern life.

The eighth and ninth editors, Frank Newton and Carroll Swan, kept the Almanac tradition alive even during

times of war and the Depression. (Even to this date, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* has **never** missed a single year of publication.)

Greatest of All Almanac Blunders

Roger Scaife was appointed editor in 1936. His term coincided with the only time in the history of the Almanac that it declined precipitously in circulation and financial stability. (The 1938 edition had a circulation of only 88,000, compared with 225,000 in 1863!) Scaife also committed the greatest of all Almanac blunders: He dropped the weather forecasts! In their place, he substituted temperature and precipitation averages. The public outcry was so great that he reinstated the forecasts in the next year's edition, but it was too late to save his reputation.

Robb Sagendorph knew a good deal when he saw one, and in 1939 he bought *The Old Farmer's Almanac* and became editor. Sagendorph, who had moved his family to tiny Dublin, New Hampshire, four years earlier to start *Yankee Magazine*, now held the future of the Almanac in his hands. Luckily, he had a strong grip, a keen sense of the publishing business, and a nurturing heart devoted to tradition.

Sagendorph, feeling that tradition was the Almanac's strongest suit, immediately reestablished its format and editorial style to be more as it was under Robert B. Thomas. As a result, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* became witty, wise, and more entertaining, as it had been a hundred years earlier.

In 1942, a German spy was apprehended by the FBI after being landed on Long Island, New York, by a U-boat the night before. The impact of this event was felt all the way to Dublin, New Hampshire, because *The Old Farmer's Almanac* was found in his coat pocket. The U.S. government speculated that the Germans were using the Almanac for weather forecasts, which meant that the book was

(Continued on page 4)



Meeting Schedules

Butte County Water Commission

July 3, 2007

Board of Supervisors Chambers

August 7, 2007

Board of Supervisors Chambers

September 4, 2007

Board of Supervisors Chambers

Butte County Board of Supervisors

July 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers

July 24, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers

August 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers

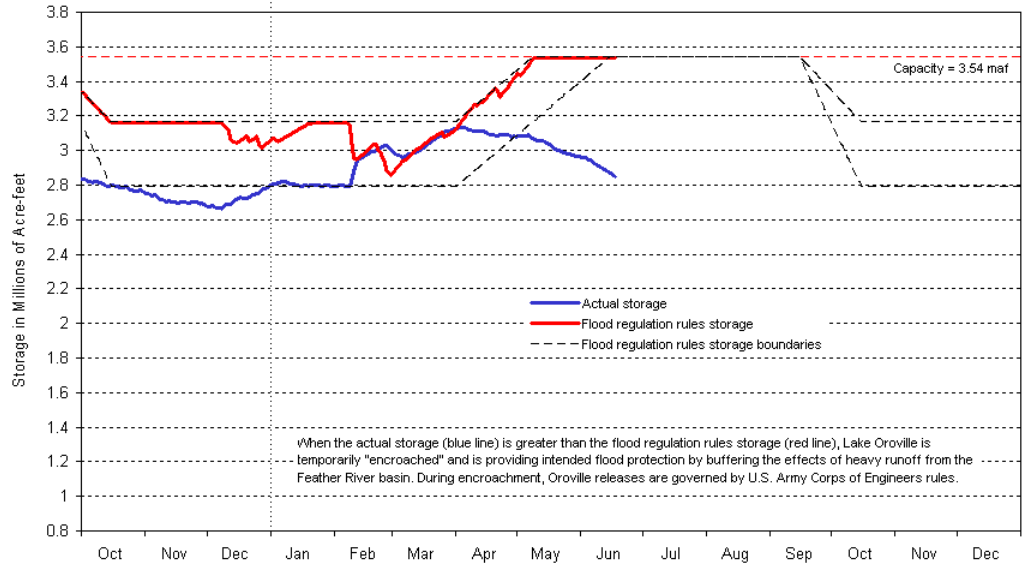
Butte County RCD

July 25, 2007

9:00 am

Butte County Farm Bureau

Lake Oroville Storage
October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007



(Continued from page 3)

indirectly supplying information to the enemy.

Fortunately, Sagendorph managed to get the government to agree that there would be no violation of the "Code of Wartime Practices for the American Press" if the Almanac featured weather indications rather than forecasts. It was a close call that al-

most ruined the Almanac's perfect record of continuous publication.

The story since World War II has been one of growth and expanded range. The Almanac passed the four million circulation mark in the early 1990s. Robb Sagendorph died in 1970, after 30 years as editor, and his nephew, Judson Hale, took over. In 2000, Janice Still-

man became the 13th (and first female) editor of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. She maintains the style established by her predecessors, the editorial direction taken by Hale, and a true dedication to hundreds of years of tradition while striving always to appear brand-spanking-new.

Soil Survey of Butte Area

The Natural Resource Conservation has recently published the Soil Survey of Butte Area, California, Parts of Butte and Plumas Counties. It is now available for viewing, printing or downloading from the NRCS new soil survey delivery system at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. In addi-

tion, the soil survey manuscript may be downloaded using the soil survey publication tab or viewed directly at: http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/CA612/0/Butte_CA.pdf. Spatial and tabular data for use in geographic information systems (GIS) access is available at: Soil Data Mart at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>. Soils informa-

tion is also available on CD from the NRCS Oroville field office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA. (520)534-0112. Copies of printed maps will be available sometime in the future.

Links to these websites will also be available at <http://www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource/Links.htm>