

Yreka City Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

Tom Amaral
Mayor

Jim Griffin
Mayor Pro Tempore

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Jason Darrow
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Michael Pavlik
City Treasurer

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Yreka Has Been Nominated to *This Old House Magazine!* (Article submitted By the Yreka Committee for Historic Preservation)



The Yreka Committee for Historic Preservation (YCHP) recently nominated Yreka as "The Best Places to Buy an Old House" to *This Old House (TOH)* magazine. This is the third year that *TOH* magazine has set out to search for the best place in each state. They will once again run an article in an upcoming issue and feature the information on their website. For nomination, *TOH* magazine looks for homes in historic districts and neighborhoods across the United States that range from affordable to magnificent. In a press release posted on www.preservationdirectory.com, *TOH* Associate Editor, Keith Pandolfi, stated, "In the past two years, *TOH* has introduced our readers to more than 100 great neighborhoods jam-packed with older homes, and residents determined to both restore them - and maintain them - for future generations."

The YCHP felt strongly that Yreka totally fits the bill. Not only do we have 70+ homes built prior to 1910, but we have many homes that are currently viewed in the "must-have category". For example, Yreka has craftsman and bungalow-style homes as well as the newest interest: mid-century (1950ish) homes. The group did its homework and submitted Yreka's nomination to *TOH* magazine. The nomination included a brief history of Yreka, a description of the types of homes available, the period in which they were built, the price range, and last, but not least, why the area deserves to be included on the list. The nomination was submitted digitally and the YCHP included about 25 images of homes in Yreka along with street and business scene areas. To complete the recommendation, a variety of website links that host both images and historical information were given in the official nomination. The final selections have not yet been announced by *TOH* magazine, but the YCHP feels Yreka is already a winner!

Yreka Community Gardens

Under winter's cold gray skies, Yreka Community Gardens (YCG) has begun planning for the 2010 gardening season and so should you. Community gardens are great for those who aren't able to garden at home. Last year, about 30 gardeners grew a wide variety of produce, flowers and herbs in the area adjacent to Yreka High School's greenhouse on Knapp Street. Produce was donated to local food banks and the senior program, and gardening classes were held on the grounds.



In the works for this year are: a dedicated children's garden, a new shade pavilion, plant sales, expanded opportunities for garden beds, and more workshops. The new Children's Sensory Garden will provide opportunities for local youth to participate in educational programs, unstructured play and exploration of the natural world. The garden is being funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Connecting People with Nature" program

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and the Shasta Regional Community Foundation - McConnell Leadership Fund. As soon as weather allows, construction will also begin on a shelter where gardeners can rest and workshops can be held out of the summer sun. The pavilion is sponsored by the Ford Leadership Project Yreka - Cohort IV, which raised funds to build the structure.

Community gardens grow with community involvement. A garden plot grows over the season by thoughtful planning, care for the soil, hard work and on-going commitment. The results are abundant in beauty, home-grown food and great satisfaction. Plot holders are required to invest a few hours of time and energy in the over-all garden site as part of the YCG contract. But that is only a minor part of what takes place at the gardens. The opportunities abound for anyone wanting to be involved.

You may like to be a part of YCG in the following ways:

- developing the children's garden
- sharing your garden experience with others
- expansion of the composting effort
- donation of natural materials for gardening use: soil, leaves, manure, etc
- building a garden shed, tables, benches
- coordinate produce sharing with local food banks
- physical labor, new plot development, site maintenance, weeding
- volunteer for rototilling, weed eating, irrigation
- management of the seasonal garden, or joining the planning committee
- organize and develop a new garden site in town with the help of YCG
- fundraising and grant writing
- sponsor of the gardens with donations of goods or cash



As a volunteer, you can pick any days and number of hours to suit your schedule! YCG is an equal opportunity, all volunteer, non-profit organization that would love to find a way for you to be involved that would be fun and enjoyable. YCG hopes to see many new faces at the gardens as we grow into the second season. For more information, email yrekacommunitygardens@gmail.com or write to PO Box 36, Yreka, CA, 96097, or call Jane Hall at (530) 842-5056.

The Yreka Police Department & Bad Checks By: Chief Brian Bowles

Most businesses in Yreka take bank checks for payment of services. In some cases the customer's check is unable to be cashed, therefore the business owner has to determine how to collect the money for services that were rendered. Check cases can be very frustrating and costly to a business, so I want to encourage all businesses to report and prosecute suspected persons. The following are some guidelines to assist you in this situation.

Here are some essential elements that must be present to make a "bad check" a criminal matter: 1) a SPECIFIC PERSON passed a check, 2) with the INTENT to defraud the merchant, and 3) with KNOWLEDGE of insufficient funds.

As a business owner you have four choices when presented with a check the bank will not cash:

1. Enter into a civil agreement where the customer will pay you back over time.
2. Turn it over to the District Attorney Bad Check program.
3. Turn it over to a private collection agency.
4. Turn it over to the Yreka Police Department for prosecution for a crime.



The Police Department does not accept checks for collection only as that is a civil action (credit which is extended), not criminal. Not all bad checks are a criminal matter; some are civil and must be handled as such. Please come by and get a copy of our policy to assist you. We also offer training for your employees concerning the acceptance of checks. If you have any questions or would like to schedule training, please feel free to contact me at the Yreka Police Department 841-2300.