

Yreka City Newsletter



Chamber Salute to Brian Meek

By: Jill Harris, Yreka Chamber of Commerce



Brian Meek left his post as Yreka City Manager on January 18, 2010. He had served in this position since January 1, 2002. Brian was born and raised in Yreka. He attended UC Davis (Go Aggies!) for two years before graduating from the University of Washington (Go Huskies!) in 1971 with a degree in political science. The political climate at the time (as a result of the Vietnam War) did not jive with Brian's interests and theories so he had a difficult time finding a job, especially one that he liked. He returned home to Siskiyou County to work in the mills, the newspaper office, and the welfare department. It was at this point that he left for Mexico where he spent six months learning to fish for barracuda and gaining valuable insight into human nature.

In 1975, Brian returned once again to Yreka and was employed with the City through the Comprehensive Employment & Training Act (CETA). He started out paving the streets, working in the parks, and helping out in the vehicle repair shop. His career included time on the street paving crew, water/sewer system repair crew, and time as a water meter reader. Upon hearing that the City Building Inspector intended to retire, Brian received his certification through a home-study course, applied for the job, and served as the City Building Inspector for 12 years. After several years serving on the Montague City Council, Brian applied for the position of Yreka City Manager. And the rest, as they say, is history. Brian, thank you for your leadership, hard work and sincere appreciation for our community. Cheers! Salud! Slainte!

Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Dept
(530) 841-2383

Police Dept
(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

Reflections on Brian Meek's Legacy for the City of Yreka

By: Jeannette Hook



Brian gets a lift at a Greenway Visitor Center workday in 2005.

When I think of the many things that Brian Meek did for the City of Yreka, several things stand out. Brian has always been a strong park supporter and under his watch the Greenhorn Park property was expanded and many new facilities developed. The new year-round restrooms, the lakeside trail (due to be paved in the near future), and the spillway bridge/fishing platform were all a result of Brian's vision for the park.

Brian was instrumental in elevating Liberty Arts, the downtown art gallery, into a stand-alone organization and also the development of the shaded plaza next door. Brian helped Madrone Hospice assume responsibility for the Senior Program. Brian was an active Yreka Creek Greenway Committee volunteer and he worked with several community members to relocate "Myassis Dragon" (so named by Larry Bacon, Brian's long-time friend and City

colleague) to a site along I-5 north of town as a counter-point to "Moodonna" the cow statue south of Easy Street.

I imagine Brian will have difficulty relaxing enough to enjoy "Easy Street" now that he is retired. Brian's love of poker, Yreka history, and fishing will keep him busy. But Brian is far too energetic and has too much love for this community to stop being involved. We will keep his smiling face and quick laugh in our minds and hearts as we enjoy the many, many legacies that he left behind for the City of Yreka.

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City Appoints Steve Baker New City Manager

By: Mike Slizewski, Siskiyou Daily News

Following a four-month recruitment and selection process, Mayor Tom Amaral and members of the Yreka City Council unanimously appointed Steve Baker as the new Yreka City Manager. Baker was one of five finalists interviewed by the council out of an original field of 32 applicants. "We are pleased to announce our selection of Steve Baker to the Yreka City Manager position," Amaral stated. "His extensive experience, approach to city management and personality are an excellent fit for the City of Yreka."

Baker brings to the City over 16 years of experience in city management, plus additional experience in economic and community development, downtown revitalization and redevelopment. Baker's experience includes serving as City Manager for the cities of Suisun City and Oakdale, as well as positions with the cities of Tracy and Lodi.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science/public service from the University of California at Davis and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Hayward.

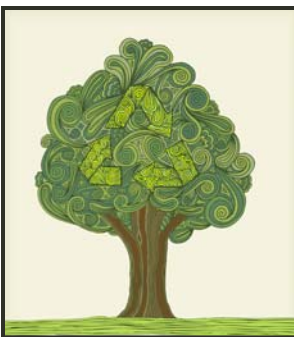
"My family and I are excited by this new challenge in the City of Yreka. We are impressed with the character of the community and the quality of management provided by the City Council, city staff and previous city managers," stated Baker. "We look forward to a very pleasant new chapter in our lives as we move to Yreka." Baker, 52, and his wife, Lynn, have two daughters: Jessica, 22, and Kristine, 18.



Shown from left are council members Jason Darrow, David Simmen, Rory McNeil, recently hired City Manager Steve Baker, Mayor Tom Amaral and council member Jim Griffin.

 **Don't miss the annual Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt!**

Date: Saturday, April 3
Time: 10 AM SHARP!
Location: Miner Street Park



Celebrate Arbor Day on April 30, 2010

(Article posted on www.arbor-day.net)

Arbor Day is an American holiday that encourages the planting and care of trees. This national holiday is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April; the customary observance is to plant a tree.

The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), a Nebraska journalist and politician originally from Michigan. Throughout his long and productive career, Morton worked to improve agricultural techniques in his adopted state and throughout the United States when he served as President Grover Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture. But his most important legacy is Arbor Day.

Morton felt that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. He set an example himself by planting orchards, shade trees and wind breaks on his own farm and he urged his neighbors to follow suit. Morton's real opportunity, though, arrived when he became a member of Nebraska's State Board of Agriculture. He proposed that a special day be set aside dedicated to tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. Nebraska's first Arbor Day was an amazing success. More than one million trees were planted. A second Arbor Day took place in 1884 and the young state made it an annual legal holiday in 1885, using April 22nd to coincide with Morton's birthday.

For the homeowner, Arbor Day is an excellent opportunity to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future. Inspect your trees & note any broken branches or evidence of disease or insect infestation. Think about how planting new trees might improve the look of your property or provide wind/heat protection. Take a trip to your local nursery to see what's available. Walk around your neighborhood. Are there any public areas where tree planting or tree maintenance might make a real difference to your community? Talk with your neighbors. Find out what their opinions are. And, oh yes, plant a tree!