

Son, We're Lucky to Be In This Town

It was New Year's Day, early in the morning. As usual, I do my "in the parks" tour and I was listening to my new i-Pod Nano that I received from Santa Claus (but really it was his great elves at FRRPD who helped him pick it out). The first artist I listened to was Annie Lennox. I was listening to her song, "The Gift," which goes "For we have fallen from our shelves, To face the truth about ourselves, And we have tumbled from our trees, Tumbled from our trees." I'm listening to the song and I'm headed to Nelson Sports Park, which I usually unlock first thing in the morning. And I'm thinking about the song. And then I see a sign that's heralding the cause for "Ron Paul for President." I've been so busy I haven't followed the presidential election very well. I think it's great – I'm a big fan of his. He does great hair. His salon is by Hewitt Park, and has been there for years. And Oroville should be proud to have one of its own leading the country, in style. And as I was pondering this idea, I was thinking, "I hope he picks Rudy Marozzi as his running mate." Then they both could pick Jim Moll, the voice of Oroville, to be their press secretary. I can hear Jim now with their campaign slogans "Diamonds are a girl's best friend" and "There are no bad hair days. You will have hair to die for."

I finish unlocking the gate and I'm traveling now, listening to another CD by Phil Collins. The song is "Another Day in Paradise." As the CD is playing I'm driving by the City of Oroville's new Centennial Park. I think about how the City has Centennial Park, the Butte County Office of Education has Bicentennial Park. I decided that what the District should do is call Riverbend Park "Fifty Something."

I can't make the connection between the songs and what I'm doing. It's like most days, your thoughts are random but the thoughts are flowing between a stream of consciousness and subconsciousness. Is there something that I'm not aware of? Often when I'm driving the truck in the morning I can see things much better and I can focus more on what the goals and objectives of the District are.

The thought occurs to me that the District's parks are uniquely different, but are connected by a vision, a master plan, to meet the needs of the community. Though they are different, just like the songs and my thoughts this morning, the epiphany to me at that moment is that the District for 2008 has a clear vision of what it wants to do. It is important with that vision that we stay on track and focused and not be sidetracked, and provide clean, safe parks with good programs throughout the year.

With that in mind, I went directly to Playtown and Nolan Sports Complex and reviewed our progress on the Mitchell Hardball Field. At that point, I felt dialed in with our direction for 2008. I'm excited to see this new year upon us and at that point I saw last year in my rearview mirror. "Na na na nah, na na na nah, hey hey hey – goodbye!" I realized that the end result of all of this is to "keep it simple." You could say that the District's resolution for 2008 is to accomplish something tangible and usable for the patrons of our parks.

As I'm leaving Mitchell Hardball Field, I'm listening to a new Bruce Springsteen CD, to a song called "The Long Walk Home." The song goes, "My father said, 'Son we're lucky in this town. It's a beautiful place to be born. It just wraps its arms around you. Nobody crowds you, nobody goes it alone. You know the flag flying over the courthouse means certain things are set in stone. Who we are and what we'll do and what we won't.'"

2008 is going to be a great year.

FRRPD Treasure Hunt

Clue #6

Argh! Me mates be calling me and aye there be a misty shroud above the green. Argh! They be sayin' that the national pastime treasure be guarded and rounded by a third. Har har har! The treasure be buried and me thinks me mates caused a ruckus playin' in town.

Quote

"My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us, the world is full of it and you simply take as much as you require." Edward Elgar (Composer)

Fun Facts

Men get hiccups more often than women.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

A duck's quack doesn't echo.

FRRPD Upcoming Events

Sign up now for the next CPR/First Aid class, which will be held on Jan. 15 and 17, from 5-9 PM in the Municipal Auditorium.

The next teen dance will be held on Jan. 18, from 7-10 PM in the Municipal Auditorium.

The 2008 FRRPD Recreation Guide will be coming soon!

See you in the parks!