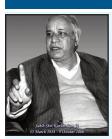
Ambedkar Times Weekly **Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber** E-mail: chumbermedia@vahoo.com, Contact: 001-916-947-8920 Fax: 916-238-1393 editor@ambedkartimes.com

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Ambedkar Times remembers to Great Sahib Kanshi Ram who criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared Poona Pact as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact made Dalits helpless. By rejecting separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures.

Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab. He belonged to the Ramdassia community (AdDharmi) of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the midwife placed him in a tray made of kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab). Soon after, he joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhan case. Deena Bhan, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Kanshi Ram was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Kanshi Ram decided to fight against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Deena Bhan revoked and Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored. This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat. He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Minorities into it. He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared Poona Pact as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact made Dalits helpless. By rejecting separate electorate. Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of Chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of Chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, Chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields". In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Kanshi Ram sharpens the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the downtrodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference"



Part 1- Resolutions

On September 29, 2023, board of the Chetna Association of Canada discussed the Punjabi film, Buhey Bariyan (2023) and passed the following motions:

Whereas Punjabi film, Buhey Baryan (2023) is well received by some and criticised by others; and,

Whereas people who oppose the film are feeling angered and demanding that the film Buhey

Baryan be banned from screening; and, Be it resolved that the Chetna Association of Canada

1. Acknowledges the efforts of the production team to highlight issues of exploitation and caste oppression in Punjab; and,

2. Acknowledges sentiments of the people who oppose the screenings of the film;

Believes the production team fails to provide a strong conclusion and apply a greater sense of sensitivity.

Chetna Association of Canada www.chetna.ca

Part 2

Film review by By: Manjit Bains, Chair, Women Empowerment Committee, Chetna Association of Canada Jai Birdi, General Secretary and Executive Director, Chetna Association of Canada 1-778-878-7473

Buhey Bariyan (2023), directed by Uday Pratap Singh, is a Punjabi film on women empowerment and caste oppression that has faced a significant controversy in Punjab and social media.

Buhey Bariyan portrays a story of women who faced domestic and societal abuse.

One character in the film, played by Rubina Bajwa, is of the "Ravidassia" faith. She is a domestic worker, sexually exploited, physically abused, and verbally humiliated by a son of the village head, Sarpanch. This character is also reminded of her caste position in the society. Other characters in the film depict women who decide to leave the abusive conditions and become self-reliant, assertive, take political action, and challenge the status quo.

While Buhey Bariyan was receiving all positive comments and hailing the star cast and the production team, a controversy started about a week after the release when Dalit activists in Punjab saw Buhey Bariyan and felt the film portrays the Ravidassia community negatively and further divides the society along the caste lines. Some of these viewers also felt that showing a photo of Guru Ravidass, uttering derogatory remarks, and reminding that the ancestors of the Dalit community were also abused or

humiliated is not appropriate and singles out the Ravidassia community in the film.

While one can appreciate that some viewers are hurt, others have started to come out in support of Buhey Bariyan. One such person is Ashwini Pandori, a digital content creator and has a Facebook page that he uses to facilitate discussions of sociopolitical issues. Some of the questions he and others have raised are:

1. Has caste oppression in Punjab stopped? If not, what are the ways to bring those oppressing issues to the main media in order to spread awareness?

2. What is the role of the theatre and cinema and how can it be more effective?

3. What about the positive messages and inspiration that the film provides and urges women to unite and register complaints to the local authorities?

The film also sends a message of empowerment, acceptance, tolerance, and unity.

For example, the sister of the person who molested the Dalit woman strengthens the solidarity and the movement for emancipation. She stands along with the Dalit woman and all women and goes against her father, who is the village head and is from the upper caste.

Punjabi cinema has been criticised for not tackling the "real issues" or always promoting and celebrating the landowning classes. Buhey Bariyan certainly does not glorify any caste and in one scene, it actually makes a mockery of the caste system.

There are a few dialogues and scenes that could have been removed or reframed but banning the film is not the answer

The film also fails at providing a strong conclusion. It would have been more effective to arrest all exploiters (the Sarpanch, his son, and other people of the village who instigated the offences) and follow through the judiciary system, including the Punjab States Scheduled Castes Commission and the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes. By doing so, it would have sent a strong message that caste based oppression is banned in Punjab and across the country and it is not accepted.

Parm Kainth, vice president of Ambedkarite International Coordination Society or AICS, a sister organization of Chetna Association of Canada, says:

"While no project can be perfect or cover every perspective, the film director could have been more sensitive and mindful of the sentiments of a community that has faced caste oppression for thousands of years in India".

While the all star cast performed remarkably well, in context of the caste oppression, we commend Rubina Bajwa, for her remarkable portrayal of a woman who transforms herself from accepting dominance into a strong, determined person.

G-20 and India: Guest Lecture at UILS Hoshiarpur

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tute of Legal Studies (UILS) at the Panjab University Swami Sarvanand Giri Regional Centre (PU SSG RC) at Hoshiarpur district of Punjab on the current and topical theme: G-20 and India on September 22. UILS and PU SSG RC are the 'centers of academic excellence' in the Doaba area of Punjab and beyond. Panjab University opened a Regional Centre for imparting quality technical education to Kandi area of hoshiarpur after the name of Swami Sarvanand Giri Panjab University Regional Centre in the year 2006 with four branches of engineering. In 2007, it started two new courses in LAW as BA LLB (5 year integrated course) and 3 Years LLB course. The website of the UILS states its Vision as 'To Be a Globally Renowned Education Hub that Caters Quality Education' and rightly so. My visit and interaction at the UILS fully justified what they had visualized. It was a matter of gratification to see and note - majestic campus, lush green environment, state of the art educational facilities and calm and serene atmosphere. I was really humbled further and touched to hear the background of PU SSG RC from Dr. Brijesh Sharma, Co-coordinator of the Guest Lecture about the philanthropic gesture of Dr. Lajpat Rai Munger, a US National of Indian origin in donating the Campus of UILS and PU SSG RC to Punjab University in 2006 on the understanding that the Punjab University will name the Regional Centre after his spiritual Guru, Swami Sar-

was invited by University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS) at Panjab University Swami Sarnd Giri Regional Centre (PU SSG at Hoshiarpur district of Punjab on uurrent and topical theme: G-20 ndia on September 22. UILS and SG RC are the 'centers of aca-



tional needs of the area which was later transferred to Punjab University – a great and appreciable gesture on the part of the Munger family in the spirit of 'paying back to the society'.

The lecture was attended mostly by the law students and faculty of the Institute. I started with a brief background of the G-20 as to when and what for the group was established to meet the economic and financial crisis and gave an over view of the journey of the Group to the 18th Summit held in New Delhi on September 9-10 under the Indian Presidency. I informed the attentive audience of young students that it was a big event for India and its diplomacy. India could register its point of view and influence in the national and international matters to bring about a shared global future for the mankind through the Indian philosophical dictum – Vashudaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth – One Family with Universal sense of oneness. Referring to the Leaders' New

> Delhi Declaration, a diplomatic coup, 1 touched on the achievements with Indian initiatives -Energy Initiative -Launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance - Connectivity Initiative -India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE EC) - New Member - the inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of

the G20 tactful handling of the Ukraine conflict - Reform and restructuring of UN - Joint and concerted response to terrorism among others. In conclusion, I sounded and alerted the audience of the challenges ahead and added "Diplomacy is an on-going process and it would continue in the diplomatic spirit of 'we agree to disagree'. India is on rails in this regard. G-20 Presidency of India was a 'rotating' event. Next Presidency will go to Brazil. Beyond a sense of euphoria in this regard, India would need to pay a bit more attention to internal situation - Diplomacy or international relations is an extension of internal stability and security - it is only a world of caution

India has come a long way and has arrived but it has to go a long way to reach." In a lighter vein I said that as a diplomat, "In believe, the world of diplomacy, certain things are better left unsaid" and invited the



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young minds for interaction. There was a good interaction with the disciplined and engaged young assembly for my knowledge and advantage.

Prof. Balbinder Kumar and Dr. Brijesh Sharma held the fort and conducted the proceedings of the Guest Lecture with aplomb in the absence of Director of UILS; Prof. H.S. Bains who was expected to preside over the function but could not do so due to exigencies of work. Later I met Prof Bains in his office and discussed matters of mutual interest. My brief interaction with him and subsequent a good working luncheon hosted by him impressed me a great deal. I found him an able educational administrator and an enlightened academic and also a friendly person. My visit to UILS was a rewarding one and I am indebted to Prof. Balbinder Kumar for taking the initiative in this regard.



Supervisor Frost October Newsletter

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Time For Real Action On Homelessness

During my tenure on the Board of Supervisors, I've observed various approaches and strategies addressing the County's homelessness dilemma. In the past I have referred to the ageold concept of "the carrot and the stick" which frequently emerges in conversations about the governance and regulation of the homeless community. At its core, this idea reflects the universal balance we all strike between rules and rewards.

The complexity of this issue increases when considering a segment of our community that is battling mental health challenges and drug-related disorders. Such individuals can lose track of their possessions, remain unaware of their conditions due to "anosognosia," face the harshness of outdoor living, and regrettably, some become targets for nefarious elements within and outside their community.

My recent discussion with the Sheriff's Office brought forth a key insight: the homeless are not an isolated group, but an intrinsic part of our broader community. Their primary distinction is the lack of a fixed address, and the conscious choice to detach from societal norms. This, understandably, presents unique challenges for our tax-paying society. For example, how does one monitor parolees without an address?

In the unincorporated areas of the County, the Board of Supervisors addresses these challenges by bridging the divide. Programs such as Navigator outreach, Park Rangers, Sheriff HOT Teams, and sweeps serve to maintain a connection with our homeless community. These operations identify encampments, determine if there are criminal records among inhabitants, combat human trafficking, and shield the most vulnerable. Sheriff Cooper's pragmatic approach to law enforcement underscores a simple truth: the laws exist, they merely need consistent application.

Recently, DA Thien Ho took an unprecedented step, sending a message to the City of Sacramento that reiterates this sentiment. His letter emphasizes the necessity for the City of Sacramento to uphold existing laws, especially concerning the management of the downtown homeless population. Similarly, neighboring cities like the City of Citrus Heights are taking note, understanding the importance of a unified approach. The point isn't to demonize, but to highlight the importance of

consistent enforcement of laws.

The current policy direction in our state has unfortunately widened the gaps in public safety and how we enforce laws. But a lingering question remains, how much longer do taxpayers have to bear the burden of problems amplified by legislative inaction? This isn't just an abstract statement; it's a call for accountability!

Despite the obstacles, I remain hopeful. With leaders like DA Thien Ho and Sheriff Cooper standing up for justice and law, there's a silver lining. Even in the face of criticism, I hold a positive outlook for our Safe Stav communities. Their mission is to pave the way for treatment and brighter prospects for those who need it most. DA Thien Ho's commitment to tackling Sacramento's homelessness issue signals a tide of change.

His candid criticism of Sacramento City's officials, especially regarding the inconsistent enforcement of rules, such as the encampmentclearing ordinance, resonates with many. A new approach is overdue. Residents of Sacramento, both in the County and City, should reside in a place free from illegal encampments, and most importantly everyone deserves an opportunity for a stable future.

Thank you for Reading - and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murieta.

Upcoming Community Meetings

The last District Community meetings of the year are approaching, and I am thrilled to invite you to join me.

Rio Linda/Elverta

Wednesday, November 8th Rio Linda Elverta Recreation & Parks



District 810 Oak Lane, Rio Linda, CA 6:00pm

North Highlands

Monday, November 13th North Highlands Recreation & Parks District

6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA 6:00pm

Folsom

Wednesday, November 15th Georgia Murray Library 411 Stafford St, Folsom, CA 6:00pm

Orangevale

Monday, November 20th Orangevale Community Center 6826 Hazel Ave, Orangevale, CA 6:00pm

Citrus Heights

Monday, November 27th Citrus Heights City Hall 6360 Fountain Square Dr, Citrus Heights, CA 6:00pm

Antelope

Wednesday, November 29th North Highlands-Antelope Library 6:00pm

Regional Parks Fee Schedule Update

The Department of Regional Parks is in the process of updating its Fee Schedule, which establishes fees for park entry and facility use and describes fee policies. A draft of the updated Fee Schedule can be found on



the Regional Parks website.

"We last updated our Fee Schedule in 2022 with an understanding that we would need to adjust it again within the next couple of years," said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. "We update our Fee Schedule intermittently to: Adjust fees for inflation; ensure fees cover costs of services provided; standardize fees with similar facilities and services; and raise needed revenues to offset department maintenance and operations costs.'

The public is invited to comment on the proposed Fee Schedule by emailing parksinfo@saccounty.gov. Public comments will be accepted through Oct. 15, 2023.

notable changes to the Fee Schedule include: Increases daily

Some

use fees and pass annual fees Increases

man



youth camping fee and Sher-Sacramento County Supervisor Island

camping fee Addition of fee for use of Gibson Ranch Cabin lawn area

Increases amplified sound and bounce house permits fees

Addition of Sailing/Kiteboarding/Windsurfing Instruction Fee

Addition of Film Permit Fee

Increases open trail use fee (no change to closed trail fee)

Additional deposit required for tournaments at Cherry Island Sports Complex Decreases tournament rental fees at Cherry Island Sports Complex for league, club, team or nonprofit groups Increases tournament rental fees at Cherry Island Sports Complex for profit, business or tournament operators

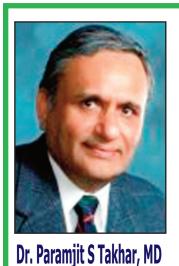
Addition of vendor fees for non-County contracted vendors at Cherry Island Sports Complex

Increases Habitat Restoration Program Fees, consistent with the Consumer Price Index increase for construction costs. After the public review period, the Fee Schedule will be presented for public comment to the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, the Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Park Commission. We anticipate that the final draft of the Fee Schedule will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval at the end of this year.

Upcoming District 4 Events

Looking for something fun and exciting to do? We've got some cool events lined up that you definitely won't want to miss! For more information, head over to the district calendar. Please click here.





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Goodie Takhar, PhD

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Reality of Sinking of Joshimath

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n 25 September 2023, the Ut-0 tarakhand government released the reports prepared by eight scientific and technical institutions to find out the causes of sinking of land, houses and buildings in and around Joshimath city in December 2022 and January 2023. Although these institutions had independently prepared these reports, in all the reports, loopholes in construction works, increasing population pressure, poor drainage system, seismic activities, and constructions on water sources are mentioned as the main causes of sinking of the land, houses and buildings in and around Joshimath city. These institutions had prepared these reports and submitted them to the Uttarakhand government earlier in the year, but the state government made them public only after the Uttarakhand High Court raised questions on September 20, 2023.

According to the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, 99 per cent of the buildings in Joshimath city were not constructed as per the National Building Codes of India 2016. According to this Institute, another reason for the sinking of the houses and buildings of Joshimath city is that this city is built on sediments brought by glaciers. These sediments are having large and small stones which do not provide a flat surface due to which are susceptible to the gradual subsidence and results in sinking. This institution further suggested that there is a need for reviewing the principles of town planning for the development of cities in the hilly areas.

The National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, in its report said that various springs and drainage networks. areas of subsidence maps infer that areas of subsidence and subsurface water in Joshimath area might have some connection. According to the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, this region is earthquake sensitive due to which it is slowly and gradually sliding downward. According to the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee's study report, the overall soil structure of Joshimath area is a complex mixture of stones, gravel, and sand, the internal erosion in such soils causes the instability of the whole structure and results in readjustment of the underlying land, leading to subsidence.

Similarly, the rest of the reports have cited deficiencies in building

construction regulations, sub-soil formation, sewage disposal, population growth etc. as reasons for sinking of houses and buildings in the Joshimath area. All these reports have not mentioned about the National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) plans for Tapovan Vishnugadh hydro-power project, 12 km long tunnel, Chardham Road project, Heilong Marwari Bypass



etc. All these schemes are going on around Joshimath area. Local people blamed these schemes for the sinking of their land, houses and buildings in and around the Joshimath city.

It is also important to mention here that the population of Joshimath city has increased significantly during the last decades. In 1950, 8,719 people lived in Joshimath city and in 2020 their number increased to 34,188. If the Joshimath area can sink due to the weight of houses and people, what about cutting of mountains with explosives, hydropower projects, Chardham road project, tunnels cut through mountains, changes in the flow of rivers, and deforestation? There is no mention in these reports about the impact of all these projects on the Joshimath area.

The state of Uttarakhand falls in an earthquake-sensitive region. Therefore, the National Building Codes for the construction of houses, buildings, and all kinds of projects should not be ignored here. In 1970, when the work of hydropower projects started, the local people protested in a strong manner. In 1976 the Mishra Committee Report clearly concluded that before any construction and excavation of the mountains in any area of Joshimath, the soil structure , stability of the site, and bearing capacity of the mountains, should be assessed.

Recently, more than 11,000 people died and more than 10,000 are still missing due to the collapse of two large dams on the Derna River due to heavy rains in the city of Derna, Libya and 30,000 people have been displaced from their homes. In the

> months of July and August 2023, millions of people became homeless due to the release of water from the dams in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Along with this, hundreds of people and ani-

mals were also killed and financial losses of crores of rupees were incurred.

The state of California in the United States of America is working on a plan to allow the rivers to flow naturally by removing large dams to restore the natural environment to adapt to the changing climate. It started with the removal of dams built on the Klamath River in California.

These incidents show that man should not tamper with natural resources too much to protect any area from natural disasters. Excessive expliotation of natural resources increases the intensity of loss of life and property during natural disasters.

Even after the Kedarnath disaster of 2013 and the Chamoli incident of 2021, local people, and environmental experts had suggested that before any construction in Uttarakhand, the area should be examined by geologists. Alas! after each tragedy, committees are formed, investigations are conducted, reports are also prepareded. Whatever be the report, the road widening or large hydro-electricity projects are going on without a hitch.

According to an Indian Science and Research Organisation(ISRO) report, 11,219 landslides have occurred in Uttarakhand in the period from 1988 to 2022. According to the Uttarakhand State Emergency Operation Center data, 1,123 landslides occurred in 2023. According to a repart by the Zoologi



October 4, 2023

port by the Zoological Survey of India, 39,000 square kilometers (72 per cent area) of Uttarakhand is prone to land-slides.

In a state like Uttarakhand, 72 per cent area which is prone to landslides, any major project could spell disaster. The city of Joshimath which is already settled on stones, gravel, and sand, the huge projects going on around it are posing a huge threat to the existence of Joshimath.

The state and central governments should not start big projects in such sensitive areas without taking the opinion of geologists, environmental experts, and local people. The governments should form committees of geologists, environmental experts, and local people to assess the impacts of ongoing projects around the Joshimath area. In the mountainous areas of Europe, roads are made only 8 to 10 meters wide so that the existence of the mountainous areas and the people there are not harmed. The Joshimath city of Uttarakhand state is not the only one, but along with it many other cities like Karanprayag, Ghanshali, Nainital, Gopishewar and some others are also facing similar crises.

In order to save the existence of all the hilly states and cities of the country including Uttarakhand, the central and hilly state governments should not develop the hilly states on the model of the plains. Planning for the development of the hilly states should be done keeping in view the geographical, geological, and topographical conditions there. Many people are displaced due to landslides due to which they have to bear huge mental, physical, and financial losses. Investigating organisations should also prepare reports conscientiously so that people do not face trouble again in future and the state governments should make the truth public timely instead of hiding it from people and take the necessary steps to avoid such disasters.

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

2023 Small Business of the Year I am thrilled to name Snooks Candies & Chocolate Factory as the 2023 Small Business of the Year for the 7th Assembly District!

Last week Jim and Renee Snook celebrated the shop's 60th anniversary. Snooks Candies was originally established in 1963 as Country Candies by the late John and Jeannine Snook. The original store was located at the Arden Fair Food Circus before they moved to Historic Folsom in 1985. We are so lucky to have the Snook Family in our community!

> Alder Creek Reservoir Tour I recently did a tour of the Alder

Creek Reservoir and Conservation Project, a proposed offstream high-elevation reservoir in El Dorado County. This project would contribute to ongoing efforts to increase water storage and address flood vulnerabilities. It also has the potential to provide new recreational opportunities. I look forward to working with federal, state, and local partners to make this important project a reality.

2023 Legislative Recap

I recently joined the John McGinness Show on KFBK to recap the 2023 legislative session that adjourned last week. We discussed a number of the bills that passed or failed at the deadline. You can listen to our conver-

Conservationsation on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, orbooth at theream high-ele-iHeart Radio.FairOaks

Citrus Heights Sunday Funday

This weekend I will have a booth at the annual Citrus Heights "Sunday Funday" event. It's one of the best family friendly events in the region, with inflatables for kids, music, K-9 demonstrations, food trucks, and more. It's completely free, and a ton of fun. I hope to see you there!

Date: September 24, 2023 Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Rusch Community Park

> Fair Oaks Chicken Festival This past weekend I had a

booth at the Fair Oaks Chicken Festival to let people know how our office can help. Thank you to everyone who stopped by! There was live music, a kids



live music, a kids park, and a number of craft and community vendor booths. And of course, there were loads of chicken related activities, like the "Cluck n' Crow" contest and the chicken decorating contest. Already looking forward to next year!