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ARBOR VIEW -- THE LITTLE GUY WINS ONE

*Specific
plan
violated.*

In 1999, a very poor project was proposed for the southeast corner of Pleasant Grove and Foothills Boulevards called Arbor View. The project was to construct one two-story and one three-story office buildings totaling 81,680 square feet, a gas station, cut down 23 oak trees, and encroach into the protected areas of several other trees. It was in direct violation of most of the Northeast Roseville Specific Plan approved by the City of Roseville May 10, 1989.

*Neighborhood
gives up.*

The planning commission initially approved the project and the city council upheld the approval over strenuous objections by members of the Pleasant Grove Neighborhood Association who packed the city council meeting citing violations of the specific plan. Two years later, the developer sought a change to the project and again the project was objected to based on the specific plan. The project change was approved. Members of the neighborhood gave up in disgust knowing that the development ignored the specific plan eight times and would lower their quality of life.

*Project
changed.*

However, one resident did not give up hope for a reasonable project. The developer, for whatever reason, did not build the project. Instead the land was sold and the new landowner scrapped the approved project. Taking a cue from the neighborhood's desires, a new project called for smaller one-story buildings that face away from the neighborhood and fewer trees being destroyed. The new developer wants to work with the neighbors to build a project that complies with the city's specific plan and to allay most of the residents concerns.

A win.

Seven neighborhoods, being stiffed by the city council, lost battles over the past several years -- but, in Arbor View the little guy won one.

A NEW "UTILITY" TAX?

*UUT gets
blame.*

Watch as time goes by for the city to push for a new tax to replace the Utility User's Tax (UUT) to augment the general fund. The push started when the city adopted the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget by eliminating \$11.8 million from the general fund -- a figure the city manager said was necessary because of the loss of the UUT. What he did not say was that the UUT was illegal.

*Frightening
residents.*

The \$11.8 million reduction was a public relation gimmick to frighten seniors into believing medical and fire responses would somehow affect the elderly. The placing on hold of building a new fire station in northwest Roseville is a signal in that regard. The promise of a new library branch in northwest Roseville is another jab at "we cannot provide services -- we don't have the money". All efforts to get new (more) revenue.

*Auditor
failes.*

The city council approved a budget the city manager provided them without raising questions, such as why budget at the top pay step for each employee or how many vacancies are there that need not be filled, ergo or budget for. The audit raised that question but the auditor did not do an analysis of how the city budgets.

*Money
moves.*

The city estimated general fund income for FY 2003-2004 to be \$87.5 million and estimated expenses to be \$84.6 million with a ten percent economic reserve (\$8.5 million). In February, 2003 the city transferred another \$7.4 million to its economic reserve. There will be \$15.8 million in economic reserve -- a whopping 18 percent reserve.

*Shifting
money.*

Each year, the city underestimates its income by about 10 percent and overestimates its expenses by about 10 percent. For example, the FY 2001-2002 estimated income (estimated operating revenue) was to be \$78 million -- ACTUAL income \$85.7 million. Estimated expenses were to be \$82.5 million -- ACTUAL expenses, \$76.1. The carry over to FY 2002-2003 was \$22 million LESS