



Ambedkar Times Weekly

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THANKING YOU ALL ON THE FOUNDATION DAY OF AMBEDKARTIMES.COM

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: www.ambedkartimes.com

On August 4, 2024 www.ambedkartimes.com completed 18 years. A few more such contributions are also furthering the cause of the community. This is beyond saying that Dalits to be heard need their own print as well as electronic media. We all know that the mainstream national and international media hardly accommodate any Dalit. There is deliberate resistance to allow Dalits to come into fields where opinions are made and agendas of development and empowerment are discussed, cultured and harvested. In order to rise, heard and to matter in all walks of life at par with the few hereditary privileged, Dalits need to construct their own ways. We know that there are innumerable hurdles in our ways to reach the destination. Hurdles are not only from others; sometimes our own peoples under false notions confront us. Healthy discussions and debates are always beneficial. They should not be fossilized into die-hard mindless oppositions. We must realize that at present lot is being written about us both within India and abroad. Dalit studies have become almost a compulsory subject at the higher education level at all the top institutions of academic excellence the world over. But the million dollar question is who writes about us? Whose interest they serve? Are we writing about ourselves? We must realize that apart from a few genuine scholars who are presenting the true picture of our community, there are a large sections of writers whose writings need to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Let's come together! We must write about ourselves. We should support our own web sites, papers and e-papers. We must remember what Sri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj taught us. He advocated self-help for eliminating sufferings of the fellow Dalits. His vision for self-help is clearly reflected in one of the legends about his refusal to make use of a Paras (a mythical stone that turns iron into gold) to turn sudden rich. He reiterated that we should depend on no one except on our own. We do not say that others cannot articulate the needs and the problems of the community. What we want to emphasize is that if we have our own platforms we need not to wait for others to do something for us. We can actively engage ourselves in the process of community development and can represent to the whole world in a most true sense of the term.

Ambedkartimes.com is a small endeavor in that direction. We solicit your support in further strengthening it. We are really grateful to all who supported us and have also been doing the same against all odds. We assure you that with your active support www.ambedkartimes.com will achieve more heights and take pride in serving the community with Tann, Mann, Dhann

Historicity of Chamar Women's Contribution in the Ambedkarite Movement: Part -6

Miss Shanta Rajbhoj



Dr. Sunita Sawarkar
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Miss Shanta Rajbhoj is the daughter of Pandurang Nathuji Rajbhoj. He is known as P. N. Rajbhoj in the Ambedkarite Movement. He was secretary of the Scheduled Caste Federation and on the evening of his life, he embraced Buddhism. He played a vital role in the social reform movement in India. He was Chambhar and played an important role in community social change; He started some magazines and weekly editions. 'Dalit Bandhu' started its weekly. It would have been natural for Rajbhoj or his family to have revolutionary ideas. We can see Transformational Ideas Influence on his wife and daughter Shantata. Shanta Rajbhoj was an active participant in the Ambedkarite movement. There are some references to Ambedkar's movement on this subject, but the highest reference is unavailable for Shanta Rajbhoj's birth date and place. The available resources, such as her contribution to the Ambedkarite movement are important.

"In July 1946, the political struggle for the freedom of the Dalit community was started in Pune by the Scheduled Caste Federation. The untouchables had different demands. The main demand was to cancel the 'Pune Pact'. Dalit activists from all over Maharashtra participated in this struggle. At this time, the untouchable activists were also beaten up. Bhaurao Gaikwad was the president of this Satyagraha, while Miss. Shanta Rajbhoj also participated in this Satyagraha. (Dalit Bandhu, 15.8.46 p. 26) The weekly 'Dalit Bandhu' carried a Satyagraha special issue. Some photos are given at the end of that issue. They are photos of Satyagrahis who participated in Satyagraha. In one of those photos, Brother of Dadasaheb Gaikwad Shri. Appasaheb Gaikwad was beaten and injured by assailants on 14.07.46; the photograph of that time is given. In that photo Mrs. Gitabai Gaikwad, Shri. P. N. Rajbhoj, Prof. Ambedkar, Mrs. Devubai Gaikwad, Ms. Shanta Rajbhoj, Shri. Shejwal etc. are standing near. This shows that Shanta Rajbhoj was actively involved in the struggles of the Ambedkarite movement, the following information about Shanta Rajbhoj is given in the above Gaurav Granth by Bapusaheb Rajbhoj.

"Mr. Bapusaheb The Elder Daughter of Mrs. Shantabai is now 24 years old. He participated in the Satyagraha in front of the Council Hall, Pune in 1946. found writing articles in Dalit Bandhu. Mrs. Shantabai's spouse Mr. Laxman Maruti Chavan is a B.A.L. L.B. is an Assistant Director in the Department of Food, Government of India." (Lokhande, 1956 392) This shows that the book was published

in 1956. In 1946 in Satyagraha Ms. Shanta Rajbhoj was only 14 years old and was probably born around 1932.

It appears that Miss Shanta Rajbhoj's reading and writing skills are excellent. He wrote an article on Lord Gautama Buddha in the "May 29, 1951 issue." (Dalit Bandhu, Bhagwan Buddha Special Issue, 21 May 1951:17/98) her views in this article are also presented based on available resources. She says at the very beginning, I am not a Buddhist; but I am a follower of Buddha Dhamma. The article written by Miss Shanta Rajbhoj was written in 1951 Before Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar accepted Buddha Dhamma. This article is written by Miss Shanta Rajbhoj. It means that there must have been a discussion about Buddhist Dhamma in the Ambedkarite movement and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's colleagues must have started studying Buddha Dhamma. Rajbhoj was the Secretary of the Scheduled Castes Federation; therefore, from the regular discussion on the topic of 'reformation' and conversion in Buddhism in the movement, It is concluded that Miss Shanta Rajbhoj must have read the books on Buddha Dhamma that were available during that period.



SHOT ON MI A2
MI DUAL CAMERA

She actively participated in the movement, along with writing. Shanta Rajbhoj has also worked on some committees. "Bharat Dalit Sevak-Sangh was founded in the year 1931. The organization was revived on May 2, 1955. The president of the organization was P.N. Rajbhoj. The trustees of the organization In the board P. N. Rajbhoj, Mr. S S Lokhande along with Mrs. Shantabai Laxman Chavhan (after her marriage she became Chavhan) was also a trustee." (Lokhande, 1956:405) Through this institution, programs like Primary School, Mahatma Phule Library, Free Dispensary, Siddharth Hostel, Agriculture Education Centre, Charnalaya, Samata Printing Press, Samata Fortnight etc. being implemented. The role Rajbhoj played in the movement, it is normal for the women of Rajbhoj's house must have witnessed many events. Her participation in the movements and his approach to the movements could also be studied, but the references are also very valuable and a guide for the present society. Shanta Rajbhoj (Chavan) died in Pune on April 9, 2012.

It is important to understand the period that did not value the context of women's contribution to social movements. So it is a very big problem to write the continuous movement of women in social reform movement. The women of the family who played an important role in the Ambedkari movement, their role is also very important in the movement, we should try to know more about them.

Reservations - A layman's Point of view

The question of Reservations is again in the news with the latest Judgment of the Supreme Court - The Supreme Court ruled that states can now sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to grant quotas within these groups, aiming to better support more disadvantaged sub-groups. Otherwise also, the issue of reservations has been in focus even in the recently held Lok Sabha elections as it was one of the important issues on which the opposition was cornering the ruling outfits led by BJP. No doubt, it is an important issue but is also equally complicated having direct bearing not only on our polity but also the society. On suggestions of my friends, I decided to write on this subject as a layman and concerned citizen.

Without going deep into the history, my first observation, for the information and benefit of those who somehow feel that Reservations are given to the beneficiaries (oppressed and depressed people) by the magnanimity of the leadership of the high castes of the mainstream of the society. It is totally a wrong notion which shall be shed to begin with. William Hunter and Jyotirao Phule in 1882 originally conceived the idea of caste-based reservation system. I start from the contemporary times and these facts are well documented in the pages of history. Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, Periyar Ramasamy, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia among others fought for the rights of the oppressed and depressed classes with the British Rulers tooth and nail. No leader or the party of the upper crust of the society extended any support or raised their voice against the inhuman treatment to the so called dalits at the hands of the so called upper-castes. Things came to head in the Round Table Conferences in London in the early 1930s. Babasaheb Ambedkar represented the depressed people and raised the voice for their socio-political rights. The alarm-bells rang in the Hindu society. The Congress Party led by Mahatma Gandhi and other high caste leaders opposed Ambedkar and his tirade for the rights of the oppressed people. Though they very well understood the concerns of Dr. Ambedkar and others with regard to the oppressed people yet they were more interested in saving the vested interests of the main stream of the society in terms of their Manuwadi mindset. The oppressed classes won the battle under the leadership of Babasaheb Ambedkar and others. PM Ramsey MacDonald's Communal Award of 1932 gave "Separate Electorate" to Depressed Classes along with Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities. It amounted to that Depressed Classes were given separate identity outside the fold of Hindus. It was not acceptable to Mahatma Gandhi and other Hindu leaders and Mahatma Gandhi resorted to 'fast unto death' in the Yerwada Jail in Pune to undo the Communal Award. The Hindu leaders led by Madan Mohan Malviya and Kasturba Gandhi pleaded, threatened and even blackmailed Babasaheb Ambedkar on the pretext of 'Hindu unity, freedom movement, patriotism' to save the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Babasaheb Ambedkar was not only a nationalist to the core but also a votary of comprehensive and just social order but was dead against the Manuwadi Varan Vivastha as opposed to Mahatma Gandhi who was a staunch supporter of status quo as a hard-core Hindu. Ambedkar relented and negotiated an agreement with Mahatma Gandhi and others to make special provisions for the depressed classes not only in the legislature but also in jobs and

educational institutions to empower the depressed classes. The agreement is called Poona Pact of 1932. This was the first step towards 'Reservations' to the depressed people. Instead of the 'Separate Electorates' these understandings of the Poona Pact were appropriately incorporated in the India Act of 1935 passed by the British Parliament. Thus the depressed classes became Scheduled Castes and were given Reservations'. Subsequently, on independence in 1947, the Constitution of India made under the stewardship of Babasaheb Ambedkar duly incorporated

these 'Affirmative' provisions which are called 'Reservations'. It is clear from these details that 'Reservations' to the Scheduled Castes are no 'alms' or 'goodies' given by anyone in charity but are the enabling provisions to end the subjugation and exploitation of the masses now called 'Dalits' in general parlance. As such there should be no heart-burn in the so called 'General Samaj' in this regard.

The Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were stipulated in the Constitution of India in Articles 15, 16, 17 and 46 providing for the establishment of a society without social injustice, exploitation and where there is equality, and no one is left behind. As such Reservations in the jobs and legislatures with a provision of 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs were made. After independence, initially reservations were provided only for SCs and STs. OBCs were included in the ambit of reservation in 1991 on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. It may be added quickly, ever since its inception, the so called upper-castes of the Hindu fold called "General Category" have been opposing it on one pretext or the other. It will not be out of context to mention that, unfortunately, the higher echelon of the polity including the Executive, Judiciary, Media etc. has also been non-cooperative and un-

supportive of these provisions consciously or sub-consciously in the caste ridden society. They confined themselves only to 'lip service' to undo the injustice meted out to dalits. Reservations stayed on the statute book only because of the 'Parliamentary Democracy' based on the principle of 'One Vote - One Value' and the fundamentals of the Constitution - Equality, Liberty, Justice and Fraternity so thoughtfully visualized and enshrined in the Constitution by our forefathers under the leadership of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Many vested interests intended to abolish or even dilute these provisions over the years but could not succeed. By now, it is fully understood, fortunately, by all the political and socio-cultural outfits of the country that it would not be easy to touch these provisions without bringing the marginalized sections of the society at par with the so called upper crust of the society both socially and economically and also educationally. It has been amply proved and demonstrated in the recently held elections to the Lok Sabha. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that dalits are increasingly becoming aware of their rights. It became possible only through the 'affirmative action' under the provisions of Reservations. Now let us come briefly to the recent judgments and observations of Supreme Court on Quota within Quota and the issue of creamy layer and also the currently live issue of Caste Census (Jatti Jan Ganna). These issues, of course, are very important with regard to the bigger issue of Reservations and Empowerment. I will base my observations in this regard with reference to the views of a legal expert and educationist, Fajjan Mustafa who commented on the Supreme Court judgment on Reservation within Reservation, "A closer look demonstrates that our judiciary has not been quite enthusiastic about reservation policies. While there are verdicts that go the other way, several judgments have tried to dilute reservation. The latest judgment is a milestone and consistent with the earlier verdicts." I would tend to agree with Mustafa Sahib. It is a fact that judicial judgments with regard to Reservations many a times set the clock back and created avoidable confusion. Judiciary not only in India but also in other countries is a not a 'supernatural organ' of the state. Judges also belong and live in the society and have the mindset of the mainstream of the society and naturally so. Unfortunately, the general mindset of the society is still 'Manuwadi' though we profess 'Equality,

Justice and Fraternity' in our constitutional arrangements. These contradictions remain and need to be addressed. My brief observations:

Quota within Quota - Reservation within Reservation is a confusing concept with divisive tendencies. It would tend to further fragment the society and take us towards perpetuation of temporary measures of Reservations. It has a negative orientation and would tend to accept the dogma of 'graded inequality' which we intend to do away with. I believe in the RSS's doctrine of 'Samrasta' to establish an inclusive and just society.

Creamy layer among SCs - Again it is a misleading notion. SC remains an SC socially however high he may go in his professional and vocational sphere. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Babu Jagjivan Ram, K. R. Naryanan, Ram Nath Kovind among many more in public life who could reach coveted positions remained dalits in the social hierarchy. It is also equally true for all highly placed civil servants belonging IFS, IAS, IPS and Allied Services. Only the bearer knows where the shoe is pinching. Moreover, the so called creamy layer is fully alive to the ground realities. They are voluntarily opting out of the Reservations as no one wants to remain a 'second rate' member of the society. Most of the highly placed officials are not claiming and availing of Reservations for their children. As such the notion of 'creamy layer' is a misnomer.

Caste Census - Reservations as provided in the Constitution are here to stay for a long time in the given socio-economic and political situation in the country. With a view to make focused and functional policies to empower the Dalits and OBCs, Caste Census and relevant data is needed. There should be no problem in conducting Caste Census. Certain issues cannot be kept under the carpet any longer. Dalits and OBCs are determined to have their share of the cake. But how do we fix that share without the relevant data? The dictum "Jis Ki Jitni Sankhya Bhari; Utni Uski Bhagedari" is gaining strength and rightly so.

Concept of Reservation - Let us elaborate the concept of Reservations a bit more for the benefit of a common man -

- Different people understand reservation to mean different things. One view of reservation as a generic concept is that reservation is an anti-poverty measure.
- Reservation implies a separate quota which is reserved for a special category of persons.
- Reservation was introduced with the aim of advancement and adequate representation of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes.
- The age-old caste system of India is responsible for the origination of the reservation system in the country.
- In simple terms, it is about facilitating access to seats in the government jobs, educational institutions, and even legislatures to certain sections of the population.
- These sections have faced historical injustice due to their caste identity.
- As a quota based affirmative action, the reservation can also be seen as positive discrimination.

The Way Forward

Someone has rightly said about the Reservation, "A strong political will is indispensable to find equilibrium between justice to the backwards, equity for the forwards and efficiency for the entire system." How can it be achieved within the constitutional frame work? Here are some of my observations in this regard:-

- Reservations for SCs and STs shall continue on the basis of their share in the population with a view to bring about a 'just social order' and 'Samrasta' as conceptualized by RSS. It will only be possible by negating the

caste system. RSS should hit the caste system in the head to prove its credentials with regard to 'Samrasta' otherwise this concept will remain in the air-conditioned offices and drawing rooms. Hopefully, RSS would rise to the occasion.

- There shall be an inclusive and comprehensive society led by the 'Mainstream' of the society with secular credentials and an agenda of 'Sab Ka Sath - Sab Ka Vikas'. Reservations should be available only to the depressed people in the Hindu fold. Reservation is not a poverty eradication programme. It is a programme of social empowerment of the marginalized segments of the society.

- India is a rich country inhabited by poor people. There is no justification of Reservations to EWS. The Social Security System should be streamlined and strengthened to take care of the EWS. SCs are not socially sidelined lot but also economically retarded over the centuries.

- There shall be reservations for SCs and STs in the top positions like Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries in the GOI, Chief Secretaries of the States, Fair representation in Judiciary and autonomous and statutory establishments. The argument or logic of 'Merit' and 'non-availability' have become outdated and are immoral.

- The newly introduced category - Lateral Entry - foe recruitment of high level posts of Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary in the GOI has tended to dilute the Reservation provisions.

It should be abolished forthwith or there should be Reservation in recruitment under this Later Entry too.

- Perhaps, time has come to abolish political reservation (Reserved constituencies) in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. It has out-lived its utility. These reservations have created only 'Dummies' or 'Chamchas' (in the terminology used by BabuKanshi Ram) in the political leadership of SCs and STs. By abolishing these political reservations, we will know as to where do we (both the upper castes and dalits) stand in an inclusive society. This litmus test would help us in determining as to how long the Reservations would be needed. A renowned Columnist, Tavleen Singh has commented on the issue, "Caste-based reservation is a process through which centuries of oppression and subjugation are being sought to be righted at the bare minimum level. Till the day that goal is achieved, it is needed"

I fully agree with Tavleen Singh. It is a matter of gratification to note that all the major political parties stand for reservations, prima facie. In the recently held Lok Sabha Elections, 2024, it became clear. The opposition made it an issue that the BJP, RSS and their supporters intend to abolish Reservations and change the Constitution. It caught the imagination of the masses, particularly the SCs, it seemed. BJP, RSS and others concerned did their best to clear their stand and position on the issues and categorically denied these charges. The top leadership, including PM Narendra Modi, Sarsanghchalak of RSS, Mohan Bhagwat and others came out with clear statements in support of Reservations. We should take their stand on its face value till it is proved otherwise. The ongoing developments in our neighborhood in Bangladesh are a stark reminder to be on our guards. The anti-social, anti-national elements and our enemies around might be sitting in the wings to exploit the situation. We need to be careful and try our utmost with sincerity to undo and end the socio-economic injustice to the marginalized sections of the society with a view to bring about 'Samrasta' in an inclusive society of Bharat. While underlining the caution.



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Regulation With Out Representation



I would love to be able to drive an affordable car that hovers over traffic and runs on a spoonful of tap water, but since that technology doesn't exist, it would be crazy to impose regulation on consumers

But that is exactly what the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is doing by pushing tough environmental rules they claim will reduce pollution from boats, trucks, and trains, aiming for a carbon-neutral future. These new regulations rely on technology that doesn't currently exist, so their justification is based more on science fiction than practical reality.

In January, CARB started implementing the California Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. This builds on their earlier Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. Both are designed to force companies to replace current fleets with zero-emission vehicles. California has 13 ports and moves millions of tons of produce to markets every year - so it plays a huge role in the U.S. transportation system.

The controversy gets even worse when we look at the rail sector. Last fall, CARB wanted to bring in stricter pollution standards for all trains in California. They hoped to force rail companies to use advanced technologies that aren't yet practical or affordable. New locomotives could cost \$4 to \$5 million each, which might bankrupt smaller rail companies and would raise the cost of everything from produce to blue jeans.

Trains account for less than 0.5% of air pollution - so even if the technology worked and was affordable, the impact would barely be measurable. These regulations could also disrupt supply chains since different states would need to swap out locomotives at California's border to meet these new rules.

During a Congressional hearing, a representative from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District claimed that trucks might be cleaner for transporting freight than trains, contrary to long-established facts. This statement suggests that officials prefer trucking to rail services, which ironically leads to more truck traffic and counteracts the environmental advantages of reducing train operations.

Meanwhile, the state keeps investing billions into the troubled California High-Speed Rail project. It simply doesn't add up. CARB defends these regulations by comparing current train emissions to the future performance of an imaginary electric freight truck fleet envisioned by the new ACF rule.

There are a host of problems with this pie-in-the-sky analysis:

California does not produce nearly enough electricity to support an electric truck fleet (or an electric train fleet.)

California does not have the charging infrastructure needed to deliver electricity to support the imaginary fleet.

Electric Trucks have an optimal range of 250-300 miles, but truckers currently average over 500 miles per day. The technology exists to replace the neighborhood Amazon delivery truck with an electric version, current technology can't replace the long-haul freighters who deliver the goods to the Amazon warehouse.

California has over 400,000 heavy freight trucks delivering goods across the state - and fewer than 4,000 are electric (mostly for short-range delivery). There is not enough manufacturing capacity to replace all 400,000 heavy trucks.

CARB has no viable plan for the disposal of old diesel trucks and engines they are trying to regulate out of existence.

The real problem with CARB's approach is that unelected bureaucrats are imposing massive new regulations based on science fiction and driven by activist ideology rather than engineering or common sense - and without input from those directly impacted.

These speculative regulations pose a threat to the viability of existing transport systems, would drastically increase the costs of energy, food, and other goods, and raise concerns about the equitable and effective governance of environmental policies.

As debates continue and the EPA considers CARB's waiver request, the decisions made will significantly influence the future of national transportation and economic stability.

I want cleaner air, but rather than relying on slogans and science fiction, we should concentrate our resources on proven methods we already know will reduce emissions - like improving roads and highways to reduce traffic jams and modernizing ports and freight transfer stations so trucks are not forced to idle for hours waiting for loads.

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 District 4 Community Meetings

Don't miss out on my upcoming



community meetings! This is a fantastic opportunity to engage directly with our Sheriff's Homeless Outreach and Problem Oriented Policing Teams, as well as representatives from the

County Department of Transportation.

I'm also thrilled to welcome Folsom City Mayor Mike Kozlowski, Citrus Heights Mayor Brett Daniels, and Angela Webb from Arrive Alive California. I hope to see you there!

North Highlands
Monday, August 5th @ 6:00pm
North Highlands Recreation & Parks District
6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA

Antelope
Thursday, August 8th @ 6:00pm
North Highlands-Antelope Library
4235 Antelope Rd, Antelope, CA

Citrus Heights
Monday, August 12th @ 6:00pm
City Hall
6360 Fountain Square Dr, Citrus Heights, CA

Rio Linda/Elverta
Wednesday, August 14th @ 6:00pm
Rio Linda Elverta Recreation & Parks District
810 Oak Lane, Rio Linda, CA

Orangevale
Monday, August 19th @ 6:00pm
Orangevale Community Center
6826 Hazel Ave, Orangevale, CA

Folsom
Wednesday, August 28th @ 6:00pm
Georgia Murray Community Library
411 Stafford St, Folsom, CA

Re-Imagine North Watt Project



Sacramento County has received thousands of comments and suggestions about how to improve the North Watt Avenue Corridor, and we are looking for more before the end of August.

This spring, the Re-Imagine North Watt Corridor project began asking the public to submit their vision about how the corridor can be improved. Safety and better mobility for residents, students, commuters and visitors along the corridor are the project's main goals.

The public is encouraged to help develop a new vision to address the safety of travelers on the bikeway and sidewalks, safety enhancements at intersections, transit stop amenities and other improvements. The goal is to reduce an area experiencing high traffic volume and speeding, along with vehicle collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists.

"The County was really happy to hear great ideas from so many people during the first phase of our public engagement process," said Project Manager Cameron Shew. "Now we're building on that effort with a newly updated comment map asking people to show us what types or improvements and amenities people would like to see along the corridor."

Thousands have visited the County's project website since it launched in March. Visitors can drop pins on locations along the boulevard to point out things they would like to see in terms of road design, pedestrian and bike access, transit services and even amenities like landscaping and street furnishing.

The website has been updated with virtual stations that people can visit to learn more about potential solutions. Users can also select and rank options that they like, as well as leave comments about their vision of the corridor.

There are also seven virtual stations focused on specific topics like roadway design and landscaping. Visitors can select and rank concepts that they like and leave more detailed comments if desired.

"We hope people will take the time to help us make this corridor better for everyone," added Shew.

The public has until Aug. 30 to submit comments to the Re-Imagine North Watt project team. After the comments have been gathered, a public meeting will be held for residents to hear about how the public envisions an improved North Watt Avenue corridor.

Edible Food Recovery Microgrants Available

The Capital Food Access Alliance - a regional collaboration between Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento



- has released Edible Food Recovery Microgrants to help local organizations expand their capacity to accept food donations for distribution throughout the community.

Award Amount: Applicants may request a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25,000.

Grant Application Period: Applications accepted now through November 2024. Applications will be reviewed once per month. Notifications of award will be provided on a rolling basis.

Grant Term: 6 Months.

Grant funds must solely benefit food recovery efforts in the Sacramento County region, and this grant does not require matching funds or cost-sharing.

Capital Food Access Alliance may extend or reopen the application cycle and launch a larger grants program with higher funding limits.

To learn more about and register for this grant, visit the Capital Food Access Alliance grant overview webpage. Applicants will need to register with Capital Food Access Alliance to access grant information and apply.

See You At National Night Out
National Night Out is the
(Contd. on next page)

(Continue from page 3)
 nation's night out against crime. It is a night where residents are encouraged to join with their neighbors to have a



neighborhood block party, ice cream social, or other outdoor events to build neighborhood spirit and unity - which can be a defense against crime.

This program is designed to educate communities about crime and drug prevention, generate support for

local anti-crime programs, strengthen community and law enforcement relationships, and let criminals know that the community is committed to fighting crime.

I hope you'll join me and our local law enforcement for National Night Out.

Citrus Heights
 Ascension Lutheran Church @ 5:30pm
 7607 Garden Gate Drive, Citrus Heights

C-Bar-C Park @ 6:00pm
 8275 Oak Avenue, Citrus Heights

Sunrise Pointe Apartments @ 5:30pm
 7424 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

Parkoaks Neighborhood @ 6:00pm
 6031 Ridgeview Court, Citrus Heights

Lakeview Village Mobile Home Park @ 6:00pm
 6211 Summerset Lane, Citrus Heights

Arborelle Apartments @ 3:30pm
 8007 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

Orangevale
 7-Eleven @ 5:30pm
 6840 Woodmore Oaks Drive, Orangevale

Folsom
 Big Foot Park @ 5:30pm
 101 Whistle Stop Way, Folsom

Kids Inc Preschool @ 6:00pm
 1740 Prairie City Rd, Folsom

Deer/Rabbit Park @ 6:00pm
 214 Orange Blossom Cir, Folsom

Park Folsom @ 4:30pm
 255 Wales Dr, Folsom

Rio Linda
 Rio Linda Highschool Aquatic Center @ 5:00pm
 6309 Dry Creek Rd, Rio Linda

Upcoming Community Events

Summer STEM Fest

Fun for the whole family!

FREE event
 Saturday, August 3, 2024
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Aerospace Museum of California
 3200 Freedom Park Dr.
 McClellan Park

Visit amud.org/Education

In partnership with:

Celebrate wind energy, the power of flight and math with family fun STEM activities. Learn about math and the science of air as you:

- Enjoy amazing airplane exhibits
- Tour the museum
- Fly a flight simulator
- Engage in hands-on activities
- Explore the 2THEXTREME! MathAlive! exhibit

Music and food will be available. Parking is free.

URGENT CARE CLINIC



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

8191 Timberlake Way, Suite # 400, Sacramento, CA 95823
Phone: 916-688-8888 Fax: 916-688-8837

Clinic Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & Sunday closed

We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish



Goodie Takhar, PhD



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