

New supervisor poised for 'Keeping in Touch'

During my 18-month campaign marathon to become your new District 2 Supervisor, I was struck by the disconnection many folks felt between themselves and our county government.

Some of this stems from our geographic isolation from San Andreas. But there are things we can do to improve our connections with the county seat.

First, we have spent the last two months recruiting volunteers to serve on the myriad of county committees, commissions and boards.

These provide a great opportunity for citizens to learn about a wide range of services and activities and help shape public policy. I'm pleased to say we had a record number of District 2 applicants for these positions.

On Jan. 10, the Board of



Supervisors appointed about three dozen of them. There are still openings for the Area 12 Agency on Aging and the Calaveras Child Care Advisory Council.

Don't hesitate to call me at 293-7907 if you have an interest.

But civic engagement is a two-way street, and government needs to get out of San Andreas and meet people where they live.

On Jan. 4, the Board of Supervisors voted to hold some meetings in the districts.

The details and schedules are being worked out. I hope we will come to West Point

and Mountain Ranch as part of our rounds.

Many people have asked me whether I will continue Paul Stein's office schedule in the West Point Library and Mountain Ranch Fire Station. The answer is yes.

Beginning the first week of February, I will be in West Point on Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and noon and Mountain Ranch on Thursdays between 2 and 4 p.m. I am also trying to set

up a similar arrangement in Mokelumne Hill.

To enhance two-way communication with district residents, we are establishing a District 2 Web site with activities and projects, as well as opportunities for citizens to voice opinions on board policies and issues.

This is under construction, and can be reached at www.stevewilensky.com.

There is much more to do to increase communication

between citizens and their government, but at least we've got a start.

Let me know what other steps we can take.

Campaign Promise Kept

I have turned down the compensation increase that the board of supervisors provided itself last year. As a consequence, an equivalent amount (approximately \$3,600 per year) will go to District 2 civic organizations and projects.

School days a challenge to returning students

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encouragement from West Point School sixth-grade teacher Jim Casey.

"He's awesome," Hartsock said. "He's helped me with my math. Now I'm really excited. My mission is to inspire my daughter."

Hartsock and Frye have goals beyond getting their high school diplomas. But

Patrick Miller, director of adult programs for the Calaveras County Office of Education, said a diploma opens the door to better employment.

"We have retired people who have led successful lives, go back and get their diploma," he said. "They find that something is missing in their life when they

dents up there," he said.

Judy Spadoni, the Healthy Start coordinator in the Rail Road Flat area, said adult education students get free childcare and a parenting support group to help them as they work through their studies.

Vial said Hartsock and Frye are motivated and achievement oriented.