



# After clearing out Horseshoe area, next up is the old Hollywood Trailer Park

■ Officials envision spot as a draw for recreation

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Kirk Barron/Appeal-Democrat

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More than 100 volunteers filled four 40-cubic-yard dumpsters with debris left behind by people living in the "Horseshoe" area near the confluence of the Yuba and Feather rivers. That was during the 19th annual Yuba River Cleanup on Sept. 17.

The four dumpsters brought the total number removed from the area to 49 since code enforcement actions pushed out an estimated 49 people from the area ahead of a sewer pipeline construction project on July 15.

## Homeless on the river

The Hollywood Trailer Park is home to a large population of homeless people who have set up camp on the edge of Marysville Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015.

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More work remains to be done to return the land to its previous state and make it safe for recreation to return to the area, but Marysville, Yuba County and a network of private service providers are getting ready to move people out of a second large homeless camp on city-owned property, City Councilman Dale Whitmore said.

Marysville will begin its effort to move people out of the area at the site of the former Hollywood Trailer Park along the north bank of the Yuba River between the Marysville and Simpson Lane during the week of Oct. 10 to 14. Code enforcement will begin the tear-down on Oct. 17.

"We're going to be asking and telling people to leave, then we're going to try to figure out how we're going to clean everything up," Whitmore said. "We're not quite sure how that's going to happen yet."

Whitmore said he envisions turning the land into parks similar to the Feather River Parkway in Yuba City, Bidwell Park in Chico and Discovery Park in Sacramento.

"Marysville can step up to the plate and take this land that's currently being used for sewer ponds and homeless camps and turn it into someplace where families are welcome," Whitmore said.

Prior to the Horseshoe encampment closure in July, three large homeless camps sat on city-owned property.

According to a survey of the camps released in June, 49 people lived in the Horseshoe area, 32 people lived in Hollywood and 31 people lived in the Thorntree area to the west of Binney Junction.

Some of that property was owned by the city but outside of the city limits, raising questions about which jurisdiction was responsible for enforcement. Whitmore pushed for the areas to be cleaned up, and concerns over liability, environmental and public health ultimately led to the clean-up efforts, Mayor Ricky Samayoa said.

"During the Horseshoe clean-up (on Sept. 17) we found a burned-out mobile home that was just left there and was just waiting to be carried away by the river," Samayoa said.

### **Preparing for the move**

Yuba County has already begun outreach efforts in Hollywood to answer questions and inform the people living there what services are available to them, and an informational town hall meeting for the homeless is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Marysville.

Yuba County Homeless Project Manager Chaya Galicia said the most common question she has heard is, "Where do we go?"

The outreach team has a menu of services that people can use to find help that they are eligible for, however, it is difficult to address everybody's needs. Galicia is working with other stakeholders to create a coordinated entry project that would help tailor services to an individual's needs but it is not yet complete.

"It's really an individual, case-by-case situation," Galicia said. "That's the only way it's going to work, because there's no one-size-fits-all, no magic wand, that will work for everybody."

Yuba County and its partners created 14Forward, a short-term housing solution with intensive on-site case-management, for people who wanted to become self-sufficient again. It opened the same day the Horseshoe camp was closed, and 37 people have taken advantage of the service, Galicia said.

At 14Forward, people are connected with services that help with employment, housing, behavioral health and substance abuse, Galicia said.

Three residents of 14Forward have found jobs and another has a job lined up pending a background check; one couple found permanent housing and another couple is set to move into permanent housing on Oct. 1; three veterans are being connected to veteran's services; two people have enrolled in college and three are working on their GEDs, Galicia said.

"You can see the change in people's faces from where they were to where they are now," Galicia said.

Galicia said space is being saved at 14Forward for the people moving out of Hollywood, but she knows some people are not ready to accept the help. Some of the people who moved out of the Horseshoe area did not utilize services.

Marysville Police Department Chief Aaron Easton said he did not see a noticeable increase in homeless population within the city limits after the Horseshoe closure, but there appeared to be a migration into other camps in the area.

"The area known as Thorntree (west of Binney Junction) seemed to have the biggest increase," Easton said. "We haven't done a study to confirm that with data, but it seems to be the case. We've gotten calls from people in the camp and residents near it."

The Thorntree area will be subject to similar code enforcement actions that cleared out the Horseshoe area and will soon take place in the Hollywood area, although a date has not been set.

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## **No-camping ordinance amendment**

The Marysville City Council adopted an amendment to its no-camping ordinance and designated two areas near Biz Johnson Drive, over the levee from Yuba County Juvenile Hall, as places where Marysville officers can direct people -- who are in violation of the no-camping ordinance -- to sleep. The designated spots will be open on alternating days to prevent permanent camps from setting up.

"It gives them a temporary ability to lay their head down somewhere," Chief Aaron Easton said. "It will not be a solution to homelessness by any means."

The resolution passed Sept. 20 and will go into effect Oct. 20, however, Easton said there will be a designated site for people to sleep temporarily when the Hollywood code enforcement action takes place.

In the meantime, the Marysville Public Works Department will be working to get the site ready by bringing in portable bathrooms and making sure the designated sites are clearly marked, Easton said.

"It's a very temporary solution," he said. "I would encourage people to take advantage of the other resources being offered, like 14Forward, where they are working toward a long-term solution rather than just an emergency solution to get the rest they need."

## **Ric Teagarden Life Recovery Center**

The Ric Teagarden Life Recovery Center could partially open by the end of October, but the homeless service and housing hub project ran into Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, city zoning and project priority delays, Habitat for Humanity Yuba-Sutter CEO Joseph Hale said.

Originally slated to open in July, the project was pushed back while Habitat for Humanity, Yuba County and other partners diverted their attention to opening 14Forward to meet an immediate housing need for code enforcement actions that removed homeless camps in the Yuba River riverbottoms.

The original plan for the building, which is the former T.E. Mathews Community School on F Street, was to have a rotating slate of homeless services in offices on the bottom floor, showers in the back of the building and housing on the second floor.

Habitat for Humanity will soon begin work to make a bathroom that serves the offices ADA compliant. Once that project is complete, and the building is licensed for services from the city, Yuba County and the Salvation Army can begin offering services, Hale said.

"We can then provide services at that location, such as having paperwork processing so people can get the benefits they qualify for and work to become self-sufficient again," Hale said.

The showers and housing sections of the building could take another three to six months to open because the location is zoned for commercial uses and Marysville only allows homeless housing in its light industrial zone. Other types of residential use, such as senior housing, is allowed in commercial zones in Marysville, Hale said.

"That was an expectation we never thought would happen because there is housing right there for seniors," Hale said. "In a lot of other areas where I've worked, we never ran into this before."

Hale said Habitat hired a consultant, Harrington Design Associates, to work with Marysville to do the planning and zoning code analysis to see what changes can be done that will allow the rest of the project to be completed.

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