

Press Release: New Park and Gold Mining Display in Sutter Creek

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What's happening at the South end of town in Sutter Creek? Lots of people and heavy machinery have been milling around a dilapidated old parking lot.

This new project is going to transform the parking lot into an historical Park and Gold Mining Display. The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has partnered with the City of Sutter Creek in designing this beautiful park, which will include actual artifacts from local gold mines. This project is spearheaded by SCCBF founding Chairman Frank Cunha along with help from Ed Arata, Robin Peters and Louis Boitano, who have secured the historic mining equipment for this project.

Last summer, the Amador Sawmill and Mining Association used their historic sawmill, located in the Amador County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, to cut the timbers that will be used for rebuilding a 5 head stamp mill. Built in 1882 at the Knight Foundry in Sutter Creek, the stamp mill will be the focal point of the new Park and Gold Mining Display.

Other mining artifacts going into the display will include a mine head frame, mucker shovel, ore cars, rock drills, compressor, hoists and other artifacts used in the process of extracting gold from the earth below. There will be information plaques telling about each individual item, so everyone can learn about what part they played in our history. Final touches to the renovated parking lot will be a "hand stacked rock wall" encompassing the entire lot and new trees that will be planted to give the parking lot a welcoming, fresh new look.

The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is busy raising funds to start the work for this project. Their "Kick-Off" fundraising event will be the "1st Annual Shrimp Feed", to be held on May 9th at the Native Sons Hall, 56 Main Street, Sutter Creek. This amazing dinner will include: All you can eat Shrimp and Cocktail Sauce, Pasta, Salad, French Bread, and Ice Cream. There will be fabulous items on display for a Silent Auction and the evening wraps up with a delicious Dessert Auction. Tickets for the event are only \$40, with cocktails at 6 pm and dinner at 7:30. To purchase tickets call (209) 267-1003.

This dinner is sponsored entirely by the Native Sons of the Golden West, Amador Parlor #17 and all proceeds will be donated to the SCCBF to help sponsor the South Main Park and Gold Mining Display.

The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation and the City of Sutter Creek are also sponsoring a "Name the Park" contest. This new Park and Gold Mining Display needs a great new name. You can submit your ideas to City Hall no later than May 11th. The Park will not be named after or in honor of any person. Please give us your ideas since this park will be a part of Sutter Creek forever and will need a good name.

The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has already received generous donations from local entities such as the City of Sutter Creek, the Native Sons of the Golden West Parlor 17, S.C. Lions Club, S.C. Business Association, and the S.C. Promotions Committee, as well as local citizens who are all helping to sponsor this project in some way. This project has an estimated cost of \$175,000 and your donations would be so very much appreciated. This Park and Gold Mining Display will be here for generations to come and we need to do it right. Your help is needed.

To donate or to become a member of the exciting organization please visit WWW.SCCBF.ORG or call 209-560-6888. All donations are tax deductible.