



Weather watch
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City plans Saratoga Drive extension

Neighbor protests use
of eminent domain

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For the first time in years, the city may use eminent domain to temporarily acquire portions of properties along Silverado Trail to construct a new road linking the highway with homes to the east.

The City Council voted unanimously last week to support the use of eminent domain if necessary to purchase segments of three properties so the city can extend Saratoga Drive westward. The extension would create a third access point for residents of the Terrace/Shurtleff area to get to Silverado Trail.

Because the new Saratoga Drive/Silverado Trail intersection will have a signal, Caltrans requires the installation of left-turn lanes on the trail, which is a state highway with just two lanes currently. Caltrans also requires 8-foot-wide shoulders to be added to both sides of Silverado Trail, which now has minimal paved shoulders.

There is enough room in the public right of way to widen the highway without use of private property, but the city will need to reconstruct driveways on two adjacent properties so they fit with the new road. To do this, temporary construction easements are required for up to a year's time.

Dorothy Glaros, who owns the northernmost property, said she fears loss of privacy and much of her land's value if the city takes the front portion, even temporarily. Her property, which contains seven rental homes, is separated from Silverado Trail by thick vegetation including several large trees.

"Our slopes going down to (the edge of Silverado Trail) and what is growing on them have served our family, previous owners, property, tenants and wildlife for well over 100 years," she told the council. "The city does not have the right to come onto our property and destroy that."

"I could suffer a significant financial loss," Glaros said. "With up to one year continued construction easement, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find new tenants. No one wants to have construction personnel on their property for a year."

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Was it worth it?

Napa High gridiron star Steve Hendrickson pays the price for football glory

HOWARD YUNE | hyune@napanews.com

This was Steve Hendrickson:
A bullish running back who joined Napa High School's varsity football team as a freshman and became its unquestioned leader. A hard-hitting linebacker at Cal, as comfortable in the classroom as on the AstroTurf of Memorial Stadium. A feisty, fearless human pinball who reached two Super Bowls, lasting seven NFL seasons amid faster and taller opponents.

This *is* Steve Hendrickson:

A battered body with an increasingly broken-down brain, his short-term memory disappearing. A father of two unable to work for the past six years, divorced for the past year.

And a man who fears the sport into which he poured his heart and will may now be shortening his life, and dimming his memory of it.

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