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# Napa Valley Register

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## City begins process of planning for Kennedy's future

### Park master plan creation underway

**CHANTAL M. LOVELL**  
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About 50 percent of Napa's largest park remains undeveloped, and now the city is working to create a plan detailing how it should be built out. Last week, the city kicked off the process of developing a master plan for Kennedy Park with a joint meeting of the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Commissioners and councilmembers chatted about things they'd like

to see at the park one day and said they don't want plans to be hindered by the placement of facilities already at the park. Councilman Peter Mott encouraged staff, who will issue a request for qualifications to find a consulting firm to draft the plan, to look at the park as a whole. He said, for example, a parking lot could be moved if it made sense to put something larger, like a group of soccer fields, in its place. "I always get nervous when we start looking at constraints from the beginning that aren't insur-

mountable," Mott said. About half of the 203 acres of Kennedy Park sit undeveloped. Over the next six months or so, the city plans to hire a firm to draft a plan detailing where amenities from more ball fields to those that would highlight the Napa River could be located one day. Mayor Jill Techel said she'd like to see more sports fields established at Kennedy. "I think this is an ideal place for active recreation," she said. Councilman Alfredo Pedroza said a good number of adult residents who play in Napa soccer leagues are Latino, so he'd like



The city is developing its master plan for Kennedy Park. Much of the park is still undeveloped. *J.L. Sousa/Register*

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## ELIZA YOUNT MANSION



The Eliza Yount Mansion on Seminary Street is in escrow, and the prospective new owner is reportedly planning to turn it into a bed-and-breakfast. The Napa home was built in the 1880s by the widow of George Yount, for whom Yountville is named. *J.L. Sousa/Register*

## Historic mansion to become 25-room bed-and-breakfast

### Buyer in escrow for home on National Register

**JENNIFER HUFFMAN**  
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One of Napa's oldest and most historic homes has been offered for sale as a future bed-and-breakfast, and a buyer has stepped forward. The Eliza Yount Mansion, a National Register of Historic Places property located at 423 Seminary St., has been listed by owners Jim Keller and family for \$2.5 million. A buyer is now in escrow to purchase the mansion, Keller said. The sale does not include the 40-unit Fuller

Garden Apartments complex next to the mansion. The 2.2-acre parcel will be divided in the sale, Keller said. After a lot line adjustment, the B&B parcel will encompass approximately 1.25 acres, he said. The Keller family will continue to own and maintain the apartment complex. He could not name the buyer yet, but Keller said he is an investment buyer "with vision" who plans to create up to 25 bed-and-breakfast lodging rooms while "keeping the integrity" of the historic home,

which dates from the 1880s. The exterior of the mansion will remain primarily as it is now, and new landscaping and gardens will be added, Keller said. The family, which has owned the property for about 20 years, received city entitlements in 2004 to develop a 25-unit B&B project at the site, Keller said. Those plans called for seven units on the second floor of the mansion and the balance of the units inside four to five new lodging

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## NVC vice president prepares to retire

### Nelson rose from freshman to second in command

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Sue Nelson, second in command at Napa Valley College, remembers her first days as a student at the college nearly 40 years ago. In an introductory business class, the first-generation college student was too shy to stand up from her desk and present a paper. "I couldn't force myself to do it," Nelson said. "(College) was very intimidating for me because I didn't know what to expect, at all." Nelson graduated from NVC in 1975 but stayed at

the college to take on a full-time job as a clerk, typist, and keypunch operator. During the next 38 years, she would rise steadily in the ranks — eventually becoming the vice president of instruction. Earlier this month, Nelson publicly announced her retirement. Her last official day will be July 31. Neither of Nelson's parents had the opportunity to attend college.



Nelson

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## Berryessa subdivision faces steep rate hike

### Many owners already squeezed

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Residents of a small subdivision on the north end of Lake Berryessa may have to open their wallets this summer for a steep increase in their water and sewer rates. The Berryessa Estates, which has 180 homes located on Putah Creek north of the lake, has

struggled with foreclosures and already high bimonthly bills for water and sewer, but needs to make a \$4.7 million improvement to its sewer system, which includes expanding its wastewater storage ponds. The Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District, which is managed by

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## Napa High's Barb Franco receives state school honors

### Two other principals get regional awards

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A high school principal from the Napa Valley Unified School District was recently honored as the Secondary Principal of the Year for the state. Barb Franco, principal of Napa High School, received the award from the Association of California School Administrators. Franco graduated from Napa High in 1971 and has been principal of the school since 2002. She said she was "very proud" of the award and to have Napa High recognized at the state level.

Describing the school as a "small city," Franco said her role as principal is to be the academic leader, as well as the school's business leader. Napa High has approximately 2,300 students, 110 teachers and 80 support staff. The most challenging part of her job, Franco said, is making sure that every student and school employee has all of the tools and information needed for their work. "I want them to have the best," Franco said. "I want them to have everything they need, so there's no roadblocks for them." After more than a decade as principal, Franco said she still loves every aspect of her job. "I just love this school. It's my

hobby," Franco said. "There isn't anything about this school that doesn't amaze me every day." Franco was recommended for the award by the Napa school district. In his letter of support, Ashley Halliday, assistant superintendent of human resources, wrote about the different programs Franco has helped implement over the years, as well as her reputation as a "builder of leaders." At least two dozen current Napa Valley Unified administrators, curriculum coaches and academic leaders have worked with or under Franco's supervision, Halliday wrote. "Ms. Franco takes this role seriously, and every conversation in the



Barb Franco, Napa High School principal, was recently honored as the Secondary Principal of the Year for the state. *Submitted photo*

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