



CITY OF AMADOR CITY
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 Construction on the Old Grammar School

Background

Almost two years ago, a fire started at the Old Grammar School in Amador City, causing extensive damage to the historic building that housed the Community Center, two studio apartments, and City Hall.

The insurer, the engineers, the architects, and the city administrator have been working through the process of recovery and restoration of the Old Grammar School in readiness for the work of rebuilding. Just before the winter holiday, there was speculation that once the construction begins, the building might be closed to everyone but construction workers. The City would need another location for City Hall and have a plan should relocating be necessary.

A Plan

Some of the factors considered as a plan was put together included the following: renting a space or a building? renting a trailer? how much would that cost over what could be a year-long process? is it responsible for the City to spend public dollars to rent other property? could the city budget handle that? is there another city property that could be used, one that would not require paying rent?

The latter ended up being the best option to pursue.

Amador City owns three historic buildings: the Old Grammar School, which has to be vacated; the Kling Building which houses the Amador Whitney Museum and is not an option due to the provisions of its endowment; and, the Old City Hall, where there are tenants with a month-to-month lease.

If necessary, City Hall could be relocated from the Old Grammar School to the Old City Hall. This would not require using public dollars for rent. This would offer city staff and city council members a central location for committee meetings and for doing the work of city government. This would offer a convenient location for anyone needing to do business with the City and everyone attending City Council meetings. As its name indicates, it was once the official City Hall, as many community members remember. But, it would also require giving notice to the tenants. It was, nonetheless, the plan should one be needed.

Construction Date

In mid-January, Amador City was given the timeframe for construction. It would begin in mid-April. As suggested, City staff and the general public would not be permitted in the construction zone for liability and safety reasons. In April, relocating City Hall would be necessary and the City had to give notice to the tenants that their month-to-month lease would be honored through March 31st.

The decision that relocating City Hall to the Old City Hall building was needed when construction on The Old Grammar School began was not made lightly or frivolously. It was difficult. It affects the community. It is the best option among different choices.

I hope that given a two-month notice, the tenants, Wine Tree Farm/Sunset Hill Designs, are able to secure another location. I hope that as the Old Grammar School is restored, it retains its historic character. I hope that Amador City retains its uniqueness as a caring and empathetic community. And, I hope that the community knows that this decision to relocate City Hall to the Old City Hall building was taken seriously and was made thoughtfully.

Sincerely-

Sandy

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