

Veteran Updates

News and updates on Veterans issues from the San Francisco VA Medical Center • July 2012

Progress Continues on New Eureka VA Clinic

Construction continues on schedule for a new VA Clinic at 930 West Harris Street in Eureka. VA is building a new and expanded clinic there to replace services currently provided at the VA Clinic at 713 F. St.



Artist's Rendering

As part of this development, clinic services are transferring from the current management of private contractors, Brian and Nancy Craig, to the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC). The new clinic will open for patients in October.

"Meeting the needs of our rural Veterans is a priority and this new clinic is evidence of our dedication and commitment to our Humboldt County Veterans," said San Francisco Medical Center Director Lawrence H. Carroll.

Current clinic services for enrolled Veterans include primary care, mental health, pharmacy, laboratory test, x-rays, telemedicine, and home-based primary care. "This relocation will give us the opportunity to expand and enhance services to include the addition of several new programs in the areas of audiology, optometry, podiatry, prosthetics, and, in the future, physical therapy," said Carroll.

The VA has enjoyed an excellent partnership with the Craigs and credits them for helping VA to

establish an excellent relationship in Humboldt County. "We are excited about the opportunity to expand VA services," said Carroll. "Because of the outstanding leadership of Brian and Nancy Craig, we have established an excellent reputation in Eureka. I am confident that our new clinic will continue to build upon both the good will and excellent service VA currently provides to our Veterans."

The VA will work with the current clinic leadership to ensure a smooth transition to the new location.

Nor Cal Dinos Roar to Victory at Golden Age Games

There was something new at the 26th National Veterans Golden Age Games this year – the "Nor Cal Dinos," from the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC)!

This year's games were held May 31 – June 5 in St. Louis, and the Nor Cal Dinos captured some Olympic-style medals. Army Veteran Ray Trevino, age 74, and Navy Veteran Don Smith, age 80, both residents of the Veterans Home of Yountville and patients at SFVAMC, competed in the visually impaired categories of golf, bowling, shuffleboard and horseshoes.

Trevino, accompanied by "Thorn," won four medals: gold in bowling and shuffleboard and silver in golf and horseshoes. Smith, accompanied by "Nate," won a bronze medal in shuffleboard.

"The object of the games is to encourage older Vets to be active," said Smith. "So we need more people to know about this program." Having a background in fundraising, Smith said he hopes to promote some fundraising activities to enable more Veterans to be part of their team for next year's Golden Age Games in Buffalo, New York.

To learn more about the Games go to: www.va.gov/opa/speceven/gag/index.asp.



From left: Thorn, Ray Trevino, Don Pecsénye, Don Smith, and Nate.

SFVAMC Joins Community for “SF Homes for Heroes”

The San Francisco VA Medical Center has teamed up with the local community in the “San Francisco Homes for Heroes” campaign -- a program that aims to house 50 of our area’s homeless Veterans within 100 days. Veterans who have a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher from prior year allocations, but who have been unable to find apartments, are eligible to participate.

The HUD-VASH program combines rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. VASH vouchers offer landlords an incentive of a permanent, steady stream of income, plus a chance to make a difference in the life of a Veteran. VA case managers are available to help Veterans and landlords with any issues that may arise that could impact a Veteran’s ability to maintain the housing.

SFVAMC’s Downtown Clinic, home to SFVAMC’s Comprehensive Homeless Center, has partnered with HUD, the City and County of San Francisco, including the San Francisco Housing Authority, Housing and Homeless Division of Health and Human Services, the San Francisco Mayor’s Office, Swords to Plowshares and a host of other local nonprofits and property owners, to participate in a

nationwide campaign to end Veterans’ homelessness.

“Those who have served this nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope,” said San Francisco

VA Medical Center Director Lawrence H. Carroll. “Joining together with our partners, as part of San Francisco Homes for Heroes, reinforces our unwavering commitment and dedication

to caring for and housing our nation’s Veterans.”

San Francisco is one of 16 communities in the country selected to participate. “We are on board 100 percent with this national initiative to end Veteran homelessness, and confidence is high that we will achieve this goal,” said Jake Martin, LCSW, Director, SFVAMC’s Comprehensive Homeless Center.

The biggest obstacle identified in San Francisco is lack of housing and high rents. “In San Francisco, renting to a homeless Veteran is one of the most patriotic things you can do,” said San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. “Veterans with a HUD-VASH voucher have been awarded a valuable asset, and it’s up to us to make sure this federal investment is put to use immediately.”

For more information about San Francisco VAMC’s participation in this campaign contact Jake Martin at michael.martin1@va.gov.



Coyote Encounters on the Rise

It’s pup season for our local coyote population, and many coyotes have been spotted around Fort Miley Circle at our Medical Center.

Some area trails are closed until the end of pupping season in early August due to aggressive coyotes who may attack in packs to protect their cubs.

San Francisco Animal Care and Control advises to stay away from areas containing coyote dens, and reminds us that it’s illegal to feed coyotes or to harass them. Please continue to be watchful for coyotes, stay aware of your surroundings, and protect your service dogs by keeping them on leash.

Please report any sightings of feedings, any aggressive behavior or attacks to U.S. Park Service Police Dispatch at (415) 561-5510.



Coyote on SFVAMC grounds

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