

Obituary

Jill Gast Smith

May 12, 1951 – January 7, 2015

Jill was born Jill Ann Gast in Pontiac, Michigan, on May 12, 1951, to Margaret and Bennett Gast.

Jill moved to Whittier, California, in 1955. Jill attended Cal high in Whittier, graduating in 1969. She tried her hand at a variety of jobs, but from the time she was 18 she was never without a job, a fact she was proud of. She finally settled into an office position in a recycle facility in South El Monte, California, a position that lasted from 1973 to 1988.

In 1985, she met Richard Smith and a relationship began that lasted almost 30 years. They wed in 1999.

Jill decided she wanted to do more with her life, so in 1988 she entered a paralegal school, which she excelled at, earning the highest grades of any of the students in her class. Jill became a paralegal in early 1989 and remained one until 2007.

Unfortunately Jill was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2005, and after multiple surgeries and hard as she tried, she could no longer handle the requirements of the job.

Now, with the end in sight, Jill wanted a change of scenery and picked Sisters, Oregon, to complete her life. Jill and Richard moved to Sisters in 2007, where Jill amassed an amazing amount of friends, one of her great



qualities. Jill volunteered at the Sister Area Chamber of Commerce for several years until her health declined.

Jill was blessed by a granddaughter, Malia, in June of last year. Jill was so proud to be a grandmother.

Recently her health was failing and a new cancer developed and she no longer was strong enough to continue the fight. Jill fought strongly until the very end.

Jill was predeceased by her parents. Jill is survived by her husband, Richard; her two brothers, Michael of Winnemucca, Nevada and Kevin of Whittier, California. Also four nieces: Nichole, Katie, Holly and Meg; and one nephew, Ben. In addition, Jason, her stepson and Jason's daughter Malia reside in Placentia, California.

Jill's service will be January 17 at 11 a.m. at Westside Church in Sisters, and she will be interred in the Camp Polk cemetery among the trees she so dearly loved. All that loved Jill are invited. Jill was one of God's greatest gifts to us.

CAMPGROUND: Neighbors submitted a petition to the City

Continued from page 1

impacts; a "for-profit" focus by the City; camper impacts on neighborhoods (noise, dog-waste, clotheslines); and the belief that previous park expansion (undertaken in 2009-10) was done without prior public input.

There is especially concern for a "very real potential for additional expansion without regard for neighborhood concerns."

The petition is asking the City to address the neighborhood's concerns through: no additional expansion of facilities and campsites (upgrade of CCG bathrooms OK) effective immediately; review of the 2009-2010 CCG expansion to ensure all public and legal processes were followed and if not, that entire process should be readdressed with public input received; creating an extensive internal and external landscape buffer around the perimeter of the CCG facing South Locust and Tyee streets to completely block the view into the campground; making traffic control and reduction of traffic a priority; and ensuring all park rules are obeyed.

Signers of the petition believe the "campground is an asset to our community, but should be run in a manner that benefits the City and the public with minimal negative impact to our neighborhoods."

The Parks Advisory Board (PAB) has asked for a joint workshop with the City Council where they will present a review of the work they have done so far, concerns they have heard from residents during visitor communication, and considerations that still need to be addressed.

Community Development Director Pauline Hardie has agreed to provide the council with all the data collected regarding park usage, income and expenditures, the City's draft master plan, letters received from citizens and the requirements of the original deed, prior to the workshop.

The purpose of the January 7 PAB meeting had been to review their position prior to the joint workshop. Discussion regarding their position highlighted the need for Council to first determine what they see as the primary function and benefit of the campground. The board feels that if the board is to continue working on the campground, Council needs to provide specific directions to them.

What is the goal the board

should be shooting for with the campground — income, facilitation of tourism, public enjoyment of residents and visitors? Is the function of the PAB to craft a new draft master plan?

“Petition signers are especially concerned about a “very real potential for additional expansion without regard for neighborhood concerns.”

Paul Bertagna, public works director, presented figures requested by the PAB at their last meeting regarding revenue and expenditures for CCG for fiscal year 2013/14. Total revenue from park fees, sewer dump fees, and transient room tax was \$138,759. Total expenses for labor salary and benefits and materials and services amounted to \$37,752 making the estimated income from the campground \$101,008, all of which goes into the general fund.

Bertagna pointed out that \$100,000 is approximately 40 percent of the total annual operating budget for city parks.

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