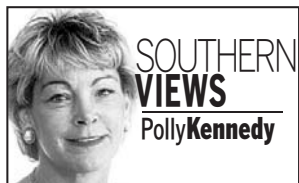


# There's no shortage of leadership for south county boards, councils

From Chualar to King City, tireless souls are stepping up to serve as leaders of their south Monterey County towns. From paid city managers to barely paid city council and school board members, their efforts on behalf of their towns go beyond the call of duty. Those featured in this edition of South County Life are a cross-section, representative of many other public servants who aren't included.

Consider the job of city manager. Managing a city is a tough job, especially during these excruciating times of state budget cuts and failed utility tax measures. Ann Marie Gallant, (King City); Anna Vega (Greenfield) and Rene Mendez (Gonzales) each have a huge responsibility to their cities and their citizens. They are required to



SOUTHERN VIEWS  
Polly Kennedy

answer to sometimes tough critics, their city council members, who are working tirelessly on behalf of their communities.

Their loyalty is defined by their long hours, much more than a mere 40 hours a week.

Part of what makes south county so special is the way people are willing to get involved.

If it's for the good of the community, they simply roll up their sleeves and get to work. And these folks are not just involved in one project, they seem to be involved in many.

There's a saying, "If you want to get it done, ask a busy person."

And busy they are, with their service hours as well as their hobbies.

Take King City Union School District board member Holly Casey, a talented quilter whose quilt graces the King City Library. Casey toiled, lovingly putting in each and every stitch.

She then turned around and gave it to the library, which used it in a fund-raiser.

Community members were able to purchase "spines" on which their names were embroidered.

That was the infamous Book Bash, when \$80,000 was raised in one night.

Another example of a person having myriad talents is Jeff Pereira, a King City councilman. In his spare

time, he plays in the Shan Johnson Band, which often plays at fund-raisers.

Other council members, mayors and school board members who are extremely involved in their communities include John Huerta, Matt Gourley and Eva Rios of Gonzales, Richard Ortiz and Stephanie De La Rosa of Soledad and Anabelia Ponce of Chualar.

These are a mere sampling of south county elected and appointed officials — there were scores to choose from. It's a good feeling to know they are all acting on our behalf.

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