



# Town & Country Democrat

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On the Web: [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

July 2007

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## Town & Country Announces 2007 Award Dinner Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Our fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, October 16. Our honorees will be Dr. Bill Durston, who heroically faced Dan Lungren in the 2006 election, and Ralph Cyfers, our fearless leader of all Voter Registration activities. And our keynote speaker will be Lt. Governor John Garamendi!

And.... We will need lots of help!

- From our members, help setting up, organizing, and running the event. (Volunteers, contact Arnie Godmintz, 916-332-5980 or [arniegod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arniegod@sbcglobal.net)).
- From sponsors, we welcome financial contributions. (Contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or [n.tronaas@att.net](mailto:n.tronaas@att.net).)
- From everyone, we really want you to join us on the 27th! (To register, contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or [n.tronaas@att.net](mailto:n.tronaas@att.net).)

You can also contact Margie Metzler, 916-921-5008 or [margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com)!

# SICKO

**July meeting: Wednesday, July 11,  
7 pm, Deterding park Clubhouse  
Single-Payer Healthcare!**

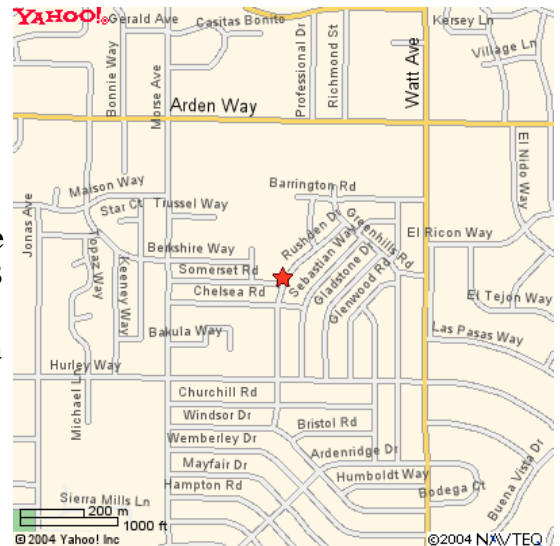


Have you seen Michael Moore's "SICKO" yet? (Go here for more info: <http://www.sickotix.com/>) If you want to know more about a real solution to California's sick healthcare system ...

**IN THEATERS NOW**

We will have a representative from Sheila Kuehl's office present to give updates on her single-payer bill, SB 840, answer questions, and help us direct our energy. We'll also have a short movie about the bill.

See you there!



## From the President...



This month has been pretty much healthcare for me, all day every day. I continue to work with Gray Panthers giving presentations that include information about Medicare Part D, but which also have expanded to include Universal Healthcare information and prescription drug issues. I am convinced that we need a single-payer system, because the insurance companies have profit as their goal, and we need a system which has the health of our citizens as its only focus. For many years, corporate interests and the medical profession itself have told us ad nauseum that the dreaded "Socialized Medicine" will destroy civilization as we know it. We now know that it will do nothing of the kind, as every industrialized nation except us has some form of state-sponsored healthcare system. And every one of those countries has better health outcomes in every measurable way than we do. At the hearing and vote for Senator Sheila Kuehl's bill, SB 840, which is the only true single-payer bill we've seen, the Republicans repeatedly spouted that old canard that we have the best healthcare in the world and the bill would ruin it. Sen. Kuehl pointed out that we are in fact not Number 1, we are Number 37, sandwiched between those great nations Slovenia and Costa Rica.

Then in late June Michael Moore's latest (and greatest!) movie, "Sicko" opened nationwide, along with Mr. Moore himself appearing before the legislature to testify on behalf of SB 840. The theaters stood back to see how the turnout for the film was at a one-day Sneak Preview, and it was not only sold out, but they turned people away! That did it! The movie is now showing at five theaters in this area, and it's playing to packed theaters all over the country. (To find a theater showing the film, you can go to <http://www.sickotix.com>).

Viewers are not only flocking to the movie, they want to get involved!

In light of all this activity, we decided that the time is ripe to invite Senator Kuehl to send one of her highly articulate and knowledgeable staff persons to our meeting to help us sort out the various plans, make plans for working on the campaign in the cases of many of you, and do some real strategic planning.

Please join us at this very informative and practical meeting on July 11, and bring your questions!

Here are our other upcoming meetings:

August 8: Our annual Ice Cream Social. This year's

event will feature a special guest speaker, Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo!

September 12: Special event: Debate on the campaign for cityhood for Arden Arcade!

October 16: Fundraiser!

*Margie Metzler, President, Town & Country Democrats*

[margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com); (916) 921-5008

### Lyn Stueve: More on Libby/Wilson

Harriet Meiers and Sara Taylor, an aide to Karl Rove, will testify July 11 before John Conyers' Judiciary Committee. It seems that so far the system still seems to work and they will both honor subpoenas issued by the Committee. The question is what else is going on around the testimony? Here is one speculation:

Recently, Greg Palast, a reporter for the BBC and author of *Armed Madhouse*, stated on Air America Radio that the reason President Bush commuted Libby's sentence now was not that he (Bush) believed in his innocence, but to send a message to those who are going to testify Wednesday. According to Palast, the last thing this Administration wants is to have either Harriet Meiers or Sara Taylor take a fifth amendment stance, which could be seen as trying to protect themselves from having to lie. The Administration's message to them is, "Lie and we will protect you".

Joe and Valerie Wilson are living proof of Palast's contention. They are continuing their civil suit against Cheney, Rove, Libby, and Armitage for ruining Valerie's career and smearing their family name. The conviction of "Scooter Libby" is just the first step. The Wilsons do not have Libby's deep pockets and support, and need everyday people to help. Please go to: [www.wilsonsupport.org](http://www.wilsonsupport.org) to contribute.

You can also mail a check to:

**The Joseph and Valerie Wilson Legal Support Trust**  
**P.O. Box 40918**  
**Washington, D.C. 20016-0918**

All contributions will be deposited with the trustees of The Joseph and Valerie Wilson Legal Support Trust, and will be disbursed as needed to pay the legal team representing the Wilsons. There are no contribution limits and contributions are not tax deductible. Contributions up to \$12,000 are not subject to gift tax. You should consult your own personal tax advisors regarding any other potential gift tax consequences.

—Lyn Stueve

## NRA: "GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE," BUT IT HELPS TO HAVE A GUN HANDY

The Town & Country Democratic Club traditionally has selected an individual as the recipient of its Compassionate Conservative of the Month Award, but for the first time it will bestow this much sought after prize on an organization. It should come as no surprise that the organization so honored is the National Rifle Association, in view of its long tradition of dispensing compassion.

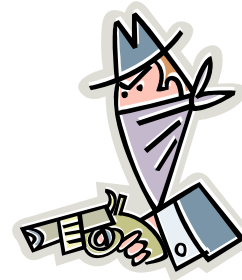
It is especially gratifying to present this award to the NRA as it is spreading compassion to a group which seldom receives such support: the criminal element which shoots down innocent men, women and children. The means the NRA is using to provide this compassion to such gun-welding persons, is through its opposition to the Crime Gun Identification Act, AB 1471, which is now pending in the state legislature. The proposed law calls for certain types of firearms to bear special markings which would assist the police in identifying criminals involved in gun crimes. What better way to show compassion to people who certainly could be described as "society's least desirable," than by aiding them to avoid arrest for their criminal acts.

The Crime Gun Identification Act would require that new models of semi-automatic handguns be equipped with technology that allows police to match bullet shells found at a crime scene to the handgun that fired the bullets. This technology, known as "micro-stamping," would substantially enhance law enforcement's ability to rapidly identify and link shell casings found at a crime scene to

the individual semi-automatic handgun from which it was fired. Apparently, the NRA doesn't believe in giving law enforcement additional tools to solve firearm crimes.

A survey by the Center for Disease Control, revealed that the United States accounted for 45 percent of the more than 88,000 gun related deaths annually worldwide. The CDC would not speculate as to why America led the world in firearm deaths. However, Rebecca Peters, a John Hopkins University fellow specializing in gun violence, declared, "If you have a country saturated with guns—available to people when they are intoxicated, angry or depressed—it's not unusual guns will be used more often." And the Town & Country Club would be amiss if it didn't point that the NRA deserves a substantial amount of credit for creating such a situation.

—John Bernier



**Note:** Last month we included a terrific article contributed by Jim Nakata, about the labor practices at Circuit City, including the recent layoffs of many long-term employees with the option that they could reapply for their old jobs at minimum wage and with no benefits. If you would like to comment to Circuit City, please go here: [http://www.circuitcity.com/es\\_customer\\_email.jsp?c=1](http://www.circuitcity.com/es_customer_email.jsp?c=1)

I urge you to not only boycott Circuit City, but let them know why!

## Take Action on Healthcare! (Or any other issue, for that matter!)

- Hold public meetings to inform and persuade people to support single-payer healthcare
- Hold house parties to discuss the issue with your neighbors and show the movie
- Gather and disseminate information about healthcare issues via e-mail (contact [margie-metz@hotmail.com](mailto:margie-metz@hotmail.com) to be put on my list.)
- Publish advertisements and run commercials supporting single-payer/SB 840
- Lobby for SB 840. Write to Assembly members who opposed it and write or call the Governor and tell him to sign the bill!
- Organize petition drives
- Tell your horror story
- Organize watchdog activities to ensure that the media, agencies, and businesses do not distort the truth
- Enlist the cooperation of other organizations, such as churches and unions

### Write, call, let your voice be heard!

#### Sacramento Bee Contacts:

**David Holwerk - Editorial Pages Editor,-** (916) 321-1851. E-mail: [dholwerk@sacbee.com](mailto:dholwerk@sacbee.com)

**Maria Henson - Deputy Editorial Page Editor -** (916) 321-1907, E-mail: [mhenson@sacbee.com](mailto:mhenson@sacbee.com)

**Bill Moore - Letters Editor -** (916) 321-1905  
E-mail: [bmoore@sacbee.com](mailto:bmoore@sacbee.com)

**Gary Reed -- Forum Editor -** (916) 321-1909  
e-mail: [greed@sacbee.com](mailto:greed@sacbee.com)

Submit a letter to the editor online: <http://www.sacbee.com/326/story/19629.html>

#### Assembly members:

To write to an assembly member: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset7text.htm> has all their names, addresses and phone numbers. Assembly members' e-mail addresses are [Assemblymember.lastname@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.lastname@assembly.ca.gov)

**Governor:** Arnold Schwarzenegger  
445-2841  
<http://gov.ca.gov/>



#### Community Calendar (appears on Thursdays):

- Send at least two weeks before the event
- Include:
  - Name of event
  - Specific times and dates
  - Event location and address, including ZIP
  - Name of sponsoring organization
  - Admission prices and reservation deadlines
  - Phone number to call for info.

**Contact Cindy Strella**, 916-478-2640; fax 916-478-2673; email [cstrella@sacbee.com](mailto:cstrella@sacbee.com); online [sac-ticket.com/commcal](http://sac-ticket.com/commcal)

#### State Senators:

<http://www.senate.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/senators.htm> has all their names, linking to their addresses and phone numbers. Senators' e-mail addresses are [senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov)

—Margie Metzler

## From Assembly Member (and T&C member) Dave Jones

Dear Friend:

We have an opportunity to elect a new President who will reverse the last six years of terrible defense, foreign and domestic policies.

We have an excellent group of Democratic candidates, any one of whom will do a much better job than their Republican opponents.

I am supporting former Senator John Edwards. He believes that the next President must make fighting poverty, at home and abroad, a central part of their Presidency. As someone who has sought to reduce poverty as a legal aid lawyer, City Councilmember and Assemblymember, I too believe that this must be a priority for our next President. Senator Edwards has a comprehensive health care reform proposal that will provide health care for the uninsured, increase preventative care, and reduce health care costs. And he understands that in this dangerous world, America's security requires that we work with our allies to address the root causes of the terrorism and violence besetting so much of the world.

I hope that you will consider supporting Senator Edwards. To give you a chance to learn more about him, **please join me at a fundraising reception at Sierra 2 (2791 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento) on July 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.** We will show a video of Senator Edward's exciting Democratic Convention speech earlier this year in San Diego. Even if you have decided on someone else, join us for a fun evening with like minded folks who badly want change.

In the end, regardless of who each of us supports in the primary, it is critical that we join together behind the Democratic nominee for President. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming months to change the direction of our nation.

Please consider joining our One Corps group, the *Sacramento for Edwards Coalition with Assemblymember Dave Jones*, at <http://blog.johndwards.com/chapter/1442>.

Please share this information with others. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Zak Ford at 916-813-6658 or [zford32@yahoo.com](mailto:zford32@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

**DAVE JONES**

Assemblymember

One Corps: <http://blog.johndwards.com/chapter/1442>

Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/sacramentocoalition>

## Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Strengths/Experience \_\_\_\_\_

**The Town & Country Democratic Club encourages the participation of young members.**

Please check one box and circle the correct membership below:     NEW                       RENEWAL

Annual Dues:     \$25.00 Individual                       \$30.00 Family  
                           \$20.00 Senior Individual                       \$25.00 Senior Family

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic Club  
 P.O. Box 1286  
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Subpoenas Now, Impeachment Later?

Posted on June 28, 2007, Printed on July 8, 2007

<http://www.alternet.org/bloggers/guest/55444/>

This post, written by David Edwards and Muriel Kane, originally appeared on [Raw Story](#)

Keith Olbermann announced on Wednesday's *Countdown* that the White House is refusing on grounds of executive privilege to honor Senate subpoenas and release documents relating to its warrantless wiretapping. In addition, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, David Addington, has sent a letter to Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) saying Cheney's office will not comply with oversight by the National Archives because it is not "an agency."

Olbermann then turned to law professor Jonathan Turley, who agreed tentatively that the administration might move slowly enough to "run out the clock" on its time in office. "But there is one thing that might concern them about the court," Turley said, "and that is, you know, for many years, since we first found out about this program, some of us have said that this was a clearly criminal act that the president called for. ... If we're right, not only did he order that crime, but it would be, in fact, an impeachable offense."

"Both sides, both Democrats and Republicans, have avoided this sort of pig in the parlor," Turley continued. "They don't want to recognize that this president may have ordered criminal offenses. But they may now be on the road to do that, because the way Congress can get around the executive privilege in court is to say, we're investigating a potential crime."

Olbermann went on to joke that the attempt to pin down Cheney's real nature is starting to sound like a game of 20 Questions. Turley laughed and said, "The position adopted by Mr. Addington and Mr. Cheney, to put it bluntly, was absurd. ... In past administrations, if someone like Mr. Addington made such a moronic argument as this one, they would be out of a job the next week. ... I think that what it really shows is the lack of sort of adult supervision within the administration."

Olbermann probed further into why Cheney has given up claiming he is not part of the executive branch but is still not complying with the order. "Is this an attempt to stop what Congressman Emanuel talked about yesterday, cutting off the funding? Is it just more smokescreen?"

This administration, I have to say, has a certain contempt for the law," said Turley. "They treat it like some of my criminal defendants used to treat it. ... They come up with any argument that might work. ... It's a sort of shocking development. ... But at the end of the day, they will lose, and they're making the situation worse."

Go to the link at top for a video from MSNBC's *Countdown*, broadcast on June 27.

*Muriel Kane is the Research Director and David Edward is the Video Editor for [Raw Story](#).*

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View this story online at: <http://www.alternet.org/bloggers/guest/55444/>



## GOP: CHILDREN SHOULD BE MORE SELF-RELIANT

A recent political cartoon in the Sacramento Bee pretty well sums up the Republicans' approach to universal health care. The cartoon depicts an obese Republican elephant saying to two young children: "Too poor to afford health care? You should have thought of that before you were born." (See right.)

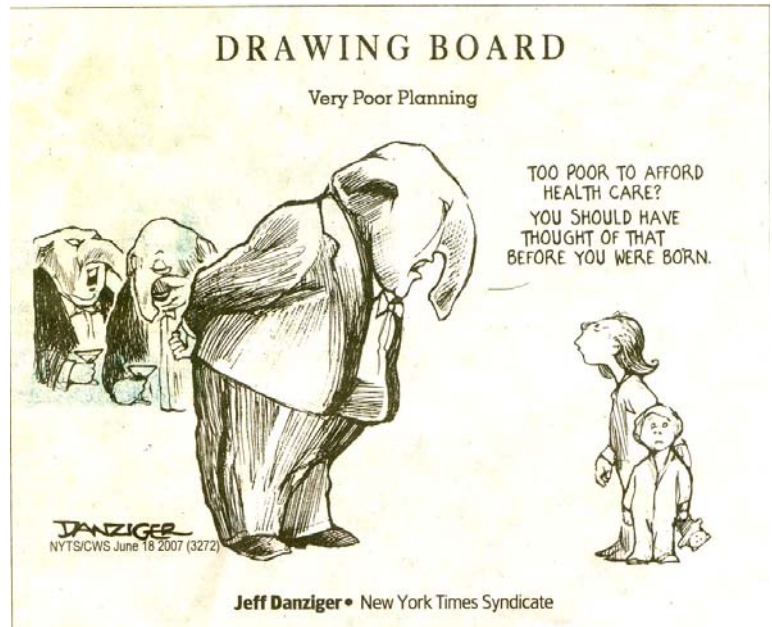
This GOP attitude concerning health care is confirmed by the leaders of the Children's Defense Fund, and the Children Health Fund. They report that of the nine million children lacking health insurance, six million already are eligible for either Medicaid, or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) which covers children whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to afford private health coverage.

Officials of these two organizations, explained that there are a variety of reasons eligible children are not utilizing the benefits of SCHIP, with the principal cause being a lack of funding for the program. So what's the problem? Just increase the funding which wouldn't even be a drop in the bucket compared to the hundreds of billions being spent on the Iraq War, or the massive tax cuts given to America's wealthiest citizens.

However, there is one little problem: George W. Bush is president, and is, from all accounts, is still a Republican. The White House's proposed budget calls for only a \$4.8 billion dollar increase for SCHIP funding, which the Congressional Budget Office reports would result in a loss of medical coverage to 1.4 million children.

As pointed out above, it's not the GOP's fault that these nearly one and a half million youngsters will be without adequate health insurance, as the Republicans are just following the party line, which is that these kids should have been more far sighted. (That's what they get for not having Karl Rove as an advisor.)

—John Bernier



### Sac Dems have a Home!

- Phone numbers: 916-739-6001 or 916-739-6002.
- Address: 2729 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-6403.
- Email address: [SacDemsOffice@aol.com](mailto:SacDemsOffice@aol.com).
- Sam Catalano, Executive Secretary

### Town and Country Committees

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<b>Communications:</b> Lyn Stueve: 916 974-1960 <a href="mailto:lynette.stueve@earthlink.net">lynette.stueve@earthlink.net</a>	<b>Fundraiser:</b> Arnie Godmintz: 916-332-5980 <a href="mailto:arniegod@sbcglobal.net">arniegod@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Newsletter Contributors:</b> Margie, Lyn, Joan, John, Jim Nakata	<b>Website:</b> Margie Metzler: 916-921-5008 <a href="mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com">margiemetz@hotmail.com</a>

# The Calendar

## **Sacramento County Democratic**

### **Central Committee**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 127, 6 PM. Contact: (916) 442-0264 or [www.sacdems.org](http://www.sacdems.org).

### **Auburn Area Democratic Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, Auburn Public Library, 250 Nevada St., Auburn, 7 PM; Contact: Trish Grenfell, (530) 887-8873, [pgrenfell@yahoo.com](mailto:pgrenfell@yahoo.com)

### **Davis Democratic Club**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Yolo County Library-Davis, 14<sup>th</sup> St & B, 7 PM  
Contact: John Chendo, (530) 758-3331 or [jac07@dcn.org](mailto:jac07@dcn.org)

### **Folsom Democratic Club**

Last Monday, 7 PM; Contact Tessa Janian, [tessa.janian@comcast.net](mailto:tessa.janian@comcast.net) for location

### **JFK Democratic Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10 AM at the Raley's at Hazel and Madison; Contact: Mike Dillon, (916) 967-3157, [mikedillon2@comcast.net](mailto:mikedillon2@comcast.net)

### **Lincoln Democratic Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln Hills, 7 PM; Contact: Della Sharief, (916) 408-5028

### **Rocklin/Roseville Area Democrats**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Rocklin Library, 5460 Fifth St., Rocklin, 7 PM; Contact: Glenda Wertenberger, (916) 723-9930, [paulindaw@yahoo.com](mailto:paulindaw@yahoo.com).

### **Sacramento County Young Democrats**

(35 and younger) 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 317, Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact [scyd@yahoogroups.com](mailto:scyd@yahoogroups.com)

### **Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, Lambda Players Theater, 2427 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, 6 PM; Contact: (916) 441-1787, [info@sacstonewall.org](mailto:info@sacstonewall.org) or [www.sacstonewall.org](http://www.sacstonewall.org)

### **Sun City Democratic Club**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sierra Pines Recreation Center, Whistlestop Way, Sun City, Roseville, 9 AM; Contact: Myra Schimke, (916) 772-4371, [mschimke@surewest.net](mailto:mschimke@surewest.net)

### **Town & Country Democratic Club**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Deterding Park Clubhouse, 1415 Rushden Drive, 7 PM; Contact: Margie Metzler, (916) 921-5008, [margiemetz@hotmail.com](mailto:margiemetz@hotmail.com), website [www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

### **Women Democrats of Sacramento**

**County**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, SCTA Office, 5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact: JoAnn Souvignier, (916) 971-9601, [josouvign@comcast.net](mailto:josouvign@comcast.net), website [www.wdsc.net](http://www.wdsc.net)

### **Other Progressive Clubs**

#### **Sacramento For Democracy**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7:00pm; Various locations. Contact: (916) 974-1960; [lynette.stueve@earthlink.net](mailto:lynette.stueve@earthlink.net) [www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org](http://www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org)

#### **Gray Panthers of Sacramento**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 1:00pm, Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets, Sacramento; Contact: Joan Lee, (916) 332-5980, [www.gpcal.org](http://www.gpcal.org)

#### **Capital Area Progressives (CAP)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, various locations; Cathlyn Daly, 479-5961; [dalywood@comcast.net](mailto:dalywood@comcast.net)



## **Town & Country Democratic Club**

**P.O. Box 1286**

**Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286**

[www.tcdems.org](http://www.tcdems.org)

**July 11: Sen. Kuehl Staff person re SB840!**

**August 8: Ice Cream Social with Mayor Heather Fargo!**

**September 12: Debate on Arden Arcade Cityhood!**

**October 16: FUNDRAISER!**