

Holiday Wishes from Supervisor Gioia

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, nothing special, or something completely different, this time of the year tends to bring reflection. Days are shorter and colder. We're saying goodbye to 2011 and welcoming 2012.

I'd like to share some of my seasonal reflections.

First, I wish all of you a joyous season, however you celebrate. I know that times are challenging for many among us, as the national and local economies struggle. This is a good time to be thankful for all that we have, including our families, friends and neighbors.

I am thankful for the community spirit of West Contra Costa as numerous residents, once again, donated toys, coats, money and time to our annual Verde Elementary School Toy & Coat drive for the children of North Richmond. Hundreds of kids will take delight in toys and warm coats thanks to all of you.

I am thankful for all the voters who helped pass Measure J, a parcel tax to help Doctor's Hospital in San Pablo, the only full-service emergency room serving West County. As chair of the Doctors Medical Center Governing Board, I'm committed to the responsible fiscal sustainability of this vital institution.

I'm thankful to the County's hardworking employees who, through sometimes difficult labor negotiations, have shared in the sacrifices needed to help Contra Costa get through these difficult financial times by agreeing to take salary cuts and pension reductions in order to save jobs and services.

And I'm thankful to all of West County's dedicated community organizations, faith groups, leaders, and citizens who've made a positive difference this year, in ways large or small.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work together as your County Supervisor in 2012. I'll be wearing two new leadership hats – as the 2nd Vice President of the California State Association of Counties, where I'll work with the Governor and Legislature primarily on state and local government reform; and as the Chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board, where I'll work on ensuring healthy air for all Bay Area residents.

Stay tuned for updates through the year on these and all of my projects.

As always, I would love to hear from you. If you have questions or comments feel free to contact my office at 510-374-3231 or john_gioia@bos.cccounty.us.

Good Wishes, Season's Greetings, and Happy New Year to all!

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