

Bay Point heads into 2012 with serious challenges, new priorities

By Sean Maher
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A new face, a new leader and some new priorities are coming to Bay Point this year.

The East Contra Costa community bordering Pittsburg is home to about 21,000 people, too small and without the resources to staff its own government. It has no police or fire department, relying on the county to provide those services. Likewise, it relies on county government for its representation -- particularly county Supervisor Federal Glover, who appoints the members of Bay Point's closest thing to a city council: its municipal advisory council, or MAC.

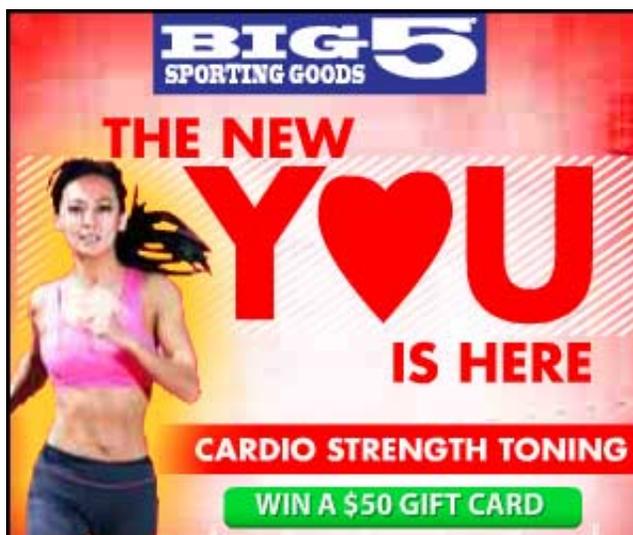
The seven members of the Bay Point MAC are charged with holding public meetings and advising Glover what the community thinks, requests or demands on a wide range of issues. The MAC has no binding authority but is Glover's most prominent and regular source of community input.

"MAC members are volunteers," Glover said. "There is no reward for their time except the improvements they help bring to the community and residents they serve. Bay Point is fortunate to have these people representing them."

MAC newcomer Douglas Corbin, 35, is a teacher and counselor at Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility in Byron who was appointed by Glover in October. Corbin said his top priorities in the coming year include:

- Tackling an effort by Bay Point's private water provider to raise rates for customers.
- Keeping a close eye on the discussion around the Mt. Diablo school district possibly building a new high school in Bay Point.
- Bringing jobs and job-training programs into the community, especially those that could benefit local youths. Also on the MAC is

newly appointed Chairman Charles Tremaine, a local businessman. He said his goals include bringing an end to illegal dumping in Bay Point and stronger code enforcement to improve the area's appearance. MAC member Sterling Stevenson, owner of a small furniture-refurbishing business, said he also wants to keep an eye on the possibility of a new school and tend to Bay Point's appearance. For the latter, he said, he's excited about supporting the new Adopt a Road program. "We've identified nine or 10 roadways we're trying to get groups and churches to adopt for a two-year period," he said. Stevenson added that he wants to encourage more civic participation from the black community so that its members are more involved in the political process. MAC member Debra Mason echoed Corbin's concerns about water rates, and Stevenson's excitement about the Adopt a Road program. Mason said she's also concerned about the statewide loss of redevelopment agencies and how that will hit Bay Point's efforts to develop its waterfront. The Orbisonia Heights neighborhood project is a particular worry in that regard, she said. "The county acquired all those properties and demolished all those homes" across the street from the Bailey Road Safeway, she said. So what happens to them now? "I think you're going to see those properties sit dormant for a long time. I think we kind of have to live with it for the foreseeable future." The remaining MAC members -- Terrilynn Kopitar, Eva Garcia and Vicki Zumwalt -- did not return multiple



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phone calls asking about their priorities for 2012.

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