

About ForumBakersfield

Written by Jeff Hicks

Tuesday, 22 September 2009 01:17 - Last Updated Sunday, 27 September 2009 06:05

The purpose of ForumBakersfield is to provide an open forum for the discussion of local issues, politics and whatever else may be of interest to the people of Bakersfield and nearby communities. ForumBakersfield is primarily a print publication, independently owned and operated, with an initial circulation of 5,000, printed whenever we have sufficient content to fill the pages! Thank you for your interest and participation.

We try to promote discussion by:

- Encouraging the contribution of thoughts, ideas and opinions that are well-developed, provocative, and fair
- Whenever possible, publishing contributions and the responses to them, side-by-side
- Actively soliciting contributions from public officials (if we build it, will they come?)
- Allowing sufficient space for all contributors to fully develop their points
- Refusing to treat 'scientific studies' as neutral or spin-free (because they're not)
- Giving 'expert opinion' no more weight than simple but well-reasoned arguments, and not allowing it 'veto power' over otherwise productive conversations and debates
- Refusing to take ourselves too seriously

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We try to remain open by:

- Posting e-mails and letters received, and sound recordings of any interviews, unedited and in their entirety, on our website. Contributors retain the right to publish wherever they may choose.
- Encouraging all contributors to make clear their purpose(s) and to acknowledge, but certainly not avoid or 'tiptoe around' any personal biases, which are never far away from our personal passions
- Publishing thoughts, ideas and opinions from across political, economic, social and cultural spectra
- Granting 'political correctness' its due level of importance: little to none

We are motivated by these values and beliefs:

- Pragmatism, and a concern with being 'useful,' more than with being 'right'
- The wealth we enjoy in the United States, and the proliferation of narrow special interests, are important contributing factors to the public's disillusionment and disengagement from democratic and political processes

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- Some people are interested in local issues enough to read and to write about them, but the opportunities to do so—for the general public and public officials alike—are currently limited

- New and different ideas, creativity, innovation and, above all, principled action will do far more to secure the Country's future than any government-sponsored 'stimulus' to prolong policies and economic/managerial strategies that have long-since outlived their usefulness

Jeff Hicks, Editor

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