



KEYES MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1112, Keyes, CA 95328

Davie Landers, Chairperson
Karen Poppen, Vice Chairperson
Jeff Reed, Secretary
William Alexander
Harinder Grewal

April 2, 2009

Mr. Ron West, Chairperson
Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Commission
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

Dear Mr. West,

Keyes Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) requests that the Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Commission add the name of Eddie Best to the name of Keyes Community Center. We ask that the building be renamed Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall, in honor of our friend, who passed away on August 15, 2008. At our MAC meeting on September 18, 2008, MAC members sought the advice of Raul Mendez from the Stanislaus County CEO's office and of Cathy Gomez, Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation Director. As a council, we knew all he had done for the MAC and for our community. We strongly believed that adding his name to the community center in his honor was the right thing to do, and we wanted to begin the process right away.

Eddie Best was involved with almost everything the Keyes community has done over the years. If Eddie was not asked to help, he found his way into the project or the events. He started out as a volunteer firefighter. Then he was involved with actually raising funds to erect Keyes Community Center and persuaded the county to help finish the project when the community could not complete it. He was not the only person who helped, but he was a substantial contributor. Eddie started our citizens' patrol, which turned into what is now the successful S.T.A.R.S. program. He and a few other community members started our Police Activities League (PAL) program, which is still going and to this day operating out of our Community Center. He helped with our community clean ups, and he worked side-by-side with sheriffs and CHP officers to report illegal dump sites, stolen cars, and speeders. Eddie was also our unofficial volunteer dog catcher.

We have continued our efforts to include Eddie in the name of our community center because of his involvement in the Keyes community in the past. The community center is truly the center of our community, and Eddie played a big part in getting it built. It is located next to Hatch Park, and it is the only building in the community that truly belongs to Keyes. We want to include his name on the building so that he is forever remembered in Keyes for his contributions.

We have a number of letters from family members and residents of our community who support our efforts in adding Eddie's name to the building. We propose repainting the sign in the front of the building to add Eddie's name and installing a plaque inside the building. We would like to have a dedication on Saturday, August 15, 2009, which will be the one-year anniversary of his death.

We would be very proud to have Eddie Best's name on the sign as Keyes Community Center/Eddie Best Hall. He has been such an active member in this community, and we want to show appreciation for him and his family. We hope that you will agree with us, approve our request, and pass your recommendation along to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Jeff Reed
Keyes MAC Secretary