

West Point is 'on the march'

**By State Sen. Dave Cox
(R-Fair Oaks)**

The First Senate District is quite large, with nearly 850,000 constituents living throughout twelve counties. Getting to meet as many of them as possible is a challenge I enjoy. 2005 was my first year as your State Senator, and while I have been to Calaveras County many times, this was my first visit to West Point area.

Supervisor Steve Wilensky recently invited me and my district director, Dana Jorgensen, to come to West Point to learn more

about the issues affecting the community and determine what assistance we might be able to provide.

Our day began with a walk down Main Street. I heard about the efforts to renovate the Rebekah Hall, and toured the Blue Mountain Youth Coalition building. I was impressed with the efforts of Catherine Lambie and the other volunteers who work to provide services to the youth. It is great to see such strong community support for the kids.

We then visited the local

Miwuk Land Trust area and learned about the efforts to improve the appearance of the trust land, and help the residents receive training for new jobs. I am presently working with Supervisor Wilensky to make sure that the Board is aware of state housing programs that might help address the severe housing shortage on the trust lands.

We ended our tour by looking at the site for a future community park for the local soccer team. I also saw the site for the CHIPS

Turn to SENATOR, page 12.

Senator meets his West Point constituents

Continued from page 4.

program, which when completed will process small diameter trees and brush into wood chips, fence posts and perhaps fuel for electric generators. CHIPS will provide new jobs and help protect the community from forest fires that could come up the canyon and endanger the whole community.

At the community garden

site, I met with paramedics from the fire station. I strongly support efforts to fireproof the communities throughout my Senate district.

My time in West Point provided an understanding of the challenges and success stories of the people who live and work here. It is clear that the people in West Point are excited about the changes they are making in their community and there is a feeling that they are "on the march" to a better future.

I will do what I can to

help assist them in their endeavors. I want to thank Supervisor Wilensky for his efforts to coordinate my visit. If you have any concerns or need assistance on a state government-related matter, please contact my office at (916) 783-8232. Or, you can email me at Senator.Cox@sen.ca.gov.

State Sen. Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks) toured West Point one day in December and submitted this column to the West Point News. While in town, he donated \$1,000 to the West Point Youth and Community Center's skateboard park fund-raising efforts.

the Way Home.

the entire loan process
so there is less