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Look Who's Getting it Done

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday spending time with family and friends.

Each January I announce my "Look Who's Getting It Done" Award to someone in the 5th District who has been instrumental in accomplishing something which benefits our community. I am delighted to announce that the 2014 Look Who's Getting it Done Award goes to June Haugen.

June has been an integral part of the fabric of Novato for the 14 years she has lived here, and we are sad to see June moving on to the next phase of her life as she and her husband Jack re-locate this winter.

In particular, June has been a vital part of a project that is near and dear to me, the re-opening of the Novato Theater in downtown Novato. Since the beginning of this effort, she has lent her incredible talents to work towards creating a venue for film, live music, performing arts, public events and education at the Novato Theater. She organized the volunteers at the start of the campaign and was the liaison to Bernice Baeza, the project manager. She worked on obtaining the agreement with the city to sell the theater to the non-profit organization and was instrumental in getting the word out to Novato residents about the need for this venue and worked diligently to secure the funding needed to purchase the building.

When Bernice died, June stepped up and tackled many important details and projects including: the gathering of Novato Theater documents from Bernice's estate; forming a Board of Directors; arranging meetings with contractors; selling existing theater seats; implementing kids film events; establishing a film club with discussions from film makers; finding capital campaign experts to share with the board; and generally not only holding things together, but moving the project forward.

June should feel a sense of pride over the critical work she has accomplished for the Novato Theater. We will see this project through to completion, with construction beginning this year, not only because it is so good for our community, but because of June Haugen and her tireless tenacity.

In addition to her herculean efforts for the Novato Theater, June has been a steadfast presence in other aspects of the community as well. June was an active volunteer while her daughter attended Novato Public Schools. She chaired the School Fuel Cycling for Schools event, which eventually became the Tour of Novato, an event that raises much needed funding for Novato Schools. Prior to that she was an ambassador to School Fuel for many years, helped with the School Fuel Bocce Tournament and provided a lending hand whenever needed. She believed it was important to bring all the schools together as one community.

June joined the Novato 4th of July Parade Committee 10 years ago and has been in charge of the VIPs in the parade ever since. She coordinated cars and drivers, decorated the vehicles and handled last minute emergencies with grace. She is truly an unflappable and professional person and her efforts were instrumental in producing a top notch community parade!

June Haugen embodies the meaning of community. Thank you June for all you have contributed to Novato and especially for the dedication and commitment you have provided the Novato Theater – we will miss you and expect to see you at the Novato Theater's Grand Opening!