

Moving on

In June, after the defeat of Measure A, the Board of Supervisors released its Recommended Budget for 2015-2016-2017. In it, the FY 2015-2016 totals \$423.4 million, or a \$43.9 million (0.9 percent) increase. The document states that this change is "mostly the result of financing the roads infrastructure annual contribution directly from the new discretionary General Fund, moving it from the \$3.5 million to a full \$9 million annually." The FY 2016-2017 General Fund budget will see a \$5.1 million decrease "due to a one-time transfer to the roads special revenue fund of reinvestment and revitalization funds for the Highway 12 community project.

"The General Fund includes expenditures and revenues associated with the delivery of services by county agencies funded mainly with property taxes, sales taxes, fees or charges for services, and available unrestricted fund balance."

So some funding will be found to fix some roads. "The pace will be slower," says Rabbitt, but he's optimistic. "This year, the contracts are already out there, for this and next year. We will have paved 198 miles, for \$40.8 million, which was prioritized by the same board that people now say they don't trust. That money could have paid for



Santa Rosa's heavily traveled Willowside Road is known for its many potholes. [Duncan Garrett Photography]

any other purpose: That's General Fund dollars, but it was spent on roads. So we're trying to make a difference and pave as many roads as possible. But it just becomes more difficult as we go—pavement preservation becomes more costly as pavement degrades. But I remain dedicated to this issue as we move ahead." ■

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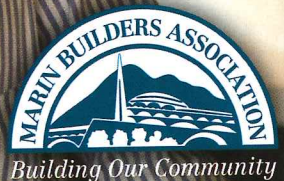
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