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In case you missed it...

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Scherman tops in campaign donations

By Jamie Gonzales - Citizen Staff Writer

While presidential hopefuls Barack Obama and John McCain are busy trying to get more campaign donations, Elk Grove is doing some campaigning of its own.

The semi-annual campaign disclosure statements were due Jan. 31 to the city clerk, requiring all state and local candidates to declare any donations between June 30 and Dec. 31, 2007.

Elk Grove City Council member Sophia Scherman accumulated the most campaign donations during 2007 of all of the Elk Grove City Council members, according to campaign disclosure statements.

Scherman received \$88,711, with Mayor Gary Davis coming in second with \$63,899 and Vice Mayor Pat Hume third with \$515. City Council Members James Cooper and Mike Leary, who are seeking re-election along with Scherman, received no donations.

Katherine Maestas, who is running against Scherman for District 5, received \$1,000 in 2007.

District 5 covers the vacant area south of the Elk Grove Auto Mall, along with the area between Elk Grove Boulevard and Bond Road between Big Horn Boulevard and Elk Grove Florin Road.

The top donors to Scherman were Richland Investments (\$9,830), MV Transportation (\$5,000), Taylor/Village Sacramento Investment LLC (\$4,000), Reynolds & Brown (\$3,500) and CFY Development (\$3,500).

Part of the campaign disclosure statement is documenting any payments candidates made with donations.

Scherman donated \$5,495.99 to Aim Point Inc., \$2,734.48 to Meridian Pacific, Inc. and \$2,545.37 to herself for office equipment and supplies. She also spent \$509.25 to American Express and donated \$500 to the Elk Grove Teen Center.

Although his term is not finished until 2010, Davis is earning donations for his campaign in two years.

Davis' top donors are Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 447 with \$7,500, Feletto Development LLC with \$3,500, Sheldon Terrace LLC (\$2,000), John Papagiannopoulos (\$1,500) and Remy, Thomas, Moose, and Manley, LLP (\$1,000).

The California Fair Political Practices Commission requires all candidates to declare donations and payments above \$100.

Payments from Davis' funds went to Capitol Campaigns for \$16,000, the Elk Grove Teen Center for \$500, \$500 to Brian Cooley's campaign for the Sacramento County Board of Education and \$500 to Costco for office supplies.

Hume, Cooper and Leary received no documented donations for 2007.

Leary donated \$10,791.85 to Circle Seven Wine and Liquor for fundraising events, \$7,000 to Paul Galindo, \$1,200 to the Elk Grove Food Closet, \$1,000 to the Sacramento Farm Bureau Foundation and \$624.78 for office supplies.

Cooper made payments to Dell Inc. for \$2,364.87 and \$100 to The Park for a fundraiser for the Teen Center.

Hume made a \$300 payment to Paul A. Jones, CPA for professional services.

Maestas' campaign made no payments during 2007.

The current council members have cash balances from the 2006 fiscal year.

Davis has the most with a beginning balance of \$51,178.19, followed by Leary with \$43,911.66. Cooper is third with \$42,708.53, followed by Scherman with \$31,177.65 and Hume with \$4,625.

The next filing deadline for the semi-annual disclosure will be July 31, 2008. There will be three more deadlines in October and November for pre-election disclosures.

Any new council candidates who file between July 14 and Aug. 8, 2008 will have to disclose any donations by the above times.

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For more information, please contact Councilmember Scherman at scherman@sophia-elkgrove.com or (916) 685-3860 or view the website at www.sophia-elkgrove.com.