



**MORAGA**

See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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**Town Council Meetings:**  
Wed., Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m.  
**Planning Commission:**  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m.  
**Parks and Recreation Commission:**  
Mon., Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m.



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LINDA EHRICH



## Saint Mary's College's commitment to sustainability earns recognition as "Green College"

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College has consistently climbed the ranks in the Princeton Review Guide's Green College ratings. In 2014, SMC received a bronze rating. By 2016, the rating was silver, followed by a consistent gold since 2020. What this means is that just about everyone on campus can take advantage and participate in the many programs and initiatives offered by its sustainability programs. The high ratings

aren't just handed to a university. According to the school's Director of Sustainability Ann Drevno, "You have to submit your statistics every three years. It includes waste, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, heating, how much food is produced in the Legacy Garden, composting, and the Free Store."

Dozens of students intern with the program, and when each school year ends, all students leaving the dorms are encouraged to pile all of their re-usable items in designated collection areas throughout campus. Drevno estimates that for the 2023-24 school year, the move-out collected 6.7 tons of donations that were picked up by partners such as Recycle Smart and Mt Diablo Resource Recovery. Items that are not furniture-related, such as clothing, have another chance at a useful life by making it to the Free Store where other students can have their pick. The tiny "store" – no bigger than a utility closet – by year's end brims with items that for lack of sufficient space have spilled out into the hallway.

The campus Legacy Garden has been tended

by students since 2009. Currently, students who are food insecure get first pick from the garden's fruits and vegetables. Second pick goes to the volunteers. "As of June 12," stated Drevno, "we began operating a farm stand."

SMC Chef Gustavo Vega plans menus with Good Eating Company – the new food source for the college. "Partnering with Good Eating Company has allowed Saint Mary's to elevate and accelerate our campus sustainability efforts," Drevno explained. "Just two years into this partnership, Saint Mary's has been nationally recognized for its increased sustainably-sourced food, decreased food waste, and donation of more unused food than ever previously."

Good Eating's Director of Sustainability Clare Turner works with Drevno on sustainable food sourcing data, food recovery and donations, reusable to-go containers, and a new program called "Green by Default", which encourages people to choose to eat more sustainably.

SMC is also a Fair Trade College that sources coffee, tea, chocolate, and other products from growers



Photo Vera Kochan

**SMC Director of Sustainability Ann Drevno encourages students to donate reusable items.**

who practice safe working conditions and fair wages.

"Our number one sustainability priority for the coming years, is our Climate Action Plan," said Drevno. "A big achievement this year, for 2023 - 2024, was to get our Saint Mary's Greenhouse Gas Emissions profile back up-to-date after a pause in greenhouse gas emissions data collection during the pandemic. While our emissions profile shows a positive downward trend, we still have plenty to do to achieve our carbon neutrality goal for Scopes 1 and 2 by 2030, and carbon neutrality for all scopes by 2050. This

data will continue to be incorporated into the College Strategic Plan, which has a dedicated section to Climate Action, demonstrating the college's commitment to sustainability."

Another big project that Drevno has spent five years working on is a 1.3 MW Photovoltaic Solar System to be installed over SMC's front parking lot and recreation center. The project is expected to generate over 20% of the campus' electricity with a payback of \$20 million over 20 years. Currently in the geotechnical and interconnectivity analysis phases, Drevno hopes to see it installed by the summer of 2025.



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## Lafayette nurse practitioner in Ukraine



Photo Ryan Anson

**Cemetery two hours south of Kyiv. Graves with Ukrainian flags are identified as soldiers who died recently.**

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When Russia violated Ukraine's self-determination and began bombing its cities, the brave response of Ukrainian leaders and everyday citizens was inspirational.

On the day of the invasion Anson wanted to go to Ukraine, but his son was experiencing some health issues, and Anson didn't want to leave until he was stable. "Around the second year, with the siege of Mariupol, I felt the urge all over again. Putin wasn't going to stop. I couldn't stand by and do nothing. As a healthcare provider, I can't do anything about bombs and bullets, but I can play a small role in providing medical care to displaced, wounded, and traumatized communities. That is why I volun-

teered with Global Care Force and its Mobile Medical Team in May, to help maintain continuity of care in war-affected regions of the country. Two weeks of clinical service was a drop in the bucket compared to existing needs. It's something though."

Global Care Force Director of Marketing and Communications Brenda Poor explained that medical volunteers were "deployed monthly to the same nine to 11 villages throughout eastern and southwestern Ukraine with no access to a doctor, nurse, or medicine. The clinics provide continuity of care and free medications for residents in these locations and are often their only source of healthcare."

Poor added, "Several clinics are held in vil-

lages where refugees fled to escape the war. Patients tell heartbreaking stories of the atrocities they experienced, including being tortured or starved, and the heavy toll the war continues to take on them. Many live in homes still without water or electricity."

Three other volunteers from the United States joined Anson in Ukraine: William Markle, MD from Pennsylvania; Chris May, MD from Arizona; and Alex Gamez, RN from Los Angeles. Thomas Day, a paramedic, joined them from London, England.

The volunteers did not speak Ukrainian, but interpreters, such as Yevhenii Onofriichuk, were provided and pitched in to help. "Our Ukrainian team leader was Svetlana Kleshchar, and Luibov Halisevych, a pharmacist, handled our 2,000 meds for two weeks. I had the same roll as a physician," said Anson. "I worked in established health clinics and provided basic EMT needs. We would come with medical supplies and set up in the clinics. Bill would even do some home visits for those patients whose health was an end-of-days issue."

"Patients receive treatment for common but life-threatening health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, di-

gestive, and cardiac disorders," stated Poor. "Other serious health issues such as cancer have also been diagnosed. To date, Global Care Force medical teams have provided medical care to over 5,900 patients and over \$100,000 in free medications thanks to volunteers like Ryan Anson."

When asked how Ukrainians responded to their efforts, Anson replied, "The gratitude was incredible. They were extremely grateful."

There was an occasion while traveling when a missile struck a nearby car dealership. "There was the unpredictability of missiles coming down left and right. Several roads had signs that warned of landmines. Once the war stabilizes, I'd like to return."

Anson added, "I grew up in Kenya and lived in the Philippines. I've been to 30 countries, and when I was a photo journalist I worked in countries with dangerous situations, but this was my first medical journey. I hope that the American public continues to pay attention to the needs of Ukraine and Europe, and have everyone's interests at heart, and continue to be a leader in smart and strategic ways."

For more information visit: [globalcareforce.org](http://globalcareforce.org).