



November 9, 2009

Poder Popular to hold groundbreaking in Gonzales' Centennial Park

Poder Popular will hold a public groundbreaking at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Gonzales for the installation of lights at Centennial Park, an effort undertaken to allow farm workers and others who work during daylight hours to use the playing fields after dark.

Poder Popular para la Salud del Pueblo (People Power for the Health of the Community) will also showcase their Health Action Plan to improve the health and well-being of the residents of Gonzales.

Resident leaders, representatives from clinics, faith-based institutions, business leaders, Mayor Maria Orozco and Supervisor Simon Salinas are expected to attend.

Centennial Park is located at 250 1st St., Gonzales.

For more than four years, Poder Popular staff has worked to strengthen leadership skills of residents and build a community coalition involving education, government, business, faith-based institutions and more.

Its ambitious long-term plan for improving community health and well-being is under way. It identifies improvements needed for community infrastructure, child safety, transportation services and other areas.

Among the accomplishments the leaders will be discussing and celebrating are:

- recruiting the funding for the new lights at Centennial Park
- the successful organizing of the Day of the Child Celebration for three consecutive years
- an educational community forum with the Agricultural Commissioner
- an informational community meeting with the Mexican Consulate
- the addition of another bus to the South County MST route and

The mission of Poder Popular para la Salud del Pueblo is to optimize the health of agricultural workers, their families and the communities where they live. The program is part of the Agricultural Worker Health Initiative, sponsored by The California Endowment.

Locally, Poder Popular has been coordinated by the Community Foundation for Monterey County and operates in East Salinas, Gonzales and Greenfield. For more information on Poder Popular, contact Nick Sandoval at (831) 770-0951, cell (831) 521-0479 or nick@cfmco.org.
