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Warmly welcoming the holidays

# With Halloween over, eyes move to gift-getting, holiday shopping

By RYAN ROSE  
Arden-Carmichael News Editor  
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It seems to get here earlier and earlier each year – heralded by omnipresent muzak versions of seasonal songs, Christmas isn't just "coming to town," it's running us over. Not long after Halloween ends, the catalogues come out, the wish lists are made, the on-line shopping begins and the long foot race to Christmas morning begins with the first of what often becomes many expensive steps. And, for those of us caught in this whirlwind, the gift-getting, tree-buying, secret-Santa-shopping season can make for more pressure than pleasure.

So, here's the fix: planning.



The staff at the Arden-Carmichael News, in an attempt to help our fel-

*"From all of us on this side of the page, let me issue an early Happy Holidays."*

low Sacramento area residents avoid the confusion caused by lists of lame and tired gift ideas, has issued our own Holiday Gift Guide – a little over one month before Christmas and but a few weeks before holiday gift-getting begins in full fire.

So, dear readers, take this gift guide and let it help you identify those things that might bring joy to another. Moreover, when spending and shopping, keep in mind the reason why you and thousands of others venture out into cold winter nights: an obligation of love. And that feeling can bring warmth to even the chilliest night. And from all of us on this side of the page, let me issue an early Happy Holidays.

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From the grassroots on up

# Local resident group pioneers incredible effort to save 140 felines

By **SUSAN LAIRD**  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

His yellow eyes following a cluster of moving feathers, the sleek, black cat crouches, patiently. Suddenly, he leaps up, his young paws grasping wildly for the elusive prize. Toby lands on the floor, alert and contemplating his next move, as the "fishing pole" of bird feathers "flies" over to a nearby group of cats. It's playtime with humans on a feline adoption day, and this group of young cats is having a wonderful time.

Toby is one of the lucky ones. He will live to chase another kitty toy, to rub up against a human's legs, to purr his love of life on a human lap.

It almost wasn't so.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a dedicated group of local citizens, community groups, regional shelters and an area pet resort, a group of 140 felines will all be adopted out to loving homes, instead of facing the death sentence of "euthanasia" – translated from the Latin: "good death" – at a county animal shelter.

The large cat colony was the result of a pair of well meaning pet owners who failed to spay and neuter their original pets, and who then took on stray cats as well. A few cats became a few dozen cats in short time, and eventually 140 felines in just a couple years. When the economy took a downturn, the family found itself unable to continue to support what had become an overwhelming situation... They appealed to the media for help find homes for the cats, but results were poor.

It looked like the county would have to step in, with a "Final Solution" that no one wanted. That's when Friends of the Sacramento City Shelter Animals, Inc. stepped in to try to rescue not a few animals, but the entire colony. It was a bold, courageous move that had never been attempted before on so large a scale.

"These are some of the friendliest, most beautiful cats," said Dia Goode, cofounder of Friends of the Sacramento City Shelter Animals, Inc. "When we heard about them, we went over to the house to assess the situation. The cats would come right over to you. To



Photo courtesy Dia Goode

These cats were rescued by local Sacramento area residents after county officials informed the public that the pets would be euthanized.

kill them would be so unjust. We couldn't just stand there. We had to do something."

"It was overwhelming," said Ellen Nakata-Harper, an East Sacramento resident and Friends volunteer. "Seeing so many eyes

looking at you. The majority were so friendly. The others, cautious, but eventually warming up to us. They knew we were there to help. And they were all healthy. The

See Cats, page 5

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## Cats: 'They are just as sweet and friendly as the first ones to be rescued'

Continued from page 4

previous owners obviously took good care of them, aside from their failure to spay and neuter."

"It was a truly bizarre situation," said Moira Monahan, a Friend volunteer who lives in Land Park. "The smell of the cats at the house was overwhelming. But you got used to it each time you came to rescue a few more cats. I work on the spay/neuter and foster care projects. The cats range in age from six months to about two or three years of age. There really aren't any old ones or really young ones, which is unusual."

The Friends put out a plea for help to local and regional "no kill" shelters and rescue groups. The Tahoe Truckee Humane Society took four black cats, adopted them out and took four more. Pets Unlimited in San Francisco took six cats. Tri Valley in the Bay Area took 14 cats. San Francisco Animal Control took five felines, the Sacramento ASPCA took seven kitties and Best Friends in Utah took a number of cats as well.

Local rescue groups stepped forward to help, including Happy Tails, Cats About Town and Field Haven in Lincoln. A great many individuals gave freely of their time, making numerous trips to the Meadowview area home to remove cats, trans-

port them to vet appointments, shelters, fostering and more.

"The plan was: we (the Friends) pulled the cats out, took them to the Sacramento SPCA for spaying, neutering, testing for leukemia and feline AIDS, and had them vaccinated and micro chipped," Goode said. "Others devoted time to making sure the cats were socialized. This way, every animal in the colony would be adoptable, and there would be absolutely no need to kill any of them."

The Friends employed two rescue strategies: one group of cats was altered, processed and sent out to other groups, the other was altered, processed and sheltered at the Wag Hotel in West Sacramento.

"If it wasn't for Wag and the SPCA, we couldn't have done this," Goode said. "It wouldn't have worked. The SPCA was phenomenal...they rearranged entire schedules to spay and neuter the cats... Wag is equally amazing. They have housed them in their special 'cat condos' for weeks, hosted adoption events at their facility and supported this effort all the way. It's a beautiful facility and we highly recommend them to anyone who needs to board their pet."

An additional concern – and one of the reasons the Friends moved to take action so quickly – was the large number of black cats.

"There are tabbies, calicoes, seal points, tortoiseshell cats...and a large number of beautiful black cats," Goode said. "What many people are not aware of is that there is a bias in county shelters nationwide against black cats and dogs. They believe that these animals are unadoptable, simply because of the color of their fur. These an-

imals are often killed immediately, and never make it to the public for adoption. We want to show everyone that – not only can a large population of animals be adopted out – it is also unnecessary to kill black cats and dogs. They make wonderful, beautiful pets. Don't write them off."

The amazing effort of this united group of animal lovers

and organizations is bearing fruit: of the original 140 kitties, there are just 22 who still need homes.

"These aren't cats that were 'passed over,'" Goode said. "These are simply the last ones to come out of the house. They are just as sweet and friendly as the first ones to be rescued."

## Upcoming adoption days: November 15

There is one more adoption day planned at the Wag Hotel in West Sacramento. Those interested in adopting a cat are encouraged to visit the pet resort on Nov. 15 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each cat has already been altered, had all its vaccinations and has been micro chipped. The price for adoption is a bargain: \$30 for one cat, \$40 for a pair. If, for any reason, an adoption doesn't "work out," the Friends of the Sacramento City Shelter Animals, Inc. will accept animals back. The purpose is to find homes where both felines and families can thrive. The Wag Hotel is located at 1759 Enterprise Blvd. in West Sacramento, just off Highway 50.

For more information about the Friends of the Sacramento City Shelter Animals, Inc., or to make a donation to support their animal rescue efforts, visit [www.sacctyshelter.com](http://www.sacctyshelter.com).

- Susan Laird

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Know your neighbor

# El Dorado Saloon was a music lovers' paradise for youth of the 1980s, 1990s

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

Carmichael is certainly not and very likely will never be known as an entertainment capital, but to say that the area was never a well-known, local destination for live music is to say that a once very popular venue, named the El Dorado Saloon, never existed.

With a recent search for the most dedicated of showgoers of this era who carry with them the greatest and most intriguing memories, this search resulted in the discovery of one individual in particular.

Known for his dedication to attending live music at just about every music venue throughout the Sacramento area, Don Neil did not disappoint when asked last week if he had attended many shows at the now-closed El Dorado Saloon at 6309 Fair Oaks Blvd., just north of El Camino Boulevard.

When presented with a list of about 100 names of bands that were compiled for research for this story, Neil spent several minutes observing the list before looking up and saying, "Hell, I've been to more than half of these shows."

Continuing, Neil explained that although the list of band names was extensive, there were certainly quite a few names that were left off the list.

"Man, those (band) names sure bring back memories of being there and being totally excited about the (music) scene at the time," Neil said. "This list was accumulated with a great appreciation toward this era. I also have a few more band names that would definitely make your list. For starters, I remember attending a very entertaining show in 1987 that featured Foghat and The Outlaws for just \$12.50. They called it the Double Barrel Tour. I was pretty young back then, so it was a big deal to see such well-known bands with so many amazing, professional musicians. It also added to the



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong  
The El Dorado Saloon at 6309 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael was home to a variety of popular music during the 1980s and 1990s.

excitement of the shows that such big bands would play in such a small club right here in Carmichael."

Neil said that the El Dorado Saloon was a very unique place, since it offered people like himself, who resided in the suburbs, to see well-known live music acts without having to travel to downtown Sacramento or the Bay Area.

### A place like no other

The venue had a strong following for those who enjoyed popular national and local rock acts within the

genres of metal, punk, alternative and pop.

Among the many bands that performed at the El Dorado were: A.F.I., Blink 182, Bouncing Souls, The Brodys, Camper Van Beethoven, Corrosion of Conformity, Days of the New, Death Angel, Deftones, D.R.I., Eddie and the Tide, Everclear, Exodus, The Exploited, Fishbone, Kai Kln, John Kay and Steppenwolf, King Diamond, Korn, The Knockoffs, M.D.C., Megadeth, Melvins, Mother Hips,

See El Dorado, page 7



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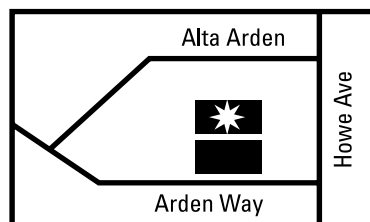
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# El Dorado: "If I could buy a ticket for a show at the El Dorado today, I would"

Continued from page 6

NOFX, Prong, Quiet Riot, Ramones, Rev. Horton Heat, Social Distortion, 7 Seconds, Testament, Tommy Tutone and Wasted Youth.

Considering the type of bands that performed at the El Dorado, the club, which included two bars and limited seating, included a unique feature of a sort of orchestra-style pit in front of the stage that was a popular place for showgoers who enjoyed dancing in various styles, depending upon the type of music.

Another Sacramento area resident who attended local shows at various venues, including the El Dorado, was Judy Cavares.

Cavares, who often went to such shows with her good friend, Mike Kenny, who lived in the Arden area and performed in the local band Toulouse, said that she enjoyed the few times that she went to shows at the El Dorado, but was always surprised that it was located in such an odd location.

"I remember going to the shows (at the El Dorado) and seeing bands playing inside of a strip mall," Cavares said. "I

thought it was just really odd how plain the place looked on the outside and it looked (abandoned) like there was nothing (happening) there. The funny thing is, I have no memory of leaving the place the last time I went there."

Chuckling a bit, Cavares added, "Maybe I'm still there."

Neil agreed with Cavares' assessment of the venue's exterior and added that the strip mall appeared to be completely vacant with the exception of some Chinese restaurant.

"For some reason, there was always some kind of Chinese food place there," Neil said. "Fortunately, the El Dorado Saloon was not vacant and once inside, it was absolutely a great place for kids to see some good old, raw, live music and create many lifelong memories. It was like a music playground filled with freaks, geeks, punks and drunks and everybody was just there to have a good time. There were seldom any problems there. It was just a fun place at a fun time that filled a void for many youth at the time. If I could buy a ticket for a show at the El Dorado today, I would."



A trio of fliers advertise live music shows at the El Dorado Saloon during the 1980s.

Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection



(above) Although the El Dorado Saloon closed about a decade ago, its building still features this image of a stagecoach and horses.

(left) Don Neil, owner of Olde Tyme Tattoo in Sacramento, holds a handful of the ticket stubs from some of his favorite shows at the El Dorado Saloon.

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# Through word of mouth, Matteo's Pizza & Bistro thrives

By **BENN HODAPP**  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
benn@valcomnews.com

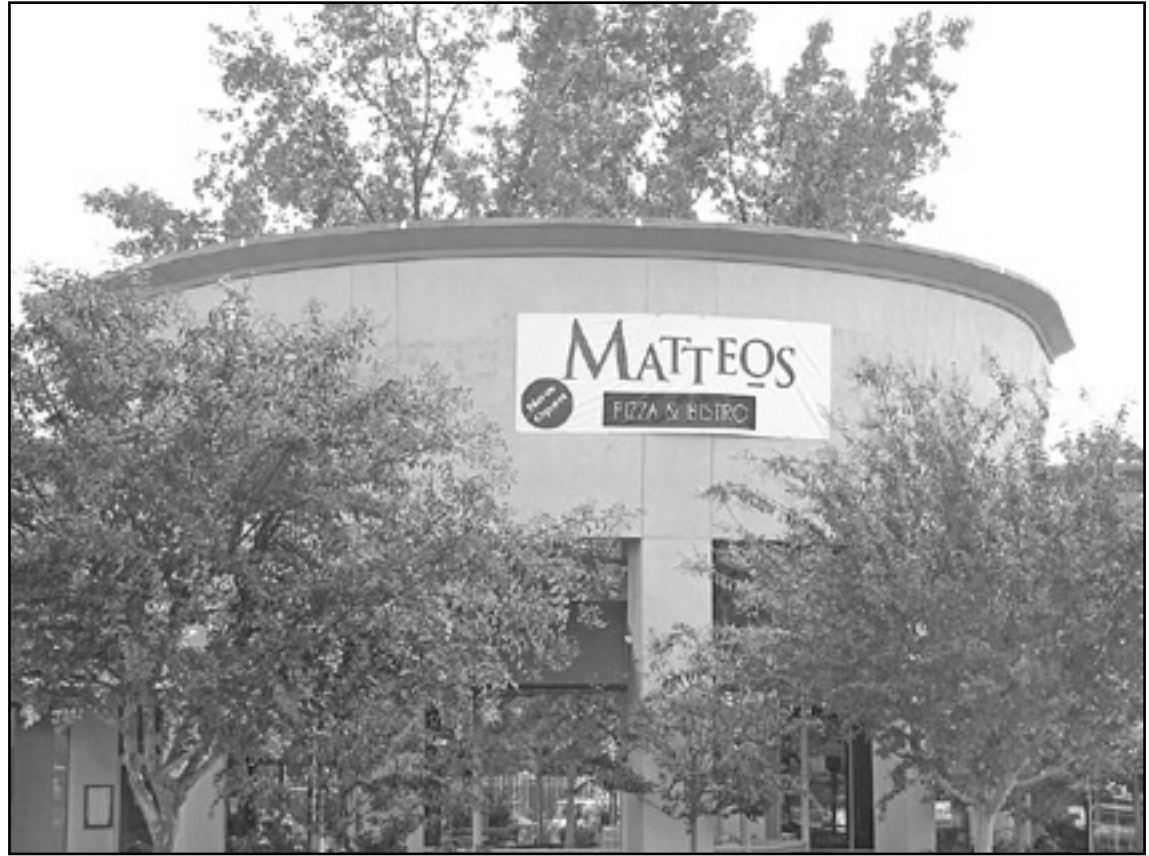
Those in the surrounding neighborhoods of the newly-opened Matteo's Pizza & Bistro may have been completely unaware that the restaurant opened last month. In fact, it is entirely possible that many still don't know of the new arrival's opening.

Without fanfare, the restaurant, located at the in-

tersection of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Arden Way, opened to what co-owner Matt Woolston called "a packed house" on October 9. The non-publicized opening has allowed people in the area to find out about the new dining place entirely through word of mouth.

"We have so many people walking in saying that they're glad we're here," Woolston said.

Matt and his wife Yvette own the restaurant along



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Benn Hodapp  
Matteo's Pizza & Bistro, located at the intersection of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Arden Way, opened to what co-owner Matt Woolston called "a packed house" on October 9.

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with The Supper Club on Del Paso Blvd. They reside in the Carmichael area and said that they were looking for a chance to open a restaurant in this area for years. When the Steve's Pizza that formerly held the space went under, the Woolstons saw their chance.

"We put bids on some other places too," Matt said. "But we jumped on this one right away. In January we negotiated against three other people."

Since putting up the winning bid, it has been a long process of getting the new brand of piz-

za ready to be served to the locals. But first, there was some tinkering to be done.

Yvette, who was in charge of the remodeling and re-decorating, laughed as she explained the first step in the transformation from

See Matteo's, page 20

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# Sacramentans, others celebrate Woodstock's 40th anniversary at West Fest

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

It has been 40 years since the legendary Woodstock festival drew about 400,000 people to a 600-acre farm in Bethel, N.Y. and despite this passage of time, a West Coast anniversary event held Oct. 25 proved that the music and energy of the event has far from faded.

With thousands of people, including many who traveled from Sacramento, flocking to Speedway Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the spirit of this celebrated Aug. 15-18, 1969 festival and its era was very much alive.

Certainly helping to add much intrigue and distinction to this free admission, Oct. 25 event were performances by original Woodstock musicians such as Barry "The Fish" Melton of Country Joe and the Fish and members of the Jefferson Airplane, as well as other notable musicians of the era, including John York of The Byrds, Lester Chambers of the Chambers Brothers, David and Linda La Flamme and Mitchell Holman of It's a Beautiful Day, Lydia Pense of Cold Blood and Terry Haggerty of the Sons of Champlin.

Also taking the stage was original Woodstock co-producer Artie Kornfeld, Ray Manzarek of The Doors, the original cast of the rock musical, "Hair," beat poet Michael McClure and David Hilliard of the Black Panther Party.

Also adding to the many attractions, guitarist Leon Hendrix, the brother of the late Woodstock great Jimi Hendrix, was also present to assist in leading an attempt to break the Guinness world record for largest guitar ensemble. Unfortunately for the participating guitarists, who played Jimi's song, "Purple Haze," the effort fell short.

Another original Woodstock performer, guitar virtuoso Harvey "The Snake" Mandel, who performed at the 1969 event with the band, Canned Heat, drew much applause for his performance at West Fest.

### The Sacramento connection

Alongside Mandel, playing his trusty harmonica, was a musician who many Sacramento music scene followers know quite well: Mick Martin.

Martin, who is best known locally for his band Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers and his Capital Public Radio program, "Mick Martin's Blues Party," said that he has



A sea of spectators, some of which traveled from the Sacramento area, attends the 40th anniversary of Woodstock event at Golden Gate Park.

been fortunate to play music with Mandel in recent years.

Martin, an Antelope resident who spent many years living in East Sacramento, said that during a session, Mandel, who has also performed with Charlie Musselwhite, the Rolling Stones and John Mayall, turned to him and said, "We're playing Woodstock (in Golden Gate Park)."

"Harvey is a man of few words," Martin said. "(Responding to Mandel), I said,

'Great, that sounds good to me. I'll be glad to do that.'"

Martin, who described playing on the West Fest stage as being a part of living history, said that playing the Woodstock anniversary show was a very big opportunity for him.

"I would say that Woodstock in a rock sense ranks right up there with having played jazz at Carnegie Hall with (blues guitarist) Jimmie Smith and (jazz saxophonist) Grover Washington, Jr. and my tours

of Europe playing with members of The Yardbirds, The Kinks and The Rolling Stones, as part of a special Christmas show at the Eel Pie Club (in London)," Martin said.

Being a part of a Woodstock anniversary, Martin explained, was in a way a fulfillment of one of his childhood dreams.

"Even though I wasn't able to go to Woodstock - I wasn't even at (the famous 1967) Monterey Pop (Festival) - I wanted to go,

See West Fest, page 11

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# West Fest: 'This event means peace, love, compassion and understanding'

Continued from page 10

But I was just shy of being old enough of my parents letting me go," Martin said.

But being a part of this Woodstock celebration was something that Martin refused to miss, especially because of his admiration for Mandel's music.

"Harvey Mandel was one of the pioneers in the music business," Martin said. "He came out from Chicago with Charlie Musselwhite. But once he went out on his own, he was the first artist to use percussion – conga drums – and that's where Santana got the idea. So, Harvey has been an innovator in the music business for a very long time. He invented the finger tapping method of guitar playing that a lot of people credit to Joe Satriani. Harvey is one of the true innovators when it comes to guitar playing and anyone who really knows guitar knows that he was one of the most important artists in the Bay Area."

Martin, who has been performing professionally in Sacramento since the late 1960s, added that playing before the largest audience he has ever performed in front of was also a very memorable experience.

"There were just so many people out there, but I made myself look up at the crowd," Martin said. "It was an incredible experience (performing at West Fest). I think it's the most beautiful thing I've ever experienced in my life. This event is 40 years in the making and we have multiple generations here who understand how to be together, enjoy being to-

gether and enjoy the music and try to make a better world."

And with the success of his long career in Sacramento, Martin said that he was not short on local fans who traveled to see him at the event.

"A lot of people came here to see me," Martin. "Even the hippie girls who used to follow my band Joshua in 1969 were right down in front."

## Sacto to SF to Woodstock

In addition to Martin, the capital city was also represented on stage by Sacramento native trumpeter Cynthia Robinson of Sly and the Family Stone, who performed a 15-minute set with saxophonist Jerry Martini, who was also a member of Sly Stone's renowned band.

Also attending the event was Bill Just, who until about two years ago was a longtime resident of East Sacramento.

Although he admits that he almost exclusively listens to reggae, Just said that he saw his fair share of rock shows during the 1960s in both Sacramento and San Francisco.

"This kind of music is fun to be around, so that's what I'm kind of here for, but I'm a reggae man, a reggae specialist," Just said. "I definitely went to a lot of shows down here (in San Francisco), including ones at the Fillmore (Auditorium) and I went to an acid test (concert) at Muir Beach with Creedence Clearwater Revival before they were really big. And in Sacramento, I went to a memorable show (with Pink Floyd) at

the Sound Factory (at 1217 Alhambra Boulevard)."

Explaining the reasoning behind holding a Woodstock anniversary event on the West Coast, Alan Moore of Musicians and Fine Artists for World Peace said that the gathering represented a full circle of events.

"When (MFAWP) went to (West Fest promoter) Boots Hughston and asked him to put on a Woodstock anniversary show, he said, 'Woodstock? That's an East Coast thing,'" Moore said. "We reminded him that Allen Cohen and Michael Bowen – who were both friends of his – were involved with the first (Human) Be-In (free concert on Jan. 14, 1967) and the Summer of Love. So, what happened in San Francisco culminated with the Woodstock gathering in 1969. If it wasn't for what happened out here, who knows if there would have been a Woodstock. In that context, the 40th anniversary was at home here."

Mark Richardson, who lives in the Pocket area of Sacramento and was attending West Fest, said that he was one of the many attendees of the Human Be-In.

Pointing at a nearby sports field with birds on it, Richardson said, "That's where it was held. I was a cross country runner and I knew the park well. I just happened to come across the event. I had no clue what was going on. I just remember the big group of people. I think the (Grateful) Dead played there, plus they had some poets and speakers."

Richardson, who said that he has been "tapped into the



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong  
Mick Martin (far left) stands alongside his bandmates following his Oct. 25 performance at Golden Gate Park.

rock music scene" for many years, added that he was also a part of the Rock Medicine program, which was founded in 1973 to provide medical assistance at rock concerts.

Hughston, who put forth much effort to provide the public with a free, positive and enjoyable experience at West Fest, explained the overall philosophy of the event.

"Nobody got paid to do this (event)," Hughston said. "This event means peace, love, compassion and understanding. We're here because we want these principals to come back in our society."

Moore said that with the success of this year's West Fest, he anticipates that a similar Woodstock anniversary will be held on the West Coast in the future.

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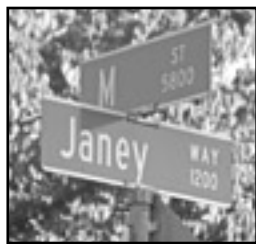
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## Mike Gilson: A True Janey Way Hero



By **MARTY RELLES**  
Arden-Carmichael News Columnist  
marty@valcomnews.com

Because so many children lived on Janey Way, other kids often came there to play. Mike Gilson was one of those kids. He was one of those larger than life people you meet. He stood a strapping six feet tall at 12 years of age. Mike came often to Janey Way to play football, basketball, ping-pong at the Relles house or to just hang out. He had an outgoing personality and liked to tell jokes and tall stories.

In school, Mike achieved average grades. He and I shared the same teacher at St. Mary's School, Mother Carmela, the Sister Superior of the Catholic grammar school. She was a tough, but excellent teacher. Mike and her had a challenging relationship. She expected quiet and discipline in her class; Mike liked to talk. One day, Mike was talking and she walked down the row to his desk and told him, "Mr. Gilson, you are a tall boy, but if I have to, I will climb up on a desk to smack you." That seemed to quiet Mike down for a while.

When we graduated from St. Mary's, Mike and I transferred to Christian Brothers High School. We were in different home-room classes there, so I saw him a lot less. After two years at Christian Brothers, we both transferred to Sacramento High School in the 11th grade. We played junior varsity football together at Sac that year. Our team had six wins and two losses. We had a great time. Mike had matured by then and did better in school.

In senior year, Mike began to talk about joining the military after graduation. His older brother had done that and stayed in as a career soldier. I didn't know whether to take Mike seriously about that. Like many young people, he sometimes changed his mind at the drop of a hat. Also, the Viet Nam War began to heat up about that time, and the whole idea sounded a little dangerous to me.

After graduation, Mike, true to his word, went down to the military recruiting office and joined the U. S. Marines. He went off to training in late 1964, and then returned in the summer of 1965 on leave. We had fun when he came home that summer. We went down to the American River to swim, drink beer and chase girls. We sat out on our front lawn on Janey Way, smoking and joking and just having a wonderful time. When his leave ended, Mike returned to his Marine base where he received orders for Viet Nam. I never saw Mike again after that summer.

Mike had served in Viet Nam eleven months and was nearing the end of his tour. His platoon left camp on a routine mission. He walked the point that day at the head of the group. A rifle shot rang out and Mike went down. After a brief fire fight, his squad members ran to his aid. Too late. Mike had been killed instantly. He was only 20 years old. He did his job. He served his country. He died in battle.

We all attended his funeral. He was the first of our gang to die. He received full military honors. I remember the Marine captain handing the flag to his grief-stricken mother.

In 2002, I visited our nation's capitol with my wife. She went on behalf of her company to attend a meeting. I had retired by then and went as a tourist. I saw all the sights, including the Viet Nam War Memorial. It was a somber moment. I found Mike's name on the wall and scratched upon it with paper to make an impression. I have since lost that paper, but I will never lose my memories of Mike.

In light of Veterans Day, I am reminded of how much Mike Gilson gave to our country. Like many young men, he died so others could live. He is a true Janey Way hero.

# Mayor Johnson gives city update at Sacramento State University

By **ART GERMAN**  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
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An ebullient Mayor Kevin Johnson told a capacity audience of more than 300 at Sacramento State University at the end of last month that he's working full tilt to build "a bigger and better" Sacramento and that his current proposal for a strong mayor government organization is at the heart of his plans for the city's future.

Johnson was the Oct. 23 speaker at the weekly forum sponsored by the Renaissance Society, a learning-in-retirement program based at the university.

When the one-hour session was over, Johnson received a standing ovation from the overflow crowd. At the outset, staff had to put several dozen temporary seats on stage and at the rear of the Hinde Auditorium in the Student Union to accommodate the audience.

Harriette Work, last year's Renaissance Society president, introduced Johnson. She noted that the mayor - who first achieved prominence as an NBA basketball star - had grown up in Sacramento and has devoted his years in the capital city to public service.

In his talk, Johnson listed major issues that he said are currently facing Sacramento, including where to relocate the Kings' current Arco Arena basketball home; restoring the K Street mall as a vibrant downtown hub; increasing the powers of the mayor; how to handle the city's recent approval of more than 30 home building sites in Natomas; and how to provide shelter for Sacramento's homeless.

Johnson said he's been inspired over the years by a number of prominent role models with whom he's come in contact. Among them have been John Wooden, the legendary long-time UCLA basketball coach, who recently turned 99 years of age; the late Sen. Ted Kennedy; and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Johnson noted that he's a Democrat, but found Thomas' support of charter schools to be inspiring, though Thomas is a Republican and a conservative. Before he was elected Sacramento's mayor last year, Johnson founded St. Hope Academy, which has taken over the old Sacramento High public school and has improved student performance as a non-profit charter school.

Johnson said Kennedy, Thomas and Wooden, in different ways, have urged him to become part of the community, to vote, to make a difference, and eventually to give back to the community.

"I learned that you have to be open minded to different ideas," he added.

Among current issues now facing the city of Sacramento, Johnson gave first place to his current proposal, due to go before voters next year, to replace the

current council-city manager style of municipal management with a strong mayor system. This would permit Johnson, as mayor, to make many of the day-to-day decisions that are now made by the city manager.

"We currently have a population of 470,000," he said. "In the U.S., cities of that size mostly have a strong mayor system. It enables the mayor to make important decisions quickly, and at the same time be accountable for them."

He said new decisions also are needed to deal with the stagnation along the K Street mall, including re-opening the thoroughfare to auto traffic.

"Sacramento will never be a world class city," he said, "if it has a downtown that looks as it does now." He noted that one closed store on K Street displays a sign that says, "... Coming Soon"

"The sign has been there four years," Johnson added. "It (the new store) is not coming."

He said he is concerned that large stores have been locating outside Sacramento because there is a lack of suitable space near downtown, such as Ikea, which has opened, along with several other major companies, in West Sacramento. Stores opening in West Sacramento - in Yolo County - represent a substantial tax loss to Sacramento city and county.

The long-pending issue of where to build a new Sacramento Kings basketball arena also has profound implications, Johnson said. The site should be within the city, he added, "and I do not believe it should be at Cal Expo. It would not be in the best interests of the city to have it there. Instead, the rail yard (adjacent to downtown) is a real possibility."

He said that within the next three months he will present a plan to keep the Kings in Sacramento.

"We do not want to lose them," he said.

Johnson said that plans are being finalized to provide shelter for 150 homeless persons and to deal with the city's recent granting of building permits for more than 30 Natomas homes on sites that lack adequate flood protection.

In the Natomas case, the mayor said an audit is needed to see if something illegal occurred. "We can't penalize the residents for mistakes the city makes," he said.

At the meeting's close, Renaissance members flocked around the mayor, mostly to shake his hand. Among those who moved on to the stage were Phyllis Mills, a Greenhaven-Pocket area resident who is retired dean of the CSUS School of Health and Human Services; and Mel Bisgay of East Sacramento, a retired aeronautics executive who has been active during recent years as a legislative advocate for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Both agreed that Johnson gave a "great" presentation.





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## NOVEMBER

### Trip to Spain

Join Norma Petta, Spanish instructor and tour guide, for a lively discussion on travel to Spain. From the festive squares of Madrid to the Sierra Nevada foothills and the Mediterranean coastline, this journey through Spain showcases a landscape as intricate as its history and people. Immerse yourself in the unique culture and traditions of each region. Nov. 18th at 6:30 pm at Oakmont High School, 1710 Cirby Way, Portable 33 in Roseville and on Nov. 19th in Sacramento location TBA. Call Norma at (916) 457-1220 or go to ask\_norma@spaineasy.com

### Hart Ping Pong Players

We are excited to announce yet another new way to have fun and get your heart pumping at the Ethel Hart Center: PING PONG!

Also called table tennis, ping pong is FUN, competitive, and strengthens your hand-eye coordination. This Olympic sport features light balls and paddles and is easy to learn. Sessions will be held Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free. Register in advance by phoning 808-5462. Ethel Hart Center 915 27th Street Sacramento 95816.

### Looking for candidates

Currently, Todd Migliaccio, a professor at California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) is conducting a study about family and longevity in marriage. He is interested in videotaping interviews with couples or individuals who have been married for over 30 years. The topics will cover a range of experiences that are related to relationships, marriage and family over time, including dating, love, marriage, kids, as well as a host of other experiences couples encounter in a marriage. If you are interested in being interviewed at the Ethel Hart Center, located at 915 27th Street Sacramento 95816, please feel free to contact Todd at tmigliac@csus.edu or (916) 278-7573.

### Holiday gift shopping

You are invited to shop for beautiful and fairly traded gifts, housewares and accessories and other items from artisans and farmers living in developing regions, by visiting Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Road, at our "Just Christmas SERRV Sale (a non-profit fair trade organization). This sale to help locally and globally runs in November starting on the 8th through the 29th in our Narthex. Bring your holiday gift list.

## NOVEMBER 12

### "Hats and Wraps for the Holidays"

Held Nov. 12 at Casa Restaurant (2760 Sutterville Rd.), the "Hats and Wraps for the Holidays" is a special event supporting the Sacramento Children's Home. The event presents Carol Culp and Drin Welker and Casa's Mary Weaver, who have created hats and wraps that are both attractive and functional. Seatings are at 11:15 a.m. or 1:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Main entries are a Chicken in Filo with mixed green salad or a chipotle caesar salad with chicken. Dessert

is chocolate torte with raspberry coulis. For more information, call 452-2809.

### Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on November 12, from 1-3 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA. Microsoft rep Jeffrey Aziz will provide an introduction to Windows 7, Microsoft's next Windows operating system. A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our Web site at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

## NOVEMBER 13

### Jewelry Sale

The Senior Center at Sierra 2 and Cure Arthritis Now host the first annual jewelry sale on Friday, November 13, from 11 to 2 pm at Sierra 2 (2791 24th St). We are asking for community support to make this event a success. Help by donating costume or other jewelry to the sale. (We accept broken bits and beads for sale to crafters.) Apply to participate as a jewelry vendor at this event. Questions? Call the Senior Center at 455 6339 or Cure Arthritis Now at 208 8700. Looking forward to seeing you at the event!

## NOVEMBER 14

### E-waste recycle day

Bring your old computers, TVs and other e-waste and the Boy Scouts and California Electronic Asset Recovery (CEAR) will recycle it safely. And all for free. The event is happening Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mel's Catholic Church, 4745 Pennsylvania Ave., Fair Oaks, (near corner of Sunrise Blvd. and Sunset Ave.). Questions? Want to arrange a pick-up (if you've got big items or you're a business)? Contact ponyexpress@surrewest.net.

### Fe Galley art reception

Kris A Johnson will be the guest artist for November. She will join Mental Artist Stephen Lyman and Fused Glass Artist Sheena Wolfe for our November 14 Second Saturday reception from 5-9 p.m. There will be an art demonstration at 7:30 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street (north of Folsom Blvd., corner of 65th and Elvas), East Sacramento. For more information about the artists and the gallery visit www.FeGallery.com or call, (916) 456-4455. Daytime gallery hours are currently from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon. The current show will run throughout November.

### Indian Classical fusion

The Sacramento City College Music Department will present the Nada Brahma Music Ensemble in an evening of Indian Classical Fusion improvisation on the following evening in Sacramento: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, Sacramento Yoga Center, Room 6 in the Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St. Admission for each evening is \$5-\$20 (sliding scale). For more information, contact Rob Knable, SCC Music Department Chair at 558-2515.

### Holiday Boutique

Parkside's annual Holiday Boutique will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9-4pm and Sunday, November 15 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Unique hand-crafted gift items will be available for purchase including ceramics, hand-turned wooden items, soaps, hand-crocheted baby blankets, jewelry, ribbon bows and wreaths and Parkside's very own cookbook. Parkside Community Church is located at 5700 S. Land Park Dr. at the corner of 35th Avenue and S. Land Park Drive in Sacramento. For more information, please call 916-421-0492 or visit www.parksideucc.org.

## NOVEMBER 14-15

### Sale and fashion show

Sacramento Center for Textile Arts' annual Sale and Fashion Show will be November 14-15 at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Fashion show is Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. Sale is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Vera Latimer at vlatimer@comcast.net.

### Alternative Christmas Market

Choose from a selection of Benevolence Gifts from several local and international charities. Handcrafted gifts by native artisans from Third World Countries will be sold. Fremont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson Dr. Sacramento. 9:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. Free admission. (916) 452-7132. Visit www.fremontpres.org.

## NOVEMBER 17

### Memory screenings

Primrose Living with Memory Loss to hold free memory screenings as national event stresses importance of proper detection. Individuals concerned about memory problems can take advantage of free screenings as part of National Memory Screening Day, a national initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) to promote proper detection of Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses, and successful aging. Event held Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4

p.m. at Primrose, 7707 Rush River Dr. For more information, call 392-3510.

## NOVEMBER 18

### Genealogical association meeting

The regular meeting of the Genealogical Association of Sacramento will be held on November 18 (the third wed of November) at 1 p.m. It will be held in the Belle Cooledge Library at 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Our speaker will be Carol Byers. She will help us break down the "brick walls." Carol is a noted Genealogist and a member of our association. She specializes in German genealogy. She also is helpful in solving your research computer problems. Please join our association and participate in "Breaking down your brick walls." Questions call Melanie Howard at (916) 383-1221.

### At Blue Moon Gallery

The gallery is holding a special event: "Of Travelers, Cats & Kings," works for Harpsichord performed by Alex Ives. The event is Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m. Donations to benefit CSUS Baroque Ensemble, 2353 Albatross Way. For more information, call 920-2444.

## NOVEMBER 19

### Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latin music! Featured DJ music and delicious Mexican food! Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Suggested donation: \$3. For more information, call Barbara Alarcon 400-4514.

## NOVEMBER 20

### Stroke Prevention - "Every Second Counts"

Did you know that stroke is the third leading cause of disability for all Americans? Representatives of the NCCCP Clinical Pharmacy Club will be here teaching on how to recognize the signs of stroke. Come learn about early prevention. The free event will be November 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. For more information, call 808-5462.

## NOVEMBER 21

### Fall Color in the Cemetery

Experience the glorious colors of Autumn on this Saturday morning tour at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. This garden tour, led by Lifetime Master Gardener, Anita Clevenger, celebrates the beauty of the change of seasons in our internationally acclaimed cemetery gardens. The tour commences at 10:00 am from the Cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. Held under the auspices of the City of Sacramento Division of History & Science, this tour is presented as a public service by the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. For tour information, please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are greatly needed and appreciated.

## NOVEMBER 24

### EGA meeting

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2009, SMUD Building, 6301 S Street. Melissa Dunajski will speak on various needlework sites on

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### NOVEMBER 29

#### Messiah Sing-Along

It's a holiday tradition: Messiah Sing-Along is presented by the Camellia Symphony and Camerata California at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Road on Sunday, Nov. 29. The event will start at 3 p.m. with a Holiday Sale. The Messiah Sing-Along will begin at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15. 10 and under are free. To purchase tickets, call (916) 929-6655 or visit [www.camelliasymphony.org](http://www.camelliasymphony.org).

### DECEMBER

Faith Presbyterian Church at 625 Florin Road welcomes you to it's Christmas Services: Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26 – Sunday Services, held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16 (Wednesday) Advent Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m.

### DECEMBER 1

#### Great Books Discussion

Local book group will discuss articles in the book "Keeping Things Whole: Readings in Environmental Science" at our 1st Tuesday of the month meetings at 1p.m. For December 1: "The Biosphere" by Vladimir I. Vernadsky. Free. Info: 808-5462. Ethel Hart Center 915 27th Street Sacramento 95816.

#### Alzheimer's Support group

Are you looking for someone to talk to – someone who understands what it is like to deal with Alzheimer's disease? Join an Alzheimer's Support group hosted by Carmichael Oaks Senior Living. Ongoing sessions provide families and caregivers guidance and training to assist them in caring for a person with the disease. Our program will offer tips, resources, and the ability to connect with fellow caregivers. The free event starts at 6 p.m. at Carmichael Oaks Senior Living, 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd. Information: Refreshments served. RSVP at 944-2323. For more information, visit [www.carmichaeloaks.com](http://www.carmichaeloaks.com).

### DECEMBER 2

#### Casa Christmas event

Coming again to the Casa, a talented group of City College students performing Vocals and "Last-Minute Christmas," is December 2. Seatings are at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. The meal will consist of Chicken Sonora with a mixed green salad or Mediterranean chicken salad. Dessert is a Double Chocolate Mocha Cake. First-come-first-

served group reservations. One contact person, one check. Cancellations are 10 days prior to lunch. Food selection and pre-payment required. For reservations, call (916) 452-2809. Tickets at \$20 per person.

### DECEMBER 3

#### Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latin music! Featured DJ music and delicious Mexican food! Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Suggested donation: \$3. For more information, call Barbara Alarcon 400-4514.

### DECEMBER 5

#### Jensen Garden Workday Volunteers

The Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden work days one Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info: Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ex23 or email [tracy@carmichael-park.com](mailto:tracy@carmichael-park.com).

#### Pruning Clinic

The Historic Rose Garden in the Historic City Cemetery will present Pruning Clinics on December 5 from 10-11:00 a.m. Enter at the Cemetery Main Gate to learn why pruning roses is important and how pruning should be done. Both heritage roses and modern roses will be discussed. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. For information, call (916) 443-2146.

### DECEMBER 6

#### McKinley Song Circle

McKinley Children's Song Circle with the Shadchasers will perform for free Dec. 6 at 3-4:30 p.m. in the Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Blvd. Families welcome. Brand new songbooks for singers available. For more information and directions, call 531-4110. The Shadchasers is a local folk group of 10 members playing Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, Raffi, and other singable family music suitable for children's activities. We sing and dance, and encourage families to sing together whenever they can. Now we have a new songbook with about 60 songs to share with our group.

### Christmas Crèche

Come experience the wonder of Christ's birth depicted in hundreds of nativities from around the world. The Third Annual Elk Grove Nativity, or "Christmas Crèche," will be held Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6. Friday Dec. 4 the event is open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday the event will be open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. The diverse collection represents many countries and cultures and each of the crèches are crafted from a variety of materials. This year, organizers plan to display more than 400 nativities from around the world. In addition to the grand variety of nativities, local talent will perform. This Christmas Crèche is open to everyone throughout the Sacramento area. The Third Annual Elk Grove Nativity will be held at the Bruceville Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located at 9910 Bruceville Rd. in Elk Grove. For more information, please visit the website at [elkgrovenativity.org](http://elkgrovenativity.org). The Nativity Open House is free of charge.

### DECEMBER 10

#### Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Computer Technology in Today's Automobiles." A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our Web site at [www.missionoakscomputerclub.org](http://www.missionoakscomputerclub.org).

### DECEMBER 12-13

#### Fremont Presbyterian Church

Glorious Sounds of Christmas, a Christmas Concert is at Fremont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson Dr. The free event begins at 7 p.m.

### DECEMBER 13

#### Special concert in Carmichael

Bring the entire family to this holiday concert entitled "Symphonies and Sing-Along!" the second concert in our "Command Performance!" season, December 13, 3 p.m. at the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult community band conducted by Dr. Les Lehr. Tickets: Child/ Student/ Senior (60+) free; others \$5, sold at the door. For more information, call (916) 489-2576 or visit [www.sacwinds.org](http://www.sacwinds.org).

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### JANUARY 5

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### ONGOING

#### American Legion Dance

The American Legion Dance, Held on the first Friday of each month from 7 – 10 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall at Royer Park in Roseville, featuring ballroom, Latin, swing, and night club dances with DJ Bob Wayman. The public is invited and singles are welcome. There is a great wood dance floor, good parking, no-host bar, soft drinks, and snacks. Come dance and make new friends. The hall is located at 110 Park Drive. Cost \$8. Info: (916) 783-7267. Proceeds go to support the troops and our veterans.

### MONDAYS

#### Tai Chi at Hart Center

Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. In-

structor, Mamie Woo. Information at 808-5462.

#### Hatha yoga class

Instructor Pat Shaw teaches students to align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation, 3 to 4 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Information at 808-5462. Repeats Wednesdays, Fridays.

#### Gray Eagles meet

Gray Eagles, a social group for men and women, hears guest speakers on air shows, flying and warbirds, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., second Mondays of the month. Visitors welcome. Free, at the Hometown Buffet (private dining room), 4300 Florin Road. Information at 421-0844.

#### Newcomer's Buffet

The Widowed Persons Association of California invite any and all widows and widowers to attend their Newcomer's Buffet and Social at 5:30 p.m., every third Monday, at the Plaza Hof Brau, El Camino at Watt Avenue. The cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. For more information, call 972-9722.

#### Toastmasters meet

Guests always welcome at Klassy Talkers Toastmasters to have fun while improving speaking and leadership skills, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Executive Airport 6151 Freeport Blvd., 95822. Information: Jan at 284-4236 or [www.sacramentotoastmasters.com](http://www.sacramentotoastmasters.com).

#### Co-Dependents Anonymous

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets, 7:30 p.m., Friends Church, Fireside Room, 41st and E streets. This 12-step group is for people whose common problem has been an inability to maintain healthy relationships. We support each other in developing fulfilling relationships. For more information, call 1-866-794-9993.

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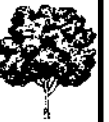
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# Matteo's: 'The most gratifying thing is that we already have regulars'

Continued from page 8

Steve to Matteo: "We cleaned."

After that, it came down to what was going to stay and what was going to go.

"The (kitchen area) is pretty much the same," Matt said. "Most of the work was done to the front."

## From Steve's to Matteo's

Patrons of the former Steve's will notice a stark contrast to their former haunt. The wood above might just be the only thing you recognize. Replacing the former décor are furnishings that are more modern.

As was the case with Steve's, however, there are two separate dining rooms. As Matt described it to a group of men who walked through the restaurant during the interview, the room to the left is quiet while the

room to the right has "a lot of energy."

As for the new decorations, Yvette explained that she knew exactly what she wanted.

"I have always known what looks good to me," she said. "I tried to make it look like someplace that I would want to come."

In a shopping strip that has seen businesses come and go due to the down economy, the Woolstons are intent on staying around for a while.

"We're here for the long haul," Matt said. "If we intended to be here for only a short time, our prices would be a lot higher."

Business is booming in the month since its opening, and not just because of the menu and atmosphere. Both Matt and Yvette stressed the importance of keeping their

prices affordable so that families can come out and have a nice time with good food without hemorrhaging money.

"I want people to have great food for a good price and just have a nice night out," Yvette said.

## Order up

The menu itself is quite a bit different from that of a chain pizza place. The pizzas come in one size, which is roughly the size of a dinner plate. Matt described the pizza as being filling for one or can be shared between two if they order a salad or entree along with it.

The most popular pizzas on the menu, according to Matt, are the "Matteo," which features Italian sausage, pepperoni, chorizo, bacon, four cheeses, and a spice tomato sauce; and the

"Stu," which has wild mushrooms, prosciutto, caramelized onions, arugula, fontina and truffle oil.

Also on the menu are appetizers ranging from garlic bread to calamari, soups, salads as well as sandwiches, pasta and entrees like "Sesame seared Ahi tuna."

## Already a loyal following

Sarah Nixon and Esther Zorzi, residents of the area for 15 and 41 years respectively, shared the experience of their first time at Matteo's.

"The food was really good," Nixon said. "And the service was good, too."

Zorzi called Matteo's "a good addition" to the area.

Both tried the Bledsoe pulled pork BBQ sliders and seemed to enjoy them quite a bit. Both also said that they would be coming

back because there are so few places to eat in the area that aren't fast food.

The restaurant also features a bar where people can come in, have a glass of wine, and shoot the breeze. Matteo's will soon acquire its hard liquor license for those that enjoy cocktails. The next phase of the business plan is a Sunday brunch, which will begin in the coming weeks. The brunch will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be buffet style until around 3:30 p.m., according to Matt.

People around town have been waiting for something to open up in Steve's place, and judging by the first month of business, Matteo's is just what the doctor ordered.

"The most gratifying thing is that we already have regulars who have been in four times or more since we opened," Yvette said.

A close second would be the people who have remarked to her that their pie is "the best pizza in town."

Matteo's is open Tuesday through Sunday. The hours as well as the menu can be found on the restaurant's Web site [www.pizzamatteo.com](http://www.pizzamatteo.com) or you can call them at (916) 779-0727.

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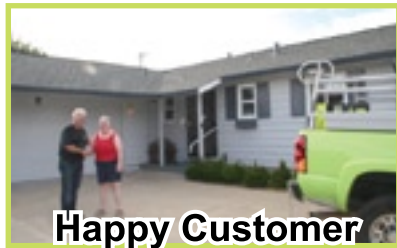
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# Legacy and tradition live on at historic St. Francis High

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Arden-Carmichael News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: This story is the second part of a two-part story series on St. Francis High School. To read the entire story, visit [www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com).*

## A fixture of Sacramento

With the fear of overcrowding caused by increased enrollment at St. Francis High, the 1956 opening of Bishop Armstrong High School at 4315 Sacramento Blvd. – now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard – alleviated this problem, as juniors and seniors from St. Francis, St. Joseph and Christian Brothers high schools formed Bishop Armstrong's first student body.

This arrangement, which included each school maintaining its own ninth and tenth grades, continued until 1964, when Christian Brothers High purchased Bishop Armstrong High to create a four-year boys' high school.

It was also in this year that St. Francis High opened with 520 sophomore, junior and senior students at its current location, which originally had the address of 6051 M St., since the school's former administration office faced M Street. The freshman class of 1964 remained at 25th and K streets before transferring to the M Street campus the following year.

The landscape of the current St. Francis campus has evolved throughout the years with its greatest changes coming with the completion of the first phase of its campus expansion in 2004. This particular effort resulted in the school's new performing arts complex, a 500-seat theater, a dance studio, a library resource center, a gymnasium and fitness center and six enhanced science laboratories.

Another later addition to the school was the construction of its Serra Court, which was named after Father Junipero Serra and includes a large outdoor stage and picnic-type tables.

Well aware of her school's focus as a college preparatory school, Kia Shebert, a junior who plans to study forensic psychology in college, said that little time passed during her time at St. Francis before she was asked to provide her goals for college.

"I think it was the second week of my freshman year that I was pulled into my counselor's office and was



The current site of St. Francis High School is shown under construction in this c. 1963 photograph.

Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong

asked, 'What colleges are you looking at?' I was like, 'I just got here. I'm still trying to find the bathroom.' But they're definitely a college prep school, so the way you line up your courses here reflects what you're going to do in college," she said.

Another St. Francis student, freshman Ashley Rose said that she has high ambitions to be an actress and is receiving quality experience through her current role in the school's upcoming production of "The Taming of the Shrew."

In addition to the school's academic strides, St. Francis also focuses on excellence in athletics.

In discussing the success of St. Francis' athletic program, which includes many league titles, several Northern California titles, three state titles and the 2005-06 Cal-Hi Sports State Girls' School of the Year award, Athletic Director and former St. Francis three-sport athlete Kolleen McNamee notes three important variables accounting for the program's prosperity.

"I think a lot of things contribute to the success of the program," McNamee said. "We have a lot of coaches who know the game, but also know how to coach young women.

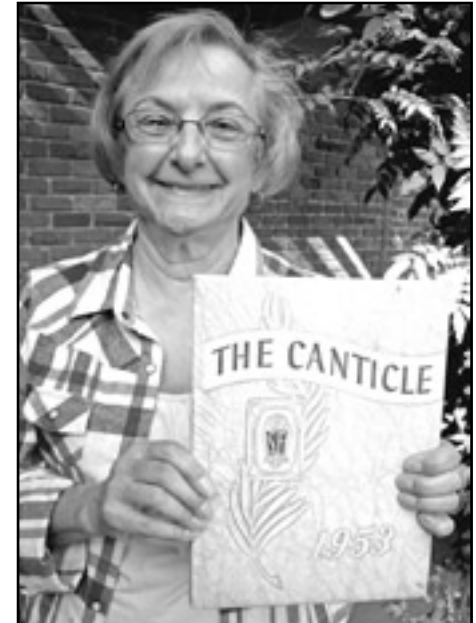
We have athletes who are really focused, work hard and really want to represent their school. I think those are really important things. We're also emphasizing our Pursuing Victory with Honor program with our coaches, athletes and our parents to make sure that we treat our opponents with respect and that we represent the school the way it should be represented. All these things tie in together to make this a successful program."

Chris Chappelle, whose daughter Katie is a freshman at the school, said that she appreciates the fact that St. Francis is internally considered a community unto itself.

## School and spirit

"St. Francis is a very friendly, welcoming community and everybody is there for the same reason," Chris said. "I like that (Katie) is so comfortable there and that academics and faith are number one. Everything else kind of comes as a bonus."

In reviewing the history of St. Francis High, which is currently educating 1,137 students, including about 75 students who transferred from the now-closed Loretto High School, the school's Director of Communications Ingrid Niles said that St. Francis High



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong  
Patricia (Merz) Shebert of the Class of 1953 shows off her 1953 yearbook. St. Francis High's yearbook, "The Canticle," was first printed in 1952.

is very proud of its quality educational traditions.

"St. Francis High School is very proud of its nearly 70-year history of faith-based education with a strong emphasis on excellence in academics, the arts and athletics and providing a well-rounded education for the young women of the greater Sacramento area," Niles said.



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