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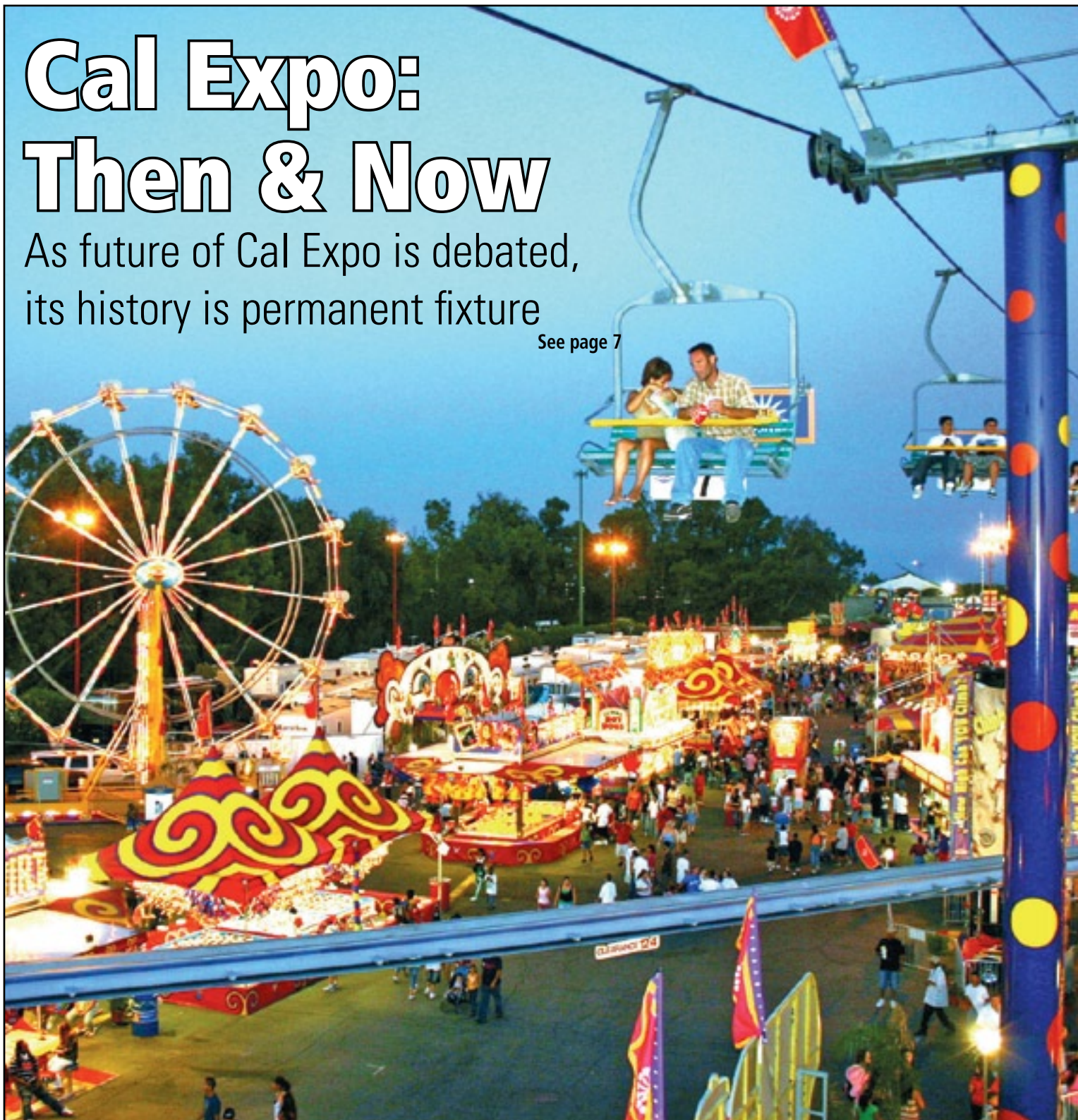


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Vol. XIX • No. 2

Arden-Carmichael News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and is delivered by mail and home delivery. Newspapers are also available in stands throughout the area.

2709 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento,
CA 95818
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Graphic Artist..... Ryan Vuong
Sales Manager..... Patty Colmer
Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl
Marc Harris Desilets, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko

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How can you help in Haiti?

Sacramento Red Cross organizes relief efforts to support quake-ravaged Haiti

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News
Information provided by the Sacramento-Sierra Red Cross

The American Red Cross is sending money, supplies and staff to Haiti to support relief efforts there after the recent earthquake, which caused catastrophic damage and loss of life.

According to reports, as many as three million people may have been affected by the quake, which collapsed government buildings and caused major damage to hospitals in the area.

On a national level, the Red Cross is contributing an initial \$1 million from the International Response Fund to support the relief operation, and has opened its warehouse in Panama to provide tarps, mosquito nets and cooking sets for approximately 5,000 families.

In addition to Red Cross staff already in Haiti, six disaster management specialists from National Headquarters are being deployed to the disaster zone to help coordinate relief efforts. At this time, the American Red Cross is only deploying volunteers specially trained to manage international emergency operations, with the first wave of volunteers coming from Red Cross chapters closest to Haiti. However, the Red Cross is always looking for vol-

unteers on a local level and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can contact the Sacramento Sierra Chapter at 916-993-7070.

If you, your school, community, church, or business is interested in raising funds to donate to the American Red Cross in support of the relief efforts in Haiti, please contact Matt Lingo at the Sacramento Sierra Chapter at 916-993-7081 or e-mail lingom@sacsierredcross.org. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

There has been an outpouring of support from the public. To help, people can make an unrestricted donation to the International Response Fund at www.redcross.org or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). The public can also help by texting "Haiti" to 90999 to send a \$10 donation to the Red Cross, through an effort supported by the U.S. State Department. Funds will go to assist American Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.v

Visit www.valcomnews.com for direct links to the American Red Cross Web site and stories about local efforts to help earthquake victims.

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Latest payment due for Arden Arcade cityhood push

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

After months of fundraising, it all comes down to this for the hopeful city of Arden Arcade. In what Arden Arcade Incorporation Committee Chair Joel Archer called "the most expensive and possibly final incorporation process," just one hurdle remains. A \$25,000 payment must be passed on to the Sacramento County Local Agency Formation Commission (called LAFCo) on February 1 to fund the fiscal analysis and environmental impact reports.

As of press time, \$15,000 of the \$25,000 had been collected, leaving a sizable hole to fill by next week.

"We need some help, but this is the last time we will have to ask for funds," Archer said.

In October, a large donation promised from a donor was retracted, forcing the committee into a frenzy to raise the funds. They were able to do so, and Archer remains confident that these funds will be raised as well.

The two LAFCo reports are well underway and are expected to be done by the end of February. The Environmental Impact Report could be done as soon as the first week of February. The analyses actually began two years ago, but they re-started last July af-

ter the committee came up with an \$89,000 payment to further fund them. So far, the incorporation process has cost north of \$300,000.

If the reports come back and Arden Arcade is found both economically and environmentally viable, the official campaign would begin to drum up support in time for the November vote.

"It will be a full campaign that will allow the neighborhood to know the full benefits of Arden Arcade becoming its own city," Archer said.

Print advertisements, mailers and the like will be distributed throughout the area in the coming months. It will then be up to Arden Arcade's 90,000 residents to make a decision.

Despite the final hurdles that need to be cleared, Archer's confidence was recently boosted further by the unanimous vote in favor of incorporation by the Sacramento Deputy Sheriffs' Association on January 20.

"We believe that Arden Arcade has jumped through all the necessary hoops and will make it on the November ballot," Kevin Mickelson, president of the Deputy Sheriffs' Association said.

Both Archer and Mickelson agree that having officers on the streets is of the utmost importance for the fledgling community.

"We were considering signing on with the city for a year," Mickelson said. "We think that this is a great way to keep officers at work and keep the new city safe."

Archer agreed, explaining, "with the drastic county

cuts, it is vitally important to keep law enforcement on our streets."

Residents of the Arden Arcade area are invited to take part in a "quality of life community meeting" on February 10 to discuss what has been going

on and how becoming a city will supposedly benefit them. The meeting is open to all concerned citizens and will be held at Cornerstone Church at the corner of Butano Drive and Cottage Way at 7 p.m.

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New look arrives for www.valcomnews.com


The Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. Web site, www.valcomnews.com, has received a massive makeover, providing for a new and interactive experience when searching for your local news or downloading your favorite community newspapers: the Arden-Carmichael News, the East Sacramento News, The Land Park News, The Pocket News, The Valley Shopper quarterly publication and the California Kids! monthly magazine.

We appreciate your comments on these developments. Send your thoughts, comments and news tips to ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

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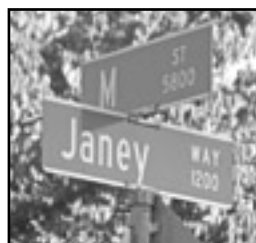
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More stories from The Pit



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

Back in the late 1950s, we played daily in the pit, the vacated sand and gravel site located directly behind the houses on the east side of Janey Way in East Sacramento. Today, St. Francis High School occupies the site; but back then, the pit became the source of many unforgettable stories. Local barber John Waldren related the following story to me recently.

One day, John, his friend Sonny and cousin Joe went down into the pit to play. They climbed up on a dirt pile in the center of the pit and heaved clods off the top of the mound. As they did this, they beheld an incredible site – a horse running loose in the pit.

John had idea. "Let's capture the horse, then find its owner. We will get a reward."

So the boys worked as a team and managed to herd the animal up to a wall on the north side of the site. Carefully, one of the boys grabbed the horse's rein. After calming the animal, they led it out of the pit up to the line of backyard fences located on the west side of the site. There, they tied the horse to a fence post. They walked over to M Street and then east toward 62nd Street, looking for yards large enough to stable a horse. Eventually they found a likely farmhouse off Elvas Avenue. They knocked on the door and spoke to a woman. Sure enough, she said that she owned the horse. So the boys returned to the pit and waited for the owner to come and pick up the horse. After a while, a truck towing a horse trailer drove up and parked. The woman they spoke to exited the truck, walked up, unhitched the horse then walked away from the boys without even saying thank you. The boys were dumfounded. No reward, no thanks – nothing. They learned a valuable lesson that day. Sometimes in life, the most honorable deeds go unrewarded.

Spartacus revisited

This following story comes from my friend Tom Hart. In 1960, a group of the younger Janey Way boys went to the Alhambra Theater to see the movie "Spartacus," the story of the gladiators who staged a rebellion against the Roman Empire. The boys were so taken by the movie that when they returned home they fashioned shields out of cardboard and twine, made make-believe weapons by taping boxing gloves to the end of broomsticks and wore football helmets depicting the Roman headgear. Then they marched down into the pit and over to Mt. Everest, the large mound in the center of the great hole. There they staged seemingly-realistic gladiatorial fights, bopping one another's shields with their homemade lances. As they did this, a group of older boys saw them and decided to chase them off the top of Mt. Everest. A battle ensued. The older boys cast dirt clods up at the boys atop Mt. Everest. The young boys returned fire, but the older boys moved inexorably up the side of the hill. In response, the younger boys rolled an empty 55-gallon oil drum up to the edge of Mt. Everest and down the hill toward the attacking boys. Naturally, the attackers fled in all available directions and did not return. Realizing they had won the battle, the younger boys raised their hands in the air and yelled, "Victory, victory, victory!" The battle for Mt. Everest had become another swashbuckling Janey Way memory.

County supervisor urges residents to report road problems caused by storms

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Winter weather storms can cause challenges for motorists so Supervisor Susan Peters is urging drivers to report all problems to the Sacramento County Department of Transportation regarding any obstacles or conditions putting travelers at risk on roadways in the unincorporated area portion of Sacramento County that are maintained by SACDOT.

"SACDOT is prepared this winter to provide quick response to roadway maintenance incidents that may result from mild to severe weather conditions, said Peters. "While SACDOT crews provide year round 24/7 response for weather related incidents, Sacramento County can still use the assistance of residents--especially during bad weather conditions--to report problems affecting local roadways."

The winter storm season usually can impact County roadways with a number of problems like fallen trees or branches, flooded streets, plugged storm drains, inoperative traffic signal lights, down street signs, non-working street lights, etc.

Problems can be reported to SACDOT's Customer Service Center by either calling 916-875-5171 or faxing 916-875-5773. Online reporting also is available via e-services at sacdot.com.

For the convenience of County residents a special "Winter Road Maintenance" section has been added to the Department of Transportation's website sacdot.com discussing weather related roadway issues including de-



Traffic problems caused by recent storms can be reported to SACDOT's Customer Service Center by either calling 916-875-5171 or faxing 916-875-5773. Online reporting also is available via e-services at sacdot.com.

partmental response procedures for clearing debris from roadways, dealing with flooded streets, and clarifying responsibility for trees or branches that fall on private property.

"Having residents assist us by reporting problems this winter will help keep our roadways clear, functional and safe which is important to everyone travelling in a storm regardless of their mode of transportation," added Peters.

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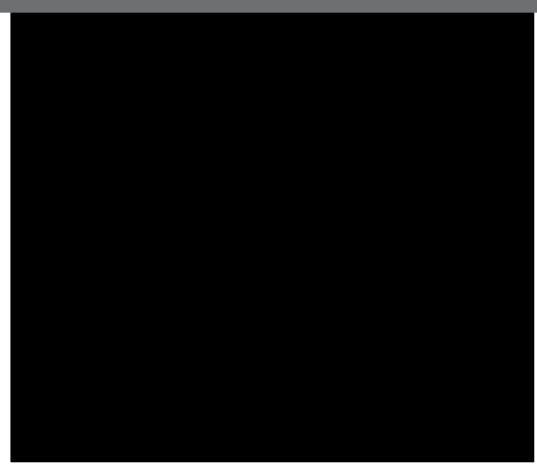
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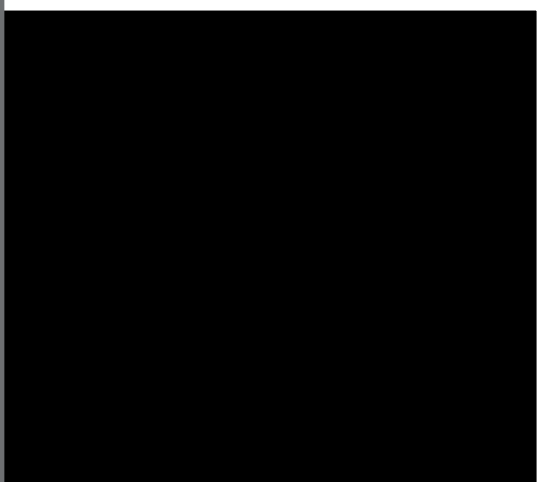
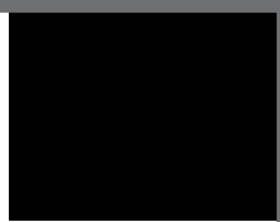


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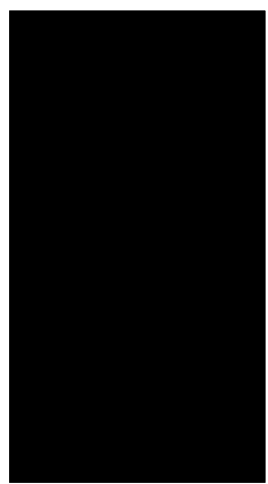
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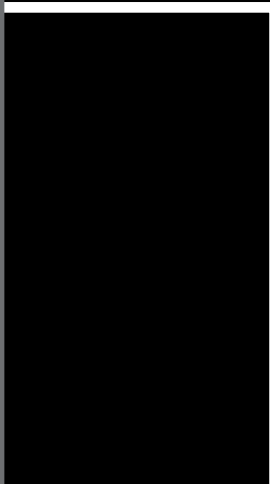
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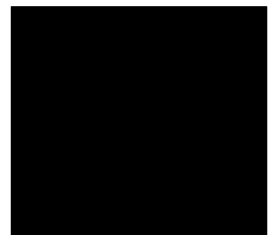
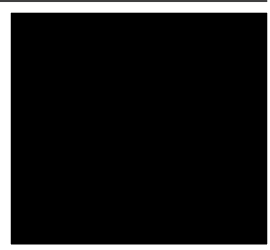
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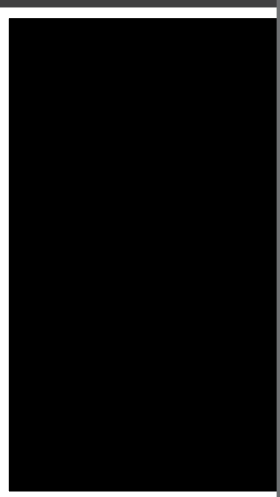
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Know your neighbor

Cal Expo has long, rich history in Arden area

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

With the January 14 news that the National Basketball Association and the owners of the Sacramento Kings are backing a proposal featuring a three-way land swap that would include a new sports and entertainment complex on the city's portion of the historic downtown rail yard and a new fairgrounds at the site of Arco Arena, the timing is right to take a trip down memory lane to when Cal Expo became a part of the community.

It has been 41 years since the opening of Cal Expo, which as part of the proposed land swap would be sold at market value and be redeveloped.

The road to the creation of Cal Expo began with the state's 1948 purchase of 1,000 undeveloped acres, which would partially be used as the site of the new fairgrounds.

It was not until the early 1960s, however, that funds were allocated and more specific planning began for the construction of the Cal Expo fair site, which would replace the Stockton Boulevard fair site, which opened in 1909.

One-of-a-kind events

One of the most notable events leading to the opening of Cal Expo occurred prior to the 1967 California State Fair, which was the last State Fair held at the old fairgrounds.

On May 22, 1967, the new, 630-acre fair site was dedicated by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan during a 25-minute ceremony, which began at 2 p.m. on a platform at the base of the American River levee.

The ceremony, which was held on a very hot day, in which temperatures reached 106 degrees on the platform and 103 degrees in the shade, drew 300 people, including various state officials and other distinguished guests.

During his brief speech, Reagan told the crowd that Cal Expo would represent "the best of the past, in which the State Fair (would) preserve a slice of Americana;



Cal Expo is shown in this photograph, taken in 1968, the year the State Fair was first held at this site.

Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

and it (would) be a window into the future."

California Sen. Albert Roda, who authored the legislation for Cal Expo in 1963, also spoke at the ceremony, saying, "I am confident of (Cal Expo's) success. The state is ready for it and it cannot fail. We are providing an exposition that will show all heritage, spirit and culture of the state of California."

The event culminated as Reagan, with his wife Nancy at his side, unveiled a dedicatory, bronze plaque, which read: "California Exposition. 'To serve the needs of the people of California.' Dedicated May 22, 1967. Ronald Reagan, governor."

While Ronald and Nancy Reagan remained standing next to the plaque, a crane lowered a large, heavy, outline map of the state of California toward a concrete base. Ronald Reagan then helped lower it onto the base, which was created with sand from all 58 California counties.

Above the Reagans and other attendees, fireworks were launched, aerial rockets exploded and small American flags attached to little parachutes made their way to the ground.

The ceremony also included performances by the University of California, Davis band.

Developing the grounds

With only a year prior to the opening of Cal Expo, the race began to have the grounds and its buildings completed in time for the 1968 State Fair.

Throughout 1967 and up until the opening of Cal Expo, local media provided those living in the region with information about the future and continual status of the site.

Prior to the construction of Cal Expo, for instance, The Sacramento Bee showed an artist's rendition of the future fairgrounds' nine-acre, \$3.8 million complex, which was designed by the San Francisco firm, Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons, and would consist of "modernistic" buildings with changing exhibits de-

veloping the state's rich culture and heritage.

As the grounds continued to develop, The Bee and other news media presented views of the future fairgrounds, which also included a variety of water features.

Built at a cost of \$33 million, Cal Expo was eventually completed in time for the opening of the 1968 State Fair.

Although many people were saddened to see the old fairgrounds close, nonetheless much excitement surrounded the opening of the new fairgrounds, which featured its aforementioned eight-building Exposition Center, its three-building Exhibits Complex, a spacious grandstand

See Cal Expo, page 8

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Cal Expo: 'I still love the buildings up there at the Expo Center'

Continued from page 7

with permanent seating for 7,000 overlooking a one-mile race track, an outdoor arena and a midway and concessions area.

The fair, which also features the Raging Waters water park, a permanent monorail system, the Sept. 11 Memorial Park and its iconic water tower, was officially opened by Ronald Reagan at its Cal Expo site on August 26, 1968.

Cal Expo memories

Since its opening, Cal Expo has been home to the creation of many memories.

Artist Ann Ragland Bowns of Citrus Heights said that she has loved Cal Expo since she first visited the fairgrounds in 1968.

"I was an art demonstrator there (at the 1968 State Fair)," Bowns said. "I love the (Cal Expo) fair and I still love the buildings up there at the Expo Center. The water features are one of the most spectacular and enjoyable things at (Cal Expo) and I also like to look at the farm animals."

Greg Kinder, a deputy manager for the State Fair, said that during his youth "a lot of times (going to the fair at Cal

Expo) was the highlight of the summer."

Cal Expo, which has been home to a wide variety of other events, ranging from the Sacramento County Fair, the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and the Sacramento Autorama to the Governor's Inaugural Ball, concerts and many horseracing events, continues to serve the community.

But after four decades of providing many fond memories for many people in the region and throughout the state, Cal Expo remains in limbo.

Meanwhile, efforts to provide a larger and more im-

proved State Fair continue.

In an attempt to increase the fair's attendance, during an Oct. 9, 2009 meeting, the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors voted to have the fair open in July, beginning with the 2010 fair.

Influencing the board's decision was the fact that since 2003, many California schools had begun their school years prior to Labor Day – the day that had traditionally become the final day of the fair each year. Of additional concern to the board was the fact that this trend was scheduled to increase with the vast majority of the schools within the fair's target geographic area in 2010.

The fair board also recognized state employee furloughs as another reason for decreased attendance in 2009.

Cal Expo will host its 42nd State Fair from July 14 to August 1.



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong
The Cal Expo water tower is a longtime iconic landmark of the fairgrounds.

As for the possibility of a relocation of the fairgrounds or perhaps a revamping of the current fairgrounds, only time will tell.

Continue reading the Arden-Carmichael News for the latest on the land swap-Sacramento Kings arena deal involving Cal Expo, Arco Arena and the Sacramento downtown railyards.

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Election announced to fill Sacramento County Board of Education vacancy

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

At its Jan. 19 meeting, the Sacramento County Board of Education approved Board Resolution 10-02 ordering an election to fill the board seat vacancy created when Trustee Christopher W. Woods resigned from his Area 3 post effective Jan. 11, 2010.

Woods had served on the Board since 2002, having previously served as board

vice-president and president. His term was scheduled to expire in June 2010. He moved out of the trustee area he represented.

The Area 3 seat will be filled at the regularly scheduled election on June 8, 2010.

Trustee Area 3 represents the following communities: Arden, Arden Oaks, Arden Park, Campus Commons, La Riviera, Rosemont, Town and Country

Village, and portions of Carmichael and Foothill Farms. Area 3 also represents portions of the Sacramento City Unified School District, the San Juan Unified School District, and the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

About the Sacramento County Board of Education

The Sacramento County Board of Education derives its power and authority

from the State Constitution and laws of the State of California (Constitution, Article IX, Section 3.3). The County Board consists of seven elected members who serve four-year terms. The County Superintendent serves as secretary to the Board of Education. In addition to conducting its regular business, other responsibilities of the Board of Education include hearing student expulsion and inter-district transfer appeals.



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The Real Estate Quarterly

New rules in the real estate market for the New Year

By JOHN WOODALL
Broker Associate with Lyon Real Estate
Special to The Real Estate Quarterly

Editor's Note: The following is the first of a two-part series.

This article summarizes many of the new federal and state laws affecting the real estate industry this year, as well as 2009 emergency legislation that went into effect immediately. This article draws on information prepared by the legal department of the California Association of Realtors.

Foreclosure

(SB 306 effective Jan. 1, 2010)

Notice of Default, Notice of Sale

Previous law stated that upon a breach of the obligation of a mortgage of any residential property, an authorized agent may (immediately) record a notice of default (NOD) in the county recorder's office where the property is situated and mail the NOD to the person responsible for the mortgage. (For loans made between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2007, the recording of the NOD's had to wait an additional 30 days past the delinquency date before being filed.) This portion of the law now applies only to owner-occupied residential real property containing no more than 4 dwelling units. (i.e. it no longer applies to rental property.)

Previously the law required a notice of sale to be recorded at least 14 days prior to the date of sale. The new law extends the time to at least 20 days prior to the date of sale.

Landlord-Tenant

(P.L. 111-22 effective May 20, 2009)

"Title VII -Protecting Tenants in Foreclosed Properties"

This law creates a new 90-day rental termination notice after foreclosure by the lender or the purchase at the foreclosure sale for bona fide tenants on a month-to-month tenancy. If the bona fide tenant is on a lease, then the full lease term must be honored unless the unit is sold to a buyer who intends to occupy the property, then the 90-day termination notice can be given.

Note that local ordinances may impose additional requirements on terminating a tenancy

SB 290 effective January 1, 2010

60-Day Notice

The sunset date (originally set for January 1, 2010) on this state law requiring a landlord to provide a 60-day notice prior to terminating a residential tenancy if the tenant has resided in the unit for a year or more is deleted. This law is extended indefinitely.

Tax

(H.R. 3548 effective November 6, 2009)

Homebuyer Tax Credit Extension and Expansion

H.R. 3548 provides both for the extension of the first-time homebuyer tax credit and expansion of it to qualified non-first-time buyers as well. A few of the provisions of this new law include the following:

(1) Both the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit and the \$6,500 tax credit for "move-up" buyers (see 4 below) would sunset on April 30, 2010. However, purchasers who have binding contracts as of April 30, 2010 (before May 1, 2010), would still qualify for the credit as long as they complete the transaction within 60 days (or June 30, 2010).

(2) The amendment establishes income limits of \$125,000 for an individual or \$225,000 for a couple for both credits.

(3) The cost of the home being purchased cannot exceed \$800,000 for both categories in order to be eligible for the credit.

(4) "Move up" buyers (an individual or his/her spouse, if married) are qualified if he/she "has owned and used the same residence as such individual's principal residence for any 5-consecutive-year period during the 8-year period ending on the date of the purchase of a subsequent principal residence."

For purchases made in 2010, taxpayers would be able to claim the credit on their 2009 income tax return. Homebuyers would not have to repay the credit, provided the home remains their principal residence for 36 months after the purchase date. However, this recapture provision

would not apply in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, military intelligence or Foreign Service who is on qualified official extended duty. In addition, members of the military who have been deployed overseas for 90 days or more in 2008 or 2009 would have until April 30, 2011, to claim the homebuyer tax credit.

The amendment also includes anti-fraud language that gives the IRS the authority to do greater oversight during the processing of the return rather than waiting for an audit situation.

License number of Real Estate Agents in marketing

California Code of Regulations

(Paragraph 2773, effective 7/1/2009 - approved but not finalized by the DRE)

Under the new regulation, solicitation materials must contain the license identification number of the licensee on the following items:

- . Business cards
- . Stationery
- . Web sites owned, controlled, and/or maintained by the soliciting licensee, and
- . Promotional and advertising flyers, brochures, email and regular mail, leaflets, and any other marketing or promotional materials designed to solicit the creation of a professional relation-

ship between the licensee and a consumer, or intended to induce a consumer to contact the licensee about any licensed services.

The following items are not solicitation materials under the license number requirement:

- . Advertisements in electronic media, including radio, cinema, and television ads, and the opening section of streaming video and audio;
- . Print advertising in any newspaper or periodical; and
- . "For Sale" signs placed on or around a property intended to alert the public the property is available for purchase or lease.

Note: The eight-digit DRE license number must be in a type size no smaller than the smallest type size used in the solicitation material.

John Woodall, GRI, SRES is a Broker Associate with LYON REAL ESTATE. He has earned a GRI designation (for advanced real estate education) and is a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, (SRES). In addition to traditional residential transactions, John helps clients with Short Sales, Probate sales and handles REOs. He is equally skilled at helping sellers or buyers of homes and investment properties. For more information, please contact John at 916 421 5421 or visit www.JohnWoodall.com.



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The Real Estate Quarterly

Tips for choosing a mortgage

(NAPSI) - Doing a little homework before choosing a mortgage could help save homebuyers plenty of cash. Still, many consumers accept the first loan they're offered, often not realizing they may be able to get a better deal.

On any given day, lenders and brokers might offer different interest rates and fees to different consumers for the same loan. In fact, neither lenders nor brokers are required to find the best or most affordable loan for you. According to the Federal Reserve Board, the best way to avoid overpaying for a mortgage is to shop around. The Fed offers these tips:

♦ **Know What You Can Afford** – Review your monthly spending plan to estimate what you can afford to pay for a home. Be sure to include mortgage, property taxes, insurance, monthly

maintenance and utility costs in your calculation. It's also important to check your credit report to ensure all the information it contains is accurate. A higher credit score might help you get a lower interest rate on your mortgage.

♦ **Know the Benefits and Risks** – Mortgages have many features. Some have fixed interest rates and some have adjustable rates. Still others have payment adjustments or allow you to only pay the interest on the loan for a period of time before you pay against the loan amount. There are also certain loans that charge penalties if you pay them off early and some that have a large payment due at the end of the loan. A mortgage shopping worksheet can help you identify the features of different loans. You can find a sample of one at www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/mortgage/worksheet.pdf.

www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/mortgage/worksheet.pdf.

♦ **Know Your Options** – You can get a loan from a mortgage lender or a mortgage broker. Brokers arrange mortgage loans with a lender, rather than lend money directly. Be sure to shop around for the best deals.

♦ **Get Advice You Can Trust** – A mortgage loan is one of the most complex and expensive financial commitments many people ever assume. It's OK to ask for help. Talk with a trusted housing counselor or a real estate attorney who you hire to review your documents before you sign them.

For more information in Spanish or English, visit www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo or call Federal Reserve Consumer Help at 888-851-1920 (Phone), 877-766-8533 (TTY).

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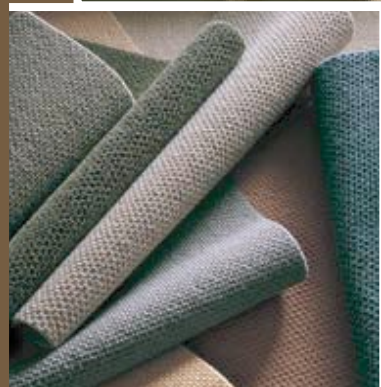
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'Hatching' a plan for urban chicken raising in Sacto

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

With all the squawking about urban chicken ownership and whether it should be allowed, one local organization has stepped up to try to overturn the current city and county laws barring neighborhood chicken raising.

The Environment and Agriculture Taskforce (EAT) Sacramento, calls itself "a network of residents and organizations dedicated to increasing food access and food security" according to its Web site. The first order of business for the EAT Sacramento team has been to tackle the subject of urban chicken keeping. The organization's position is that government should not be able to tell people where they can and cannot get their eggs.

Borne of this stance was the Campaign to Legalize Urban Chicken Keeping (CLUCK), which was put in charge of the chicken issue by EAT Sacramento.

But why is urban chicken keeping even against the law in the first place?

"I have a suspicion that owning chickens was seen as unfashionable when the law was passed," said Abi Crouch, coordinator of CLUCK. For a city that might have been trying to kick the "cow town" label, Crouch thinks that getting rid of backyard chickens was seen as a good first step by lawmakers.

It seems chickens have been sitting ducks for local lawmakers for at least 20 years: A 1989 city law added chickens to a ban preventing livestock from being kept as pets, and a Sacramento County law made it illegal for urban homeowners to have chickens on their property unless they had more than 10,000 square feet of property.

"A lot of people who own chickens don't even know that it's against the law," Crouch said. "I think it's pretty ridiculous that people are allowed to have dogs and cats but not chickens. Dogs and cats don't put food on the table."

Opponents of the plan argue that keeping chickens could lead to outbreaks of bird flu and other diseases. Crouch addressed these concerns.

"Bird flu happens in large flocks in factory farms," she said. She added that she is not aware of any cases of bird flu originating from a small group of chickens kept outdoors.

In order to keep the worries about bird-borne illnesses to a minimum, CLUCK plans to ask for a cap on how many chickens someone can own, likely limiting the number to eight.

Crouch worries that because of the law, some people will bring their chickens indoors to guard against being caught. This could exacerbate the likelihood of bird flu cases. Crouch spoke of cases of bird flu being traced

back to families who shared a home with their chickens.

As far as CLUCK is concerned, overturning the various laws preventing chicken ownership would allow people to keep their birds outside to prevent sickness. And while the group advocates chicken ownership on a small scale, they also stand firmly behind mandatory chicken coops for those who own chickens.

Other less serious concerns about keeping the birds include noise complaints.

"There is a stigma about chickens that they make noise all day, every day," Crouch said. "Hens are generally pretty quiet. They tend to make some noise when they lay an egg, but they usually calm down after a few minutes. Roosters crow all day long; they're the real noisy ones."

Roosters are not part of the campaign and CLUCK does not advocate the keeping of roosters. They don't aid in the egg-producing process and are often extremely loud and sometimes aggressive.

The goal of the organization is to reach out to Sac-



Photo courtesy
A 1989 city law added chickens to a ban preventing livestock from being kept as pets, and a Sacramento County law made it illegal for urban homeowners to have chickens on their property unless they had more than 10,000 square feet of property.

ramento City Council members and other political leaders to try to state their case for those who want to own chickens not just for egg production, but also as pets. And while this issue may not seem like a big deal on the surface to most people, Crouch warns that the law affects more people than one might think.

If all goes as planned, Crouch hopes to have the issue resolved by the beginning of the summer.

EAT Sacramento is an organization meant to aid

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Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar.

To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

JANUARY

Jo Anne Marquardt art show

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento presents an exhibition of the artwork of Land Park resident Jo Anne Marquardt Jan. 22 to Mar. 21, 2010 at the USS Auditorium located at 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Jan. 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This event is free. For more information visit www.uuss.org.

Pocket girls softball

Register now through March 1 for the 2010 season or sign-up at player evaluations, Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. at Carolyn Wenzel, 6870 Greenhaven Dr. or visit www.pocket-girlssoftball.com. For girls ages 4 1/2 to 16.

JANUARY 27

Embroiderer's Guild meeting

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2010, SMUD Building, 6301 S Street. We will be stitching Kissing Pillows. This is a national project

donated to the military. Visitors welcome. For more information, call (916)961-3558.

JANUARY 30

Grand opening of Move Studio

Move! studio is celebrating its grand opening at its location at 600 Broadway by offering a day of free workshops for the public on Saturday, January 30. Each workshop will include a demonstration and 15-minute fun class. Move! studio is a 3500sq/ft facility custom designed for the practice of martial arts, dance, music, gymnastics, and fitness. For more information please contact Melissa Wallace at (916) 479-3443 or ms-maw54@yahoo.com, or visit www.movestudio.net or www.adbcapoeira.com.

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FEBRUARY 2

Wine social at Casa Garden

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First Wednesday Poetry

Held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at 828 I Street, the Sacramento Poetry Center will hold a special poetry reading at the Central Library on the first Wednesday of each month. February's offering includes poets from The Sacramento Anthology: 100 Poems. This classic anthology features over 80 poets and

is still available. Readers will include Annie Menebroker, Mary Zeppa and Mario Ellis Hill. Hosted by Poet Laureate Bob Stanley. Street parking is free after 6 pm. www.saclibrary.org askus@saclibrary.org 916-264-2920.

FEBRUARY 4

Growth Exhibition Opening at Sacramento State

The reception of local photographer Andri Tambunan's Growth photo exhibition at Sacramento State University Union Gallery on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Also, he will be debuting my book that summarized my travels and experience consisting of photographs, journal entries, quotes, candid pics, etc. The actual exhibition runs from January 25-February 25 so drop by and see it in person if you are in the area. Bring the flier or its print out as a

parking pass. The exhibition could also be viewed on my NEW Web site www.andritambunan.com.

FEBRUARY 5

Organic Gardening

On February 5, 2010, the Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County will meet at the Carmichael Park Administration Building, Room 1, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, at 10 a.m. The program, "Gardening Potpourri" will be presented by Candace Schuncke, Fair Oaks Horticulture Center. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

FEBRUARY 6

School crab feed

St. John the Evangelist School presents its 27th Annual Crab Feed Dinner

on Saturday, February 6th from 6pm to midnight. No host bar from 6pm to 7pm, 7pm to 9pm is dinner and raffle and from 9pm to midnight is dancing. Tickets are \$39 per person and can be purchased in the school office at 5701

Locust Avenue, Carmichael. Dinner includes salad, pasta, crab and dessert. All proceeds go to the school for yearly expenses. Call 481-8845 for more information.

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Bocce Ball: A special Sacramento tradition for all ages

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

Among the premier historic landmarks of the East Sacramento area is East Portal Park and just about anyone who knows about this neighborhood park is familiar with its bocce ball courts.

As the centerpiece of the park, which has deep Italian roots, are the courts, which on just about any given afternoon or evening are occupied by groups of people engrossed in the game, which brings out heavy doses of both competitive spirit and camaraderie.

Originally connected to the rich Italian culture of East Sacramento's historic Little Italy neighborhood, the game initially drew only men of Italian descent.

But despite continuing to draw about 45 percent Italian players to the courts, the sport is more closely a repre-

sentation of the diversity of the community.

No longer is it a men-only sport and the East Portal Bocce Club, which is part of the United State Bocce Federation, consists of members with heritage from throughout the globe.

This decision to allow women and non-Italians to join the club was initiated in 1991 through the club's then-president Vic Cima.

As a result of this decision, many new faces joined the club and became educated about bocce ball, which is believed to have been derived from a more primitive Egyptian version of the sport.

The first bocce clubs

Popularized in Italy, where the first bocce clubs in modern times were established, the game, which is general-

ly played in groups of two or four and most closely related to lawn bowling, was brought to the United States by Italian immigrants who came to America in masses during the turn of the 20th century.

Originally played in Sacramento at Southside Park as early as the 1930s, the sport has been a staple of East Portal Park since its opening in about the early 1940s.

Although bocce has been played at East Portal Park since the park's early years, it was not until the early 1970s that the club was founded under the direction of Tony Peretti.

As a proud Italian, American and war veteran, Peretti founded the East Portal Bocce Club Fourth of July Tournament, which continues to be held each year and begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The club hit one of its lowest points during the beginning of its second decade, as membership dropped by about 50 percent.

This decline in membership was not indicative of the popularity of the sport, however, as is evident by a joke among members at the time that the club had "too many visitors at Nicoletti's" – the funeral home at 5401 Folsom Blvd.

In response to the club's membership woes, Cima recruited new members from



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong
East Portal Park includes four covered bocce courts, like the two shown above.

the Piemonte Reale Benevolent Society, where he was serving as president.

Cima's inclusion of women and people of other cultures proved to be the biggest turnaround for the club, which grew to more than 150 members by the late 1990s and now consists of about 260 members of which about 80 are female.

Additionally, membership of the club ranges from about 20 years old to 93 years

old and the average age of its members is 65 years old.

Diversity and depth

East Portal Bocce Club President Bob Martinez is a prime example of the diversity of the club.

Martinez, who is an East Sacramento resident of Mexican heritage, was first introduced to the game while vacationing with his wife in Monterey.

See Bocce, page 23

Bocce: 'Anything I can do to encourage others to play, I want to do it'

Continued from page 22

"We were staying by the Presidio right there by the wharf and it just so happens that in the Presidio itself there are three bocce courts and so I was kind of watching these guys playing bocce," Martinez said. "The Sicilians were coming off the fishing boats in the late afternoon and they were playing the Mexican restaurant workers from the (nearby) restaurants. They invited me to play and I just rolled a few balls and I just got really interested in (the sport)."

A friend of Martinez later invited him to the East Portal Park courts, where he became more acquainted with the game and soon afterward joined the club.

Although each member of the club is proud of their own particular heritage, Martinez said that those who become involved in the game of bocce ball join an intimate group of people who are like a big Italian family.

"Once you (get involved with bocce ball), everyone starts recognizing you and you feel a part of something much bigger," Martinez said. "It's like an extended family and everybody's Italian when you start playing bocce."

Martinez, who joined the club seven years ago, said that although bocce ball is a very simple game to learn, it is undeniably a very challenging sport.

"A lot of people know this and it's like (one of the club's members) Chito (Negri) said, 'It takes about 20 minutes to learn bocce, but it takes a lifetime to learn the strategy.' And it's true. It's a simple game that's easy to learn, but it can be very complex to learn in terms of strategy and that strategy is what's endearing and creates kind of this opportunity for exchange in banter. So, I would say that anyone who is interested in learning something that is not all that difficult to learn the rules of (would likely) enjoy this game. You can be as good as you want to be. All you have to do is stay with it and the more you're with it, the more you realize all the nuances that are associated with this game and the people and the camaraderie. It's great."

Mr. Bocce Ball

Poggio, Italy native Dante Urbani, 77, who is known as "Mr. Bocce Ball," said that he is very aware of the strategy of the game.

"There's a lot of strategy," said Urbani, who grew up with the sport and joined the local club 10 years ago. "You have to have a lot of finesse and you have to be convinced that you are better than everybody and that gives you more of an edge. You have to have a lot of confidence, but I think that people should just have that in general in life and feel secure about things."

Another member of the club, 84-year-old Ottavio Luchini, said that his memories of bocce date back to about 1935 when he used to play the game in his native town of Massarosa, Italy, near Lucca, with his childhood friends, Basilio, Renio, Filippo, Sandrino and several others.

"When I was in Italy, we used to play with rocks on the dirt, because we didn't have any balls or courts," Luchini said.

Although he first arrived in Sacramento on Feb. 4, 1949, Luchini said that he has only been playing bocce in the capital city since about 2000, since he was a longtime card player at the Dante Club.

Known nationwide

The East Portal Bocce Club is far from just a community story as the organization has gained much recognition as a premier club throughout the nation.

And being a premier Northern California club is alone quite notable, considering that the majority of the nation's bocce clubs are located in Northern California.

Hanging from the wooden rooftop that covers a pair of the East Portal Park's four courts is a banner, which celebrates the 2004 USBF B-bracket national champions, which was won by a team consisting of Jim Fellos, David Zaffa, Jack Roupp and Jack Toige.

With efforts being made to add bocce to the sports of the Summer Olympics, the club hopes to have a few of its members become Olympians, including Vern Cooper, who is currently ranked No. 10 in the United States.

Cooper, who is working toward his goal of participating in the World Bocce Championships, is also a certified world bocce referee.

Martinez said that he enjoys being a part of the rich tradition of bocce ball at East Portal Park.

"It really is something that's community affirming and I'm

very much committed to the East Sacramento community and to me, bocce is very much a part of its lifeblood," Martinez said. "It sustains and enhances the community and it brings that cultural vitality and to me, that's what makes it so special. And also, I just love playing it, so anything I can do to encourage others to play, I want to do it."

And encourage, he does, as Martinez said that he always advocates new membership in the club.

With league play occurring every Monday through Thursday from the spring through the fall, Martinez noted that generally the best time for newcomers to visit the courts is on the weekends.

"There is always somebody down here on the weekends who is willing to talk to people about the club," Martinez said.

Those desiring to learn more about bocce ball, the club or are interested in becoming a member of the club can call Martinez at (916) 717-1947 or visit the Web site www.eastportalbocce-club.com.

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