

City may redesign McKinley rose garden

New proposals under consideration to revamp the site

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on our new look

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Here's the new look

The East Sacramento News has a new look for the front page and is redoubled in its commitment to cover the news and events important to East Sacramento residents and business owners. In the coming weeks, additional features will appear in the East Sacramento News as the paper expands and reorganizes its reporting to better serve area readers. Community-based news features such as the "Know your neighbor" profile and the "1,000 words" photo-of-the-week will be joined with new and exciting regular features such as the "Faces and Places" photo page, which will serve to provide more local color and more opportunities for increased neighborhood coverage.

We appreciate your comments on these developments. Send your thoughts, comments and news tips to ryanrose@valcomnews.com or call 429-9901 and ask for the editorial department.

-Ryan Rose, editor of the East Sacramento News

Changing a classic: City considers renovating McKinley rose garden

By **RYAN ROSE**
East Sacramento News Editor
ryanrose@valcomnews.com

A thorny issue rose recently in light of recent proposals that could change the layout and overall look of McKinley Park's historic rose garden.

Proposals to "rehabilitate" and possibly even redesign the 1.5-acre, 81-year-old garden, a celebrated amenity of East Sacramento and a popular venue for weddings, are currently under examination by the city. Among the ideas being considered are proposals that would remove and replace the site's rose bushes; remove and possibly relocate garden memorials and remembrances; and possibly re-shape the entire garden to allow for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

"Currently, it's just an idea... this is just the start of the proposal process," said Hindolo Brima, spokesperson for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. "Some people like (the rose garden) the way it is, some other people are looking to the future."

Of proposals and petals

Billed as the McKinley Park Rose Garden Rehabilitation Project, the city, according to materials released at an April 20 community meeting at the Shepard Garden and Art Center to discuss proposed changes, attributes the desire to improve the rose garden to the city Department of Parks and Recreation and the

Sacramento Rose Society, a volunteer organization that aids in the regular maintenance of the garden's rose bushes.

Brima said the Sacramento Rose Society is interested in giving support – both in-kind and financial – and that they would raise money to assist the rehabilitation project. The city has already earmarked \$45,000 to develop a master plan for the project.

According to documents provided by the city, "there has not been a major renovation to the rose garden since the mid-1970s," and "the irrigation system needs to be replaced and made more efficient."

It is due to insufficient irrigation needs that Sacramento Rose Society member Baldo Villegas is interested in renovating the rose garden.

"I would love to see the changes—I think the Sacramento Rose Society has been working with the city for a long time on this... it's a tremendous renovation."

Villegas said that many of the rose bushes need to be removed because they are suffering from "crown gall," a bacteria disease that affects the roots of the bushes and can survive in the soil for more than 10 years. As such, the soil beds would also need to be amended, according to Villegas, a member of the Sacramento Rose Society since 1981 and a former president of the group.

"We need to get rid of (those rose bushes for roses) better adaptive to the Sacramento area," Villegas said, adding that the renovation could

See Roses, page 3

1,000 Words

In this photo submitted by Arden-Carmichael News writer Susan Maxwell Skinner, a mamma duck launches an eager armada of newly-hatched chicks across the pond at McKinley Park.

Here is an assignment to all East Sacramento News readers out there: We want to see your photos, too. Send your digital pictures to ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Show us your favorite picture of East Sacramento, whether it be of a person, place or thing (any noun will do), and we will share it with our readers. Good luck, shutterbugs.



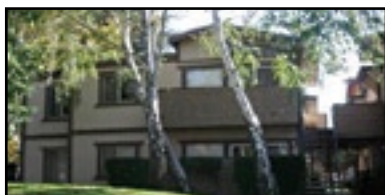
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Roses: '(The city) is looking at all ideas—there has been no ideas that been decided on now...'

Continued from page 2

allow for a rose garden built upon more varieties of roses that are less disease-prone. "We will have fantastic roses that we won't have to spray (with insecticide) so much."

Local historian and Valley Community Newspaper writer Lance Armstrong reports that there are already more than 1,000 varieties of rose bushes, tree roses and blooming annuals at the site (read Armstrong's in-depth historical feature on McKinley Park and the rose garden at www.valcomnews.com).

Brima said that the rehabilitation project would also provide an opportunity to install more plants that are drought resistant. Those ideas, however, are just "part of a wider process," Brima added.

"The first step in the process is to develop a new design or Master Plan Amendment. This includes both 'needed' improvements and additional enhancements to the Rose Garden into the future," according to the "Common Questions and Answers" handouts provided April 20 by the city. "This gives the community an opportunity to be heard about improvements to public facilities and express their ideas to maximize public parks."

Betty Ann Cassina, also a member of the Sacramento Rose Society (since 1982) and also a former president of the group, said the rose garden is in a perilous position and worries that without action, the garden could possibly disappear due to disease and death of the roses.

"(The garden) needs to be updated," she said.

Politics and the process

As would be expected, proposals of changing this venerated East Sacramento site have been met with skepticism and surprise, as there is concern that politics could invade the process, taint the proposals and the rose garden

would lose the unique spirit that has made it so honored by local residents.

For Villegas, his main concern is a new irrigation system.

"We need that (new irrigation system)," he said, adding the he is positive the park's special character will not be lost in the renovation process.

However, others see possibilities the city could use the renovation process to completely remake and redesign the park – the city has sent inquires to a San Francisco landscape designer according to Cassina – and point to proposals for a new wedding pavilion in the rose garden as reason for that belief.

A new facility at the rose garden geared toward nuptial celebrations could provide additional revenue for the city, which is currently facing a strained budget. According to city documents, the rate to rent the rose garden for a private celebration is \$140 for three hours (about \$47 an hour) and a \$100 deposit for the site.

"The money (for the rose garden rehabilitation) needs to go to practical concerns," Cassina said. "We are just looking for a healthy rose garden, which (the current garden) hasn't been in a long time—they (the roses) do not have what they need."

Cassina said that the Sacramento Rose Society was interested in raising money to support the rehabilitation, but that the society is "not going to support foolishness."

As far as changing the look of the garden's design, Cassina said the site's layout has worked for Sacramento since the garden's founding in 1928.

"It shows you how timeless that design is," Cassina said.

Angie Graham, who deeply enjoys the rose garden, is determined to pay close attention to how the proposal process develops, worried that chang-



East Sacramento News Photo/Ryan Rose

Proposals to "rehabilitate" and possibly even redesign the 1.5-acre, 81-year-old McKinley Park Rose Garden, a celebrated amenity of East Sacramento and a popular venue for weddings, are currently under examination by the city.

es done for the sake of change could provide more harm than good.

"It's not always progress to tear down," she said.

Graham and friend Toni Abeyta, who were both walking through McKinley Park April 29 because Graham said she "had to get to the park to see the rose garden," said they were not entirely familiar with the proposals concerning the rehabilitation project, but were nonetheless worried that a redesigned garden could rob Sacramento of a "sanctuary."

"I don't understand the proposals yet, but I would like to," Abeyta said, adding that if the renovation were conducted improperly, it would "take away a major attraction to the East Sacramento area."

Also of concern is a proposal to remove the memorials and remembrance plaques purchased by or for Sacramento residents that are placed beneath rose bushes throughout the garden.

"It's not a cemetery garden," Cassina said. "And that's what those plaques in there looks like."

Cassina said that some of the memorial plaques give incorrect information on the rose bushes in which they share landscape space, as often times the rose bush combined with a memorial is removed and replaced by a rose of another

variety. Cassina said she would be in favor of relocating the memorials.

There are those who disagree with Cassina's desire to see the memorials removed or moved, some of whom remarked at the April 20 meeting that some of the plaques were purchased to remember AIDS victims. Brima said that no decision has yet been made about the memorials.

"Any decisions that are made will include their opinions. It will not just be that we will dictate what will be done about those memorials," he said.

The process continues

After the April 20 meeting, Brima said the city is interested in generating a dialogue with members of the community to incorporate a larger pool of ideas and proposals into the planning process.

"(The city) is looking at all ideas—there has been no ideas that been decided on now," he said.

According to Brima, a press release on the next meetings date and time (which is expected to be in June) will be announced two weeks before the next community forum. The East Sacramento News will publish the date of that meeting in a future edition.

Send us your thoughts on this issue. E-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

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Dermatologist gives former gang members 'fresh slate'

By ELIZABETH KALFSBEEK
East Sacramento News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com



"If youth are operating with impediments – whether it be tattoos, education, speech – they are operating at a disadvantage. I just like to see everyone have a fair chance at life."

– Dr. Emil A. Tanghetti

When making a radical change in life, some need a clean slate; others need clean skin, so to speak.

While tattoos for some can make a statement during adolescence, for others, tattoos represent a link to a past they'd rather forget. Securing employment may be even harder for individuals with obvious tattoos on their hands, neck, arms and other visible places.

Now, former gang members between the ages of 13 and 25 years who want a fresh start at life have the opportunity to remove unwanted tattoos free of charge through the Northern California Regional Tattoo Removal Program in collaboration with East Sacramento dermatologist Emil A. Tanghetti, who serves participants in Sacramento and some surrounding counties.

"Participants view their tattoos as a link to their past... the past when they were get-

ting in trouble and hanging around negative peers," said Sacramento County parole agent and tattoo removal coordinator Richard Ancheta. "Many participants need to have the tattoos removed to be more successful, obtain jobs, attend school or vocational training."

New lease on life

In 1997, Senate Bill 526 (written by Sen. Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles) appropriated funds to the California Youth Authority (now referred to as the Department of Juvenile Justice) for the purchase of medical devices that utilize a laser to remove tattoos for individuals seeking employ-

ment, mostly former gang members.

"In February 1998, after Senate Bill 1700 (Hayden) passed, the groundwork began for the formation of the Northern Regional Tattoo Removal Program to provide free tattoo removal services to people desiring to disassociate themselves from the gang lifestyle and increase their educational and career opportunities," Ancheta said.

The program is accountability based and requires each participant to complete 24 hours of community service and demonstrate participation in one of the following areas: employment, vocational program or school.

"Sometimes people prejudge a person by a tattoo on their arm rather than what comes out of their mouth," Tanghetti said, who has been involved with the program for about 10 years. "Granted, we shouldn't be judging people for having a tattoo, but that's not the way the human condition works."

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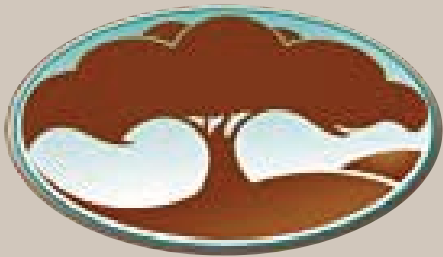
Tanghetti was approached by the CYA and asked if his practice, Dermatology and Laser Surgery, would be interested in participating in the program. Tanghetti has been active ever since and feels it's his form of community service.

"When you give people an opportunity to make a life for themselves without prejudging, it gives them a fair chance to be successful; at least to get their foot in the door, so to speak," Tanghetti said. "We are an egalitarian society and everyone has a chance to make it. That's the whole appeal of our country and culture."

Tanghetti was born and raised in Sacramento and completed his undergraduate studies at UC Davis. He graduated first in his class from the UCLA School of Medicine. Upon finishing an Internal Medicine residency at Stanford University and dermatology at Harvard School of Medicine, he completed a fellowship in photomedicine at the Wellman labs at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

"There's a lot of experimentation that goes along with preadolescents and teenagers. I think that's part of our cul-

See *Tattoo*, page 5



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Tattoo: East Sac Doc helps wayward teens

ture," Tanghetti said. "We see that everywhere, but people do change."

Tanghetti suggests to people thinking of getting a tattoo to be very cautious; he recommends trying to change something that is not permanent first, such as hair, jewelry items, make up or grow a beard. A tattoo, on the other hand, is very difficult to change. It may be cute today, Tanghetti said, but ten years from now, it may not be cute anymore.

"Tattoos are much like a clothing item," Tanghetti said. "They are fixed at a point in time and reflect the feelings at that time. Time changes – and we change – but the tattoo is the same. It may no longer fit our personalities."

Past only skin deep

Laser technology has seen tremendous improvement since the genesis of the tattoo removal program, but even still not all tattoos can be removed. According to Tanghetti, tattoos with color are much more difficult and sometimes impossible to remove with the current technology.

The removal process may require three to ten treatments, each spaced six to eight weeks apart, depending on the size, depth, ink intensity, line width and color of the tattoo. Tattoos using India ink, a single color, dark, carbon-type ink, are often the most easy to remove.

"Removing the tattoo is only one part in the process," Tanghetti said. "What comes next is all in the participant's ball park. It's up to them and their perseverance."

The doctor often doesn't see the most rewarding part of his work: the subsequent success of his patients. Tanghetti has had former patients thank him and express gratitude, but, for the most part, if he doesn't hear from them, he assumes they are getting on with their lives.

"If youth are operating with impediments – whether it be tattoos, education, speech – they are operating at a disadvantage," said Tanghetti. "I just like to see everyone have a fair chance at life."

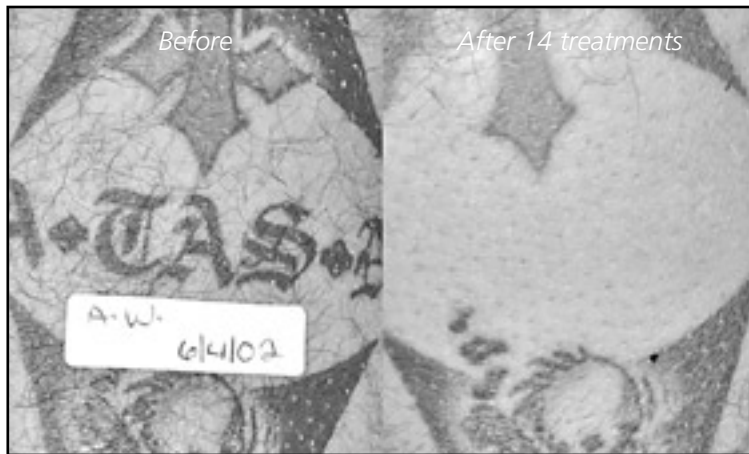


Photo courtesy
Through the Northern California Regional Tattoo Removal Program, reformed gang members can remove the ink of their past from their skin through special laser treatments.

A new slate

First priority for the program is given to probationers and parolees and referrals are accepted from school officials, law enforcement and community-based organizations. The program accepts men and women, aged 13 to 25, though women who are pregnant or nursing are not eligible.

The collaboration between the CYA (Division of Juvenile Justice) and the Sacramento County Probation includes smaller jurisdictions within the Northern California region who might not otherwise be able to support a departmental tattoo removal program.

For more information, call Richard Ancheta at 445-5993.



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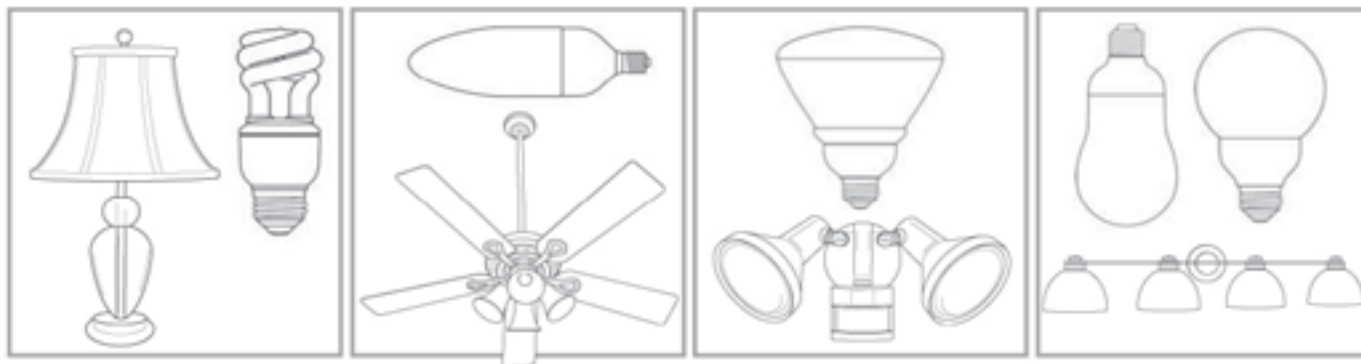
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Do unto others: Church donates needed curb appeal

Restoration Life renews East Sac house with free remodel

By **BENN HODAPP**
 East Sacramento News Writer
 vcnews@valcomnews.com

It's likely that many are probably unaware of Restoration Life Church. It is unlikely that many know where it is or even what it is. But thanks to this church, a Sacramento home was remade at no cost to the homeowner.

The B Street home project marked the third straight year that the church stepped in to remodel a home for a deserving person. The previous homes, in 2007 and 2008, were in the Elmhurst community because of the close proximity to the church's former meeting place. Now the church resides at 19th and X streets and it is Sacramento as a whole that reaps the benefits.

"I was just completely shocked and touched that they would do something like this for me," Allison said.

Tammy Vallejo, one of the original members of the 250-member church, explained the home remodel project's beginning.

"The church was founded right before (Hurricane) Katrina," she said, adding that some members of the church volunteered in the relief effort and upon returning decided that home refurbishing is something that should be done locally as well.

Landscapes in need of love

The first step in the process is the nomination phase. The church hands

out nomination fliers to local neighborhoods. The number of votes as well as need-based criteria, Vallejo explained, decides the winner.

Receiving the most votes this year was a woman named Allison, an education worker who lives on the 5000 block of B Street in East Sacramento. Said Vallejo, "everyone on her street voted for her."

Allison – who chose to remain anonymous for privacy reasons – could not believe the news when she found out.

"I got a voicemail that informed me that I was nominated," Allison said.

"I was just completely shocked and touched that they would do something like this for me."

The budget for the makeover was around \$4,000, according to Vallejo, but the exact projects in store for Allison were a surprise in the days leading up to the event.

Allison said that at first she was too shocked by the news to figure out what she would like to have done, but some members from the church came by and pointed out some of their ideas.

"Some things (were) going to be a surprise," she said.

The biggest problem for Allison has been her inability to keep up with yard work due to her long work hours. Be-

See Remodel, page 7



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East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp

Through the work of volunteers with Restoration Life Church, this East Sacramento home on the 5000 block of B Street was gifted with a new lease on life and greater curb appeal.

Remodel: Homeowner surprised and shocked by church's generosity

fore the project got started, knee-high grass and weeds were a common sight.

Dan Dittman, Allison's neighbor as well as one of the nominators, explained that her backyard had weeds "two or three feet high" and that Allison would have been better served in a condo that didn't require yard maintenance.

Three-day resurrection

The project, which ran April 24-26, saw a massive overhaul done to the exterior of the home in a short period of time for a rel-

atively small price. The improvements included a porch add-on in the front, planting sod in front and back, installation of sprinklers in front and back, a painting of the entire exterior of the house from white to a light green and a cultivated section for plants in both the front and back yards.

Vallejo said that there were about 50 people working on the house during the three-day project, mostly members of the church with different areas of expertise in the matter.

Dittman – who helped by running extension cords, loaning out his front lawn for

a tent where workers could eat lunch and allowing a portable toilet to be parked in his driveway – said that the difference between the house before and after is "night and day."

Dittman joked with Allison as they watched the renovation that if she didn't maintain the new yard that he would lecture her relentlessly. He explained that the neighbor on the other side of Allison will be in on it as well.

Despite the ribbing from Dittman, who is considered by local residents as the father figure for the whole neighborhood, Allison thinks that she will be much more capable of maintaining her "new" home.

"It will be easier to upkeep now," she said. "It used to be just one big mess that overwhelmed me."

A new life, a new house

Two days after the renovations were done, Allison was still amazed at how everything had gone.

"I was in shock since I found out. Only now is it starting to sink in," she said.

Allison said that her favorite addition to her house is her porch add-on, but that she is overwhelmed by the whole experience.

According to Vallejo, fliers will go out next March for the 2010 recipient of the Restoration Life Church makeover project. Donations can be made via check to "Restoration Life ATTN: Makeover Project" and can be sent to 1901 Broadway, Sacramento, Calif., 95818.

For more information on Restoration Life Church, visit www.restlife.net.



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Home tour a success

The McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association, known as MENA, held its East Sacramento Home Tour Sunday, April 26.

This year, MENA presented a special tour featuring "The Homes of 38th Street," a unique walking tour of architectural styles from 1910 to 1929.

MENA is a non-profit neighborhood association registered with the city of Sacramento. Proceeds go to promote neighborhood safety, beautification projects and neighborhood livability. For more information, e-mail MENA at MENA@eastsac.org or visit www.eastsac.org.

- Pictured are:**
- 1 From left, Ann Hamel, Marsha Hartberg, Claudia Bordin and Joe Chavez
 - 2 Rose Bruso, Lily Digiacomo
 - 3 Tom Griffin, Doris James
 - 4 Kathy Tepe, Sue Condeff, Lois Rugani
 - 5 The Tate Family
 - 6 Kurt Campbell, Frank Kolafa
- All photos by Linda Pohl*



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'Little Italy' revisited

Historic East Sacramento neighborhood fondly remembered

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
East Sacramento News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

It may appear as any other classic residential neighborhood in the capital city, but for those who know differently, a particular section of East Sacramento was once dominated with residents with such names as Cottini, Cortopassi, Mori, Dinelli, Gaddi, Gabrielli, Relles, Roberti and Soracco – thus earning it the endearing name of “Little Italy.”

And although this neighborhood, as it was during its heyday, is but a memory and fewer and fewer people are around today to tell its very rich, cultural story, with a bit of searching one can locate those few who hold a special place in their hearts for this unique area and time in local history.

Little Italy, big memories

Among those who most fondly recall the days of old in this historic section of the city, which is roughly located from 48th to 58th streets between H Street and Folsom Boulevard, are Willie DaPrato and his sisters, Delina (DaPrato) Skarles and Gloria (DaPrato) Tomei.

Raised by their parents, Lucca, Italy-area natives Battista and Maria DaPrato (who moved to Little Italy in 1926), Willie, Delina and Gloria passionately remember growing up as Little Italy residents.

All three DaPrato siblings strongly agree that the area they grew up in is extremely different than how it was during their youth.

Although most of the brick and wooden cottages and other houses in the neighborhood remain standing, the area is no longer dominated by those of Italian heritage.

Only one person of Italian descent from the vibrant, glory days of Little Italy, from the 1920s to several years after World War II, still resides on 48th Street, where the DaPratos once lived. That person is Lena (Gaddi) Perrot, who grew up at 1419 48th St. as one of the two children of Andy and Ada Gaddi, who were also natives of the Lucca area.

Delina said that although all of the people from her parents' generation from the neighborhood are deceased and only about 25 former Little Italy residents are living today, her love for Little Italy continues to grow finer, as did the wine that her father made in the basement of her family home at 1217 48th St.

“Little Italy was a great place to grow up,” said Delina, a 1945 Sacramento High School graduate who recently attended her reunion with her husband, Billey, and her childhood best friend, Laverne (Baruffaldi) Britton, who grew up at 1424 48th St. “We may have not had much money, but us kids didn't know much difference because we always had food on our table. We had chickens, rabbits, a complete garden, nut trees and big fruit trees with apples, oranges, persimmons, figs, pomegranates, quince, cherries, lemons, peaches and plums. We never lacked for food, but we also never went to any restaurants. We barely even knew what restaurants were.”

Nonetheless, the aromas coming from the neighborhood's homes around dinnertime were hints that the area had its fair share of restaurant-quality cooking. And naturally, Italian dishes such as chicken cac-

See Little Italy, page 11



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Lifelong friends and former Little Italy residents Laverne (Baruffaldi) Britton (left) and Delina (DaPrato) Skarles stand in front of Laverne's former East Sacramento home at 1424 48th St.



Photo courtesy of Delina (DaPrato) Skarles

Little Italy residents (left to right) Bino, Carlo Mori, Roy Cortopassi, Victor Baruffaldi, Willie DaPrato and Deno Paoli were members of the 48th Street Gang. The “gang” consisted of about 20 neighborhood youth, who often congregated for fun times at the Baruffaldi and DaPrato homes on 48th Street.



Photo Courtesy of Delina (DaPrato) Skarles

The DaPrato family – (left to right) Battista, Gloria, Willie, Maria and Delina – stand on 48th Street in Little Italy in this May 1944 photograph.



Corti Brothers, located at 5810 Folsom Blvd., is a pillar of the Little Italy community. (Photo courtesy)



Photo courtesy of Margaret (Gerbi) Vairo

The Gerbi family, Guido, Inez and their young daughter, Margaret, are shown in this 1928 photograph. Guido and Inez lived in the Lucca area of Italy prior to settling in East Sacramento's Little Italy.



Photo courtesy of Lena (Gaddi) Perrot

Andy and Ada Gaddi were among the earliest residents of Little Italy.

Little Italy: 'Living in Little Italy was some of the best years of my life'

Continued from page 10

ciatore, polenta, Italian meatballs and a variety of homemade pastas, including gnocchi, were common sights on the neighborhood's dinner tables.

Delina added that the Italian children on her street often congregated at the DaPrato and Baruffaldi homes.

"There were about 20 of us and we were known as the 48th Street Gang," said Delina, who still resides in Sacramento. "We would just hang out together and have a lot of fun. We also had a lot of (young) people who didn't live on our street, who visited with us a lot, especially from M Street."

These young Little Italy residents were mostly the children of Italian immigrants who worked at the Southern Pacific rail yard.

Among the core members of the mostly male 48th Street Gang were the DaPrato and Baruffaldi children, Lena, Margaret Gerbi, Julie Cottini, Roy Cortopassi, George Dinelli and Roy and Carlo Mori.

Culture and Community

Since television was not a part of daily activities, neighborhood children would entertain themselves by riding bicycles, flying kites, playing games of marbles, jacks, spin the bottle, kick the can and hide-and-go-seek

and visiting the "gravel pit," where East Portal Park is now located.

Although East Portal Park would later carry on Italian traditions with a variety of Italian gatherings, including its weekly games of bocce, which is most closely related to lawn bowling, Willie said that the oldest children of the neighborhood did not grow up with the park.

In addition to spending many days playing at the gravel pit, where children would ride bicycles, slide down its sides on pieces of metal and catch pollywogs in a pool of water at its base, Willie added that he also remembers a very unique scene at the gravel pit.

"The (neighborhood) scenery was different back then and many of the streets were made of dirt back and there was just a field behind our house," Willie said. "There was a Mr. (Art) Wilson, who kept a plane in his garage (at 1157 48th St.) and (neighborhood children and adults) would push it from there to the edge of the gravel pit and he would take off from there. It's odd to look back on it when looking at the neighborhood today. There was even another Italian man, Jack Baldani, who had a plane and a runway next to his house (at 624 54th St.), north of H Street."

Lena, whose father worked for the city at McKinley Park, said that Little Italy residents also kept entertained by watching movies at the nearby Alhambra Theatre. And with a chuckle, she added that when she grew older she would "dance her legs off" at the Memorial Auditorium and the Trianon Ballroom at 910 K St.

But growing older in Little Italy also meant going to work, Willie said.

"Most of us kids began working by the time we were about 14 years old to support our families," said Willie, who now resides in El Macero. "I started working when I was 14 years old at Louie's Market at 48th and J (streets) and I ended up making a career in the grocery business."

While working at Louie's, Willie met Frank Corti, who along with his brother, Gino, later established Corti Bros. Italian grocery store, which opened at 3195 Folsom Blvd. in 1947 and has operated at its 5810 Folsom Blvd. location since the late summer of 1970. Frank worked with a variety of local grocers as a distributor of Best Foods products.

A new age

Today, Italian presence in the area continues through various residents, Corti Bros. and other longtime East

Sacramento businesses such as Talini's Garden Center and Nursery and the Nicoletti, Culjis and Herberger Funeral Home, which was originally known as the Cippa and Nicoletti Funeral Home.

Willie said that the 48th Street Gang and other children of the neighborhood came a long way in society, considering that the neighborhood kids entered El Dorado Elementary School knowing little to no English.

"But that was a long time ago," said Willie with a tone to his voice that seemed to carry with it an echo that passionately said, "Those were the days." "We came from very hard working families living in the days of the Depression, but we all made the most of it. I enjoyed my time growing up there and I'm definitely proud to be Italian, no bones about it. But my allegiance is here. I fought in World War II, so I am definitely American. So, I guess I can say that I'm very proud to be an Italian American and that living in Little Italy was some of the best years of my life. Those were very special times."

Lance Armstrong is the local history writer for the East Sacramento News. Submit your story ideas to him via e-mail at vcnnews@valcomnews.com, subject headline "Lance."

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Daisy #83796

Breed: Cocker Spaniel Color: Tan
Gender: Female Hair: Medium

Age: 5 years
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Hello Kitty #80732

Breed: DSH Color: White & Black
Gender: Female Hair: Short

Age: 1 year
Hello Kitty loves to say hello. She is the official greeter in the cat colony. She enjoys the company of cats as well as people. Sometimes Kitty displays her shy side but she has also been known to jump on the back of someone who bends over.

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Raven #75192

Breed: Terrier Color: Brindle & white
Gender: Female Hair: Short

Age: 5 months
Raven is a sweetheart who adores people, is friendly with dogs and gets along well with cats. She has lots of energy and enjoys her walks and play time. Raven likes to play with squeaky toys and stuffed animals.

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Franny #81560

Breed: DSH Color: Black/White
Gender: Female Hair: Short

Age: 10 years
Franny is a dignified lady looking for a home. Franny enjoys being brushed and loves being petted and getting check scratches. She is a good conversationalist and will engage you in friendly conversation. She is well mannered so uses a scratching post.

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Opalize #80971

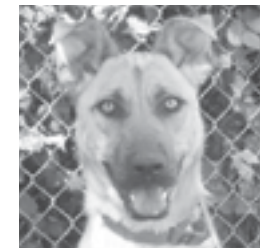
Breed: DSH Color: Calico
Gender: Female Hair: Short

Age: 2 years
Opalize is optimistic that life will be better soon. This sweet and gentle girl deserves it. Opalize came to the shelter with an injured front leg. It was determined the best thing for Opalize was to amputate her leg. Opal loves being around other animals.

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Chloe #64929

Breed: German Shepherd Color: Tan
Gender: Female Hair: Medium

Age: 1 year
Chloe is a sweet girl who loves people. She knows commands like 'sit' and 'down' and is very sensitive to verbal commands -- meaning she would excel in a positive obedience training class. Chloe is outgoing, confident and has lots of energy.

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Jinx #81461

Breed: Norwegian Forest Color: Grey
Gender: Female Hair: Medium

Age: 3 years
Jinx is looking for love and happy to give it. She would love a quiet home with a sunny window. She has beautiful fur and enjoys grooming sessions.

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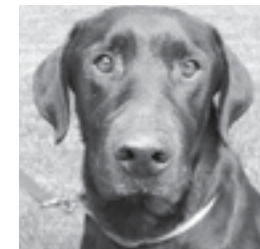
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Torz #84134

Breed: Lab Retriever Color: Black
Gender: Male Hair: Short

Age: 2 years
Torz is very loving and affectionate. He is well-mannered and can 'sit' on command. As loving as Torz is, he should live in a home without cats. Torz is a big boy who enjoys going out for walks or just leaning against his people.

* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

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Max #83293

Breed: Labrador Retriever Color: Tan
Gender: Male Hair: Short
Age: 1 year
Max is young, playful, and full of energy. He enjoys going out for walks or running. It's hard not to smile when watching him with his constant tail-wag and fun-loving personality. Max adores people and enjoys spending time with them.

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Cheddar #83132

Breed: Himalayan Color: Lynx Point
Gender: Male Hair: Long
Age: 5 years
Cheddar's fur is very soft and silky and it feels wonderful. Cheddar loves to be held and to sit on laps so you can run your fingers through his beautiful fur. He is hoping you can throw in some cheek rubs because he really loves those.

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Tricky #81501

Breed: DLH Color: Brown/White
Gender: Male Hair: Long
Age: 1 year
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Nick #84393

Breed: Spaniel Color: Gold/White
Gender: Male Hair: Medium
Age: 1 year
Nick is wonderful with lots of love. He adores people and likes to be pet. Nick enjoys going for walks and exploring the outdoor. Nick is young and active, and will likely enjoy being someone's walking partner

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Star #84231

Breed: Coon Hound Color: Black/Gold
Gender: Female Hair: Short
Age: 1 year
Star is an adorable girl, just look at those ears! She is playful, friendly and full of energy. Star enjoys going out for walks and exploring the SPCA play yards. She can 'sit' on command and seems to respond well to voice.

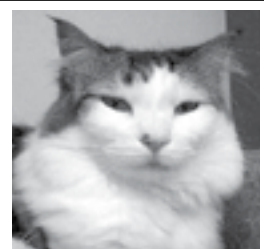
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Zoey #22744

Breed: DMH Color: Brown/White
Gender: Female Hair: Medium
Age: 3 years
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* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

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MAY

Bridal gown, prom dress expo

The Sacramento Discovery Shop presents a Bridal Gown and Prom Dress Expo featuring fabulous, affordable wedding dresses and outfits for mothers-of-the-bride and flower girls. Also featured will be prom dresses and formal. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. The Discovery Shop is located at 2744 Marconi Ave. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 484-0227.

Free Pole Walking Clinics

Sponsored by the nonprofit Cure Arthritis Now, this program will run Saturdays, May 2 and May 16 on Scripps Drive from 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Mondays, May 18 and June 1 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in River Park; and Fridays, May 15 and May 22 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Curtis Park. Pre-registration is required and clinics will be rescheduled if rain is expected. Demo Poles provided free during clinics. Call for details of exact locations at 208-8700.

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ma Community Center, Sacramento, CA 95815. Throughout the month of May, Christa Harmon, a local photographer, will be showing her work in Landscapes and Abstractions of Nature. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Receptions are held Friday and Saturday from 5-7 p.m., excluding the May 10. This is a free event.

African art at Central Library

A special exhibition of traditional African art will be on display, now through Sunday, June 14, at the Central Library, 828 I St., Sacramento. The beauty of African art is simply an element of its function. Objects of daily use, such as bowls, containers, baskets and boxes, are also aesthetically pleasing, being carefully made and often beautifully decorated. For more information, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

MAY 7-10

SPCA holds spring adoptathon

Looking for that special someone? Don't miss the Sacramento SPCAs Spring Adoptathon event from Thursday, May 7,

through Sunday, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sacramento SPCA Adoption Center at 6201 Florin Perkins Rd. in Sacramento. All animal adoption fees will be reduced by half during the event. Dogs \$50; cats \$42.50; small animals from \$5-\$15. Adoption fees include spay/neuter surgery (for dogs, cats and rabbits), microchip, vaccinations and more for dogs and cats. For more information, visit www.sspca.org or call 383-7387, extension 9156.

MAY 7

Dementia Training

A special learning event on dementia will be offered by Primrose Living Fund from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at ACC Park City, 7375 Park City Dr. This event will focus on answering what is dementia. Please RSVP with ACC Park City at (916) 393-9026 ext. 222.

MAY 8

Free coaching clinic

Football University will host a free coaching clinic on Friday from 7-8:30 p.m. at Inderkum High School, 2500 New Market Dr. FBU's staff of former NFL players and coaches will be on hand to conduct a coach-

es technique clinic. A breakout session by position will follow. Participants are invited to return to view the Saturday and Sunday camper-only sessions beginning at 9 am to get an up-close look at the most technical football camp in the country. For a complete list of instructors in attendance, visit www.footballuniversity.org.

Free Concert

Celebrated pianist Tanya Vegvary Plescia will be playing on Friday at 1:30 p.m. at CSUS Capistrano Hall (the music building). This is a free concert for the Renaissance Society/CSUS end of the season gala concert. Please be sure to follow the parking instructions on campus – a daily pass is needed.

MAY 9

Canine Craze Fun Dog Show

Carmichael Parks and Recreation District's 11th annual Canine Craze Fun Dog Show, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave. Free. A dog show for everyone and every dog, with free hot dog barbecue. Information at 485-5322.

See more Calendar, page 15

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MAY 9

Mother's Day Family Food Drive

Come help honor your mother by helping other moms this May. Join the Robinson's Taekwondo Family in honoring Mother. Bring four cans of your favorite vegetables to any Robinson's Taekwondo location throughout the Sacramento region and we'll give you free Cardio-kickboxing or TKD lessons for your whole family! With 18 area locations, Robinson's is the first family name in Sacramento martial arts, so visit www.robinsonskd.com to find a location near you. Drop off your canned food donation any time in May. We'll see it goes to families in need in the Sacramento region. Join the Robinson's family for a special Open House, Saturday, May 9, 1-4 p.m. to celebrate Mother's Day weekend. Have fun, win prizes, free classes, see extraordinary Taekwondo and Cardio-Kickboxing demonstrations and receive special gifts for mom. For more information, call 704-0080.

Feats of glass

Glass Artist Phil Teefy and Photographer Rudy Calpo will be featured in May at Fe Gallery, along with Metal Artist Stephen Lyman and Fused Glass Artist Sheena Wolfe. An artist reception will be held Saturday May 9 from 6-9pm. There will be an art demonstration on mask mold making at 7:30 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th St. (north of Folsom Blvd., corner of 65th and Elvas), East Sacramento. For more information about the artists and gallery go to www.FeGallery.com or call 456-4455. Fe Gallery hours are currently from 8:30a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon.

Mother Nature Celebration

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with an event that is fun for the whole family. Take a guided hike along the beautiful American River. This event will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Effie Yeaw Nature Center located inside Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, off Tarshes Drive, in Carmichael. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children under 3.

Sac Opera Presents Free Event

Sacramento Opera presents a free live performance of French and Russian repertoire during Second Saturday from 5 to 7 pm, at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, 1301 L Street, Sacramento, 95814. Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra members will perform musical selections by Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, Debussy and more. Guests may enter through the Sacramento Community Center Theater backstage door and experience the performance on the theater's stage. For more information, call the Sacramento Opera at 737-1000 or visit www.sacopera.org.

MAY 10

Breast cancer walk

Join the fight against breast cancer in the fourth annual Walk to Empower, 9 a.m. at Southside Park. The three-mile, non-competitive walk is expected to draw more than 1,600 people and raise more than \$200,000 for Breast Cancer Network of Strength, which provides emotional relief for breast cancer patients and their families. For information and registration, visit <http://walk.networkofstrength.org> or call 1-877-963-7223 x 2739.

MAY 13

Understanding memory loss

In a special two-part learning series sponsored by Sunrise Assisted Living, part 1 kicks-off with an event on understanding the types and stages of dementia. The seminar will be held at the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave. from 5-6:30 p.m. Part 2 of the learning series is June 3.

MAY 14

Eskaton's annual gala

A night of "Old Hollywood Glamour," with live music, a casino, fine wines, dinner, live auction and raffle benefits Eskaton's community programs, including The Senior Connection, TLC Telephone Reassurance Program, adult day health and affordable housing, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Arden Hills Resort Club and Spa. Tickets, \$125, \$100 for ages 70-plus. Information from Suzanne Strassburg, 334-0810.

Backstage tour of Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town invites you and your family for a Springtime Tour of the park - and a peek into their backstage areas - as they pull together exciting activities for their 50th anniversary year. Join us for appetizers, a glass of wine and a tour around the park to see our recent renovations and hear about our future plans! The event is from 5:30-7 p.m. at Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Dr. RSVP at rsvp@fairytaletown.org or 808.8886.

Arts commission lecture

Northern California Arts, Inc. invite you to attend a meeting with Rhyena Halpern, Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission Lecture "You, the artist, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission at 7 p.m. at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael, 971-3613 or 966-8910. Guests are always welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Dementia Training

A special learning event on dementia will be offered by Primrose Living Fund from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at ACC Park City, 7375 Park City Dr. This event will focus on behaviors

associated with dementia. Please RSVP with ACC Park City at (916) 393-9026 ext. 222.

MAY 16

Spring Park Carnival

Come celebrate spring at the Spring Park Carnival, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hamilton Street Park. Food, music, arts and crafts, vendors, carnival games, prizes and giveaways for families and people of all ages. For information, call 482-8377 or visit www.ardecadecreekrecreation.com.

JFK Boosters Car Wash

Please bring your car in for a spring cleaning on Saturday, May 16 at Caroline Wenzel Elementary School, 6870 Greenhaven Dr., to support the Kennedy High School Marching Band, voted "Best of Sacramento-2009." \$5.00 any vehicle, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Literary Arts Festival

Multicultural Children's Literary Arts Festival, 11:00 a.m., to 2 p.m., Fremont Park, downtown Sacramento, between Q and P streets at both 15th and 16th streets. Introducing the literary arts through interactive activities, performances, and exhibits. Supporting organizations include CADA, the Friends of Fremont Park, and the Sacramento Poetry Center (celebrating the center's 30th anniversary). For more information, call 606-4303 or go to www.mccaf.net or www.fremontpark.net.

College admissions - a new world

An opportunity for high school students and their families to get the most up-to-date information about applying to college with information about the UC and California State University systems and private colleges. This workshop will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Executive Airport's

conference room, 6151 Freeport Blvd. Cost is \$20 per person or \$25 per family and includes resources, refreshments and parking. Contact Marilyn van Löben Sels at 601-6909 or email marilyn@college-gps.com.

A Classical Ensemble

"A Classical Ensemble" performance is Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Sheldon High School Performing Arts Center, 8333 Kingsbridge Drive. General admission seating tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, students with ID, Military with ID, and seniors. Purchased tickets at www.capitolballet.com, or by phone at 484-1188 or at the box office one hour prior to event.

MAY 16-17

Cactus and Succulent Show

The Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society is presenting their 33rd annual Cactus and Succulent Show at the Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., in Carmichael. Admission is free and there will be free plants to the first 100 guests each day. There will be beautiful displays of cacti and succulents, plants, pottery, books, a raffle and refreshments. The event is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

MAY 17

Spring Musical Potpourri

Vocal and instrumental pieces celebrate springtime, love and friendship. Held Sunday at 7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd. Tickets are \$10, children enter free. Refreshments available. Information: UUSS Music Director May Tucker at 213-6027 or may@uuss.org.

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East Sacramento garden tour blooms with charm

By MIRANDA MENESTRINA
East Sacramento News Writer
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The streets of East Sacramento are sure to be crawling with wide-eyed visitors and garden enthusiasts this Mother's Day weekend, as hundreds are expected to turn up for the 11th Annual East Sac Garden Tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10.

Doubling as a fundraiser for East Sacramento's David Lubin Elementary School, the seven-garden tour includes a boutique at the school, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a delicious buffet luncheon from

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sutter Lawn Tennis Club, catered by Gönül's J Street Café.

In what has become a Mother's Day tradition, the East Sac Garden Tour will burst with charm, inspire visitors and amaze the guests who stroll through the tree-lined streets to look at some of the most beautifully landscaped gardens in the neighborhood.

"The attractive thing is that you can park your car and walk the whole thing. It's different from other garden tours, and that's a real plus," said Bea Little, cofounder of the event. "It's just a pleasant, very relaxing weekend."

Planting seeds

After hearing how Sacred Heart Parish School raised a generous amount of money at their annual Holiday Home Tour, Little, a former second-grade teacher at David Lubin, and her coworker, kindergarten teacher Marylou Colombo, were inspired to do something on the same scale to raise money for their school.

"We wanted to bring things to the school that the children couldn't get due to funding reasons," Little said. "We both lived in the neighborhood and knew parents, so we put our heads together and decided that a garden tour was a good idea."

Planning for the tour to be an annual event, organizers chose Mother's Day weekend so that it would always be expected. Then, they worked hard to prepare and advertise for the first event, and finally, they hoped for the best.

"We figured if we made \$500 it would be worth it," Little remembered thinking. "But we ended up grossing about \$20,000."

Today, the garden tour has blossomed into the biggest fundraiser at the school, bringing in more than \$50,000 last year.

Reaping what they sow

The garden tour is still organized by the dedicated teach-



East Sacramento News Photo/ Miranda Menestrina
The brick patio and cozy fireplace in Amy Schnetz's backyard came to be with the help of a professional landscape designer.

ers at David Lubin, and is now a yearlong planning event.

"It's a lot of work that's above and beyond (the teachers') normal workload," said

Principal Lynn Soto. "But it's all worth it because it creates a community on our campus and we get to reap the benefits all the next year."

Every penny raised at the fundraiser goes directly to the school. Whether it's to pay for the school's resident artist, help pay for the cost of the numerous after school academies, provide scholarships, supply transportation for the students in the school's large attendance area, or maintain the Growing Garden – which students use in the cooking enrichment program – it's evident that all the money raised is used effectively.

Taking root

Every year the tour includes different homes than those visited in years past, and each garden is embellished with tables, chairs and arrangements provided by local businesses.

This year, Amy Schnetz, who has a 5-year-old son at David Lubin, is thrilled to be a part of the annual tradition. With the help and professional ideas of Roberta Walker

See Garden Tour, page 19

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Garden tour: Event is May 9-10

Continued from page 18

Landscape Design, the backyard of Schnetz's Craftsman-style home was turned into a mini treasure that includes a fireplace and brick patio.

"When we had it done, I said to my husband, 'Hey, maybe we could be a part of the garden tour now,'" Amy remembered. "So when the school said they needed one more home, I happily volunteered my own."

And while some gardens on the tour have the touch of a professional designer, others are the result of years of patience and nourishment by the homeowners themselves. Such is the case with Jon and Janis Kaemtfer.

Purchasing their bungalow-style home more than a de-

cade ago, the two have created a backyard oasis that blooms to life every spring and offers cooling solitude in the warm summers.

"It's taken years and years, but over the years we've made this garden," Janis said. "A lot of it has just evolved. I simply enjoy trying new plants and new things."

Although Janis says it's a lot of work to get her home and garden ready for the tour, she's excited to be a part of it.

"I've walked these tours in the past and I love them," she said. "Every garden's different. There are huge gardens with pools and small intimate ones, and it's all very interesting."



East Sacramento News Photo/Ryan Rose

The bungalow-style home of Jon and Janis Kaemtfer is one of seven homes on the East Sac Garden Tour this year.

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CONTINGENT

HEART OF EAST SAC

East Sacramento location! Hardwood floors, deep backyard, 2 car garage, fireplace in living room, dual pane windows, and gated driveway. Ideal home for first time home buyer or investment opportunity. This is a short sale. See www.50042ndSt.view24hours.com \$335,000

KARA LABELLA PARKER 716-3313
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Updated Tudor-style home. Single story, 3Bd/2Ba on private tree-lined street. Lot has mature shrubs and floral beds. Formal LR & DR. Dining room overlooks back yard and gardens and features French doors to patio area. Separate, private master suite. Electric gate to driveway. Smartly updated with wood floors, 5 yr old counter tops. See www.273712thStreet.2cmhome.com \$629,000

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DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495
KARA LABELLA PARKER 716-3313



STUNNING CRAFTSMAN

Stunning 24' entry, with open floor plan. Wide plank cherry floors, huge kitchen/great room combo w/ fireplace, home theater & surround sound. Granite counters and comm'l-grade appliances. Separate laundry room with laundry chute. Spectacular master suite with 3 closets, granite, custom cabinet sinks, spacious shower & tub. High ceilings throughout with lots of light. Oversized 3 car garage w/ lots storage. RV or boat storage. See www.gstreethome.com \$1,195,000

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



UNIQUE PROPERTY

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ROZ LEVY WEINTRAB 952-6602

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Easy living on the American River. **PENDING** 3BD/1.5BA levee home. Enjoy spacious living areas, including living room with fireplace, formal dining area & breakfast nook. Bathroom completely re-mastered with new tile shower & tub, as well as granite vanity with tile backsplash & new fixtures. Updated kitchen. See www.3951ModdisonAve.com \$399,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288

EAST SAC BUNGALOW

Fantastic 3 bedroom 2 bath located in the **PENDING** Forties. This home includes a phenomenal wraparound porch, spacious floor plan, vintage fireplace and a large dining room with built in hutch and beautiful hardwood floors. Lots of windows provide a light and airy interior. Simply a turnkey property ready for your enjoyment in one of the best neighborhood locations Sacramento has to offer. See www.1133-42ndSt.com \$865,000

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TUDOR

This Tudor has great curb appeal and potential on the interior. There's a formal dining room, breakfast nook off the kitchen and fireplace in the living room. Hardwood floors. Central heat. New roof in '97. Partial basement. Large detached garage. Two blocks to light rail station. **PENDING** See www.17364stst.isnowforsale.com \$300,000

MATT PETERS 541-4663

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Fantastic two bedroom one bath located in the **PENDING** of East Sacramento. This meticulously maintained home includes CH&A, dual pane windows, vintage hardwood floors and a spacious floor plan. Walking distance to restaurants and coffee shops. All of this on a very large lot with a greenhouse. See www.847-56thSt.com \$329,000

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Windermere

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