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Candidates become known as school board's search intensifies

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Real Estate Quarterly

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# American Spirit

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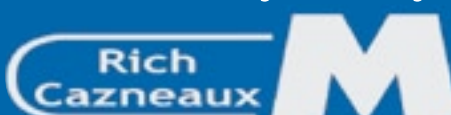
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# Stories from 'The Pit'



By **MARTY RELLES**  
East Sacramento News Columnist  
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

*Editor's Note: In the last edition of "Janey Way Memories," Marty Relles discussed "the pit," a remnant of an abandoned sand and gravel plant needing backfill to restore it for residential use. Today, St. Francis High School sits where the pit once was; back then, the pit was the playground of the rambunctious youth that lived on Janey Way.*

My first memory of the pit dates back to 1950. I was 3 years old at the time. My parents had come to visit the Ross Relles family, who lived on Janey Way then. Their boys, Ross Jr., Tom and Jim, took me out the back of the house to see the pit (the vacant sand and gravel site adjacent to the houses on the east side of Janey Way). Unfortunately, I took a spill into a hole. When the boys pulled me out, I was covered with dirt, sand and blood. They walked me back to the house, much to the dismay of my shocked parents, who took me home straight away where a good bath soothed my wounds.

The next time I saw the pit came in 1952. My family moved to Janey Way that year. My new next-door neighbor called himself Butch. He was a throwback, and actually looked something like the character "Butch" from "The Little Rascals." Butch took me out to the pit. He said, "This is where we come to play." And then he issued a warning: Watch out for Ole Man Charlie, the man hired to watch over the pit.

"If he gets you, he'll take you back to his shack and you will never get out," he said.

That story seemed plausible to a 5-year-old boy. Thereafter, I kept my distance from Ole Man Charlie, that is, until I was a teenager. A little older and a little more courageous, a couple of us decided to sneak up to Charlie's shack just to see what it looked like close-up. We crept and belly-crawled up to within a few yards of his gate. His house was old and rickety. The outside was cluttered with junk, kind of like the basement at my grandma's house. It seemed very quiet in there. Charlie must have been sleeping. We eventually got bored and ran back to the block.

### A unique event

My most exciting memory of the pit came in the early 1960s. It was springtime and Jim Costamagna, one of the neighborhood kids, and I had built a fort out of broken pieces of concrete. It stood 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and about 4 feet high. We placed a piece of sheet metal over one end to cover it. The weather was blustery. A storm approached. Jim and I heated beans for lunch over a can of sterno, when something caught our eye. A black funnel cloud edged down from the sky above River Park. Holy Cow! That looks like a tornado, I told Jim. We watched it closely, and sure enough, it appeared to touch ground. Needless to say, we high-tailed it home. Later that night, on the news, our suspicions were confirmed. A tornado had indeed struck River Park. Fences were blown down; glass windows were broken, but no one suffered injury. I can't remember hearing of another tornado in Sacramento history.

There are many other stories about the pit. My friends from Janey Way will enlighten me and in future columns you will get to hear them all.

Faces and places

# Fun on the Fourth

One of the most time-honored traditions in East Sacramento, the 41st Street Fourth of July Parade once again drew hundreds of people to the Fabulous Forties neighborhood in celebration of our nation's founding. The event, now 70 years old, began as a simple neighborhood parade of local children and has since expanded into one of the largest locally hosted parade events in Sacramento.

Photos by Kati Garner. For more Fourth of July photos, visit [www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com). Cover photo by Ryan Rose.

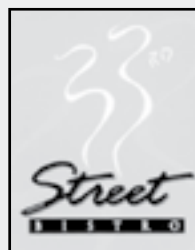


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As of press time, North Carolina candidate rumored to be favorite

# Trustees are still looking for the right superintendent for the job

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

Susan Miller, who has held the superintendent's position on an interim basis since former Superintendent M. Magdalena Carrillo Mejia left a year ago, has extended her July 1 resignation until the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Trustees officially announces a new superintendent has been hired.

As of July 13, SCUSD administrators said, "a candidate has not been named, yet, or a confirmed offered."

As of press time July 14, no candidate had taken the position. Of the potential candidates rumored for the position is Jonathan Raymond (see sidebar), currently the chief accountability officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina. News reports point to Raymond as being favored for the role.

"Right now there is no firm timeline but we hope to have someone in the office before the start of school on Sept. 8," said Maria L. Lopez, spokeswoman for the school district.

Since May, Ray and Associates, Inc., the firm hired by the trustees to identify superintendent candidates, have reviewed nearly 50 possible replacements for Miller. From the trustees' request, the firm fielded applicants that have a background in business and finance and an "individual with visionary leadership and strong administrative skills to lead a district of 48,000 students."

"Several board members agree with me that the candidate needs

to know how to put together business plans, who understands 21st century leadership, the business sector, strategic planning, marketing, and working well with governmental agencies," explained Roy Grimes, president of the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Trustees and the Pocket area representative on the board.

A lot of the requirements for the new superintendent position came from public comment. It was the trustees' decision to have an open search. According to Grimes, the process has not led with an approval from everyone in the community, but he added there are a lot of checks and balances in the process.

"We have to respond to a community's need. This is a business, and like a business, we have customers and we need to please those customers if we want to stay in business. In the past, it has not been open to the community and the dialog has not been as flowing as it could have been. This board really wants to see more of that."

Like many school districts across the state, the new superintendent will face budget issues, possibly more school closures, layoffs, and achievement gap between minority students.

"We do have a gap in ethnic diversity in our school district, it obviously does not match up," said Grimes. "Community of interest want to see diversity reflected in leadership of the district and that is something the board and the new superintendent will have to look at and deal with."

Salary for the successful candidate will be in the range of \$260,000, plus an excellent comprehensive benefits package.



## Miller's goodbye

Sacramento City Unified interim Superintendent Susan Miller posted a "heartfelt thank you" to community members online at her Superintendent's Message board. She thanked everyone for their support while she served the Sacramento City Unified School District as its interim superintendent for the past year.

"During these past several months I have come to an even deeper appreciation for the diversity of our district, the engagement of our parents and community, and the dedication, commitment, and talent of all employees," she wrote.

As a 25-year employee and former Sacramento City Unified student, Miller added that despite the cuts and the stress in the districts schools and communities, the district continues to find ways to move forward. She said that when she was named interim superintendent she listed three areas of focus: student achievement, fiscal solvency, and relationships.

"I also stated I did not wish to be a 'caretaker' superintendent; my goal was to keep the district moving forward during a time of transition," wrote Miller.

School Board President Roy Grimes said Miller did not apply for a permanent position as superintendent for the district.

"She did a good job at holding the ship together as interim superintendent, but we need to move forward to

the future now," said Grimes. "Anything else would be a personnel issue."

Miller plans to return to her previous position as associate superintendent when a new supervisor is hired and will "continue to be a home grown cheerleader for our students, families, and communities."



## Meet Jonathan Raymond

According to Jonathan P. Raymond's bio posted by the Board

Superintendents Academy, he has a legal background combined with knowledge of business and non-profit organizations. He has worked with CMS since November 2006 at which time he helped develop that district's 'Data Dashboard,' a Web site that informs parents and other community residents about how schools are progressing and allows people to compare schools.

Raymond earned a law degree from George Mason School in 1991, and a master's degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University. He also completed Harvard Business School's Executive Management Program.

Raymond said his purist to work in education came from working with a non-profit corporation in Boston that focused on helping at-risk children.

If Raymond is selected for the superintendent position, he will move his wife and two children to Sacramento.

-Elizabeth Valente



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# The Real Estate Quarterly

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A Special Publication of Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

## Top five tips for buying a home in the Sacramento area

Special to the East Sacramento News

(NAPSI) - Purchasing a home can be the most important financial decision a person makes. That's why it is important to understand the process of buying a home and to evaluate your budget and credit score.

Here are some tips to help you navigate the home-buying process:

### 1. Save for your down payment.

Zero down payment mortgages are rarely available, so it's important that you save ahead of time. The more money you put down on the house, the lower your mortgage payment will be. And if you make a down payment of at least 20 percent of the home's worth, you can avoid having to pay Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI). PMI is an additional cost built into your mortgage that protects the mortgage lender in the event of a default. There are a variety of programs that can assist first-time homebuyers or low- to moderate-income families. Check with the Federal Housing Administration or the state's housing authorities for more information.

### 2. Shop for a mortgage before you shop for a home.

Most real estate professionals recommend that you obtain a credit pre-approval before you begin looking for a

home. Getting preapproved generally means you receive a loan commitment from your mortgage company before you have found a home, based on a review of your credit and finances. Credit requirements are more stringent than they've been in years past, so you should review your credit report, find out what your credit score is and immediately contact the credit reporting bureaus to correct any errors. You will want your credit report to be accurate and your credit score to be as high as possible.

Having your credit application preapproved shows sellers that you're a qualified buyer and helps you establish a realistic price range. You can access an online tutorial on credit from the GMAC Financial Services' financial literacy program, SmartEdge, that can help you understand how credit affects your loan options, what affects your credit score and how to get on the right track.

### 3. Become familiar with all mortgage-related terms.

The SmartEdge Web site also offers a real estate and home-financing glossary, which defines important homebuying terms such as Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and escrow. Knowing certain terminology can help you better understand and converse with a real estate agent or a loan officer.



Photo courtesy

### 4. Ask for a comparative market analysis (CMA) before you make a purchase offer.

The best way to avoid offering too much for a home is to ask for a written CMA, which your real estate professional should be able to provide. This will show recent sales prices of comparable neighborhood homes and the asking price of nearby homes. The CMA can be shown to the seller when you make your offer. This may justify your purchase offer and show the seller why your offer is reasonable.

### 5. Decide what conditions (also known as contingencies) you want to place on buying the house.

Your purchase may be made contingent on obtaining financing, a building inspector's satisfactory report or selling your present home. Real estate contracts today already include many of these standard contingencies.

Owning your own home can be easier to accomplish if you heed a few hints.



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# The Real Estate Quarterly

## Today's economic realities: Preparing for the unknown

By JOHN WOODALL  
The Real Estate Quarterly  
Special to The East Sacramento News

Imagine driving along an unfamiliar cliff road that has no guardrail, in a dense fog. A wrong turn could spell disaster. That's today's real estate market. But there are some things you can do during this difficult economic reality. You can educate yourself about this new realty world and adjust your mindset. Here are some practical suggestions for buyers and sellers – a mental framework if you will – that could be the guardrail for your journey through the mist.

### Buyers and Sellers

Whether a buyer or seller, you can start by learning the differences between bank-owned listings (REOs), "short sales" and traditional owner sellers. Get good advice. Work with a seasoned Realtor who can show you how the shifting supply of REO vs. non-REO properties will affect your plans.

Today's Realtor should be able to show you overall market conditions for your area and price range; and show you how things have changed in the last six to eight years and the past few months.

You especially need to be aware of what I call "micro-market" dynamics. The impact of a poor economy and home foreclosures is not uniform across the region. You'll find availability, values and demand being quite different from one neighborhood to another and even the pace of change can vary—hence micro-markets. You need to know what is happening in your neighborhood now.

### Sellers

Sellers should educate themselves about what is happening with the real estate market where they live. Go beyond sales comparisons by gaining an historical perspective; find out whether values have held up or declined, and differentiate between your neighborhood's distressed and non-distressed properties in good times and bad. Find out, too, if you are competing with ROs. Banks typically value their listings 15 percent to 20 percent below the local market, dragging down the value you of your home.

### Selling within 3 months?

For an owner choosing to sell in the near future, they need to learn about market trends, standing inventory, months of inventory and sales trends.



Photo courtesy  
Make sure you select a responsive Realtor and mortgage broker who work well together and are familiar with today's fluid market and on top of the constantly changing lending guidelines.

Currently, price is king. Sellers need to be realistic, understand that buyers are in the driver's seat and price their property to be the next sale. An experienced agent can help get them the best deal available but will not be able to get a price that buyers are unwilling to pay.

If the seller has little choice but to sell (difficulty keeping up with the mortgage payments, for example), it's more important to elect the appropriate agent than learn about current market conditions. Select a Realtor who can suggest financial options to explore and is experienced at selling homes under trying/difficult conditions; this requires knowledge of what lenders expect and the tenacity and patience to see it through.

### Selling a year from now?

Begin now to educate yourselves about market dynamics. Seek out information about neighborhood trends and don't be afraid to ask a Realtor to help you set up an Internet search that will give you real time information. The goal should be to put yourself in a position to pick the optimum point at which you can get good value for your home that meets your selling objective (such as downsizing).

### Buyers

Buyers need to consider which part of the market segment they will be in-

involved in. Price, neighborhood or function (more bedrooms for example)? Buyer's need to educate themselves about current market conditions in the market segment that affects them.

Your agent should also help you get qualified with a mortgage lender and even an insurance broker because your personal credit history and claims history can make a big difference in your mortgage rates and insurance premiums

### Buying in the next few months?

With a short time frame in which to buy, it is critical for buyers to be well-prepared and financially prequalified before making an offer. Make sure you select a responsive Realtor and mortgage broker who work well together and are familiar with today's fluid market and on top of the constantly changing lending guidelines.

Due to your time frame, you should avoid short sales because they are usually taking three to six months to conclude – typically taking 2-plus months just to find out if you are the buyer chosen by the bank. If you're buying an REO, be prepared to move very quickly to make an offer once you find the one that's right for you. This is especially true below the \$200,000 price mark where we are seeing multiple buyers going after the same home. A day's indecision or not being pre-approved can cause you to lose out.

### Buying a year from now?

Well over 80 percent of buyers today spend three to six months "window shopping online" before actually entering the market place. Work with an agent who can provide you with access to the online market place and is available to help you when you need it. Use the time you have to educate yourself about terminology and marketplace trends. And keep in mind that what is true today may not be true a year (or even a few months) from now.

While you familiarize yourself with the market and your choices, this is also a good time to improve your credit rating if possible and aggressively save money so you will be in stronger position when you are ready to buy.

A well-prepared and well-informed buyer cannot control the market place, but can place himself or herself in a position to better pick the optimum point at which they get into the market for a home that meets their objective.

*John Woodall, GRI, SRES is a Broker Associate with LYON REAL ESTATE. He's earned a GRI designation (for advanced real estate education) and is also a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, (SRES). John helps clients with Short Sales, handles REO's and is equally skilled at helping sellers or buyers of homes and investment properties. For more information, please contact John at 916.421.5421 or log on to John@ at www.john.golygon.com*



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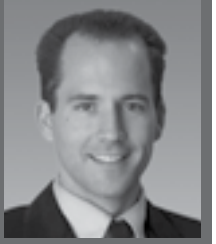
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# The Real Estate Quarterly

East Sacramento Residential Real Estate Transactions • Second Quarter • Apr.–Jun. 2009

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<b>95816</b>				<b>95819</b>				1333 56TH ST	3 1	20090630	399,000
517 23RD ST	3 1	20090611	\$330,000	129 40TH ST	2 1	20090420	\$250,000	1216 58TH ST	2 1	20090407	332,500
1900 23RD ST	4 3.5	20090520	308,000	600 41ST ST	3 2.5	20090612	778,000	4641 B ST	2 1	20090619	379,000
415 26TH ST	3 2	20090615	270,000	872 41ST ST	4 2	20090609	80,000	4513 C ST	3 1	20090629	379,000
1420 26TH ST	2 1	20090626	254,575	1736 41ST ST	2 1	20090527	315,000	5328 CALEB AVE	3 2	20090618	280,278
1621 28TH ST	2 1	20090611	180,500	509 42ND ST	2 1	20090610	316,500	5860 CALLISTER AVE	2 1.5	20090507	320,000
341 32ND ST	2 1	20090612	384,000	1133 42ND ST	3 1	20090513	800,000	158 COLOMA WAY	2 1	20090618	330,212
1241 33RD ST	2 2	20090430	470,000	1339 42ND ST	6 2	20090626	745,000	1909 DISCOVERY WAY	2 1	20090508	295,000
1401 33RD ST	2 1	20090619	307,857	1516 42ND ST	3 2	20090424	530,000	763 EL DORADO WAY	3 1	20090522	599,000
421 34TH ST	2 2	20090522	509,000	86 43RD ST	3 1	20090424	300,000	3551 ELVAS AVE	2 1	20090626	225,250
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3235 SERRA WAY	2 1	20090527	300,000	932 52ND ST	3 2.5	20090518	245,799	140 SAN ANTONIO WAY	2 1	20090609	421,000
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## Renting vs. buying: Information and education are key

(NAPSI) – Deciding whether to rent or buy a home is one of the most important financial decisions many families make. Fortunately, the more information you have, the easier that choice might be.

For instance, a little homework could reveal that thanks to declining interest rates and more attractive pricing, you might be able to afford a new home for about what you currently pay in rent. But analysts say home values and monthly expenses are only part of what should be considered when deciding to rent or buy.

Real estate experts at Century 21 Real Estate offer this information to help you make a choice:

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Pros of renting include flexibility, no upkeep costs and the abil-

ity to invest the money you might have spent on a down payment elsewhere. Cons include rent increases and the fact that you build no equity in the property. Pros of homebuying include tax breaks, the chance to build equity in a home and the satisfaction of owning your own house. The government also offers incentives for first-time homebuyers. Cons include the costs of property and school taxes, upkeep, and mortgage payments, not to mention less flexibility to move.

### Knowing your budget

It's also important to analyze what you can afford to pay before choosing to rent or buy. Factors affecting affordability include:

- Gross income;

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- Your debt and credit history;

- The type of mortgage you select and current interest rates.

Another figure that lenders use to evaluate how much you can afford is the housing expense-to-income ratio. It is determined by calculating your projected monthly housing expense, which consists of the principal and interest payment on your new home loan, property taxes and hazard insurance (also known as PITI).

### Finding qualified advice

If you plan to buy a home, it's important to work with a qualified Realtor. Between explaining home

loan options, the closing process and the new government stimulus, hiring a qualified real estate professional is more important than ever to help you navigate the complexities of a home sale transaction.

According to the recently released Century 21 Real Estate LLC First-Time Homebuyers Survey, homebuyers who have a stable job history of at least two years, solid credit and down payment money that can be documented are "well positioned" to secure a mortgage in today's credit environment.

If you are likely to buy a home, you can find tips – including a "Buying 101" section and articles on how to make an offer and choose a real estate agent – at [www.century21.com](http://www.century21.com).

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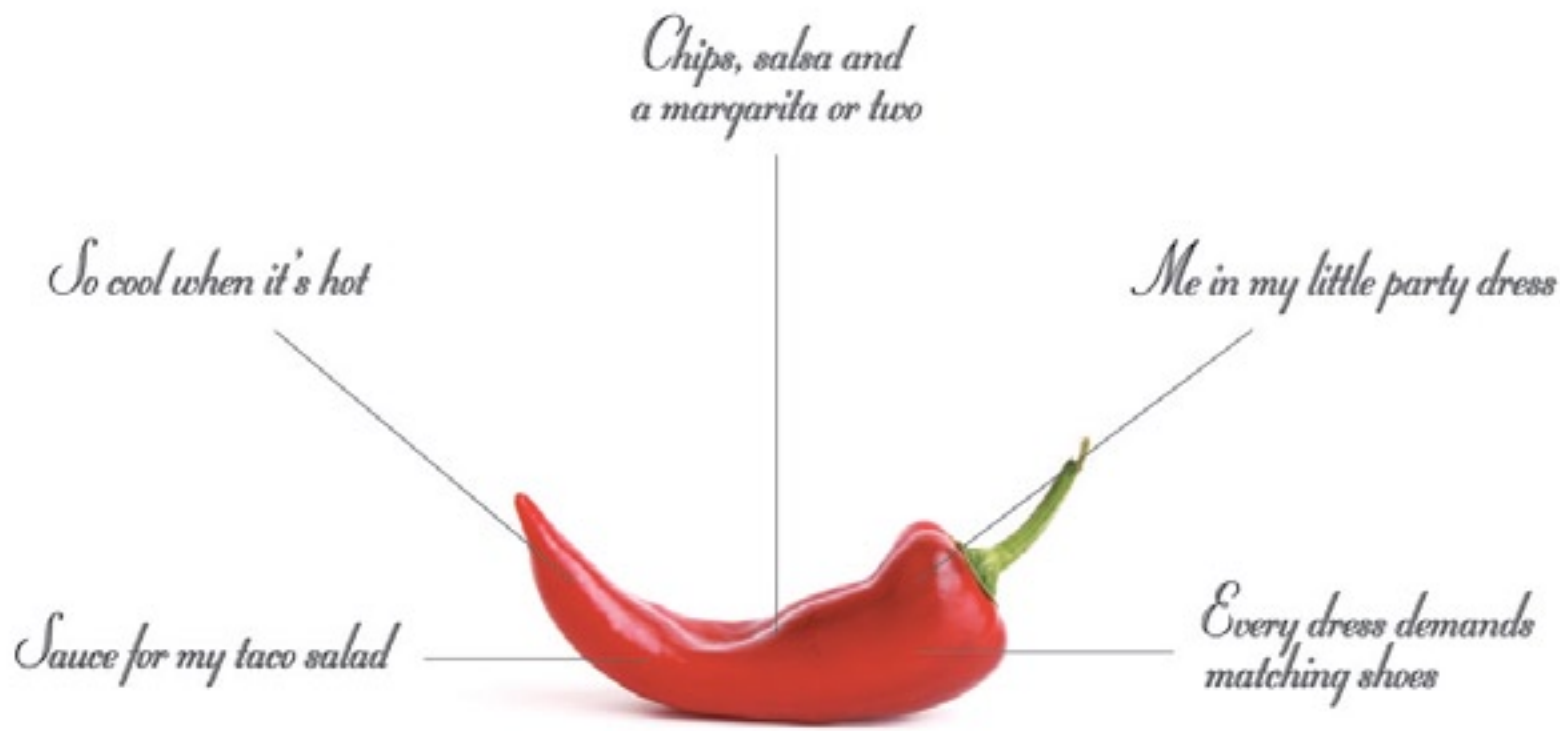
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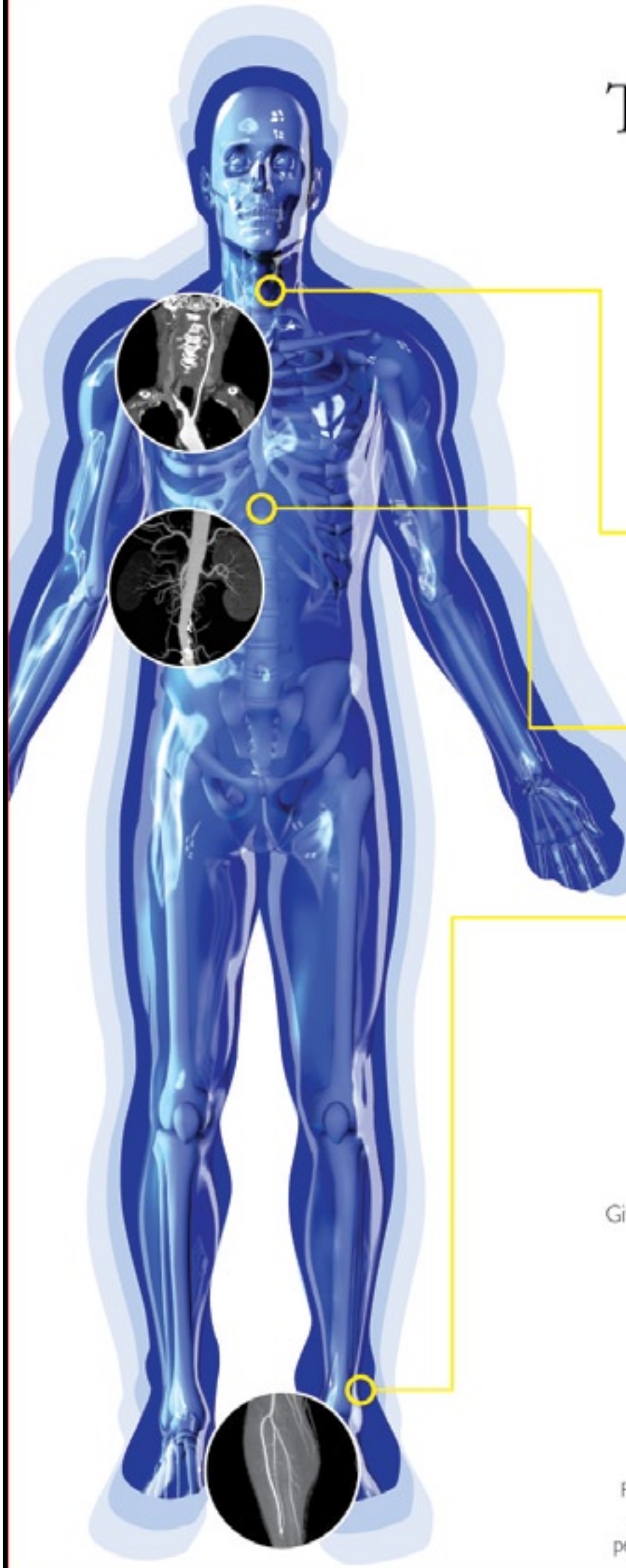
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Know your neighbor

# Tradition of historic Corti Bros. grocery store continues

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

After 62 years of service in the community, one of East Sacramento's most popular grocers, Corti Bros., is going strong.

But it was not that long ago that the store was faced with a major dilemma when its building lease ran dry and the store was not offered a new lease.

But due to the community's love for this popular, historic Italian grocery store, many people in the city rallied to save the store at this location.

These efforts proved to be effective and Corti Bros. is moving forward with its mission to provide a unique shopping experience in East Sacramento.

Rick Mindermann, the store's director, said that he is quite aware that it was the community who saved Corti Bros. at its current location.

"Basically, (the new lease) is a testament to the loyalty of our customers," said Mindermann, who has worked at Corti Bros. for the past 30 years. "And in my opinion, it is a testament to the intelligence of these customers who realize Corti Bros. is a special, unique business."

## Tradition alive at Corti's

To a casual observer, who knows little to nothing about the history and offerings of this grocery store, which sits at the southwest corner of Folsom Boulevard and 59th Street, the happenings associated with this business would almost undoubtedly come as a surprise.

First time visitors of the store are often amazed to see Corti Bros.' vast selection of unique food and beverage items.

Mindermann is quick to credit Darrell Corti, who co-owns the store with his brother-in-law Allan Darrah.

"We're just very fortunate to have the passion and the mind of Darrell Corti, because he gives us the edge to maintain ourselves in this very unique niche food and wine business," said Mindermann, who also serves as Corti's personal assistant.

Corti, who speaks about a half-dozen languages, travels the world in search of notable products he can share with his customers.

Growing up working for the store's original owners, Corti's father Frank and his uncle Gino, Darrell Corti has had a long career in the specialty grocery business.

This experience included owning his former Freeport Boulevard, Arden Fair Mall, Arden Way/Fair Oaks

Boulevard and Citrus Heights locations.

## The man behind the name

Along with his passion for continuously improving his East Sacramento store's offerings, Corti, 67, has also gained much national and international fame.

Speaking of Corti, who was a recipient of the Who's Who in Cooking in America award in 1989 and was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame last year, Mindermann said, "The knowledge and passion for food and wine that he maintains is spread throughout the business that is Corti Bros."

Mindermann, who is a 30-year Corti Bros. employee and is part of a management team averaging about 25 years working at the store per person, added that Corti Bros. continuously fills orders from customers throughout the United States.

"Darrell writes this newsletter that he has been writing for close to 40 years and it goes out to close to 5,000 people all over the country," Mindermann said. "We have a toll-free number and through our Web site, we sell products literally to almost every state in the country. We probably have regular customers in almost every state. Aside from our brick and mortar here (in East Sacramento), Corti Bros. has seeds and roots all over the country with customers. And many of them have not even met us."

Mindermann added that Corti is very well respected throughout the world for his knowledge of food and wine.

## What's so special?

On a local level, Corti Bros. has customers who regularly travel to the store from within a 100-mile radius from such places as Reno, San Francisco, Jackson, Sutter Creek, Stockton, Marysville, Colusa, Galt and Davis.

One such customer, Elk Grove resident John Pan, said that Corti Bros.' unique food selection is worth his routine 24-mile drives to and from the store.

"The main reason that I come here is this is the only place you can buy Saags German franks," Pan said. "At \$8 a pound, that's more than steak, but to me it's worth it. And would you believe, I even come down here for Pepperidge Farms cookies. They carry a coconut cookie that you can't find in regular grocery stores."

When asked to provide details regarding Corti Bros.' unique food and



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Corti Bros. generally carries wines from at least 20 to 25 countries and eight U.S. states.

wine selections, Mindermann first focused on the store's wines.

"Because of Darrell's reputation – locally, regionally, nationally, internationally – we are a proving ground or a major bench mark (for wines)," Mindermann said. "People want us to taste their wines and they want to have us acknowledge their wine. They certainly want to know what we think, so every week sales reps, brokers and wineries from all over send us wine to sample. We sample an average of 100-plus bottles of wine every three to four weeks. Every bottle of wine that's on our shelves has been tasted by (a Corti Bros. wine expert or another expert in the industry)."

With this notoriety and experience in wine tasting and Corti's many travels, Corti Bros. offers some of the better, good valued wines from throughout the world.

Overall, looking at the shelves at Corti Bros., one can generally find wines from at least 20 to 25 countries and eight U.S. states.

Corti Bros. is also dedicated to providing basic necessities for quality cooking and offering common and unique foods and ingredients.

As a new recipe begins to gain popularity, Mindermann said that many customers call Corti Bros. first, because "They know that (Corti Bros.) will either have it or they'll know where they can get it."

Continuing, Mindermann said that a couple of the store's most popular items are a Vignalta herbed sea salt – a sea salt from Venice that is used to cure fresh herbs from the Vignalta Wine Estate – and (Spanish and Portuguese) tuna, one from the Bay of Biscay and one from The Azores Islands.

When it comes to Corti Bros. meats, no one knows better than Mike Carroll, the store's meat manager.

Carroll, who like Mindermann has been a Corti Bros. employee since 1978, said that the meat department places exceptional attention on customer service.

"It's not just about getting a customer the cut of meat that they want, but it's also about helping them know how to cook it," Carroll said. "A lot of people want a roast, but they're intimidated what to do with it, especially the younger people."

In regard to the store's meat selection, Carroll said that the meat department specializes in prime beef and also carries choice beef.

"Better grocery stores carry choice beef, while the others carry select (beef), so we're two notches ahead of most stores," Carroll said.

The meat department also table grinds its own hamburger meat and carries milk-fed veal, California fresh lamb, Berkshire pork, air-chilled and organic chicken and daily-delivered fresh fish.

And of course, as an Italian grocer, Corti Bros. offers a variety of pastas and pasta sauces, including its popular, homemade raviolis and meat sauce, which Corti Bros. has been preparing for its customers since the earliest years of the store when it was located at 8th and I streets and 32nd Street and Folsom Boulevard.

## To the future

As the tradition of Corti Bros. continues, the store retains its old customers while attracting new customers, thus maintaining the living legacy of this longtime popular East Sacramento business.

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McClatchy High alumnae celebrate memorable birthday

# Sacramento area residents remember McClatchy in '42

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

It is certainly not every day that one can witness the type of scene that recently occurred at a restaurant in the Pocket area of Sacramento.

Gathering together for a very special reunion, a group of about 25 ladies and two male guests sat down for lunch at Scott's Seafood on the River on Riverside Boulevard. But of course, this was not the unusual part of this assemblage of very close friends.

Renting out an entire room, this group was meeting to celebrate the fact that most people in the room had reached the age of 85 years old.

And these were not just any 85-year-olds, however, as the core ladies of the group were alumni of McClatchy High School's Class of 1942.

Complete with a frosted carrot cake, which was prepared and eventually served in honor of this special birthday, the June 10 event was alive with memories dating back seven decades and in some cases even more.

## A tight circle of friends

Close-knit connections around the room were many, as most participants of the gathering had stepped onto the Freeport Boulevard campus to begin their high school years in

1939, when the 71-year-old school was only two years old.

Several women, like Betty (Terra) Lee and Lois (Lippi) Espigares, even attended elementary school together.

Sitting alongside Espigares in the southwest corner of the room, Lee pointed to Espigares and said, "We went to William Land Elementary, California Junior High and then we graduated from McClatchy together in 1942. We were born in 1924 and we've known each other since we were probably about 5 (years old), which means we've been friends since about 1930."

This nearly 80-year-old friendship has an even deeper bond, since Lee, who now lives in Cool, and Espigares, who resides in Woodland, both grew up as neighbors. Lee lived at 1712 W St. and Espigares lived at 1508 U St.

"We lived very close to each other and we began walking to school together in the 1930s," Espigares said.

When asked to relate any special memories of her school years, Espigares shared a piece of local trivia.

"We had the same principal all through our school years, starting with kindergarten to junior high to high school – Sam Pepper," Espigares said. "He was an excellent principal. He was tall and just a wonderful man and I was afraid of him, too. We were always afraid that we were go-

ing to get in trouble and have to go into the office. In those days, they used a little strap on your backside, but we never had that. But we were always afraid that we would."

With a grin, Espigares said that since boys were generally punished more than girls, it would be best to seek details about this topic from someone like Class of 1942 alum Norman Greenslate.

Greenslate, who married his high school sweetheart (and Pocket resident) Dolores Silva, another member of the Class of 1942 and the chairperson of the day's gathering, knew Espigares and Lee quite well, since he grew up in the same neighborhood at 2225 14th St., near W Street.

Dolores (da Rosa) Pierce, who also grew up in the same neighborhood, drove about 50 miles from Grass Valley to participate in the 85th birthday gathering.

## Memories to the forefront

Pierce said that she enjoyed attending the event and spending time with many longtime friends.

"It's quite nice to talk and visit with your friends," said Pierce, who worked for the state Board of Equalization from 1947 to 1984. "I have good memories of attending McClatchy. I grew up at 1308 T St. with my father (Wilbert), my mother (Ina) and my brother, Robert (of the McClatchy High Class of 1946). There were quite a few of us (McClatchy students), who lived within the area from 13th to 17th streets and from S to V streets. It's a lot of fun to get together with old friends and this event means that we have bragging rights that we made it to 85 and we're still walking around, although some are doing so with canes."

Sacramento resident Ruth Ann (Cook) Pedisich said that she was fortunate to attend the dedication of McClatchy High in 1937.

"We all marched down from California Junior High to see the dedication in 1937," Pedisich said. "It was a really hot day and a couple of the girls fainted. I really enjoyed going



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

A group of female graduates from the McClatchy High School Class of 1942 and several guests met at Pocket area restaurant Scott's Seafood on the River to participate in a special birthday celebration.

to McClatchy. I used to work in the library and I thought McClatchy High was the most beautiful high school in Sacramento."

One of several East Sacramento residents in attendance, Eunice (Christensen) Locke, who grew up near the Tower Theatre and sat at the same table at the event with her lifelong friend, Dora (Marani) Campoy of Granite Bay, said that she liked that McClatchy High was "a good school that didn't have a whole lot of problems."

Campoy, who has fond memories of her time as the school's head majorette, shared a humorous story about leading an act of rebellion during McClatchy High football games.

"We had a vice principal who was old fashioned and of course the skirts used to come down to our knees at that time, so when we went to Hughes Stadium and came out during halftime to do our routine, I got the girls to all roll up their skirts, so they could show their legs a little bit," said Campoy with a chuckle.

Barbara (Hawkins) Jones of Woodland added that she has fond memories of the school's annual variety show and the Turkey Day Game – the annual football matchup against the school's rival, Sacramento High.

Also among those attending the event were: Pocket resident Minerva (Mello) Bruner, the event's co-chair; North Highlands resident Mary Iris (Smith) Ryder, who worked at McClellan Air Force Base during World War II; East Sacra-

mento resident Laurretta (Purcell) Geremia, who belonged to SPARS – the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve during World War II; Roseville resident Muriel (Hopkins) Payne, a former Sacramento High teacher; and Sacramento resident Arleen (Matson) Lotta, who taught first graders in Sacramento for 32 years.

## "Sisterhood" thrives

Although the event was certainly a special gathering for a very memorable birthday, not much time will pass before these longtime friends meet again.

Committed to keeping in touch on a consistent basis, the group meets nearly every month throughout each year.

Dolores Silva Greenslate, who is a founding member of the Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society and who gained national recognition through her part in Ken Burns' documentary, "The War," said, "this is a very special group of ladies, who consider themselves a band of sisters."

"These spirited and vivacious ladies belie their age with their enthusiasm for life," Greenslate said. "As members of the McClatchy High January and June classes of 1942, we take a lot of pride in keeping our friendships and our many fine memories alive for as long as possible."

And with 67 years removed from their cherished graduation year, it appears that this unique group is doing quite fine in their mission to maintain their much beloved McClatchy High sisterhood.

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# CALENDAR

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Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail [ryanrose@valcomnews.com](mailto: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.

## JULY

### Small works, miniatures exhibition

Small Works, miniatures and maquettes features a broad array of small works, from turn of the century female sculptor Camille Claudel, shown currently in the Louvre, to young college students Christopher Dubois and Wesley Wright. This free exhibition, which runs from July 8 through August 23, attempts to display the diversity of miniatures as a whole, and will include a number of well-known national and international phenomena. A juried collection, Small Works provides emerging artists the opportunity to showcase their work among established greats. Visit the show at John Nat-soulas Gallery, 521 First St., in Davis. The gallery opens at 11 a.m. For more information, call (530) 756-3938.

### Music Camp

Northminster Presbyterian Church is offering a week-long music camp for 2nd - 12th graders from July 6 to 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3235 Pope Ave. Children will have the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments including guitar, percussion, song flute, and chimes, do drumming, work with props and set decorations as well as participate in singing and movement. They will also be putting a musical together. The musical, Fruit for Thought, will be performed on Sunday, July 12, during the worship service (9:55 a.m.) Children are asked to bring their lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$25. For more information, call 487-5192 or visit [Northminsteronline.org](http://Northminsteronline.org).

### Summer Concert Series

Parkside Community Church, 5700 S. Land Park Dr., will host area musicians to present Seven Summer Sundays + One Concert Series. The series funds the work and mission of Parkside Community Church. Suggested donations for each concert are: \$10 per person; \$30 per family; and a "Season Special" of \$65 per person for all eight concerts. Tickets may be purchased at the church office between 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at the door, or by phone at 421-0492. The concerts are the Sequential Sundays at 7 p.m. from July 12 to August 30. For more info, call 391-3317.

## JULY 16

### Sacramento Job Fair

Held Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Northeast I-80, 5321 Date Ave., this free job fair can help connect the unemployed or underemployed

to new career opportunities. Come meet multiple employers face-to-face who will be hiring for all types of jobs. A variety of Colleges/Vocational Schools will also be in attendance to help you with all of your educational needs. For more information, visit us at [www.goldenfutureexpos.com](http://www.goldenfutureexpos.com) or [www.goldenfuturecareerfairs.com](http://www.goldenfuturecareerfairs.com). Parking is free.

### Genealogy Club meeting

Mission Oaks Genealogy Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Subject will be: "Intro to Genealogy with a panel discussion." Visitors are welcome. For additional info, call Robert Noyes at 332-5753 or visit [missionoaksgenealogyclub.org](http://missionoaksgenealogyclub.org).

## JULY 18

### A night at the movies

Enjoy a night at the movies and see a classic film the third Saturday each month at Didion/Lewis Park Recreational Center at 6490 Harmon Dr. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie begins promptly at 7 p.m. Free admission, free popcorn and free prizes. See the following movies: "Roman Holiday" on July 18; "To Kill a Mockingbird" on August 15; and "Gaslight" on Sept. 19.

### Art Show in Lyon Village

Cottage Affair in the Lyon Village Shopping Center at Fulton and Fair

Oaks will host an artists' exhibit Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. See unique pieces by local artists. Admission is free.

### Find your roots

More genealogical information is being made available online all the time. Learn about the web sites that will enable you to start researching your family's history at a free workshop at 10:15 a.m., Saturday, July 18, at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento. Registration is required by telephoning the Sacramento Public Library (916) 264-2920 or visiting [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

### Singles Luau Dance

Christian Singles Network, will hold a Luau Dance for single adults Saturday, July 18, from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Ave., near Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael. The ticket price of \$15 pre-sale or \$20 at the door includes hors d'oeuvres, non-alcohol beverages and the dance lessons. Pre-sale dance tickets are available on line at [www.christiansinglesnet.com](http://www.christiansinglesnet.com). For more information, call 658-0606.

### Carmichael Concerts

Held at the Carmichael Park Danny Bishop Memorial Pavilion, 5750 Grant Ave., in Carmichael, see La Familia Loca, Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by Aegis Living of Carmichael and Point West Insurance Associates. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for this free community event. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and enjoy the evening watching these concerts under the trees.

## JULY 20

### Medical care tips presented at

#### Arden-Dimick Library

Local practicing family physician and author Davis Liu, M.D. will share valuable tips on receiving the best medical care and getting the most out of one's doctors' visits at 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 20, at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue. He covers this topic in depth in his book, Stay Healthy, Live Longer, Spend Wisely: Making Intelligent Choices in America's Healthcare System, with the critical information needed to make intelligent medical and related financial issues. Dr. Liu's book will be available for purchase and signing at the program's conclusion. For more information, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

### Paratransit Mobility Training

Come learn about navigating the RT Bus system, senior discounts and how to sign up for Paratransit. Do you qualify for a free lifetime RT bus pass? Come and find out Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Free to public. Info: 916-808-5462.

## JULY 22

### Lower House Payment

Attend this free seminar to get answers on short sales vs. loan modifications. The meeting is 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on 4305 Freeport Blvd. RSVP Deb Luna or Anthony Carrillo at [www.cookrealty.net](http://www.cookrealty.net) or 834-1947 or 833-6266.

### Accordion Club meeting

The Golden State Accordion Club welcomes the public to our meeting on Wednesday. Warm-up music by one of our featured players, David Lee, starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. You can bring dinner or snacks. No host bar. Admission is \$4.

## JULY 23

### Senior Legal Hotline Workshop

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Croquet game and picnic, 1849 Scene, 11:00-3:00 .....free  
Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30 .....free  
Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free  
Shakespeare Lite, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free  
Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am ...\$  
Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$  
Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00-4:00 .....\$

### Attractions: Sunday, July 5

Musical Mark Twain: Gordy Ohlinger, Eagle Theatre, 11:00-4:00.....free  
Storytelling, Waterfront Park, 11:00-2:00.....free  
Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30 .....free  
Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free  
Shootout: Blue Canyon Gang, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free  
Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am ...\$  
Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$  
Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm .....\$

### Attractions: Saturday, July 11

Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30 .....free  
19th Century Dancing, Eagle Theatre, 12:00-3:00 .....free  
Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free  
Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am ...\$  
Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$  
Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm .....\$

### Attractions: Sunday, July 12

Storytelling, Waterfront Park, 11:00-2:00.....free  
Children's Games, Wharf, 10:00-4:30 .....free  
Shootout: Blue Canyon Gang, Waterfront Park, 4:00-6:00.....free  
Bowling- Gold Rush Style, B.F. Hastings Building, 10:00-4:30.....free  
Gold Rush Legacy Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am ...\$  
Architectural Walking Tour, Sac History Museum, 1:00 am.....\$  
Panning for Real Gold, Sac History Museum, 11:00 am-4:00 pm .....\$

### Attractions: July 18, 19, 25, 26 to come

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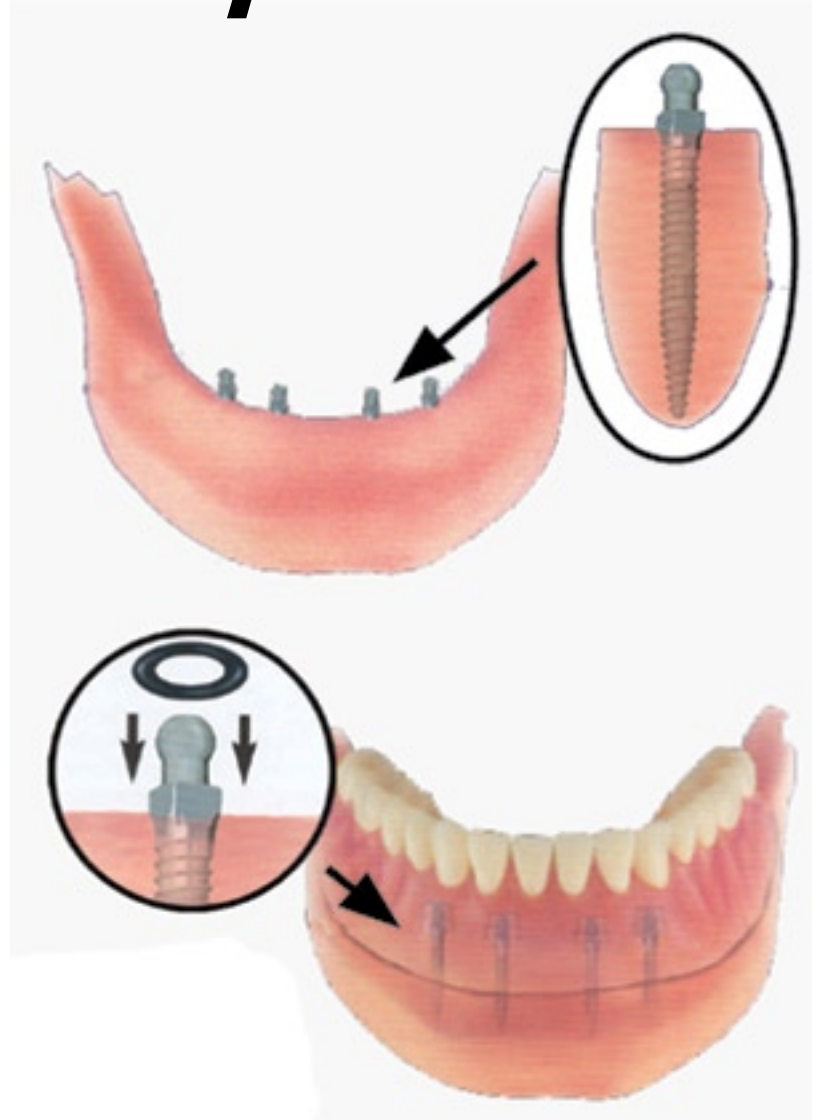
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| <b>ADJUST:</b>        | • Suspensions*    | • Belts            | • Water Pump      |
| • Timing & Idle*      | • Doors & Hinges  | • Hoses            | • Wiper Blades    |
| • Brakes*             | <b>CHECK:</b>     | • Fluid Leaks      | <b>ROAD TEST:</b> |
| • Clutch*             | • Lights          | • Front Suspension | 49 Pt. Inspection |
| <b>SERVICE:</b>       | • Charging System | • Rear Suspension  |                   |
| • Air Cleaner Box     | • Starting System | • Tires            |                   |
| • Radiator Level      |                   |                    |                   |
| • Window Washer Fluid |                   |                    |                   |
| • Brake Fluid Level   |                   |                    |                   |
| • Clutch Fluid Level* |                   |                    |                   |
| • Rotate Tires        |                   |                    |                   |
| • Set Pressure        |                   |                    |                   |
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**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

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- Comprehensive Inspection

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<b>4 Cylinder</b>	<b>6 Cylinder</b>
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<b>SAVE OVER \$100.00</b>	
<b>Some Models Extra</b>	<b>8 Cylinder</b>
	<b>\$199<sup>95</sup>*</b>
	<b>*most models</b>

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\* If applicable. \*\*If has drain plug. Vans Additional. Platinum Spark Plugs additional.  
Not valid with any other offers. EXPIRES 08/31/09 ACVN

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>REPLACE:</b>   | <b>SERVICE:</b>            |
| • Spark Plugs     | • Battery                  |
| • Air Filter      | • Air Cleaner Box          |
| • Oil & Filter    | • Radiator Level           |
| <b>ADJUST:</b>    | • Window Washer Fluid      |
| • Timing & Idle*  | • Brake Fluid Level        |
| • Brakes*         | • Clutch Fluid Level*      |
| • Clutch*         | • Tire Pressure and Rotate |
| <b>CHECK:</b>     | • Transmission Fluid Level |
| • Lights          |                            |
| • Charging System |                            |
| • Starting System |                            |

- |                  |                     |                |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>LUBE:</b>     | <b>INSPECT:</b>     |                |
| • U-Joints*      | • Brakes            | • Shocks       |
| • Suspensions*   | • Belts             | • Water Pump   |
| • Doors & Hinges | • Hoses             | • Wiper Blades |
|                  | • Fluid Leaks       |                |
|                  | • Front Suspension  |                |
|                  | • Rear Suspension   |                |
|                  | • Tires             |                |
|                  | • Exhaust System    |                |
|                  | <b>ROAD TEST:</b>   |                |
|                  | 49 Point Inspection |                |

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# Windermere

## Dunnigan Realtors



### GREAT LOCATION

Phenomenal Mediterranean home located on arguably one of the best streets in East Sacramento. 36th Way on this curve offers a superb location with walking distance to McKinley Park. This home offers a large porch, central heat & air, vintage fireplace, large breakfast nook, coved ceilings and a spacious floor plan. Updated kitchen connects to the large backyard which is perfect for entertaining! See [www.395-36thWay.com](http://www.395-36thWay.com) \$499,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED

This beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom home includes a family room and enclosed patio overlooking a park-like yard ideal for entertaining or growing your own produce in the separate garden area. The home was recently remodeled w/ decorator colors, crown molding, granite counters, dual fuel stove & refinished wood, travertine & slate floors, and dual paned windows. See [www.1060PiedmontDr.com](http://www.1060PiedmontDr.com) \$359,500

**DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495**



### BETTER THAN ORIGINAL

4br/2.5ba 2500+ sf home. Three-phase stucco w/tile roof & dual pane windows make this 1944 Mediterranean better than the original. Gleaming wood floors, custom gas fireplace, beautiful & unique lighting, granite kitchen, custom alderwood cabinets with Subzero Wolf appliances combine to make this home one of a kind. Multi-zone central HVAC and whole-house fan also make it efficient. See [www.70034thst.greatcustomehome.com](http://www.70034thst.greatcustomehome.com) \$929,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### EAST SAC COLONIAL

Private property w/paved road leading to gated entrance. Located on 0.4 acres, includes hardwood floors, leaded glass windows, crown molding, 2 master suites (1 downstairs), 2 fireplaces, formal living & dining rooms, spacious family room, remodeled kitchen, sun room, home office & 3 car garage. You will not find this size lot & quality home in East Sac for such an amazing price. See [www.EastSacColonial1.com](http://www.EastSacColonial1.com) \$785,000

**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. 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](http://www.gstreethome.com) \$1,195,000

**COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324**



### CLASSIC FRENCH NORMANDY ESTATE

Loaded with charm! Breath-taking from the moment you walk into the formal entry w/stunning staircase & beautifully refinished random plank hardwood floors. Large living room w/inviting fireplace & beamed ceiling. Outdoor fireplace & patio. See [www.1432-45thStreet.com](http://www.1432-45thStreet.com) \$1,250,000

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### STORYBOOK TUDOR

Storybook Tudor on one of East Sacramento's quietest streets. As you walk through this home you will notice leaded glass built-ins, high ceilings, a vintage fireplace, spacious floor plan, CH&A and a large formal dining room. Newer roof and a completely remodeled kitchen. Simply a must see! See [www.1640BerkeleyWay.com](http://www.1640BerkeleyWay.com) \$474,000

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### GREAT CURB APPEAL

Great curb appeal. Large Family room, **PENDING** and bath remodeled approximately 12 years ago. Deck outside master bedroom. Private office. Your client will love it! 2 bedrooms 1 bath and nice as can be. See [www.63151stst.eproperties.com](http://www.63151stst.eproperties.com) \$349,000

**JERRY KIRRENE 455-1001**  
**DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495**

### FABULOUS LOCATION

Immaculate three bedroom, two bath **PENDING** heart of East Sacramento!!! Open floor plan includes a gourmet kitchen, vintage fireplace, completely updated bathrooms, large basement and three bedrooms upstairs. Quiet tree-lined street located within minutes of shops and restaurants. See [www.windemeredunnigan.com](http://www.windemeredunnigan.com) \$749,921

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**

### MCKINLEY PARK

Wonderful McKinley Park home, 2 **PENDING** w/ 4 bedrooms & 2 baths, large kitchen w/ breakfast nook, hardwood floors, tankless hot water system, spacious living room w/high ceilings & fireplace, large formal dining area w/ leaded glass built-ins overlooks a dramatic waterfall. Backyard ready for entertaining. See [www.57733rdst.eproperties.com](http://www.57733rdst.eproperties.com) \$625,000

**CHRIS BALESTRERI 996-2244**



# Windermere

## Dunnigan Realtors

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Visit Our Web Site: [www.windemeredunnigan.com](http://www.windemeredunnigan.com)