

Local family turns tragedy into opportunity for charity

Second annual Rosie Carollo Christmas Lights and Toy Drive Event is Dec. 13

See page 2

Marty Relles presents
'Janey Way Memories'
See page 5

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, PAGE 22 • KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR, PAGE 4 • FACES AND PLACES, PAGE 13

Inside This Edition



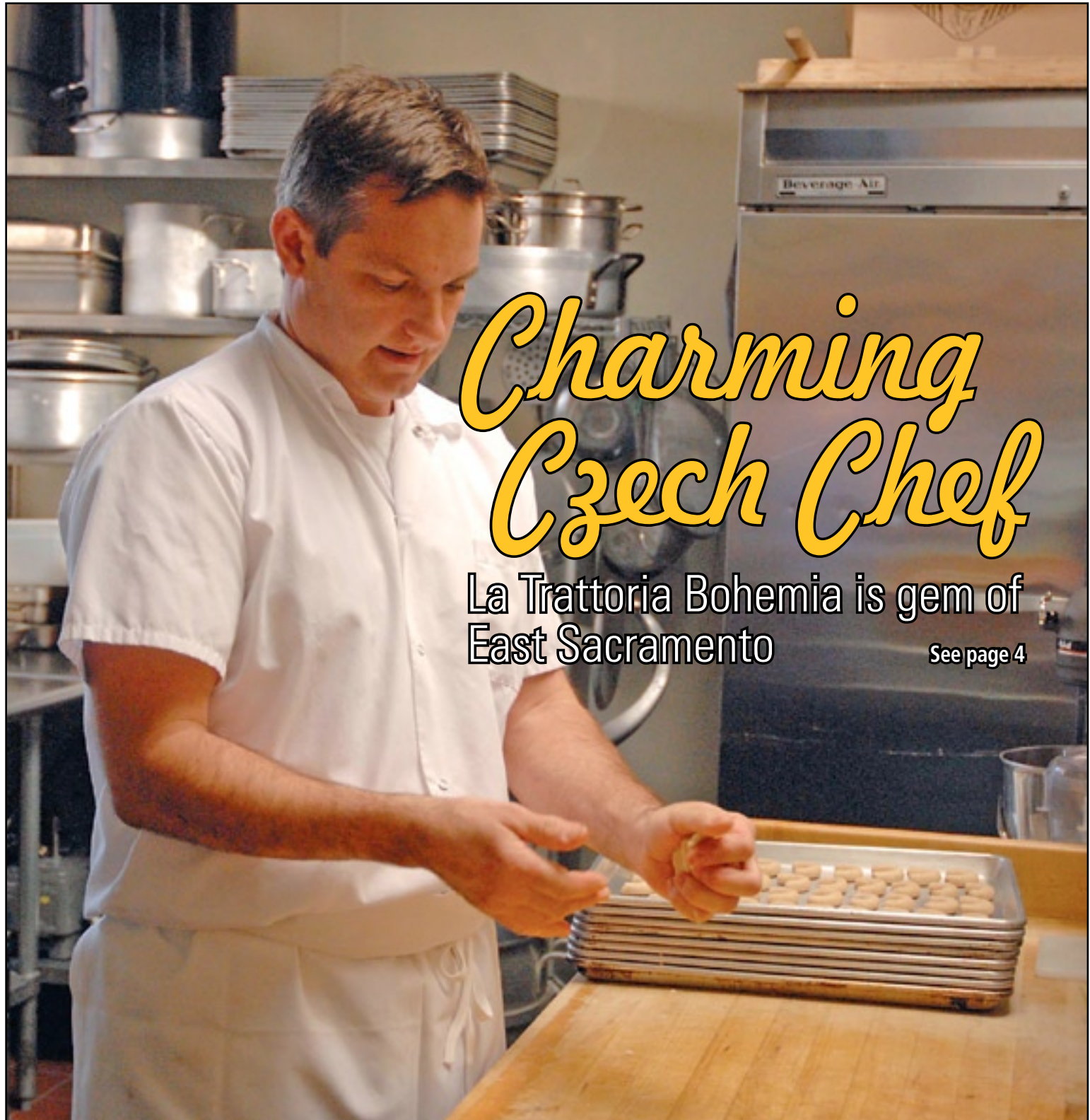
Senior group reveals burlesque history

See page 6



Sac State unveils Thiebaud collection

See page 14



Charming Czech Chef

La Trattoria Bohemia is gem of East Sacramento

See page 4

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Annual Christmas light show and toy drive benefits kids at Sutter Memorial

Second annual Rosie Carollo Christmas Lights and Toy Drive Event is Dec. 13

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
East Sacramento News Writer
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Christmas is for children. Whether one is a tiny tot, or young in spirit, it is a time of hope. Christmas is a time to focus on those things that bring beauty and goodness into the lives of each human being. In the Christian tradition, it is a time to remember God's great love for all humanity, and to look forward to His promises of redemption through Christ.

One year ago, a grieving Arden Arcade family decided on the spur of the moment to turn their personal tragedy into something that could give hope to others.

In 2004, little Rosalia Ann Carollo lost her battle with a devastating childhood illness. She was almost two years old. Rosie's parents, George and Nicole Carollo, were devastated.

Rosie came into the world on June 27, 2002. She was a beautiful eight pound, two ounce bundle of joy – the expression of her parent's greatest hopes. She developed normally for the first five months of her life. Then Nicole noticed that their little girl wasn't making the progress a six-month-old child should be making.

"I noticed that Rosie hadn't yet started to roll over," Nicole said. "I asked our pediatrician about that. He told me, 'Oh, there's a range of normal,' and said that she would eventually roll over."

Soon after the visit to the pediatrician, on Dec. 15, the Carollos' world changed. Rosie



Photo courtesy

Little Rosie Carollo was known for her smile and her ability to bring smiles to others. Her family is holding the second annual Rosie Carollo Christmas Lights and Toy Drive in her memory. Donations benefit the children at the Sutter Memorial Children's Hospital.

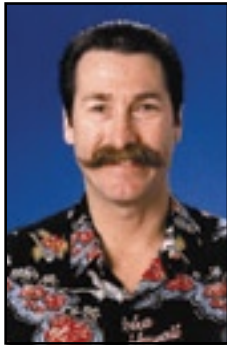
started to have strange spasms. Additional trips to the doctor's office brought forth a devastating diagnosis: one of the most serious childhood epilepsies, called "infantile spasms." Rosie had thousands each day.

Infantile spasms are a serious form of epilepsy because each seizure causes an "electrical storm" inside the child's brain. It is the equivalent of crashing a computer and resetting it – with each seizure. When the brain "crashes"

See Rosie, page 3



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Rosie: 'Without a doubt, this is the most joyful night of the year for me'

Continued from page 2

so violently, it is impossible to retain skills previously learned – or to continue to learn.

Despite the grim outlook of this condition, the Carollos remained hopeful for a positive outcome as they started treatment for their daughter right away. Multiple medications, therapy, special diets and trips to clinics as far away as Detroit were unable to stop the seizures. Yet, in spite of all this suffering, Rosie seemed to have a strength and resolve that amazed the adults around her.

"Her only goal seemed to be able to smile," Nicole said. "She brought smiles to everyone around her. She was amazing."

Rosie's brain never had enough recovery time from the daily seizures to make further development. Little by little, she slipped back...eventually losing muscle tone, developing breathing problems and other health issues.

On April 10, 2004, Rosie lost her struggle and left this life.

"At that time, I was four months pregnant with our daughter, Claire," Nicole said. "And thank goodness, I was. It gave us something to focus on, because the grief (of losing Rosie) was so great."

The Carollo family has grown to include three more children: Claire, age five; Grace, age two; and Lily, age one. Rosie remains very much included in the family, as the "big sister in Heaven."

Life has continued on, as it has a way of doing. Easters came and went. Christmases came also.

"Then, last year, as George and I were walking through the neighborhood, looking for ideas on light decorations for our new house, and idea came to us," Nicole said. "We noticed that some families had barrels in their front yards for food donations by those who would come by to enjoy the Christmas lights. We thought, 'Let's do something for Rosie. Let's do toys and give them to the children at Sutter Memorial Children's Hospital.'"

The Carollos spent a lot of time at Sutter Memorial. Rosie spent one month there, including one Easter Nicole will never forget.

"I had always wanted to do one of those big Easter baskets for Rosie," she said. "But there was never any time to do one because we were so busy with her medical situation. Then, one day at the hospital, the Child Life Program came by Rosie's room with this huge Easter basket filled with toys and wonderful things. I've never forgotten it. We were so appreciative and amazed by their generosity. The idea of a toy drive seemed perfect: here was something we could do to honor the memory of our daughter and help other families at the same time."

So, with just a sign on the lawn and one e-mail, the Carollos started their first Christmas light show and toy drive in 2008. The results were astounding.

"We had over 700 items donated that one night," Nicole said. "And nearly \$300 in cash donated also. George

Event Details:

The Second annual Rosie Carollo Christmas Lights and Toy Drive event is Sunday, Dec. 13, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Sutter Memorial Children's Hospital. Cash and check donations for the Sutter Memorial Children's Hospital are also welcome. The Carollo home is located at 3961 Fair Oaks Boulevard, at the corner of Fair Oaks and San Ramon Way.

and I looked at each other and said, 'Wow, look at what Rosie has done!'"

Toy Drive 2009

This year, George and Nicole are putting more lights up for the Dec. 13 event. Volvo Rents on Silica Avenue is generously donating a boom lift to help George to put up many of the Christmas lights in the tall trees on the property. Sam's Club on El Camino Avenue is helping out by donating hot chocolate and cookies. Family members and friends are also helping to make the second annual Rosie Carollo Christmas Lights and Toy Drive an event to remember.

If everything falls into place, George hopes to include a Thomas the Tank Engine train set this year, and perhaps a gingerbread house with smoke.

Santa Claus will be there for the little ones, and the Sacramento Fire Station on Eastern Avenue will be sending a fire engine (complete with firefighters) for the enjoyment of inquisitive kids and parents.

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The entire Carollo family will deliver the gifts to the hospital after the event.

"This is great for our children," Nicole said. "Even though they can't visit with the children who will be receiving the gifts – because of the danger of passing on illnesses – it's still a great way for them to learn how to give back."

And to connect with a big sister who would have been in second grade this year.

Nicole has no regrets, however. She believes that Rosie's brief life on this earth continues to have great meaning and purpose, especially through the annual light show and toy drive.

"Without a doubt, this is the most joyful night of the year for me," she said.



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Know your neighbor

A little slice of Italy and Czechoslovakia with a Yankee twist: La Trattoria Bohemia is gem of East Sacramento

By SUSAN LAIRD
East Sacramento News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

Tucked into the side of J Street in midtown Sacramento is one of the little-known restaurant gems that make living in this region such a delight.

Featuring simple, authentic Italian and Czechoslovakian dishes, La Trattoria Bohemia has developed a loyal following. Despite the international flavor and flair, however, there is a timeless American tale here also.

"It's been a roller coaster ride, that's for sure," said Mark Lastuvka, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Romana. "I am originally from Prague; my wife is also from Czechoslovakia. When the Berlin Wall came down in '89, I went through that whole revolution thing. That was fun."

Fun? Lastuvka means it.

"Imagine being a part of changing history," he said. "You're scared, but you want to do it. Those were great times."

This desire to make a better future is what fueled the passions of those who founded the United States, and all those who immigrated here. Lastuvka found himself caught up in the energy of the time.

"We had the revolution in '89. We married in '89. Then, in September of 1990, we came over here," he said. "We came to Sacramento because Romana's father lived here after he escaped the communists years before. I came with no English and only \$10 in my pocket."

Lastuvka's father-in-law helped the couple out in the beginning.

"My father-in-law got me a bike, and I signed up at the Winterstein Adult School to learn English," he said. "While I was at the Winterstein School, I met some Italian kids. They worked at the Roma Pizzeria. They wanted to play soccer on Wednesday nights, so they asked if I wanted a job."

The dish-washing job grew to be an every night affair. Lastuvka learned how to make pizzas, as he continued to learn English. He pursued every opportunity to "make it" in this country.

"My degree is in building fine furniture," he said. "I worked on remodeling



Tucked into the side of J Street in East Sacramento is La Trattoria Bohemia, one of the little-known restaurant gems that make living in this region such a delight. *East Sacramento News Photos/Tom Paniagua*

homes for 10 years, and I continued to work at Roma's. In the beginning I worked every day. My wife worked for Raley's and cleaned houses. She eventually became a flight attendant for Continental."

Lastuvka credits his mandatory military service in the Czechoslovakian army for developing his work ethic.

"At the time, I didn't want to do it," he said. "But you become independent. You learn to make your own decisions. I think (military service) should be mandatory for everyone."

Eventually, the Lastuvkas were able to save enough to take the next steps in the American dream. They purchased a home in Carmichael. The birth of their daughter, Nicola, also spurred changes in their lives.

"I was working my ass off," he said. "I decided to take a risk. I saw an emp-

ty pork store on J Street and decided to open a restaurant. We partnered with Maria Gurrera, the owner of Roma's Pizzeria. We had become friends when I was working at Roma's. That's why the food here is Czech food and Italian. We were eventually able to buy her out, but she helped us to get our start and we are good friends to this day."

The effort to build the restaurant was literally from the ground up.

"It's a good thing I had been doing remodels all those years," Lastuvka said. "I redid the plumbing, the electrical, everything needed replacement."

La Trattoria Bohemia opened in 2000. The little restaurant will celebrate 10 years on June 21.

The menu at La Trattoria is simple and delicious. Make that simply delicious. It offers over 50 items, plus an impressive selection of Italian pizzas.

Favorite Czech specialties include Bavarian Goulash, in which tender pork is stewed in sauerkraut to a thick broth. This is served with swirls of sour cream and Czech dumplings (\$17); and Schnitzel, where the customer's choice of fresh breaded chicken breasts or pork are served with European-style potato salad or roasted rosemary potatoes (\$17).

All pastas and breads are made from scratch at La Trattoria. With the same devotion he dedicated to fine furniture, Lastuvka crafts fine meals with particular attention to detail. His Spinach Ricotta Gnocchi is crafted by hand, and is served with fresh creamy gorgonzola sauce with prosciutto and mushrooms (\$16.50). Colorful red to-

See Trattoria, page 5

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Photos/Tom Paniagua

Delicious deserts available at East Sacramento's La Trattoria Bohemia: Tiramisu and (inset) Apple Strudel.

(left) Mark Lastuvka is making Czech Christmas cookies.

Trattoria: 'Some people come (just) for the cookies'

Continued from page 4

matoes garnish this beautiful entrée. Portions are filling and delicious.

A meal at La Trattoria cannot be considered complete without something from the dessert menu. Try a Gelati Celesti, which is an ice cream truffle (\$4.50), or an Artisan Trio Sorbetto, which is three scoops of delicious Italian sorbet (\$5). The Apple Strudel is a generously sized flaky pastry stuffed with a mixture of apples, raisins, walnuts, cinnamon – all sweetened with vanilla sugar (\$4.50). The Tiramisu is a dream. Layers of lady finger cookies are drenched in coffee and liquor, alternated with layers of mascarpone cream cheese (\$5).

There is a generous wine list and the beer list is known for its international selections.

In Italy, a trattoria is a family-run institution. Food and service are casual, warm and personal. Clients become regulars at trattorie because the staff learns their preferences. It's all about family.

"My mom walks here often," said Vivian Johnston, who grew up in East Sacramento and now lives in Bend, Ore. "I love to come here every time I come home. There is a warm atmosphere, the prices are reasonable and it's a good neighborhood place."

The draw of "la famiglia" brings regulars from throughout the region. "My wife and I come here once a week, and have done so for the last two years," said John Lindgren, a former East Sacramento resident who now resides in the Pocket area. "We eat out about five times a week. We come to La Trattoria Bohemia because there's no turn over in staff, it's very consistent. We know everybody and they know us. The food is excellent."

In addition to the regular menu, the Lastuvkas offer weekly specials. Regulars often call ahead to learn of the specials, and to order an

additional loaf of handcrafted artisan bread to take home.

"I just make another for the oven," Lastuvka said.

Those who love traditional Czech cookies are known to place orders for these specialty items a year in advance, because it takes three weeks to craft these wonderful treats.

"Some people come only for the cookies," he said. "These are made only once a year. The dough takes a week to make, and the baking process takes days. Some will be filled with creams, others powdered with sugar. They all sell out."

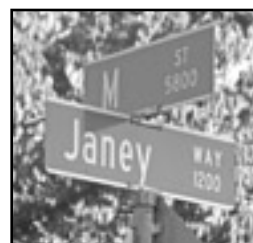
Lindgren enjoys introducing his "foodie friends" to this little restaurant. He raves about the excellence of the menu.

"We have certain favorites, but we tell our friends that this place has the best pizza in Sacramento," he said. "The crust is phenomenal and the sauce is wonderful. Our foodie friends go crazy over some of the beers. It's a cozy place. You never have a bad experience here."

La Trattoria Bohemia is located at 3649 J Street in Sacramento. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Closed Monday. For catering options and private party reservations, call (916) 455-7803. Also visit www.latrattoriaboheemia.com.

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Janey Way Memories



Gang wars on Janey Way



By **MARTY RELLES**
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One warm fall night in 1963, I sat alone in the living room of my family's house watching television. Mom and dad had gone out with my little brother John. My brother Terry loitered on the front porch with our friend Bob Pesce, chattering away. As my eyes wandered over toward the big bay window in front of the house, something caught my eye. A car drove slowly down the street in front of the house and someone yelled something from it. The car then proceeded forward toward the dead end of the street. This seemed unusual, so I focused my attention out the window. Sure enough, when the car came back up the street, it stopped in front of our house and three young men got out of the car and moved quickly toward the front porch.

Immediately, I took action. I hurried to the back bedroom, went into the closet and picked up a toy wooden military rifle. Then, I returned to the front of the house and opened the front door half way. The three young men stood threateningly at the foot of the porch and taunted Terry and Bob. I recognized all three of them: Pennisi and Puglesi from 55th street and another boy named Leitrich from River Park. Showing them the silhouette of the toy rifle, I yelled out, "Get out of here, now!"

They must have believed I had a real gun because they turned and walked away quickly. However, when they reached the sidewalk, Pennisi said, "This isn't over, we'll be back."

After they left, I spent the rest of the evening on the front porch keeping an eye on Terry and Bob. Nothing happened.

The next day, a Saturday, passed quietly. On Sunday night, my family went over to my Grandma Petta's house as usual for cake and coffee. When we returned, we went into our house to watch "The Ed Sullivan Show." A few minutes later, I heard a knock at the door and went over to answer it. Bob Pesce stood on the porch and said that Pennisi and the 55th street boys wanted to see me right away. On the street, two gangs of boys faced each other: the Janey Way group on my side and the 55th Street boys on the other.

I walked through the group of boys into the center of the melee.

"What's going on here?" I asked.

"I'm here to settle up for the other night," said Pennisi. "And how do you propose to do that?" I asked.

Before Pennisi could answer, my dad, a Sacramento police officer, walked over and stood beside me.

"What is going on here?" dad asked.

"These boys started a fight," said Pennisi. My dad responded, "Well it's over now, you boys take a hike." He then turned to the Janey Way gang and said, "You boys go on home." The 55th Street boys got into their cars and left. As I walked back to the house with my dad, he didn't say a word, but I think he was proud of me that night for keeping my cool and not starting the fight.

In school at Sacramento High the next day, I heard some rumblings about a fight on Janey Way. That was all. The 55th street boys never returned. Now the great gang war on Janey Way is only a memory.

Only as old as you feel

Local seniors to bring burlesque back to Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
East Sacramento News Writer
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Recently sitting around a table at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 67 Hall in Sacramento, a group of mostly senior women was vibrantly, yet quite seriously discussing the details of an upcoming event at the building.

No, the topic at hand was not a retirement party, a crab feed, a used book fair or a bingo night. But instead, discussions at this meeting were in vast contrast to many discussions that one might imagine hearing at such a gathering.

The purpose of the meeting, which was the second of its kind, was to discuss the group's efforts to bring back burlesque to Sacramento.

For those who need a quick crash course in Burlesque 101, burlesque is by definition – compliments of the Random House Dictionary – a “humorous and provocative stage show, featuring slapstick humor, comic skits, bawdy songs, striptease acts and a scantily-clad female chorus.”

This art form, which in America dates back to the early 19th century, served as an entertainment staple for many decades before its decline in the late 1960s.

Acting out

Providing a background of how 10 people came to unite



Photo courtesy of Patty Russell
Patty Russell was a burlesque dancer from the 1950s to the early 1970s.



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Sacramento resident Patty Russell shows off a photograph of herself taken during her heyday as a burlesque dancer.

at the VFW Hall with plans to present a Feb. 14 burlesque show at the hall, former professional burlesque dancer and Sacramento resident Patty Russell explained that bringing burlesque back to Sacramento has been a personal dream that is fast becoming a reality.

“The dream to revive burlesque came up about 15 years ago,” said Russell, who was known on stage during her dancing years from the late 1950s to the early 1970s as Patty O’Farrell. “I started to realize that the younger people did not know the word ‘burlesque.’ All they know is what’s going on now

(in today’s strip clubs) with the pole dancing, lap dancing, whatever. Well, no, that isn’t burlesque. Burlesque is an art and it’s where you can have a couple come in and watch you and the women enjoy it just as much as the men. There’s nothing nasty about it or anything.”

When asked how she became a burlesque dancer, Russell, 74, explained that while working for the Pacific Bell telephone company in St. Louis in the late 1950s, she had a career changing idea.

“All of a sudden, I just got a thing that I wanted to dance,” Russell said.

Fortunately for Russell, she discovered an agent, named Mike Riaff, who was willing to assist her in fulfilling her then-newfound dream.

After reviewing the possibilities of a career in dancing for Russell, Riaff told her that the only thing she qualified for was burlesque.

In hearing this, Russell asked, “What’s burlesque?”

Learning that it was a dance performance act that involved strip tease, Russell said that she told the agent, “Well, as long as I can dance doing it, that’s okay, as long as I dance.”

Russell performed her first burlesque show at the age of

22 in a small theater in Louisville, Ky.

Russell, who spent many years as a burlesque dancer in various U.S. venues, including such Sacramento area venues as The Road House at 4205 W. Capitol Ave., The Driftwood at 3308 C St. and Roeder’s Gourmet restaurant (formerly The Red Rose and later Neptune’s Table) at 5990 South Land Park Drive, said that she never lost her affinity for the art of burlesque.

Her passion was later fueled through her friend-

See Senior ladies, page 7



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East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Committee members engage in a discussion about the group's Feb. 14 event.



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The local committee dedicated to bringing burlesque back to the capital city gathers outside the VFW Post 67 Hall in Sacramento following the group's second meeting.

Senior ladies: Event to revive interest in this by-gone form of entertainment

Continued from page 6

ship with Merle Cale, who grew up in East Sacramento.

Cale, a 1933 graduate of Sacramento High School and the president of women's auxiliary of the VFW Post 67, attracted the attention of Russell due to her extreme love for dancing.

Putting on a show

Defying her age, Cale, 94, plans to bring her many years of dancing experience to the event, as she will perform dances in a seductive, glittering dress.

Cale, whose aunt Leona Henning was a burlesque dancer at the now-closed Roxie Theatre at 912 9th St. in Sacramento, said that she has a strong passion for entertaining.

"I've always wanted to be on the stage," Cale said. "I got married on the stage at the California Theatre (in Oak Park) in 1935, but I didn't perform there."

Other members of the committee for the upcoming event include: Pocket area resident Jan Wilson, the event's producer; East Sacramento area resident Malenda Smith, who will sing at the event; Carl Cloud – who may serve as the event's emcee – and his wife Kathy Cloud of the North Highlands area; Natomas resident Jerry Youngblood, a former Arthur Murray's dance instructor; south Sacramento resident Joanne Menebroker, who will dance in the event; Elk Grove resident Peblez

Pearcy, an assistant to the producer; and Freeport/Land Park area resident Mike Samuels.

Wilson recruited Samuels for the project after she learned that he was a former drummer for the band, Little Ronnie and the Chromatics. The band performed during burlesque shows at The Driftwood during the late 1960s and may have even played while Russell was dancing.

Wilson said that she has grown to appreciate the importance of presenting this event.

"What started as an opportunity to fulfill one woman's dream has blossomed into not only a chance to raise money for veterans, but also to revive

an interest in this by-gone form of entertainment."

Seniors take the stage

The event, which will be held at the VFW Hall at 2784 Stockton Blvd. on Valentine's Day at 2 p.m. and will be open to guests 18 years old and older, will feature various musical acts and professional burlesque dancing, raffle prizes and 50-cent beers.

Following the event, the committee will meet to discuss the possibility of taking the show on the road and presenting it to other California cities.

For additional information regarding this event, call (916) 453-9209.

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Donations accepted from Dec. 5 to Dec. 22

Local toy drive supports California military families

Special to the East Sacramento News

It's that time of year again, when local residents have an opportunity to help California military families.

Toys for the Troops' Kids delivers donated gifts to the children of American military personnel who are deployed away from home at Christmastime or whose military parent has been killed in action since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In their 2008 effort, they shipped 15,000 toys to the families of 18 military commands in California and Nevada. Children of deployed members of the Air Force, Army, Marine and Naval bases, and deployed National Guard units received several toys each.

Their goal in the 2009 effort is to increase distributions by collecting 20,000 toys.

Their motivation is summed up in a statement available at their Web site, www.toysforthetroopskids.org.

"While we experience great successes, no matter how much we may grow, we are always mindful of the individual children and military families who struggle emotionally, and perhaps financially, at Christmastime, with a parent away from home," according to the post. "Our gifts to these families are our small way of saying thanks for those sacrifices. On behalf of those families, we thank all who have helped us serve those kids."

Donation sites

Toys for the Troops' Kids will have many "satellite" collection points,

thanks to the great support of the Sacramento community and region, and its wonderful people who make Toys for the Troops' Kids a success. Their main donation sites will operate from Dec. 5 to Dec. 22, 2009, at Sunrise Festival Shopping Center (located at Greenback Lane and Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights) and Lake Crest Village Shopping Center (located at Florin Road and Greenhaven Drive in Sacramento).

The story behind the toys

In November of 2003, the CRVA Veterans' Club in Sacramento sought a way to acknowledge the dedication and service of parents serving in uniform. Many of these military personnel are sacrificing everything, while being separated from their families during the Holidays. The beneficiaries of this first annual Toy Drive were the families at Travis Air Force Base and the California National Guard. The goal was to provide two toys per child of every military parent deployed overseas.

The first effort in 2003 was a booming success; all requests from both Travis AFB and the California National Guard were fulfilled.

Based on the overwhelming response and the volume of toys collected in 2003, Toys for the Troops' Kids was born, expanded the scope for Christmas 2004 and added the families of Beale AFB to the list of beneficiaries. Again, the Toy Drive far

exceeded expectations for all three military commands.

In 2005, the Toy Drive took another big step and added Lemoore Naval Air Station to the now-growing list of beneficiaries receiving toys for the kids of troops serving overseas. For Christmas 2005, the Toy Drive exceeded expectations as before. In succeeding years, the Toy Drive has expanded to cover all of California and parts of Nevada. As many as 25,000 toys have been distributed in a single year.

Past toy drives, as well as last year's effort, were all made possible by the co-sponsorship of generous benefactors, as well as individual donations of new, unwrapped toys, cash and other in-kind services.

The Peter P. Bollinger Investment Co. graciously provided the use of its property as the major collection sites for the Toy Drive at the Sunrise Festival Shopping Center in Citrus Heights and the Lake Crest Village Shopping Center in Sacramento. Sunrise MarketPlace has contributed invaluable administrative and media efforts. Finally, the cities of Citrus Heights and Sacramento have provided equipment and traffic control for the many contributors who come to support the US military families with gifts of toys.

Toys for the Troops Kids, Inc, is a non-profit California corporation created with tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board, so that



Photo courtesy U.S. Military
The goal behind Toys for the Troops' Kids is to deliver gifts to the families of 18 military commands in California and Nevada.

all future donations, whether monetary or in kind, can be considered tax-deductible for the donor. They are an all-volunteer group, with no paid staff. All cash donations purchase toys or are applied to administrative expenses such as insurance, transportation and distribution of toys, etc.

For more information

To make a tax-deductible donation, please call (916) 974-8387 or visit www.toysforthetroopskids.org (Tax ID #43-2058781). To volunteer at one of their major donation sites, contact Bret Daniels at (916) 870-7199 or bret_d99@yahoo.com.

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Connecting with the City Council, the community

By STEVE COHN
Sacramento City Councilmember
Special to the East Sacramento News

J St. between 30th St. and Alhambra Blvd. to be converted to two-way

In early 2010, work will begin to convert J Street to two-way operation between 30th Street and Alhambra Boulevard. As part of the modification, the striping will be changed on J Street to accommodate the two-way operation from 30th Street to Alhambra Boulevard, and the signal heads and poles at the intersections of J Street at Alhambra Boulevard and 30th Street will be modified accordingly. The project is part of the Central City Two-Way Conversion Project that the City Council approved in July 2007. For more information, contact Kaleb Haile at 808-7020 or khaile@cityofsacramento.org

Midtown offers ice skating rink and Santa's Toy Shoppe

The Midtown Holiday Ice Skating Rink, located on 20th Street between J Street and K Street, opened on Nov. 20 and will remain open until January 18, 2010. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. most days. For Holiday Hours, visit the

calendar at www.exploremidtown.org. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Skate rental runs \$2. Midtown is also the home of Santa's Toy Shoppe that will be open weekends. Located at 1801 L Street, Suite 70, children will enjoy listening to Santa read stories and have their pictures taken with him. For more information about the ice rink, toy shoppe or what else Midtown has to offer this Holiday Season, visit www.mbasac.com or www.exploremidtown.org. Private bookings of the ice rink can be scheduled by calling the Midtown Business Association office at 442-1500.

Fundraiser for River Park and East Sac parks

The Q Balls played a benefit show on Nov. 14 at the Torch Club and raised over \$1,500 for our River Park and East Sac Parks.

Free holiday parking and construction moratorium in the central city

Shoppers in Old Sacramento, Downtown and Midtown are being treated to free on-street parking during select days and through the holiday season. The program went into

effect the day after Thanksgiving and runs through Friday, Dec. 25. During this time period, on-street metered parking will be free starting at 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and all day Saturdays and Sundays. The Free Parking Zone extends from I Street to L Street, Front Street to 29th Street and only applies to metered spaces. Additionally, this year the City has expanded the program to include the East End Garage at 17th between L Street and Capitol Avenue, with the first 90 minutes free and \$1 per hour thereafter, up to a \$5 maximum. The garage parking is available in the evenings and on weekend. Another holiday treat is not having to deal with road construction which reduces congestion. Several major streets are included in a construction moratorium that runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. For more information, visit www.cityofsacramento.org

Mercy/SHPS Construction and NTMP

For updates, questions or concerns regarding construction, please feel free to call the construction hotline at 552-6931. A meeting was held for

neighbors of the Mercy Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan area on Nov. 19. The traffic plan was presented by members of the committee and comments taken. The committee will come up with their final recommendation based on those comments. Balloting of neighbors is expected in January 2010, a City Council hearing in March 2010 and if the plan is accepted by Council, construction is expected to take place in late Spring 2010. For more information, contact Debb Newton at 808-6739 or dnewton@cityofsacramento.org.

Sacred Heart 2009 Holiday Home Tour

One of Sacramento and Northern California's most popular self-guided walking holiday home tours returns on Dec. 4 with five beautifully decorated homes in East Sacramento's Fabulous Forties. The tour will take place from Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on line until Dec. 2 and at area retailers until Dec. 3. The cost will be \$30 beginning Dec. 4. For more information, visit www.shpsholidayhometour.com or email info@shpsholidayhometour.com

California Kids!

California Kids! is an events and activities guide for active families and is published once a month by Valley Community Newspapers, which also publish the **Arden-Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, Land Park News** and **Pocket News**. We have been in business for more than 15 years.

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A Sacramento original

Time does not erase cherished Tower Records memories

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

Few businesses established in Land Park have made such an impact on the local community than Tower Records, which operated in the area at the southeast corner of 16th Street and Broadway, where Tower's owner Russ Solomon opened a similar store, R5 Records, in June 2007.

Beginning his original record business, Tower Record Mart, in 1941 in the back of his father's drug store — where Tower Café is now located in the Tower Theatre building — Solomon used a small part of the store to offer 78 rpm records for sale.

The literal birth of Tower Records began in 1960, when the store was no longer called Tower Record Mart and the business opened its Watt and El Camino avenues store, near Sam's Hof Brau.

Solomon's original record store relocated from the drug store site in 1965 into the present-day R5 site, in a building, which originally housed an automotive repair shop and later a very early Safeway grocery store.

Tower of success

The success of Tower Records was apparent during its early years, as it opened other locations, including a San Francisco store, near Fisherman's Wharf, in 1968.

Tower became an international chain, as it expanded overseas in 1979, when it opened a store in Tokyo.

The business eventually expanded to include 113

U.S. stores and about 170 company-owned stores worldwide.

Tower experienced many years of success before eventually falling on hard times, filing for bankruptcy and closing all its U.S. locations in 2006.

But for those who remember Tower's 16th Street and Broadway, Land Park sites at the intersection where the business planted its roots on its way to international success, memories of this local institution have certainly not faded away.

Recollecting records

Sacramento resident Penny Kastanis recalls visiting Tower Record Mart during the 1940s and 1950s.

"I started going there in the late 1940s, during the big band era when people were listening to Tommy Dorsey and Harry James and there were singers like Helen Forrest and of course, Frank Sinatra," Kastanis said. "I went there when I was 12 years old with my parents. It was a real outing for me to go to the Tower (Theatre) and go to a movie and go next door afterwards and listen to the records."

During this time, the record store featured listening booths, where customers could listen to records to determine whether they wanted to purchase the music that they had heard on the discs.

Kastanis, whose father owned a restaurant on Broadway, recalled how the drug store's record section continued to increase.



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Tower Records, shown in this 2005 photograph, was a Sacramento institution at the corner of 16th Street and Broadway for nearly a half-century.

"I remember the bins and bins of records and I remember the drug store part kept on getting smaller," said Kastanis, who still owns records, which she purchased at the record mart. "The record bins kept on getting more and more as time went on."

Music memories

Former Sacramento Police Department Officer Steve Reed reminisced about listening to records in the Tower Records' listening booths during his teenage years in the 1960s.

"We would go over to Tower Records and put the

big headphones on and listen to records in their listening booths. By about 11 or 12 at night, you weren't getting tired when you were a kid, so we would be over there real late listening to all The Beach Boys and the Dave Clark Five and The Beatles (records) and all that stuff. I was a really big Beatles fan in those days."

Minor King, who grew up in North Sacramento and attended Grant Union High School, said that although Tower Records was not the first Sacramento area record store that he frequented, he has fairly early memories of the business nonetheless.

"Since I lived in the north area, the first record store that I started going to was Al's Records in Del Paso Heights," King said. "But then I started coming to Tower Records by 1975, when I bought my first record album there. It was Al Green's 'Let's Stay Together.' Back then, I also listened to Smokey Robinson, some of the early music by James Brown, the O'Jays and music like that. They call that the oldies

now, but I still listen to it, because it's what I grew up with and it's what I still love to listen to."

Of course, with the many years that Tower Records made recorded music available for Sacramentans, the store provided multigenerational memories for many local families.

Standing outside the Java Lounge coffee shop about a block away from the old Tower Records site on Broadway, Sean Gargovich, a 1984 graduate of Kennedy High School, recently took a moment to speak about his family memories of Tower Records.

"My first memories of Tower Records are actually my memories of my dad's memories," Sean said. "My dad (Les Gargovich) had been going there since he was a kid. I always remember him telling me how he went there when (Tower) was still part of a pharmacy. He went in there and played records. He said that it was the first place around where you could actually go in and listen to

See Tower Records, page 11

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Tower Records: The store provided multigenerational memories for many local families

Continued from page 10

records before you actually bought them.”

Personally, Sean remembers shopping at Tower Records as early as 1980.

“I remember that (Tower) was a local business that grew from here and I remember going there a lot on holidays since they were open on Christmas and everything,” Sean said. “I didn’t actually buy records or (cassette) tapes any place else except Tower, unless I was buying them used. When I was younger, I just listened to metal, but I grew into all kinds of stuff, besides country. The first album I ever bought was actually on tape and it was the Queen album (The Game) that had the song, ‘Another One Bites the Dust’ on it. That was before I got fully into genres and all that. I just loved that single. I was just a kid in like the fourth grade living in South Sacramento at the time.”

Sean, who later worked at the Tower warehouse in West Sacramento, said that he appreciated the business’s willingness to hire employees with a wide variety of appearances.

“That’s the thing about Tower; they employed a lot of people who couldn’t get jobs other places,

because they looked certain ways with piercing and fully tattooed and pink hair or whatever, Sean said. “There were metalheads, hippies and all types of people working there. That was part of the sad thing about losing (Tower) is a lot of people like that couldn’t get jobs anymore.”

When asked to summarize his memories of Tower Records, Sean said, “I can’t really sum it all up, but it’s sad that (Tower Records) is gone and it was a great thing while it was here.”

A Tower tradition

Stockton resident Randy Ortega, who has frequently attended films at the Tower Theatre since 1984, said that for many years it was a tradition of his to catch a movie at the theater, browse albums at Tower Records and look at books at Tower Books.

Reminiscing about Tower Records, Ortega said, “I really liked Tower Records, because I could always find records there that I couldn’t find in Stockton. They always had a good selection of music and the employees were knowledgeable.”

Sacramento native Mark Alling, who now lives in Crested Butte, Colo., shared his memories about Tower Re-



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Mark Alling purchased his first record album at Tower Records at 16th Street and Broadway in about 1975 when he was 8 years old. Now the site is R5 Records.

ords during his recent visit to the capital city to attend his 25th Kennedy High School reunion.

“I bought my first record there when I was 8 years old. I hate to admit it, but it was the Bay City Rollers. That was in about 1975. I think I was in the third grade (at Bear Flag Elementary School) and I brought it home and played it on

my little Sears record player. I do miss Tower, but I’m glad (Solomon) opened that store, R5. (Tower’s absence) is interesting, because I’ve been in Tower Records in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Los Angeles and all over the place, so to have it gone is a really big deal. Tower was definitely a true Sacramento success story.”

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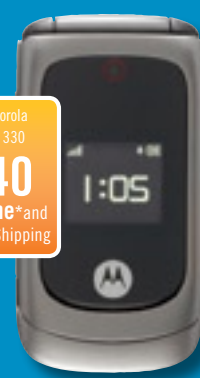
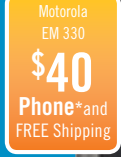
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Faces and places

Boy Scouts' successful e-waste drive

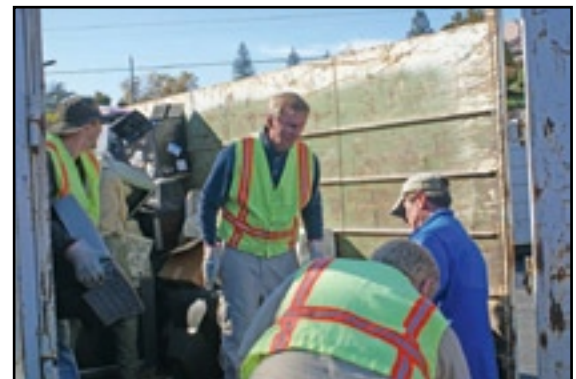
Boy Scouts of troops 640 and 217 participated in an e-waste drive at St. Mel's Catholic Church Saturday, Nov. 14. They started setting up at 7 a.m. The donators started arriving early at 7:45 a.m. and they were taken care of prior to the official starting time of 9 a.m. Due to the early start, the first large bin was full soon after 9 a.m. with about 10,000 pounds of e-waste.

The cars and pickups streamed steadily through the day until after closing at 1 p.m. Five bins were filled and moved to CEAR, which will recycle the contents. All computer hard drives will be shredded to protect any information that was still left on them.

Approximately 50,000 pounds of e-waste was recycled, meeting the scouts' goals of "Going Green with the Boy Scouts" and providing a much-needed service to the region.

Another e-waste event is planned for early in the spring of 2010 at another location.

Photos by East Sacramento News photographer Bill Condray.



A different way to divorce.

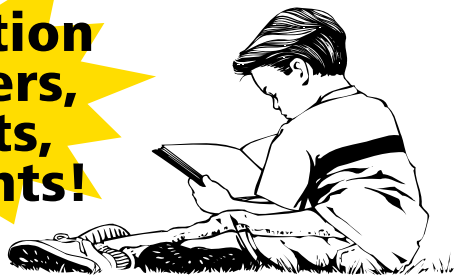


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Wayne Thiebaud (pictured) is one of the most respected contemporary artists in the world, said Sacramento State University Library Gallery Director Phil Hitchcock.

Arts in East Sac Sac State unveils Thiebaud collection

Special to *The East Sacramento News*

All 150 items in Sacramento State's Wayne Thiebaud collection will be exhibited publicly for the first time from Dec. 3 through March 6 in the Sacramento State University Library Gallery. A reception will be held 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in the gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The exhibit is free.

A Sacramento State alumnus, Thiebaud is one of the most respected contemporary artists in the world, said gallery Director Phil Hitchcock.

"I was looking for a collection by an artist who would be overwhelmingly recognized, and that was Wayne," Hitchcock said.

The collection, from a pair of anonymous donors, covers Thiebaud's works from 1948 to 2004, when the collection was donated to the university. The project was inspired by the Destination 2010 initiative launched by university President Alexander Gonzalez, Hitchcock said.

The goal is to have the collection travel around the country under the Sacramento State banner. Even though that hasn't been advertised yet, Chico State is already slated to exhibit the collection following its display at Sacramento State, Hitchcock said.

Thiebaud is most often associated with the pop art and photo realism movements, but Hitchcock said the artist's work goes beyond that.

"Wayne has always, in my opinion, kind of floated in his own category," Hitchcock said.

The exhibit also shows the process Thiebaud used. One finished painting will be accompanied by 16 preliminary drawings leading up to the finished piece.

"This collection, in a lot of ways, is a teaching collection," Hitchcock said.

The exhibit will be something of a family affair. Thiebaud's son, Matt Bult, will exhibit his paintings in the adjoining annex gallery Dec. 3-Jan. 23, and the two artists will share the Dec. 3 reception.

For more information, call (916) 278-4189.

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The delicious ride up to El Dorado County's Apple Hill

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

I recently took my yearly pilgrimage to Placerville to see what was going on at Apple Hill. Much to my delight, not a whole lot had changed since 2008. That is part of its charm, really. It's a place to see and to be appreciated for what it is rather than what it isn't.

But first: breakfast.



East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp

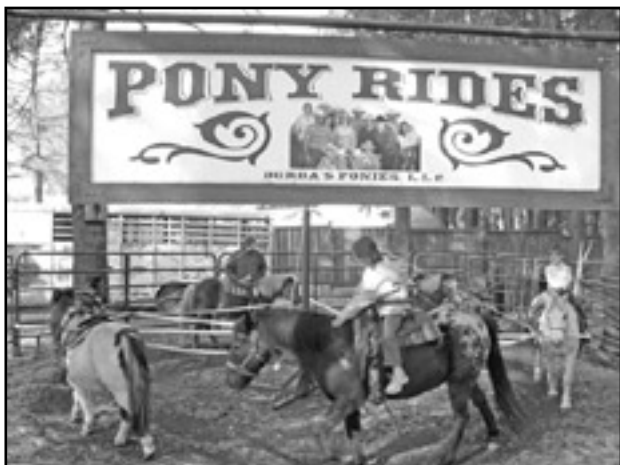
The Buttercup Pantry – a nice little restaurant packed with delicious delights.

Buttercup Pantry
 222 Main St., Placerville
 (530) 621-1320

As is tradition, a pit stop was in order to indulge in a meal that I had nearly forgotten. The Buttercup Pantry was the destination. It is a nice little restaurant packed with all manner of things from the 1930s. (Actually, I don't know if it's from the 1930s, but that's what it looks like to a child of the 1980s.)

My usual hasty bowl of Corn Flakes was not on the menu this day. No, no. This was a chance to reconnect with an old friend called French toast. And it was good. I don't know what they did to the bread to make it crispy like that, but it is probably best that I remain in the dark lest I demand it daily.

Stopping off at the Buttercup Pantry has become tradition and the food is excellent, but it serves a second purpose just as important: filling me up so I don't eat every apple creation under the sun when I reach Apple Hill.



East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp

Pony rides and fresh air – an experience with nature within driving distance.



East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp

Delicious and decadent: The many varieties of apples available at Apple Hill.

High Hill Ranch
 2901 High Hill Rd., Placerville
 (530) 644-1973

Stop number one was High Hill Ranch. The parking lot, though just seconds from the freeway, is a reminder of how awesome nature can be. Parking your car in a pine forest is not something you get to do a lot in the concrete expanse of every day life. Looking up, it was hard to tell if I was in Placerville or the woods of Oregon.

I took the familiar walk towards the display tents that housed handmade art for sale from vendors from all over the area. Woodcrafts, paintings and a vast array of little knick-knacks encased the area. I certainly would have taken pictures of some of the more bizarre pieces were it not for the many "No Photography" signs posted around the tents.

Afterwards, I walked past the fishing pond, complete with the two biggest white ducks I had ever seen. They could be mistaken for those paddleboats for two at first glance. I avoided the enormous pie shop (for obvious reasons) and made my way past the pony rides towards the dreaded candy shop. I submit that it was not my fault that I was drawn into its midst. It pretty much taunts you with its small-town appeal and promises of unimaginable sweetness.

I made it out alive. The only thing I bought was a little container of chocolate-covered gummy bears. (I know, I know. But when one sees something so ruthlessly absurd, curiosity overwhelms the senses). And if you're wondering, yes, they tasted about as odd as you'd expect. I'm just happy I resisted the urge to buy a caramel apple dipped in Oreo cookie pieces. I was this close to committing grand theft pastry.

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As you might expect, Apple Hill is mostly about apples. For miles around there are apple orchards, most of which have signs pointing you towards where you can purchase their produce. I stopped off at Boa Vista Orchards and counted 14 different kinds of apples. I thought there were roughly three in existence.

There was simply too much interesting stuff at that marketplace and they finally got me. I got some apple-raspberry cider, a caramel apple (sans Oreo crumbs), peanut brittle and some of those totally unnecessary but ultimately intriguing flavored honey straws. That may sound like a lot of things that are terrible for me, but if and when you go, you too will understand the power of the apple.

Before heading home, I rode through a long, winding stretch of road perfectly set between forests on either side. It was the kind of road that seems utterly impossible based on what we see as "city folk." I even passed the picnic area where I was viciously attacked by a flock of stupid geese as a child. I suppose "viciously attacked" is a bit strong, but I distinctly remember them pecking at me to share my chips. Horrible animals.

Destination and journey

There are no seven-foot-tall mascots, thrilling rollercoaster or depressingly long lines, but you could do a lot worse than a day at Apple Hill. Take the kids and enjoy the scenery. Eat the apples, of course. Just watch out for the blood-thirsty geese.

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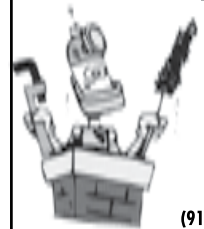
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From farm to fashion

Arden Fair Mall has grown, evolved with the times

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

With the holiday shopping season's arrival with the traditional Black Friday or the day following Thanksgiving when store's slash prices and customers come in droves to find the best deals, it is a good time to review the history of the Arden-Arcade area's most dominant shopping destination – Arden Fair Mall.

In 1957 – 11 years after the opening of the area's first shopping center, Town and Country Village – Arden Fair Mall on Arden Way emerged within a still considerably rural area where farm animals and a wide variety of wildlife roamed on open land.

But that was then and this is now, as Arden-Arcade, which was determined by the Census Bureau to be among the nation's 10 largest unincorporated communities as early as 1961, and the mall have grown with the times.

To the mall

Local residents received early word regarding the future construction of the mall, which was then referred to as the Swanston Estates Shopping Center, in the Dec. 25, 1954 edition of The Sacramento Bee.

Complete with an artist's rendition of how the mall was intended to appear, the report summarized the project, which would be constructed near the North Sacramento Freeway (today's Business 80/Capital City Freeway).

It was also reported in the article that the project's developers Philip F. Heraty and William Gannon had revealed that the estimated \$20 million to \$30 million mall would include a \$2.5 million Sears Roebuck and Co. department store.

Besides Sears, which had a designated 30-acre site within the project, the precise location of the mall's other future businesses had not been determined.

The mall, which was initially a single-story, open-air complex located on 74.24 acres, experienced much early success, which led to various expansions, including the addition of a 200,000-square-foot Hale's department store in 1960.

By 1962, the mall consisted of Sears, Hale's, Kress, Woolworth's, the Carousel restaurant and bar, Leed's Shoe Store, Thom McAn



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Arden Fair Mall has experienced much growth throughout its 52-year existence. Originally established as a single-story, open-air mall, Arden Fair is now an enclosed, two-story, architecturally modern mall, featuring its anchor stores, Sears, Nordstrom, Macy's and JCPenney.

Shoes, Sacramento Savings and Loan, Gallenkamp Shoes, Rogers Jewelry, Smiths Clothiers, Beverly, Heeseman clothier and Lane Bryant, which still operates in its original location.

Expanding, evolving

About a year later, construction was underway on a \$1.5 million, 110,000-square-foot addition to the mall.

The project, which was developed by the Kassis Investment Co., included space for such businesses as a Stop-N-Shop supermarket, Thrifty Drug Store, Cork 'n' Bottle liquor store, one of the state's first General Electric service centers and a Sperry and Hutchinson Green Stamps redemption center.

The addition also featured a center for restaurants, called the Arden Fair Food Circus.

Long before the arrival of the mall's present-day food court, Arden Fair drew many visitors to its 27,000-square-foot Food Circus, which was developed as a result of the success of Country Club Plaza's popular Gourmet Lane.

Serving as a sort of food mall within the mall, the Food Circus was a one-stop destination spot for food and snack offer-

ings from such businesses as Pagnuica's, Frank Fat's, The Steak Pit, Jumbo's Burger Basket, Hof Brau, Hot Dog on a Stick, Frank's Fisherman's Wharf, Carnation Ice Cream and Pastry, Country Candies, The Nut Shop and Tastee Do-Nut Parlor. Overall, the Food Circus included about 15 businesses.

Like Sears, Weinstock's department store, which later replaced Hale's, also served as a longtime anchor of the mall.

In front of Weinstock's, which has been the site of Macy's since 1996, was a Super Slide that was used by many people, who slid down its slopes on burlap, gunny sack bags.

Mall memories

Arden Fair employees Stan Bray and Steve Reed have fond memories of visiting the mall during the 1960s.

Bray, Arden Fair's assistant manager of operations, said that his connection to the mall continuously dates back to his teenage years.

"I used to work for a magician at the Food Circus when I was about 13 or 14 years old," said Bray, a 1975 graduate of the now-closed

La Sierra High School. "Every Saturday and Sunday we'd put on magic shows and I was (the magician) Mr. Whammy's assistant. He used to work for Ringling Bros., so he had all the tricks and all kinds of animals like show goats and show monkeys and show dogs. I'd load up all the stuff in the secret compartments or bring in the dog or whatever. He would give me \$5 per show and my money would go to feed my own animals (at home) on an old chicken ranch off of Madison Avenue by Hemlock (Street)."

Bray said that other members of his family were also connected to the mall, as his mother, Janet, managed the Tastee Do-Nut Parlor and his brother, Derrick, managed Wallpapers To Go.

After leaving his magician's assistant position, Bray, who is in his 36th consecutive year working at Arden Fair, was hired by Frank Kassis as a Food Circus busboy, which led to other jobs at the mall, including his former job as a maintenance worker.

"I started working here in 1973 and I've had every job (at the mall) that you can think of," Bray

See Arden Fair Mall, page 21

Arden Fair Mall: 'We have to keep up with the times and that's why we're constantly changing things and improving things'

Continued from page 20

said. "I tell people that when I look at a wall (at Arden Fair), it's like X-ray, because I know what's in that wall, I know what's on the other side of that wall; I can just keep on going."

Reed, the mall's security and guest services manager, said that as a teenager, Arden Fair was one of his favorite places to visit with his close friends, Butch Godfrey and Jim O'Neil.

"The first time I came to the mall was in about 1961," said Reed, a 1965 graduate of Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks. "I was a freshman at Bella Vista and the biggest thing was going to the Food Circus and I would also go to (Thrifty) with my buddies (Godfrey and O'Neil) and get ice cream cones for just a nickel (each). The Food Circus had all these various restaurants with food from different countries, so you could go in and eat different cuisines from different cultures. Back then, Arden Fair and Country Club were the places to go. We'd go over to Country Club and cruise the parking lot and then with whatever money we had, we'd go to Arden Fair."

Reed's association with Arden Fair continued after his high school years, as he worked as a trash bailer and stock boy for Weinstock's.

After serving about two years in the Vietnam War, Reed, whose sister-in-law Diane Grissom once worked in Weinstock's cosmetics department, continued his work at Weinstock's while earning a pair of teaching credentials and a bachelor's degree in communications at Sacramento State College (now Sacramento State University).

Reed taught classes at local schools, including Arden and Jonas Salk, before becoming a Sacramento Police officer, patrolling the mall's grounds as an off-duty officer and being

hired as the mall's security manager 10 years ago.

Remaking Arden Fair

Arden Fair underwent a major renovation in about 1969, when it was converted into an indoor mall.

For those who recall Arden Fair during the 1970s, a listing of some of the stores shown on a 1974 blueprint map on file with the mall's management should bring back plenty of memories.

Included on the map is the Food Circus and aforementioned businesses that continued to operate at the mall such as Weinstock's, the Thrifty Drug Store and Roger's Jewelry, as well as a variety of other stores.

These stores include: House of Fabrics, Olin Mills Photography, Arden 4 Cinemas, Kay-Ross Fashions, Pic-A-Dilly women's clothing store, See's Candy, Karmelkorn Shop, Beadazzled retail jewelry store, the Plum Tree gift shop and Imperial Barbers.

A pair of other Arden Fair stores during this era were Mervyn's department store and Corti Bros. grocery store.

Bray said that the area just west of the mall remained fairly rural in the 1970s.

"In the early 1970s, I would go across the street from Arden Fair, because I used to be a falconer. Across the way was all barbed wire and there was not one building there. It was all sheep over there. I would climb trees looking for owls. I never found an owl, but there were a lot of red ants."

Bray added that in Arden Fair's early years, a road led through the middle of the mall to a neighborhood, which was located alongside a cow pasture.

He also said that the area to the east of the mall, where the architecturally unique Best Products – now Best Buy – was located was an open field where local youth often road motorcycles.



The demand for on-site parking is at a high level at Arden Fair Mall during the holiday shopping season. Fortunately for shoppers, the mall offers a free shuttle service to and from a free parking lot at the nearby Cal Expo, as well as a valet parking service.

Getting to the mall of today

Although Arden Fair has experienced a variety of changes throughout the years, no project affected the image and prosperity of the mall more than its 1989 expansion, which doubled the size of the mall.

The project increased Arden Fair from a single-level, 196,000-square-foot mall to a two-level mall totaling more than a million square feet and including connecting bridges and escalators.

The mall also includes a pair of parking garages, one built in 1989 and the other in 1993.

Bray said that despite the addition of these garages, the demand for on-site parking during the holidays has continuously exceeded the mall's estimated 5,400 parking spaces.

"After the (1989) expansion, there were more people who wanted to come to Arden Fair (during the holidays) than (on-site) parking (could accommodate), so we had to create a way to help that, so we started the off-site (free) shuttle (to and from the nearby Cal Expo) and we have been doing that for 20 years," Bray said.

As Arden Fair looks to the future, the mall, Bray explained, intends to maintain its efforts to evolve with the times.

"We have to keep up with the times and that's why we're constantly chang-

ing things and improving things and making it better and making it fresher," Bray said.

And if history continues to repeat itself at Arden Fair, the mall should have a very bright future.

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

GET IN THE CALENDAR

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. 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.

DECEMBER

Travel to Spain

Ole, Espana! Come to a free informational evening about a fantastic Grand Tour of Spain in June of 2010. From the beaches of the Costa del Sol to the Moorish fortress of La Alhambra in Granada to the royal palace of Madrid we will explore the glories of Spain. Escorted by Spanish instructor Norma Petta. Go to ask_norma@spaineasy.com or call 916-457-1220. Two meetings: Dec. 16 at Oakmont High School in P33 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 17 at Border's on Fair Oaks Blvd at 6 p.m.

Christmas services

Faith Presbyterian Church at 625 Florin Road welcomes you to its Christmas Services: Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Sunday Services, held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16

(Wednesday) Advent Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 3

Latino Dance and Culture Group

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

DECEMBER 4

Organic Gardening

On December 4, 2009, the Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County will meet at the Carmichael Park Administration Building, Room 1, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, at 10 a.m. for a Holiday potluck. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

DECEMBER 5

Jensen Garden Workday Volunteers

The Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden work days one Saturday of ev-

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

Pruning Clinic

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

Advent Faire

To begin preparations for the Christmas Holidays, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, invites everyone to the Advent Faire, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "Make It and Take It" Christmas crafts are featured. There are gifts and decorations (including Christmas green arrangements and decorated Christmas houses) to make with the assistance of Santa's helpers and an opportunity to win a unique quilt fashioned by Northminster's quilters. There are craft activities for all ages. All crafts are free. To make this event complete, a light lunch will be offered. Bring your friends and family. For more information, call 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org.

Book Sale

To help holiday shoppers looking to save money as well as the library, the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library are sponsoring a Pre-Holiday Warehouse Sale. Public sale hours will be noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 12. Friends' members only are invited to shop from 9 am to noon on Saturday, December 5, and prospective members may join at the door for \$15. The sale will be held in the Friends' warehouse, at the rear of their Book Den store, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, between Power Inn Road and Florin-Perkins Road just south of 14th Avenue. More than 100,000 paperback and hard-bound books, audio books, videos, and other materials will be available at prices ranging from \$.50 to \$2.00. The Book Den store at the same site will be open during the Warehouse Sale. At the Book Den shoppers select from individually priced better books, including collectibles, and other materials, with most books priced at \$3 to \$10. The Book Den is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm, but during this special sale it will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds, after expenses, benefit the Sacramento Public Library. For more information call the Book Den at 916-731-8493 or email fspl@att.net.

DECEMBER 5-6

Holiday Open House and Studio Sale

15th annual Holiday Open House and Studio Sale at Schumacher Ceramics in Clarksburg on December 5th & 6th from 11am-5pm. Bob and Sonya Schumacher will have new ceramic pieces for all those on your gift-giving list. We will have new work from our returning potters and artists featured in the gallery, and paintings by Patris. On Saturday we will have jazz by Guitarbari of Davis, and on Sunday we will have the preview

release of the DVD by Sonya Schumacher entitled: "Clay Conversations". 36530 River-view Drive, Clarksburg, CA; Call for directions, (916) 744-1062.

DECEMBER 6

McKinley Song Circle

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

Christmas Crèche

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

DECEMBER 9

Root Cellar

Sacramento Genealogical Society General Membership meeting 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Citrus Heights Community Clubhouse 6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights. Program to be determined plus holiday festivities. Free. Visitors welcome. Contact Sammie Hudgens at (916) 481-4830 or www.rootcellar.org.

DECEMBER 10

Carmichael's Holiday Tree Lighting

Experience Carmichael's Holiday Tree Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. in Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Avenue. Holiday festivities include River City Concert Band, Santa Claus, Sac Metropolitan Fire District, Crafts for the Kids, Hot Cider and Cookies.

Computer club meeting

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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Calendar

Continued from page 22

DECEMBER 10

California Citizens for Health Freedom, Sacramento Chapter

The California Citizens for Health Freedom, Sacramento Chapter will meet on December 10, 2009, at the SMUD Auditorium (the old SMUD Building) on 6201 S Street, Sacramento. A free lecture, "Bring Health and Happiness - Getting a New Start for 2010" presented by Chaplain Tom Kopko, M.A., B.A. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

DECEMBER 11

"Beginning a Business" seminar

Twin Rivers Adult School will offer a free seminar "Business Concepts for Entrepreneurs." Thinking about starting your own business? Need to jump start your existing business? Considering a virtual online business? This presentation will highlight business structures and operational planning, accounting with Quick Books, and promotional materials development. Join us on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., and again at 6:00 p.m. for this and other information as presented in our new Business Concepts course. SCORE counselors are scheduled to be on-site to answer questions regarding SBA loans and other related resources. This seminar will be held at Twin Rivers Adult School, 3220 Winona Way, North Highlands, CA 95660. For more information, call David at (916) 996-7554 or email bt4a@live.com.

DECEMBER 11-12

Galena Street East Holiday

Tapestry

Galena Street East, a dynamic group of young performers specializing in music and dance, will perform their 37th Annual Holiday Tapestry production, "Wishes". Voted the "Best of Sacramento" in 2008, this lively, entertaining performing ensemble has captivated audiences for over 36 years with their diverse repertoire of music and dances that also includes traditional folk dances from many countries, including Hungary, Ireland, Korea, and the United States. This is a fabulous event for families as our young ambassadors, ages 5-19, dazzle audiences with their fabulous costumes, song, and dance. Shows are Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The performances are at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium; 6879 14th Ave. Tickets are \$15/general admission; \$12/children, students, & seniors; \$10/groups of 10 or more. For more information, call (916) 731-4090; www.galenastreeteast.org.

DECEMBER 12

Military Widows

The Society of Military Widows, Sacramento Chapter No. 5, will meet December 12, 2009, at the Lions Gate at McClellan Park at 11:15 a.m. for a Christmas luncheon and entertainment. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

Caleb Greenwood Flapjack 5K and Short Stack Kids Run

Caleb Greenwood School will host a Pancake Breakfast and 5K and Kids run on Saturday, December 12th from 8:00 am. until

11:00 a.m. Fun runs will begin at 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Proceeds go to Caleb Greenwood school technology program. For more information, visit www.flapjack5k.com

Sacramento Preservation Roundtable

The Sacramento Preservation Roundtable will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at 1200 Front Street in Old Sacramento with a presentation by Regional Transit. For more information visit, www.sacoldcity.org.

Capitol Ballet Co.'s "Nutcracker"

Come and enjoy the wonder of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" performed by

Capitol Ballet Company with guest dancers from Stockton Ballet School. Attending this classical ballet has become a holiday tradition for audiences in Northern California's Central Valley. The Nutcracker performances are Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m. at the Sheldon High School Performing Arts Center, 8333 Kingsbridge Drive, Sacramento and Saturday, December 19 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the San Joaquin Delta College Warren Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$12 for children, seniors, students and military with ID. Tickets may be purchased at www.capitolballet.com, or

by calling Capitol Ballet Company (916) 484-1188.

ARRL honoring Sheriff John McGinnis

The American River Republican Women Federated are honored to welcome Sheriff John McGinnis Sheriff to their luncheon on Dec. 12. John McGinnis Sheriff has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in 2010. His service in Sacramento County will be missed by those who know him and appreciated his dedication to his position and community. Luncheon will be held at Lake Natoma

Inn, 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, CA 95630. Republican Women and men are welcome. Membership is open to all Republican Women and Men. Sign in at 11:30 A.M. Luncheon at 12 Noon. Cost is \$27.00. RSVP to 916-482-6069 by December 9, 2009.

DECEMBER 12-13

Fremont Presbyterian Church

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



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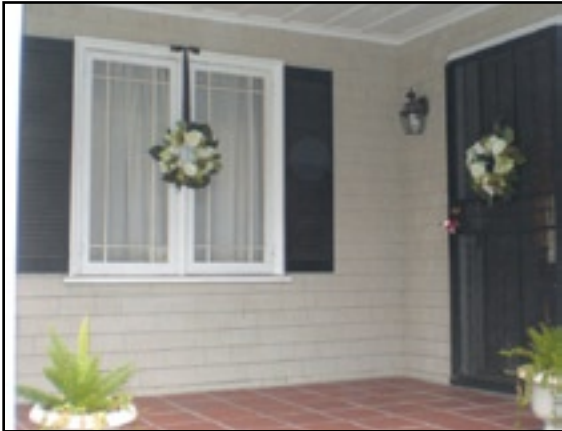
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This charming East Sacramento home is in a vibrant location with Trader Joe's and other specialty grocery stores, restaurants and nursery down the street. The bike route on M Street gets you downtown or to the American River Trail system. You can't go wrong with this charming 3 bedroom 2 bath home with a nice large backyard. The tile is in excellent condition and it come with a new roof and new interior paint. Ready for a new owner to shine up the hardwood floors. See www.1309-56thSt.com \$339,900

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Immaculate 3 bed 2.5 bath in the heart of East Sacramento! This turn-key home features a spacious floor plan with an elegant dining room, a gourmet kitchen with top of the line stainless steel appliances, imported tile, brushed nickel high-end fixtures, sunken tub and large walk in tile shower, new dual zone, CH&A, refinished hardwoods. Also included are remote control automatic gates, basement, new alarm system. See www.3997HStreet.com \$725,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home is located one block away from East Portal Park. Remodeled kitchen, dual pane windows, inside laundry and detached one car garage. Excellent opportunity for a first time home buyer or investor. See www.5278LStreet.com \$279,000

KARA LABELLA PARKER 716-3313

LIBBY LABELLA NEIL 539-5881



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