

Election 2010: Results mean Sacramento City Council shake-up

East Sacramento's City Councilmember Steve Cohn wins re-election, other incumbents fall

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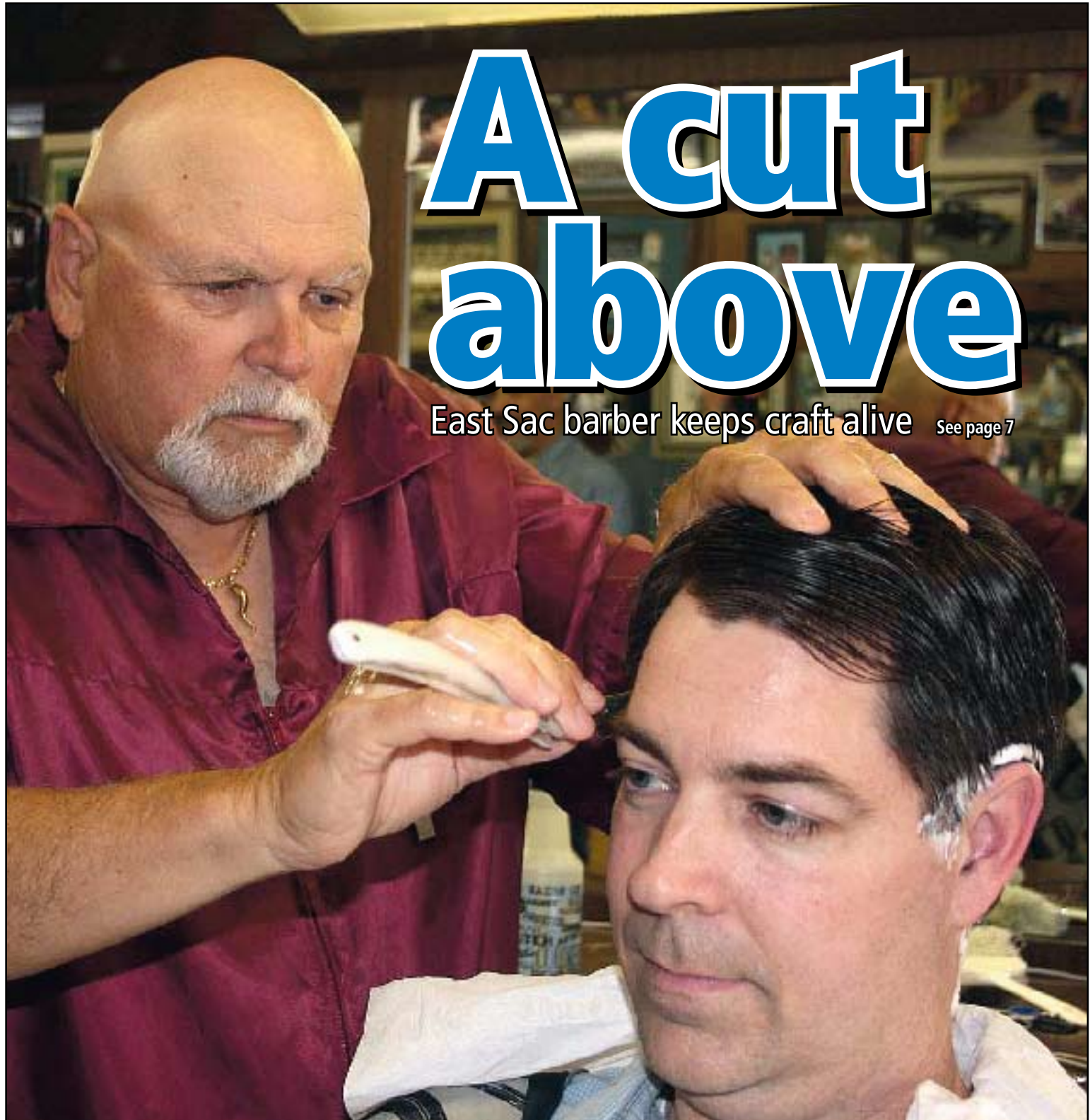
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Editor's note

Play ball, Sacramento

By **RYAN ROSE**
East Sacramento News Editor
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As it is with so many others, my love of baseball began in my youth. Outside my boyhood home in Manteca, the neighborhood kids, my brother Kevin and I would gather in the middle of the street, mark some of the manhole covers as bases, and play the game. We'd wear white T-shirts on which

we had written our favorite player's number. On my back, I had the number "22," with the name "Clark" printed across my shoulders. I was a longtime San Francisco Giants fan and Will Clark, the team's first baseman during the mid to late 80s, was my hero and my brother's idol.

I spent many a summer's day playing baseball with my friends — we would start right after breakfast and play until it was too dark to see the ball. We'd pick teams, argue about who played what position, and waste away the day hitting balls into the neighbors' yards. (Phyllis Higgins never knew that her front yard was our homerun marker, but I am sure she grew tired of us boys rifling through her rose bushes looking for lost balls.) My friends and I would often end our games stretched out on my front lawn, drinking cherry soda and talking about our favorite players, possible trades and the hope that one of our teams would go on to the World Series.

Of course, in those days, we would constantly beg our parents for an opportunity to see a real ballgame at a real ballpark. Truly, it was a great gift when we'd go to see a game in San Francisco or Oakland. And more than two decades later, it still is.

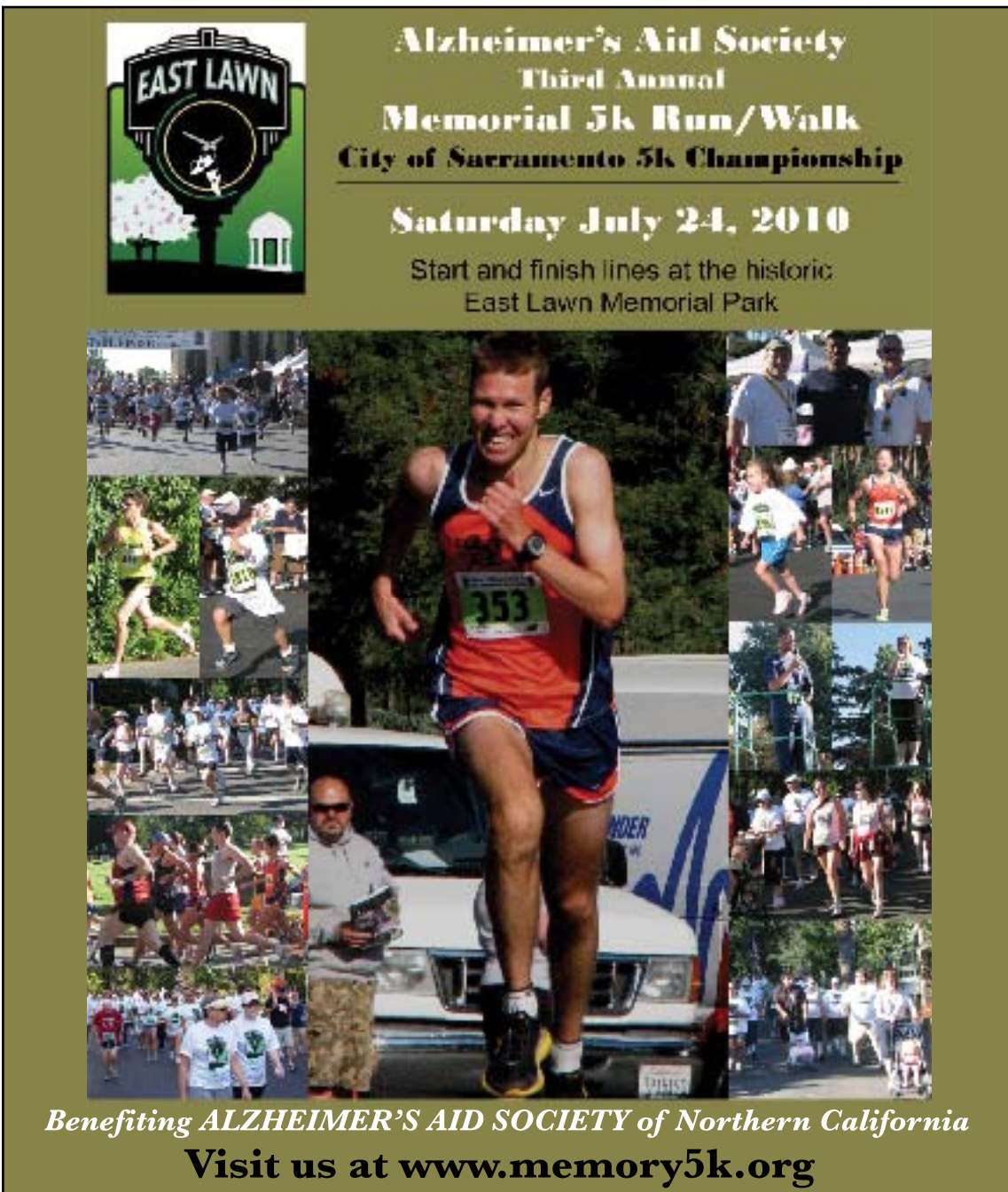
Thanks to the generosity of a good friend, I had a prime seat at a recent Sacramento River Cats game. Prior to the beginning of the game, I thought about how lucky Sacramento is to have the River Cats, as Minor League ball seems to be the last bastion of pure sportsmanship in professional baseball — if not professional sports entirely. There, at Raley Field, it isn't about steroids, but strikeouts; there are no arguments about instant replays; there, standing in the batter's box and on the pitcher's mound, are just young athletes working hard so that they may one day make it to a Major League field. In my mind, they're already there.



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Election results bring Sacramento City Council shake-up

By RYAN ROSE
East Sacramento News Editor
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Since 1992, no incumbent Sacramento City Councilmember has lost a re-election bid; last Tuesday night, that all changed.

The June 8 Primary Election was a defining moment as Sacramento City Councilmembers Ray Tretheway, from Natomas' District 1, and Robbie Waters, representing Pocket-Greenhaven's District 7, have apparently lost in their race to serve another four years at City Hall. It's been 18 years since such an upset has occurred in Sacramento city politics.

According to semi-official results released June 9 at 1:48 a.m. by the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters, both incumbents lost to political newcomers, Tretheway falling to Natomas grassroots campaigner Angelique Ashby, and Robbie Waters being edged out by Ryan Chin and Darrell Fong. Tretheway, who claims he was a target because he would not support Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson's strong-mayor initiative, had been recently seen by political watchdogs as very vulnerable, especially as Ashby scored a number of major endorsements and political allies (Johnson being one of them). Waters, who ran twice unopposed (most recently in 2006), faced a tough fight of his own, desperately trying to fend off two candidates that were as equally funded and organized.

The District 3 Race

Although the Pocket-Greenhaven community saw quite the politi-

cal upset in District 7, the District 3 race was anything but – Councilmember Steve Cohn, Midtown and East Sacramento's longtime representative on the City Council, will remain in office for another term. The incumbent had faced a strong challenge from local real estate agent Chris Little and Midtown business owner Shawn Eldredge, but the incumbent persevered, winning his bid for a fifth term as the District 3 representative.

Cohn, who will now likely be one of Sacramento's longest-serving councilmembers, garnered 53.95 percent of the vote, winning a clear majority and avoiding a run-off election in November. Little and Eldredge scored 37.73 percent and 5.52 percent, respectively, while candidate Jeff Rainforth garnered the remaining votes.

Sacramento County Sheriff contest

A bruising primary election will likely turn into a bruising general election: candidates Scott Jones and Jim Cooper, both captains with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, did not win a clear majority of votes and will now face one another again in the November General Election.

Jones came out on top in Tuesday's race, but not by much, taking in 46.17 percent of the vote; Cooper came in second and garnered 41.37 percent of the vote; a third candidate, Bret Daniels, drew the remaining votes.

Sacramento County voters can expect the war of words to continue into the fall. The 2010 General Election is Nov. 2.

Five questions with Noah Winn

Meet Carla Martin, RN

By NOAH WINN
East Sacramento News Writer
noah@valcomnews.com

NOAH WINN: Your feet must be killing you. Do they have specially made shoes for nurses? Do you get a contract from Nike or Reebok when you sign on to become a Nurse?

CARLA MARTIN, registered nurse at Mercy Hospital East Sacramento: "No, but they should (*she laughs*). I am on my feet all day and I prefer the Nike Shox. They should really give us shoe contracts."



NW: How long have you been a nurse? And what was the craziest thing you have seen working as nurse?

CM: "I have been a nurse since 1992 (Nurse Carla worked in Texas, Oklahoma and in Sacramento). I have seen a lot of crazy things, some I can't have you print, but when I was a nurse in Oklahoma, I always would see the 'Bubbas' come in with gunshot wounds because when the 'Bubbas' were drunk and cleaning their guns they forgot to unload them, and BOOOM! They shoot their leg or arm. I have seen a lot of those types of wounds."

NW: I have much respect for nurses, I have been in the hospital a few times myself and a good nurse can make your day. Let's say you have a bad day, what do you do to lift your spirits up to help the patient?

CM: "I am a pretty up-beat person; I rarely have a bad day. I am so thankful just to come into work and help out the patients. Sometimes, when I help a patient, and he or she tells me thank you or they give that special look on their face, that makes me have a better day to help out other patients."

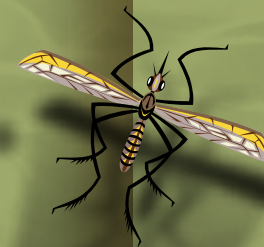
NW: Nurses rarely have time to eat or have a break, when you do, if you're in East Sacramento, where do you go?

CM: "We don't have any time whatsoever. But when we do, I can't get enough of the '\$5 footlongs' at Subway."

NW: What is your favorite hospital themed television show?

CM: "I love 'ER' – that's my favorite show! For their clinical peril and their never-ending drama." (Side Note: Carla laughed because I thought it would be because of George Clooney.)

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Will ARNHA take over the Effie Yeaw Nature Center?

Special to the East Sacramento News
From the American River Natural History
Association

Sacramento County officials have requested detailed proposals from four local nonprofit organizations on how they would manage the Effie Yeaw Nature Center if selected when county operation is scheduled to end June 30.

Four nonprofits stepped up when a budget crunch threatened closure of the center: the American River Natural History Association, the American River Parkway Foundation, the Sacramento County Office of Education and the Discovery Museum on Auburn Blvd., Sacramento.

Each organization was asked to provide information on such key subjects as anticipated revenue and expenditures, and plans for fulfilling the nature center's basic services for children, teens and adults such as nature tours, animal care and exhibits. The deadline for submitting the proposals was June 4.

The requests for proposals were issued following a Board of Supervisors May 12 Workshop on future of the financially struggling regional parks system. About 65 people attended, wearing green attire and stickers with ARNHA's logo in hopes of persuading the supervisors to choose ARNHA to run the nature center.

Developing the plans

Months ago, ARNHA was the first of the four organizations to express interest in managing the nature center, drawing support from Parks Department Director Janet Baker.

"ARNHA is an obvious choice because of its continuing support of the Nature Center over many years," Baker said.

No county funding is assured beyond June 30 for the 33-year-old, award-winning nature center. However, ARNHA Board and Associate Board members are hoping the supervisors can be persuaded to find the resources to allow the county to continue operating the nature center and remove the threat of closure. In a statement, Peggy Kennedy, ARNHA vice president, made the case for keeping the 33-year old award winning nature center's doors open:

"Effie Yeaw Nature Center has a long tradition of providing environmental education for the children and adults of Sacramento County. The 77 acres of natural preserve is an unusual treasure in the midst of suburban development. It would be a pity if the museum and assembly building were closed, if the nature preserve were left open to vandals, vagrants, and others who do not value the preserve. The portion of county funding needed to



keep Effie Yeaw Nature Center open and functioning as a source of environmental education is a tiny part of the county budget.

"The benefits the Effie Yeaw Nature Center brings to the businesses and homeowners of the county make keeping the Center open a good business decision. Hearing a third grader who has just completed a workshop at Effie Yeaw Nature Center say, 'This is the best day of my life' is all the testimony we need."

With the county facing a projected \$166.5 million deficit in fiscal 2010-2011, Baker said officials also

are exploring the possible transformation of the Parks Department itself.

"We are researching different models statewide for county regional park agencies – whether they be special districts, conservancies or joint powers authorities. The goal is to find the model that best fits our region and offers the most likely opportunity for success.

"In the end it may be that voters will be asked whether or not they would support a special tax or assessment to

See Effie Yeaw, page 5

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Effie Yeaw: 'People want to help us out'

Continued from page 4

protect and maintain regional parks, open space and trails in the region."

Funding and fees

Baker said park officials recognize that there are many challenges around the idea of transitioning the nature center from county control to ARNHA, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1981 when the nature center was threatened with closure. But she said the change could provide the potential for sustaining and growing the Nature Center's programs over time by allowing increased flexibility and cost savings.

"I believe that there could be a successful model for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center similar to what happened with the city of Sacramento and Fairytale Town and the Sacramento Zoo back in the 1980s," Baker said. "Both of these organizations successfully transitioned to be almost fully operated by their non-profits."

"The transition will take time and could include annual benchmarks such as leasing the facilities and fund raising goals. There may be some opportunity for limited county support for facility maintenance or Center programs during the transition."

It was widely agreed by ARNHA and Nature Center officials that such a huge expansion of ARNHA's role would not be possible without a major financial commitment from the Sacramento County during a transition period.

This conclusion is illustrated by recent financial figures for the nature center and ARNHA.

According to EYNC Director Marilee Flannery, EYNC expenditures in 2008-09, the last year EYNC was fully funded and able to do all of its programs, were \$980,000 (staffing, \$700,000; utilities, materials, and supplies, \$100,000; county overhead, \$180,000). During that year, the nature center served about 100,000 children, teens and adults with 944 programs, both on-site and in the community at schools, libraries, other parks and other community sites. Of these programs, 103 were free to the public. Entrance into EYNC has also been free for the 33 years it has operated. Free admission was judged to be governed by the American River Parkway Plan.)

Total EYNC revenue in 2008-09 was \$287,000 (program revenue, \$140,000; grants,

sponsorships, agency support, \$100,000; donations, \$47,000, including \$40,000 from ARNHA.)

Flannery continued, "If the EYNC is to operate as a nonprofit and wants to pay the same wages as staff have earned previously (not likely) and have the same programs, then it would take \$513,000 to operate the EYNC (cost of EYNC without county overhead).

In stark contrast, ARNHA has budgeted \$134,500 in total unrestricted income in 2009-10, while allocating \$59,500 to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Making the transition

To point to Fairytale Town's transition from city of Sacramento operation to nonprofit status as a model for Effie Yeaw as the Parks Department suggests would present challenges and opportunities. For instance, the William Land Park children's play park is fenced in and takes in about \$600,000 annually in admissions; it is considered unfeasible to charge admission to the unfenced nature center and its 77-acre preserve.

At the same time, this disadvantage could be partially offset if the county granted Effie Yeaw a share of the \$5-per-car parking fees collected in Ancil Hoffman Park.

Fairytale Town's \$1.2 million annual budget also includes \$270,000 from the sale of food, a source of revenue not now available to EYNC. But food service would be possible within Health Department restrictions, Marilee Flannery said.

Nonprofit organizations that seek grants are said to enjoy a more sympathetic response from foundations and business firms than do government-supported groups. However, there can be a downside when donors restrict awards to specific projects and not ongoing operations such as staff salaries.

"As scary as it is to transition from a city department to a non-profit, it has been good for Fairytale Town," said Kathy Fleming, executive director of Fairytale Town. "We can fundraise without any hindrances. And when we go out to bid on a contract, because we're a nonprofit, people want to help us out."

Story originally appeared in the ARNHA newsletter, "The Acorn." For information on receiving "The Acorn," visit www.arnha.org.

Janey Way Memories



The Relles family pets



By **MARTY RELLES**
East Sacramento News Columnist
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During my childhood on Janey Way, my family had several pets. The first was a dog. I can't remember his name. He liked to chase cars though. Dad tried everything to break him of the habit, but he refused to change this bad behavior. Eventually, that led to his demise as a car hit and killed him. We were heartbroken by his loss and because of that we never owned another dog. After that, we took in cats.

We named our first cat Sinbad. A friend of my sister Patricia gave us this magnificent, purebred Siamese cat. Being a tom, he loved to fight. In fact, he chased most of the other cats out of the neighborhood. Even the dogs took a wide birth around our house when Sinbad showed his face. I remember seeing one dog chase him down the street. Then Sinbad suddenly turned and loosed his claws on the dog's face. It let out a blood curdling yip heard around the block. Needless to say, the dog ran away and never came by again.

One time Sinbad fought with a squirrel near our neighbor Dom Costamagna's house. The squirrel bit him on the leg causing an infection. The cat spent days in the animal hospital having that wound treated. I am sure the cost for the treatment was exorbitant, but dad insisted they nurse him back to health. Days later, he returned home like a fallen hero, and received weeks of extra special treatment from all the family. Sinbad used to perch at the entrance to Janey Way guarding his turf. When we saw him down there, we yelled, "Here Sinbad, come home," and he would come running home in a full sprint. Sadly, one day Sinbad mysteriously disappeared. We think someone kidnapped him. With his beautiful color and markings, he stood out, and likely someone just took him.

Later, when I moved off Janey Way I had cats of my own. My Siamese female cat, Maggie, eventually gave birth to a big litter of kittens so I asked dad to take one. He picked out a furry jumble of a cat he named Bootsie. He and the cat developed a special relationship. When we visited my parents house, we usually found Bootsie sitting on dad's lap. Dad used to work on bingo night at St. Mary's Church. When he did that, Bootsie followed him down to the church and then followed him home afterward.

When dad returned home from a drive, he usually found Bootsie perched on the brick ledge skirting the house. When dad called, the cat usually jumped from one side of the perch to the other so dad could open the door. Then, like a little dog, she followed dad into the house. Bootsie produced several litters of cats, so we finally suggested dad have her spayed. He refused, saying it was her "God-given right" to have kittens. One day, dad arrived home and found Bootsie dead in our backyard. Dad thought a dog may have killed her as she had a litter of kittens at the time and may have been protecting them.

Our family had a long and storied history with animals. Most seemed to meet an unfortunate demise, but we cherished all of them and they in turn gave us many happy Janey Way memories.

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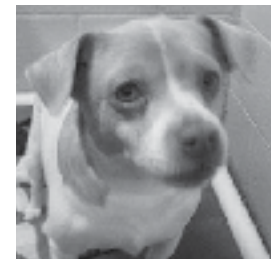
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East Sacramento barber keeping tradition of historic barbershop alive

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

Many longtime East Sacramento residents are quite familiar with Johnny's Barbershop at 5134 Folsom Blvd. But then again, this is where one can often find many of these longtime residents.

As is the scene at Johnny's on just about any given time throughout the week, locals stop by to visit with the business's owner, barber Johnny Waldron, and whoever else might be hanging out at the place at the time.

Just last Monday, for instance, the shop was filled with an average of seven people throughout the afternoon.

Among the people spending time at the shop on this day was longtime East Sacramento resident Joe Catalano.

Catalano said that after several years of getting his hair cut by Tony Latino at Tony's Barbershop at 6313 Folsom Blvd., he began coming to Johnny for his haircuts and has been one of Johnny's dedicated clients ever since this time.

"I got out of the service and later came down here (to East Sacramento) in 1954," Catalano said. "I've been coming here (to get haircuts from Johnny) since 1962."

But as is the case with many of Johnny's visitors, Catalano often stops by the shop to simply hang out and socialize, as opposed to arriving with the intention of receiving a haircut.

Another longtime visitor of the shop is 87-year-old East Sacramento resident John Ciani.

Ciani, who said that Johnny operates a "terrific shop," added that he has known Johnny for many years.

"I've known Johnny for a real long time," Ciani said. "In fact, I have known him so long that I used to babysit him."

Heath Scharamuga, who grew up in the nearby College Greens area, said that he has been getting his hair cut by Johnny since the 1970s.

"I went to school at St. Mary Elementary School (at 1351 58th St.) and my mom would give me a couple bucks and say, 'Get a hamburger at McDonald's and come down and get a haircut and I'll pick you up on the way home,'" said Scharamuga, a 1988 graduate of Jesuit High School. "So, I would come down here and get my haircut and I'd hang out here for an hour. I was only about 9 years old at the time. I had a good time, since there was plenty of candy. He kept us full of candy. He still has a box of candy here."

A cut above

In addition to putting smiles on the faces of children, Johnny has always been known as the barber who enjoys helping others with a variety of projects.

And guessing what one of these projects is might not be so difficult, considering the many pictures of hot rods, which decorate the walls of his shop.

Being a fan of hot rods and owning his own four-wheel showpiece, a 1931 Ford, Johnny is often found after work helping out a friend work on his car.

Furthermore, Johnny is the president of the Italian Hot Rod Association, which was founded about 10 years ago.

But being president of an Italian organization is certainly not Johnny's only Italian connection.

Instead, Johnny, who is half Italian and half Irish, is a descendant of an early East Sacramento Italian family who resided in the Little Italy neighborhood, which was roughly located from 48th to 58th streets between H Street and Folsom Boulevard.

Due to the many details of his family's background in East Sacramento, Johnny referred to his sister, Marie (Waldron) Booth, who is very knowledgeable about the family's history, to tell a bit about his family's East Sacramento heritage.

"There were two brothers, Giuseppe and Antonio Pane, who came from the



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Between those who arrive daily for haircuts and those who simply stop by to mingle, Johnny's Barbershop at 5134 Folsom Blvd. is a busy and lively place throughout the week.

town of Panettieri in (the region of) Calabria in the mountains in southern Italy," Booth said. "Antonio, who is my grandfather, first came to America in 1905 when he was 19 years old. (Antonio) came here to Sacramento in about 1918, because his brother was here."

Members of the Pane family first began living in Little Italy in 1926, Booth said. "(Eventually), I had an aunt at 1208 58th Street, I had an aunt at 1147 58th Street, I had my grandparents at 1139, I had my cousin at 1123, I had another aunt at 1075, my parents at 1071 and I had another aunt at 1051," Booth said.

Furthermore, Giuseppi, who was also known as Joe, resided at 1348 55th St.

In speaking about his heritage, Johnny, who is also a member of the East Portal Bocce Club, the Dante Club, the Piemonte Reale Benevolent Society, the Sons of Italy and the Knights of Columbus, said, "I'm proud to be Italian. I was born and raised on 58th Street. That's where we all were."

Tradition alive

In addition to his previously mentioned Italian background and activities, Johnny is continuing another East Sacramento Italian tradition, which dates back to about 1939.

It was during this time that Sam Bonanni, who resided at 5027 M St., opened the barbershop that was later owned by Johnny.

Johnny, who received his very first haircut from Bonanni when he was about a year old, described Bonanni as a barber who ran a very simple, old-style barbershop.

"(Bonanni) had a barbershop across the street and when they built this building, Sam came over here," Johnny said. "The guy who had Doc's (Place) over there – the hamburger stand (which now houses The Shack at 5201 Folsom Blvd.) – he built this building for Sam and then Sam came over here. (Bonanni) ran it as a one-chair shop and all he wanted was one chair with no payrolls, no nothing. He

See Johnny's, page 8

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Johnny's: 'Is a place where everyone knows your name'

Continued from page 7

was just a little Italian guy who kept it simple."

Among the scenery of Bonanni's shop, Johnny said, was "an old stove with a little fire for the heat and on top of the stove was a little cheese and a bottle of wine."

"That's the way Sam operated," Johnny added with a chuckle.

In 1961, Bonanni sold his barbershop to Marvin Kincade, who resided at 3313 Mayfair Drive in the Arden area, between Watt and Morse avenues.

Johnny said that Kincade, who changed the shop's name from Sam's Barbershop to Katy's Barbershop, was "the kind of guy who came in and would buy a shop like this one, take the one chair, put four chairs in, then build it up, sell it and make a profit. He went all over town and built shops up and sold them."

Ralph E. Scott, a barber who resided at 857 38th St., purchased the new-look shop from Kincade in about 1969, but only owned the business, which was then known as Exchange Barbershop, for a few months before accepting \$5,000 for its sale.

Johnny, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1962, said that although he was planning on entering into a different line of work, his grandfather Antonio Pane and his cousin Joe Lobue, who resided at 1123 58th St., purchased the business for him.

Ironically, this was not the first time that Johnny was offered the business for free, explained Johnny, who worked his apprenticeship at Katy's from 1962 to 1964 and later worked for Latino.

"Sam was a close friend of our family and he talked to me about going to barber college and had told me, 'If you go to barber college, I won't retire. I'll give you the shop.'" Johnny said. "But when you're 15 years old, you're not worried about barber college, so I said, 'I'm not going to go to barber college.' So, he sold it to this guy, Katy."

Craft and clips

For Johnny, who has a wife named Alvina, four children and five grandchildren, his return to barbering ended up being a very positive experience in his life.



East Sacramento News photo/Lance Armstrong

"I love it here," Johnny said. "East Sacramento is where I grew up. And that's probably part of the reason I've been so successful here (at the barbershop) is because I've been here all my life. I wouldn't want to go anywhere else, because I'd be a stranger. Here, I've known a lot of these people most of my life."

Pointing to one of his customers, Johnny added, "Like Dennis (Shanahan) here, I've known his family and him all of his life. Everybody just kind of knows everybody and that's what helps you."

"It's like that show, 'Cheers,'" responded Shanahan, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1974 and owns Shanahan Auto Body and Paint on Power Inn Road. "(Johnny's) is a place where everyone knows your name."

Johnny's Barbershop is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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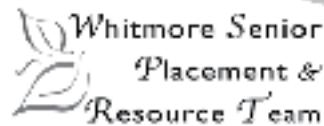
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Business is blooming

Land Park's Balshor Florist celebrates 60th anniversary

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

When it comes to longevity in business in the Land Park area, one likely does not have to look further than Balshor Florist.

The family-owned business is celebrating its 60th anniversary, 38 years of which have been spent at its current address of 2661 Riverside Blvd.

The full-fledged florist, which makes free deliveries throughout the greater Sacramento area and has a long history of providing flowers to weddings, funerals and hospitals, was founded 18 years earlier at 730 O St.

Sitting down with the Land Park News last week to discuss details regarding their longtime successful business, Al and Marie Balshor spoke about their many years working in the community.

A Land Park original

As a native Sacramentan who has been working since his youth, Al admits that he knows more than a thing or two about how to survive in the business world.

Although both Al and Marie stress that they are not the type of people to brag about their accomplishments in life,

Al does not shy away from the notion that he is a well-seasoned veteran when it comes to satisfying customers.

"My business philosophy has always been about service, service, service," Al said. "We're a full-fledged florist that (provides) individual service. We treat every order with personal service. It's all about customer satisfaction."

In speaking about his experiences in business and life, in general, one of Al's staple phrases that he often uses is "walk the walk and talk the talk."

Al, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1942 and was drafted into the Army the following year, is a firm believer in the power of experiences in life.

In his strive to achieve quality results with his florist shop, Al said that it certainly does not hurt to have a business partner whom he has known for nearly three-quarters of a century.

"We go way, way back," Al said with a smile.

Reflecting on his comment, Marie, who grew up on a Grade-A dairy in Dixon, responded by saying, "We sure have. We've known each other since I was 6 and he was 9."

It was at this time in about 1934 when the two youngsters of Portuguese ancestry became acquainted with one another by way of their mothers who had met and became friends.

Three years later, Al, whose last name was historically spelled "Belchior," spent a week at the Dixon ranch, where Marie, who was born Maria Sequeira, said he made the mistake of telling her what to do on her own ranch.

"He comes into the barn and I was there with my chores to do and he said, 'You've got to clean the 'you know what' (out of the barn),' Marie said. "I got so angry at him. We had hose to clean the barn that was like a fireman's hose. I turned that water on and got him all wet. He was always a big, strong guy, but he grabbed me by the arm and just spoke to me. And I went home and I said, 'I never want to talk to that boy ever again, a day in my life.' My mother (who was also named Maria Sequeira) smiled. He was going to stay two weeks and he only stayed one (week). I don't even know how he got home, but it didn't matter. I was just glad to get rid of him."

Following this incident, Marie said that she continued to



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Longtime Land Park residents Al and Marie Balshor have been at the helm of Balshor Florist since its founding on Nov. 4, 1950.

see Al on occasions, since her mother was a good friend of Al's mother, Grace Balshor.

"Anytime we'd come to Sacramento, my mother would say, 'Maria, if Alberto's there, you've got to say hello to him, because Mrs. Balshor is a very nice lady.' I'd pray on the way over that he wouldn't be there and sometimes my wish was granted and other times I would say, 'hello,' and lower my head. And that went on for nine years."

Blooming business

At the age of 18, after graduating from Dixon High School and while searching for a place

to live while attending secretarial school, Marie received an offer from Grace to live at the Balshor residence.

After considering her possibilities, which included boarding houses, Marie accepted Grace's generous offer.

Although Marie spent months being teased by Al at the Balshor residence, she said that her attitude toward him changed on one single night.

"I got all dressed up and went to a bar (with one of Al's sisters) and Al was there. Oh my gosh," Marie said.

During that same evening, however, Al asked Marie to dance and figuring that there would be no harm in dancing, she accepted.

"We did three dances and Al planted a kiss right on my cheek," Marie said. "I've been melting ever since. So, on Jan. 1, 1948, we got married."

Together, Al and Marie, who eventually had three children, Judie (the florist's current manager), Al, Jr. (the florist's current driver) and Jerry (a handyman), remained living with Grace for seven years after they were married.

Following this time, the couple moved into the same Land Park home where they reside today.

But while Al and Marie were still living with Grace, Al, who had worked a variety of jobs in his life, including working as a newspaper boy for The Sacramento Bee when it was located at 911 7th St., selling programs at the longtime defunct

See Balshor, page 13

An advertisement for Eskaton Senior Residences and Services. The top half has a blue background with the words "welcome home" in large, light blue letters. Below that is an orange banner with the text "transforming the aging experience...". The bottom half has a dark blue background with the Eskaton logo and contact information. On the right side, there is a white-bordered photo of an elderly man and woman smiling together.

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Balshor: 'As long as I enjoy what I do, I'll be staying around'

Continued from page 12

L Street Arena boxing venue at 223 L St. and even providing weekend labor for Piazza Wholesale Florist at 1328 7th St. (his first florist job in 1941), completed his florist apprenticeship and opened Balshor Florist on Nov. 4, 1950.

Recalling these times, Al said that he made a little local history during his apprenticeship at Relles Florist, when the business was located at 2220 J St.

"I was Relles' first employee," Al said. "They started in 1946 and I started working there in February 1947. And when I finished my apprenticeship, the government paid me at that time and that's when I quit working there. I then inquired about renting (the then-vacant 730 O St. building) and I rented it for \$125 a month."

In May 1972, Al revived a little Sacramento history when he relocated his business to its current location, which was once the site of Marty Gardens Florist, which operated at the same address during the approximate years of 1957 to 1969.

Al said that his florist has created a very positive, even balance in his marriage, since he is the boss at work, while Marie is the boss at home.

And considering that the couple has been married for more than six decades, their dual-boss plan appears to be quite the recipe for success.

And while happy when he is at home under the direction of his boss, Al, who turned 85 last November, said that he does not see retirement in his future.

"People are always asking me when I'm going to retire, but then when I am not here (at the florist), people ask, 'Where's Al?' So, they're giving me mixed messages. But I enjoy what I'm doing (at the florist) and as long as I enjoy what I do, I'll be staying around."

About Balshor Florist

Balshor Florist is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Faces and places

Pops in the Park - East Portal Park

Pops in the Park, an East Sacramento tradition, is renowned for showcasing some of the finest musical talent in California. The Pops in the Park Concert Series offers a relaxing evening in the park with free entertainment for the whole family – and the June 5 concert featuring Whiskey Dawn at East Portal Park was no different. Food and beverage vendors

were on hand to help complete the night with a taste of Sacramento cuisine. A portion of the proceeds from sponsorship and food and beverage sales will go towards neighborhood and park improvements.

Photos by East Sacramento News photographer Noah Winn.

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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.

JUNE

Pops in the Park 2010

Pops in the Park returns to East Sacramento for the 2010 season: Saturday, June 19 - Bertha Henschel Park "SwingMasters," ESIA Sidney Pope & Onion Awards, Wading Pool Open - Free Admission; Saturday, June 26 - McKinley Park, "The Q-Balls" playing. All concerts begin at 6 p.m.

Widowed Persons Association

Widowed Persons Association of CA (WPAC) Chapter 1 is a non-profit organization that addresses the needs of widowed persons (both men and women) coping with the death of their spouse. This is a peer support session of two hours from 3:00-5:00 p.m. every Sunday, conducted by a trained facilitator. These sessions are held at the office located at 2628 El Camino Avenue

Suite D-18. For more information about these sessions and the organization, contact the WPAC office at (916)972-9722.

Free Dance Lessons

Free tap dance lessons on Fridays at noon at the Dance Corner, 2927 Fulton Ave. For more information, call 804-3104.

Tahoe Park Soccer Registration

Tahoe Park Soccer Registration begins in June. Registration days are June 12 and July 10. Visit their Web site for additional registration details: www.tpsoccerclub.com.

JUNE 17

Mission Oaks Genealogy

On June 17, 2010, the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The program speaker will be Lynn Brown, local genealogist, discussing "safe surfing through social networking." Visitors are welcome. Cost: Free. For more info call Robert Noyes (916) 332-5753 or visit Web site at: <http://missionoaksgenealogyclub.org>.

JUNE 19

Spring Tree Tours

Join the Sacramento Tree Foundation for a walk under Sacramento's tree canopy. Meet Saturday, June 19, CSUS Arboretum, meet at the Northeast pathway to the arboretum from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about identifying trees by leaf, bark and growth habits and get an idea of the great varieties of trees over our heads. Insect and disease issues will be discussed as well as watering needs for our particular environment of clay soils and hot weather. For additional information, including planting opportunities, please visit www.sactree.com.

Waldorf Open House

Learn about the unique and nurturing curriculum offered in the early childhood programs of a Waldorf school. At this event, you will see our beautiful 40-acre campus, meet faculty members, and discuss your child at this free open house, 9 a.m. to noon. Free child care with advanced reservations. For more information, visit www.liveoakwaldorf.org or call Live Oak Waldorf School at (530) 878-8720. Live Oak Waldorf School, 410 Crother Road in Meadow Vista is just minutes from Auburn, off I-80 at the Applegate exit.

JUNE 26

Comedy Night

Comedy Night - free. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Seats limited. Call today to reserve a seat (916) 483-3465. American River Community Church (ARCC), 3300 Walnut Ave., Carmichael (next to DMV).

JUNE 27

Music in the Park

On Sunday, June 27, Curtis Park will be filled with the sounds of frolicking children, laughing adults and fantastic music, as the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association opens its annual Music in the Park. This free concert runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and is part of the 2010 season of events of one of the busiest neighborhood associations in the state of California.

JULY

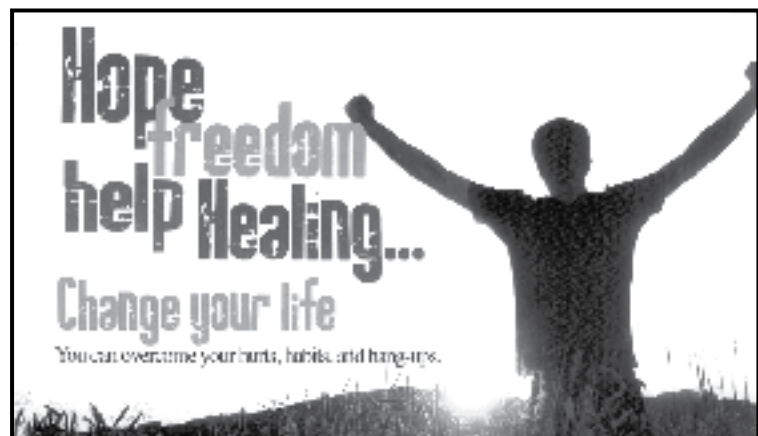
Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latino music on July 13 and July 20. Featuring DJ music and delicious Mexican food. Donations of \$3 or more to enter. Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call Barbara Alarcon at (916) 400-4514 for more information.

JULY 3

Spirit of the Pocket Fourth of July parade

The annual Spirit of the Pocket parade will start at 10 p.m. and will travel down Windbridge Drive to Garcia Bend Park. Entries are now being accepted for the 2010 Pocket Parade, which will be held on July 3rd at 10 a.m. Entry forms are available online at www.cityofsacramento.org/council or call my office at 808-7338 or The Pocket News at 429-9901.



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www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/

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tbonetti@cookrealty.net
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1 bedroom each side, 1 bath each side. Central heat and air, detached garage, nice yard, fireplace, hardwood floors and more. Great location for the investor or owner occupant.
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Windermere

Dunnigan Realtors



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TIM COLLOM 247-8048



EAST SAC COTTAGE

This cute 3 bedroom cottage is located on one of East Sacramento's rare cul-de-sac lots. Relax on your front patio overlooking the well kept neighbor homes or entertain in the lrg backyard & picnic under the vine covered pergola. Upon entering the formal LR, you will appreciate the beautiful hwd floors, recessed lights, new crown molding, warm neutral colors & inviting fireplace. See www.52471Street.com \$425,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



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Very well priced 3 bedroom 1.5 bath home. Completely remodeled kitchen, very spacious floor plan, updated bathroom, crown molding & meticulously maintained front & backyard. Also includes a large living room with a classic fireplace, Central heat and air, insulated walls, and a contemporary feel in this traditional home. Close to Sac State and the river. See www.5709 MonaleeAve.IsNowForSale.com \$385,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



NEAR MCKINLEY PARK

Hardwood floors w/mahogany inlay. Large updated country kitchen. Dual pane windows & French doors lead to wood deck & spa. Vintage light fixtures. Custom window coverings. Quiet tree-lined street near hospitals, schools & transportation. See www.648-36thSt.com \$649,900

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



FAB 40'S

This special 1945 cottage bungalow is one story with a master suite with private bath, plus 2 additional bedrooms with 2 more baths. The updated kitchen includes beautiful cherry cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and granite counters. The long brick driveway takes you to a spacious 2 car garage. The private backyard retreat included a wonderful water feature for a retreat atmosphere. See www.1338-42ndSt.com \$775,000

CHRIS BALESTRERI 996-2244



OH SO CUTE!

Move right in this 4bdrm 3 bath home just blocks from McKinley Park. Home includes many charming features from yester year & modern amenities like a master suite, remodeled kitchen, whole house fan, crown molding, beautiful hwd floors. CH&A, cute original double hung windows (downstairs), LR w/brick fireplace & more. See www.409-41stStreet.com \$525,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495

FAB FORTIES BEAUTY

Meticulously maintained from inside out. This home features spacious rooms, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, dual pane windows and lots of charm. The kitchen boasts granite counters, center island, built-in refrigerator and beverage cooler. Beautiful hardwood floors and a wonderful stone patio. This is a must see. See www.windermereDunnigan.com \$1,099,000

PATTI PRIESS 801-0579

TONS OF CHARM

Exceptional McKinley Park 2 bedroom 1 bath. This home includes hardwood floors, dual pane windows, a completely remodeled kitchen, and a sanctuary-like backyard minutes from McKinley Park for a jog and very close to all the conveniences that downtown has to offer. See www.3109CSt.IsNowForSale.com \$369,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048

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