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# EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

November 15, 2012

Community News in Your Hands

www.valcomnews.com

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this holiday season  
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brings French flair to East Sac  
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Did you know that women lose muscle mass at twice the rate of men? This workshop will highlight strength training geared toward women.

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Photo courtesy of Leslie Wilson-Lopez

Inside one of the homes from last year's holiday tour.

**39th Annual Sacred Heart Holiday Tour**

Special to the East Sacramento News

One of Northern California's most loved walking holiday home tours returns this December, with five elegantly decorated homes in East Sacramento's historic Fabulous Forties neighborhood open for viewing. For 39 years, this popular tour has grown to include nearly 5,000 patrons from throughout northern and central California. The homes showcase elaborate renovation while preserving historic design, custom interior decoration and creative holiday décor that is sure to ignite the spirit of the season. Homes on the tour this year range in style from a state-ly Tudor to a beautifully remodeled plantation home that was at one time a multi-family duplex.

The tour is completely run by volunteer parents from the school. According to Leslie Wilson-Lopez, a parent and one of the tour's four co-chairs, the holiday tour is a fundraiser for Sacred Heart Parish School and funds raised are used to help offset tuition and to provide assistance to those who families who might not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education.

The holiday tour includes a holiday boutique and café located at Sacred Heart Parish School's gymnasium at 39th and H Streets. This year's talented interior and floral designers will include: Beyond the Garden Gate, East Sac Florist, Holiday

See Home tour, page 3

**PENDING Pocket of Paradise!**  
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**Connecting a Community... one Home at a Time in October.**

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**Home tour: Festive decor fills Fab 40s homes**

Continued from page 2

Home, Kerrie Kelly Design Lab, Lumen's and Twiggs Floral Design Gallery.

Here's a summary of what each home has in store for the tour:

**Southern Bungalow on 38th Street**

Built in 1915, this 38th Street home Southern Bungalow may be 3,000 square feet on 1/3 acre, but it is the least bit ostentatious. Once again, Philip Rice of East Sac Florist dazzles the homeowners. This time with his dramatic holiday take on Contemporary Country meets edgy Rock-n-Roll.

**California Cottage on 42nd St.**

As you enter this lovely 1924 California cottage, a beautiful wreath greets you at the front door. The family monogram on the wreath is a sign of things to come inside, as Kerrie Kelly Design Lab has decorated this home for the holidays in a very approachable and authentic way that is personalized to the homeowners.

**Majestic Tudor on 45th St.**

Built in 1925, by well-known craftsman and architect Squeaky Williams, this elegant home replicates an

authentic Normandy Castle. Upon entering the grand foyer this Christmas season, you will be greeted by traditional holiday décor, created by Carol Shellenberger and Mary Shaw, from Holiday Home. The designers called upon the homeowners' classic style when decorating this majestic home for the holidays.

**New England Manor on 46th Street**

This 1939 Grand Brick Tudor home, in addition to our 45th Street home, is suspected to have also been built by well-known Sacramento builder Squeaky Williams. The long walkway and warm brick porch are only the beginning of what lies behind the front door, including holiday décor and furnishings by Elizabeth Lake, senior lighting designer of Lumens Light + Living.

**Fab 40s Charmer on 47th St.**

The holiday theme for this 1925 bungalow is "simple elegance intertwined with family tradition." Pat Stromberg, Nancy Storm and Patti Green, from Beyond the Garden Gate, set the décor tone in this newly remodeled home by adopting the homeowners' clean, yet classic taste, along with their family-friendly surroundings.

**If you go:**

**WHEN:** Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2  
Friday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Homes open for touring at 11am; Café and Boutique open at 12:30 Friday due to school dismissal)  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
**TICKETS:** Tour tickets are \$25 in advance starting on November 1st; \$30 after November 29th. Organizers predict another sellout this year and suggest advance purchases when possible.

Please check the website for ticket retailer locations or to purchase tickets online! [www.sacred-hearthometour.com](http://www.sacred-hearthometour.com) or call the Holiday Home Tour Information Line at (916) 556-5050.

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# East Sacramento resident reminisces about her century of life

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

In today's world, it is certainly not very common to encounter someone with firsthand World War I related memories. And this is just part of the reason that the life of East Sacramento resident Mabel "Bunny" Perich can be of interest to so many people.

While sitting down and at times standing inside her residence at Mercy McMahon Terrace senior residential care facility last week, Bunny shared details about her life, which began on Nov. 24, 1912.

In recalling one of her World War I related memories, Bunny, who was raised adjacent to the west side of Chicago in the village of Oak Park, said, "I remember my mother (Mabel Gearon) making fudge during the First World War. Two of my uncles were over in Germany and I remember my mother packing fudge to send to one

of them (Gratton Eugene Gearon) in 1917, before the war ended. I can still see her standing in the kitchen stirring the fudge and packing it in a tin box to mail over to my uncle."

Bunny's other World War I related memory involves an event, which was held at Chicago's city hall shortly after the armistice between the allies and Germany was signed in Compiegne, France on Nov. 11, 1918.

"When the war ended, they had a pageant in city hall to commemorate all the men who had been killed during the war and I was dressed as a Red Cross nurse and a little boy was dressed as a doughboy - a soldier," Bunny said. "I remember that they gave me a sterling silver spoon with (an image of) a Red Cross nurse on the handle and they gave the little boy a sterling silver spoon with (an image of) a soldier on the handle. I still have the Red Cross spoon. I don't know the name of the little boy, because I only saw



East Sacramento resident Mabel "Bunny" Perich will turn 100 years old on Nov. 24.

Photo by Lance Armstrong

him that one day at the pageant."

Two years later, Bunny took dancing lessons and was involved in a dancing recital in Chicago.

In remembering the recital, which she believes was held in a theater on Ashland Avenue, Bunny said, "I was dressed like a doll in a French doll store. That was

the scene. I remember I did a dance and at the end of the dance - I had an American flag tucked down into my

See Life, page 5

# Life: Bunny decided to stay at Mercy McMahon for its 'nice people, good food and good care'

Continued from page 4

uniform - I came to the (theater) lights and I pulled the flag out, which was a silk flag, and held it up and the audience went wild."

Bunny, who was given her nickname by her father, Joseph S. Gearon, who worked for the Department of Streets for the city of Chicago, also recalled the days of Prohibition.

"I remember my mother and father going out on Saturday nights to a speakeasy," Bunny said. "I didn't know it at the time where they went, but that's where they would go on Saturday nights, not every Saturday. People would go to speakeasies back then and hope they wouldn't get raided."

Although she was certainly living in the Chicago area during the days of the notorious gangster Al Capone, Bunny said she does not remember hearing any Capone-related stories during that era.

Among Bunny's favorite childhood memories was roller skating with her sister, Helen Marie, in the basement of her family's home during the winters.

In 1927, Bunny graduated from the eighth grade at the now historic St. Edmund (Catholic parochial) School in Oak Park, Ill. The original, 15th century French Gothic designed portion of the school, which was built as a copy of the Palace of Justice in Rouen, France, opened in 1917.

Bunny, whose partial description of 5 feet, 2 inches tall with blue eyes would cause some people to begin singing a popular song of the past, graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in Oak Park, Ill. in 1931.

Among the notable people to graduate from that school were the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway, McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, Dan Castellaneta, who provides the voice for the cartoon character Homer Simpson, National Football League Hall of Famer George Trafton and city planner and architect Burley Griffin.

In October 1937, Bunny married William J. "Bill" Luck, who worked for the Cherry-Burrell Corp., which was known for manufacturing dairy equipment. And less than two months later, he was transferred to work in San Francisco.

The couple's first San Francisco residence was at Chestnut and Divisadero streets. And while residing in an apartment at Francisco and Gough streets, the couple had their first and only child, Nancy, on Nov. 13, 1940.

Like many people who recall World War II, Bunny remembers where she was when she learned that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

"I was giving my daughter a bath and my husband came rushing in and said, 'I just heard on the radio they bombed Pearl Harbor,'" Bunny said.

And with the United States' involvement in World War II came the blackouts, which Bunny also remembers well.

"They blacked out the whole city and they painted all the streetlights that faced the ocean black when they had blackouts," Bunny said. "And they had air raid wardens to tell you to turn all your lights out and we would put blankets over the windows that faced outside. And then we would go up on the roof of the apartment house and the whole city was blacked out, but we could see the outline of the ships going under the Golden Gate (Bridge)."

After the war, Bunny and her family moved to 2566

39th Ave. in San Francisco's Sunset District.

Bunny became a Sacramentan when she moved with her family into an apartment at 2230 10th Ave., near Sacramento Junior College (today's Sacramento City College), in 1947.

Bill, who was married to Bunny for 37 years, died at the age of 64 on June 23, 1976.

Bunny, who worked as a clerk in the bonds section of the state treasurer's office from 1960 to 1980 and is a lifetime member of St. Patrick's Home Guild, married a widower named Peter J. Perich (1909-1987) in 1981.

Peter and Bunny spent about seven years of their retirement lives together, enjoying a variety of activities, including traveling through Europe.

Among Bunny's most gratifying activities during her life was her volunteer work for such places as Holy Spirit Parish and School and the Sacramento Children's Home through her service to the Los Niños Service League, which raised funds through its assistance to the Casa de Los Niños luncheon restaurant - today's Casa Garden Restaurant.

In January 2004, following an unfortunate incident when she fell and broke her hip, Bunny became a resident of Mercy McMahon Terrace.

Until her accident, she had been living alone and driving her own vehicle.

She said that her decision to move to her current home was an excellent one.

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# East Sacramento area schools will benefit from the passage of Measures Q and R

See how your neighborhood school could be improved

Special to the East Sacramento News

Measures Q and R were local school bond measures to upgrade and renovate local school facilities that were both passed in the November election. According to the Sacramento City Unified School District, the average age of the local schools is 50 years and need significant upgrading.

All money raised by Measures Q and R will stay in our community and cannot be taken away by the State. No money can be spent on school administrator salaries. An independent citizens' oversight

committee will monitor expenditures and ensure all funds are spent properly. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact Gabe Ross, Chief Information Officer at 643-9145 or email [improvesacramentoschools@gmail.com](mailto:improvesacramentoschools@gmail.com)

Here are breakdowns of how your neighborhood schools fare and how they should be improved.

## DAVID LUBIN

David Lubin Elementary School was constructed in 1975. During the 2006 modernization, renovation and upgrades were made in the fol-

lowing areas: health and safety, site exterior and miscellaneous upgrades. The school's facilities received high ratings for completion of maintenance and safety procedures. The frontage street inhibits ability for a gracious welcome. The unsafe environment posed by overlapping bus and parent drop off leads to unsafe arrival and departure. There is no flashing light to indicate a pedestrian crosswalk.

Visitor and staff parking is inadequate. Accessible parking stalls and path of travel needs reconfiguring/relocating. Irrigation and drainage at the play fields needs to be reworked to resolve flooding and muddy conditions. Refurbishing of the blacktop, shaded small group seating areas, and clear definition of specific hardscape uses based on age-appropriate activities would be



Photo courtesy  
Poorly patched flooring needs new finishes at Kit Carson Middle School. This is one of many examples of physical improvements that can be made because of the passage of measures Q and R.

a positive upgrade. Providing a shade structure would improve the stage presence and encourage additional activity use such as outdoor learning and lunchtime dining.

## KIT CARSON

The site is just more than nine acres in a fully developed residential neighborhood just off Folsom Boulevard. The site is small but appears adequate for this school that was built in 1976. This existing Middle School campus is in generally fair condition and has been looked at as a viable candidate to be converted into an IB Program to support Grades 7-12.

The buses currently bring about 70 percent of the students to school and create some traffic issues within the neighborhood. The buses must route through the neighborhood to enter and exit the school but are able to loop from Folsom Boulevard and back with reasonable convenience. There are, however, no designated passenger loading and unloading zones, no separation for parents and buses and no barrier free drop off spaces.

Drop offs take place along the "N" Street frontage and in the staff parking lot at the west side of the campus. Both locations currently generate traffic conflicts and unsafe conditions. At a minimum, a barrier free drop off space is required and a designated drop off lane is recommended. The public and main entrance to the school and administrative offices is located along "N" Street and at some distance from the available visitor parking.

Additional parking area is recommended and should be located in reasonable proximity to the school's entrance and administrative office. There have been recent path of travel upgrades to the staff parking lots but more is needed to be fully code compliant.

The campus is a pleasant homogenous design with good internal circulation and the core secured by ornamental steel gates. The campus is well planned for a compact facility and suited to the neighborhood. However an updated color scheme would be more appropriate for the age group. Some modernization has been

Did you enjoy Marty Relles' "Janey Way Memories?"

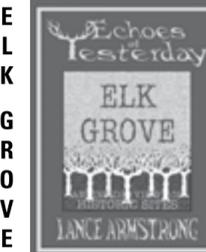
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See Improvements, page 14

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## Sacramento charities offer lots of ways to give back this holiday season

by CORRIE PELC  
corrie@valcomnews.com

'Tis the season for turkey, carolers, gingerbread men, friends and family – and giving back.

"For a lot of people part of their holiday tradition is the giving back and the instilling the spirit of service in their children and we love it," says Nicole Elton, marketing and communications officer for Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada. "It's such a wonderful jump-off point – we've had so many volunteers who have come back to us year after year."

"It's the most popular time of year when people want to volunteer," adds Frank Kennedy, executive director of the Volunteer Center of Sacramento. "It's the holiday season and people want to help people less fortunate than them."

Whether you want to give of your time or money, there are lots of ways you can help out those in need this holiday season right here in your own community. Here's a look at just a few!

**Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services**

You can start giving through the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' (SFBFS) Turkey Drive, to be held

Friday, November 16, at 3333 Third Avenue (corner of 3rd Avenue and 33rd Street in Oak Park). According to Communications Director Kelly Siefkin, donations of fresh and frozen turkeys will be accepted from 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., which are then distributed to those in need the following Monday.

"It's so great – we have moms driving vans full of kids and after soccer practice they all go in and buy some turkeys, bring them down, and all the kids unload and drop off the turkeys," Siefkin says. "That may be the easiest way a family can start their holiday giving."

Then on Thanksgiving Day, families can get involved in the annual Run to Feed the Hungry. "That's a really good community thing to do with your entire family – it's truly become a holiday tradition for so many area families," Siefkin says. Both participants and volunteers are needed for the race, however, Siefkin says the minimum age to volunteer at the Race is 18. *Editor's note: For more information on the Run to Feed the Hungry, see page 13.*

And on the Teen Service Day on December 10, teens ages 12-17 can help sort and organize clothing donations for SFBFS' Clothing Program. Siefkin says this is a great way for teens to spend time together, but also serve the community. "They really enjoy spending that time here and making an impact in our

community," she adds. Siefkin says volunteers ages 12-15 need to have a parent on-site during the event, and volunteers ages 16-17 can volunteer on their own with a parent's signature.

**For more information:**

**Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services**

Oak Park - Main Campus  
3333 Third Ave.  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
(916) 456-1980  
[www.sacramentofoodbank.org](http://www.sacramentofoodbank.org)

**Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada**

Part of Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada's giving opportunities includes a number of drives community members can donate to. For example, from now until Nov. 18 they will hold a Turkey and Turkey Dinner Food Drive for the clients living in their programs, says Elton. That includes donations of fresh or frozen turkeys and ingredients needed for a holiday meal, such as stuffing and mashed potatoes.

Following, VOA will be holding both a Hats, Gloves, and Scarves Drive to provide warm clothing for those living in its shelters, as well as a Stocking Drive. "We're asking people to purchase a stocking and stuff it full

of a variety of things that would make life a lot easier and more pleasant for the men, women, children, and youth in our program, things like pens and pencils, lip balm, flashlights, batteries, and a gift card so people who have specific needs can go and get those needs fulfilled," Elton explains.

VOA is also looking for families or groups to come and throw a holiday party for its various shelters. "It's the time of year when people are used to going and doing the family holiday parties, so this is a fun opportunity where a family can plan and host an entire party," Elton says. "We'd love for a family or group of families to come together, work with our volunteer coordinator, and plan just a fun holiday event."

In addition to giving, there's volunteer opportunities as well. Elton says in December VOA will hold Wrap-Up Parties where families can come and help wrap gifts and stuff stockings for the children, adults and youth living in their shelters.

**For more information:**

**Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada**

Point West Plaza, 1900 Point West Way, Suite 270  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 442-3691  
[www.voa-sac.org](http://www.voa-sac.org)

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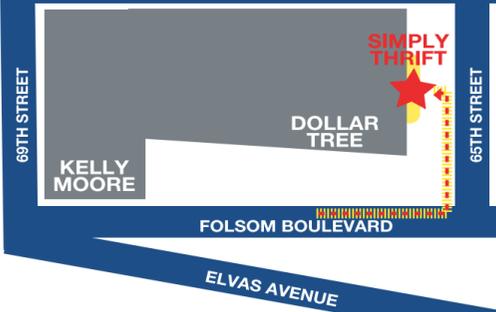


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### JANEY WAY MEMORIES:

# Thanksgiving celebrations past and present

By MARTIN RELLES  
Martin@valcomnews.com



I have vivid memories of how our family spent Thanksgiving when I grew up on Janey Way. The entire Relles/Petta extended family went to Granma Petta's house on 14th Avenue to celebrate the holiday.

I remember we always urged dad to take us there as early as possible. That gave us lots of time to play with our many cousins. We frolicked on the tall swing set in the backyard. Sometimes, we snuck into basement of the two-story home. There, with its myriad of rooms and stacks of family artifacts, it was magical like some Harry Potter tale. Soon, however, Grandpa Petta chased us out of his territory, warning us not to enter again. Then we went out to the large, ranch style garden on the side of the house. It featured a chicken house and a barn full of rusting farm implements. These were always points of interest for growing young children.

Eventually, Grandma called us in for a wonderful, traditional Thanksgiving dinner, much to Grandpa's relief. "You kids are too wild," he would say, as we filed in for dinner.

When we grew into our teen age, the location of our holiday dinner changed from Granma Petta's house to our uncle Ross Relles' house on Hill-sboro Lane in South Land Park. That venue seemed perfectly suited for teenage boys. The house had an extra large game room with a full sized pool table and a 28-inch console television perfect for watching the football games. If we got bored, we went outside and played on the railroad tracks behind the Relles house.

At the Relles house, Aunt Margaret supervised our aunts in the preparation of the Thanksgiving feast. There, as at Grandma Petta's house, the dinners were always, just the best.

When our family finally reached adulthood, my parents took over the Thanksgiving duties, for just our immediate family. Then, we celebrated the great holiday at my parents'



house on Janey Way. Diners there always tasted great, but somehow lacked the grandeur of the feasts we had at Grandma Petta's old house. The guest list appeared much smaller too: Mom and dad, My wife and I, our three children and sometimes my brother Terrence and his family.

Since my parents passed away some years back, I took over the duties of serving Thanksgiving dinner at my house on La Riviera Drive. It is a labor of love. While my grandchildren run on the grass in the back yard, Le Grande (my wife Barbara) and I prepare the dinner. I do the cooking and Le Grande sets a majestic table replete with a live floral center piece and candle sticks.

We have a wonderful time kicking off the holiday season and watching our little grand children Angelo, Gabrielle and Madeline play in the back yard.

Sometimes though, I think back to the big Thanksgiving parties we had with our extended family at Grandma Petta's house so many years ago and miss the happy times I had playing with my cousins: a nostalgic Janey Way Memory.

# Thousands to participate in 19th annual 'Run to Feed the Hungry'

By SUSAN LAIRD  
slaird@handywriting.com

What has 56,000 legs, over 28,000 smiles and is the biggest "happening" in Sacramento to every year?

If you guessed the 19th annual "Run to Feed the Hungry" for Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS), you guessed correctly.

For nearly two decades, members of the Sacramento community – and their friends and families from around the nation – have gathered to give back. Whether they are elite runners, average joggers or simple walkers, this event is one of the most respected 5K/10K events in the nation.

Held every year on Thanksgiving Day, participants agree: it's a great way to give back to the community...and burn a few calories before indulging in a piece of pumpkin pie. Last year, 26,825 people participated on the event's first rainy day. This year, over 28,000 participants are expected.

"Run to Feed the Hungry is a Sacramento tradition for thousands of local families," said Kelly Siefkin, communications director for the food bank. "The event offers a 5K and 10K course through the beautiful East Sacramento neighborhood. The Run is owned and operated by Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and raises funds to support six programs."

Need knows no season...and seems to know every neigh-

borhood. SFBFS serves families in need throughout Sacramento County, including local neighborhoods including Land Park, Arden and Carmichael. Some 20,000 unduplicated men, women and children receive free goods and education through SFBFS programs each month. The food program serves 16,000 unduplicated individuals each month.

The run raised \$850,000 for the food bank last year – approximately 20 percent of the organization's annual budget. Founded by Father Daniel Madigan in the basement of his Oak Park church in 1976, SFBFS runs a very lean, grassroots organization with an incredibly efficient, professional staff of 40 and a volunteer workforce of over 5,000 annually.

The Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22) fun begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at approximately 11 a.m. Participants will meet at Sacramento State's J Street entrance for the start of the run/walk. New exit points from Sac State will improve traffic flow post-race.

Siefkin is excited about a new participant category this year: Virtual Runner.

"Is your spouse dragging you to Iowa for a snow laden Thanksgiving? Do you have 49 relatives descending on your living room around 11 a.m.? Are you more of a napper than a jogger? Then sign up as a virtual participant," Siefkin said. "Your registration fee supports programs at Sacramento Food Bank

& Family Services and you'll still receive your shirt after the event, but you don't have to run or walk on Thanksgiving morning."

There is still time to sign up to participate, volunteer or join a team. There is also some new run attire available this year.

"Those who sign up to participate and who make an additional \$50 contribution will receive a Run to Feed the Hungry knit beanie this year," Siefkin said. "Participants are very excited about it – apparently, it's becoming a hot collectible for those who participate every year."

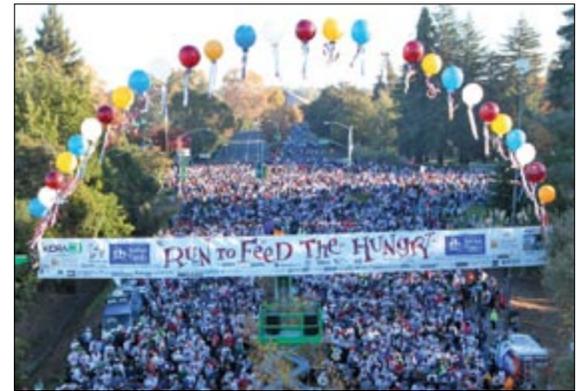


Photo courtesy, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services  
Thousands of Sacramento residents, their families and friends will gather on the Sacramento State campus for the 19th annual "Run to Feed the Hungry" on Nov. 22.

Registration for the Run to Feed the Hungry is available online until Nov. 20 at [www.runtofeedthehungry.com](http://www.runtofeedthehungry.com).

Participants can also register via mail until Nov. 10 or at REI

from Nov. 17–21. For more information about SFBFS, [www.sacramentofoodbank.org](http://www.sacramentofoodbank.org).

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# Improvements: SCUSD looking for citizens to join oversight committee

Continued from page 6

completed to upgrade restrooms for code compliance but has left unsightly patches in tile finishes. Additional upgrades for code compliance are needed throughout the campus.

The school buildings were built with little consideration for energy efficiency and improvements could be made through the use of more efficient windows and mechanical systems. Benefits could also be gained through more efficient lighting and effective energy control systems. The student gathering areas of the campus are primarily associated with the Quad. This area is well located, adequate and in reasonably good condition. The student snack bar is adjacent to the Quad. Other outdoor student

The athletic fields and paved play courts are adequate for the current enrollment but in fair condition. Resurfacing is needed for some areas of the courts and water efficient irrigation recommended for the play fields.

Based on the opportunities, facility conditions and code issues identified in this report, the Kit Carson School appears to be a fair candidate to support the facility and programmatic transformation to a 7-12 IB School.

## SUTTER

The site is 7.5 acres in a confined fully developed semi-urban location

and is unsuitably small for this middle school. A typical suburban site for this size school would be at least twice the area. The school was built in 1958 and serves just more than 1,200 students with most of the classrooms on second and third floors.

Access to the campus is along I Street just off Alhambra Boulevard. A drop off lane was added along "I" Street but conflicts with traffic into and out of the parking areas remain. There is no convenient turn a round or loop routing for buses. Parking is less than adequate and adversely affects student circulation. In addition to street, parking and drive conflicts there are significant "path of travel" issues around and within the campus. While the area is served by public transportation, there is no fully compliant path of travel to the campus. These are apt to become major circumstances with future modernization.

The upper floors are served by stairs and a single elevator. The fifty plus year old school was built with little consideration for energy efficiency and improvements could be made through the use of more efficient windows, wall systems and mechanical systems.

Benefits could also be gained through more efficient lighting

and effective energy control systems. The structure is primarily steel and masonry with large areas of window wall systems including awning windows and spandrel panels.

The condition and age of the windows and window system shows signs of deterioration and has numerous leaks. In addition to the overall condition issues, the windows and panels are single glazed un-insulated and inefficient. The interior corridors on the second and third floors of the main classroom building are wide and lined with lockers, but access to and from the classrooms does not comply with code.

These conditions will likely require significant upgrades with any future modernization. The design of the school is dated and the classrooms and amenity areas reflect the age of the school with some deterioration and many barrier free access issues. The student snack bar has access to the Quad for outdoor eating. The gathering areas of the campus appear adequate and in reasonably good condition. The campus core has a small "Quad" area that appears underutilized.

The campus core is secured by unsightly ornamental steel gates and fencing.

## THEODORE JUDAH

Theodore Judah is a historical structure built in 1937, and is the oldest continuously used elementary school in the district. The original building has been renovated to improve HVAC, technology capability, and classroom casework / sink accessibility, but a considerable amount of site and building accessibility non-compliance issues remain. Outdated and unused heating radiators in classrooms could be removed to gain additional casework and storage.

The buildings, including the portable classrooms, are in need of renovation and repairs. The cafeteria, kitchen, staff lounge, auditorium, and administration area all require refurbishing and modernization for code compliance.

The core of the campus has many instructional gardens and potential outdoor learning areas. Efforts are in progress to improve landscaping, but irrigation and drainage is in poor condition at the entry turf areas and playing field. The current orientation of the portable classroom buildings makes site supervision difficult. Bus and parent drop-off is provided curbside only. The absence of accessible paths of travel should be resolved.

Information for this story is courtesy of SCUSD.

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Send your event announcement for consideration to: [editor@valcomnews.com](mailto:editor@valcomnews.com) at least two weeks prior to publication.

### ONGOING:

**Soroptimist Letter from Santa**  
Soroptimists are writing personal letters from Santa to children. By requesting a letter from Santa, you will be making a child that you know happy, and you will be contributing to improving the lives of children in the Sacramento area. Proceeds from Santa's letters are used to support Sacramento area women and children through 501(c)3 organizations. Order forms from <http://sacramentosoroptimists.org>; for questions (or to request a form be sent via email), please email us at [Holidaysigs@gmail.com](mailto:Holidaysigs@gmail.com). Each letter sent to a child is \$5. Requests must be received by SIGS by Dec. 10, to ensure delivery before Christmas.

**Homelessness-themed gingerbread house competition looking for artists and bakers**  
Partnering with the Sacramento Downtown Plaza, Sacramento Self-Help Housing is calling for creative gingerbread house entries repre-

senting the meaning of "home" or the concept of homelessness. Submittals should be delivered to the Downtown Plaza on Thursday, Nov. 29 from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 to 11 a.m. Judging will take place at noon on Dec. 1. All entries should be edible, creative, and on a rigid base no larger than 20" by 20". Visit [www.sacselfhelp.org](http://www.sacselfhelp.org) for details and an application form.

**Old Sacramento Underground Tours - Extended Holiday Tour Schedule!**  
Now through Dec. 9: Today, visitors have the unique opportunity to uncover the facts behind the legends that lie below historic buildings and sidewalks of Old Sacramento. For these hour-long guided walking tours, guests should check in at the Sacramento History Museum before descending below several historic Old Sacramento buildings. Sacramento History Museum, 101 I Street in Old Sacramento. \$15 for adults; \$12 for HOSF members; \$10 for children. 916-808-7059 or [www.historicoldsac.org](http://www.historicoldsac.org)

### NOVEMBER

**JFK fall concert**  
Nov. 15: Starting at 7 p.m., the auditorium will host the jazz band, choir and orchestra

at the high school's fall concert. 6715 Gloria Dr., Sacramento.

### 'Go Further with Ford Night'

Nov. 15: A free fundraising event that will benefit the Rebuild McKinley Playground effort, engaging consumers in the final "Random Acts of Fusion" adventure and offering them a chance to see the all-new 2013 Ford Fusion in person. The public will have an opportunity to test their judging skills with American Idol and compete to win a unique VIP experience during the show's 12th season. For each person who attends Go Further with Ford Night, Ford will donate \$10 and Downtown Ford will match the contribution for a total of \$20 for each person who attends - to Rebuild McKinley Playground. 442-6931.

### Bi-Polar Anonymous

Nov. 16: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

### Holiday Craft Show at Carmichael Oaks Senior Living

Nov. 17: Crafters and artists offering their wares, North Living Room and the Koi Cafe Area (front lobby) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 944-2323. 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael

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# CALENDAR

For more calendar entries visit  
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## The Sacramento Harvest Festival Original Art and Craft Show

Nov. 16-18: Holiday shopping, showcasing hundreds of vendors, exciting entertainment, unique food inspiration for Thanksgiving, and more at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Dr., Sacramento. It goes on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults: \$9, Seniors (62+): \$7, youth (13-17): \$4, kids 12 and under: free. For tickets, call 800-346-1212 or visit www.harvestfestival.com

## Shred event

Nov. 17: Shred personal documents from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cook Realty, 4305 Freport Blvd., 451-6702. Make a cash contri-

bution to Cook Realty Charitable Foundation, Inc.

## Photo gift shows by P. Colmer

Nov. 17: Carmichael Oaks Senior Apts., 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. 10-4 p.m., 916-261-3850

## Hands on History -- There are

### Folks Trapped in the Mountains

Nov. 17: Sutter's Fort was their destination and became their only hope of survival. Today, the Sutter's Fort Collection is the largest repository of original source Donner Party material in existence and the iconic Patty Reed doll -- a national treasure -- will

be back on permanent display just in time for this event. Fort hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cannon firing demonstrations: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. Musket demonstrations periodically throughout the day Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L St. Cost: \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under. 445-4422 or www.suttersfort.org

## Fall Color in the City Cemetery

### Rose Garden

Nov. 17: Free tour, starting at 10 a.m. and highlighting late season rose blooms, colorful leaves and bright rose hips during a walk through the rose garden and surrounding

areas within the cemetery. Park across the street and assemble in the front parking lot. Donations are appreciated. 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. 264-7839 or 448-0811.

## When Generations Share

### Space: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Symposium

Nov. 17: Free event where grandparents raising grandchildren can learn about community resources on health, social issues, and education at St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Ephraim Williams Family Life Center, located at 3996 14th Ave., Sacramento. Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by the symposium at 9 a.m. Reservations are required. To RSVP, call 1-877-926-8300 or go to http://aarp.cvent.com/CAGrandparents Adults only. No childcare will be provided. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Exciting giveaways will be raffled.

## Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade,

### Carmichael

Nov. 20: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd. www.rotary.org

## Soroptimist International of

### Sacramento North meeting

Nov. 20: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at the atria El Camino Gardens at 2426 Garfield, Carmichael. Call Sheila at 624-4643.

## Letters to Santa

### To our readers:

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, filled with joy and happiness. We are starting a new tradition here at Valley Community News. If you have children or grandchildren who are writing their wishlist for Christmas, send a copy to editor@valcomnews.com and we will print them in a "Letters to Santa" special section. Letters will run in the Dec. 20 issues of the East Sacramento and Pocket News. Send a photo of your little one along with the wishlist (not to exceed four wishes). Ages 5 to 10 only please. Deadline is Thursday, Dec. 13.

Happy holidays from everyone here at Valley Community News.

Sincerely,  
Monica Stark

# Les Baux brings French flair to East Sac

By CORRIE PELC  
corrie@valcomnews.com

If you've ever had the opportunity to walk down the bustling streets of France or New York City, chances are you would encounter bakeries, almost one on every street, featuring crusty loaves of fresh baked breads.

The good news is you don't have to go that far anymore if you live in East Sacramento. Just head to the corner of 51st Street and Folsom Boulevard to the new Les Baux bakery and bistro.

## Why East Sac?

Co-owned by Trong Nguyen and his wife, who also founded La Bou Bakery & Cafe, Nguyen says the vision for Les Baux came from their travels to Europe. "We thought maybe (with) our experience, knowledge, resources and skills, (we could) put together a cool neighborhood bakery cafe bistro -- the kind of place people would come and hang out and have a good time, like the places we would love to (go) ... in other parts of the world," he explains.

For this concept, Nguyen says they decided on East Sacramento because they loved the neighborhood. "It's a really wonderful neighborhood on both sides of Folsom Boulevard, and very accessible to bicycles and foot traffic, and near the parks," he says.

Nguyen appreciates the support he has received from the East Sacramento community since Les Baux first opened its doors about six months ago, with many customers already becoming repeat customers and others returning with their friends. "The people in East Sac are just incredible," he adds.

One fan of Les Baux is East Sacramento resident Ed Christenson, who has become a frequent customer for the store's bread and pastries. He says the bread is a very good quality and with a good flavor. He says it's nice to "have a good bread store nearby" and feels Les Baux is a "nice addition" to East Sacramento.

And South East Sacramento residents Rosemarie Bertacchi and M. Teresa Lew say they have become consistent customers of Les Baux, and feel the restaurant is unique and neighborly. "(It) has the ability to be casual, as well as beginning to be in the class of epicurean," Lew adds.

## The Bakery

For the bakery part of Les Baux, Nguyen says they wanted to make a traditional bakery that you would find in France, New York and San Francisco.

The star attraction of the bakery is the bread. Les Baux offers a variety of breads, from baguettes to pain au levain (country white) to a multigrain bread. The bakery also offers types not normally seen, including the French rye and épi type baguette -- rather than a straight loaf, the baguette has angled sections making it easy to break pieces off for eating.

According to Nguyen, all the breads are made each day from scratch from a natural ferment. The starter for the dough is made the day before baking. Each day at midnight, staff members come in to make the dough, which Nguyen says takes a few hours.



Co-owner Trong Nguyen showcases two breads from Les Baux -- the French rye and the épi type baguette.

Photos by Corrie Pelc

Then the bread is baked. Nguyen says these types of breads require a traditional deck oven, which requires a certain set of skills to operate as the dough is dropped directly on to the stone hearth. "It makes the best bread -- it has a really good steaming system and even heat," he explains. "That's the kind of setting for making wonderful bread." To help ensure his bread would be great, Nguyen even brought in bakers from Europe and New York to teach him how to make this type of bread.

In addition to the bread, the bakery at Les Baux features a variety of pastries, including croissants, scones, pain au chocolat, and different types of cookies.

## The Bistro

For the bistro, Nguyen says they wanted to create a place that was more of a neighborhood hang-out than a restaurant. "A French diner where people would come to eat a few times a week," he explains.

To accomplish this, Nguyen says they focused on making an interesting and diverse -- yet affordable -- menu using classic French bistro dishes. "I want everything to be affordable prices, the kind of thing a neighbor could walk over and have dinner -- they don't have to wait for their anniversary or birthday to come here," he adds.

On the breakfast menu, dishes include the "3 Day" French Toast, so named, Nguyen says, because the French toast takes three days to create -- two days to make the bread, and one day for it to naturally air dry, resulting, in what he calls a very light French toast. Other items on the breakfast menu include a breakfast focaccia and a continental breakfast.

For lunch and dinner -- Les Baux just began offering dinner Tuesday through Saturday -- Steak Frite (steak and French fries) Nguyen says is a very pop-

ular and traditional French bistro staple. Nguyen says other well-known French bistro dishes on their menu include Moules Frites (mussels and French fries) and raw oysters on the half shell, as well as three different types of tarts.

Patrons can also enjoy a glass of wine with their meal. Nguyen says they have developed what they call the "Left Side Only Wine List," where every bottle on the menu is \$25 and every glass is \$6, so there is no right side of the menu with prices listed. "People can concentrate on just the wine that they like," he adds.

## "A Luxury"

Now with six months under their belt, Nguyen says that so far he is very pleased with the outcome of Les Baux. He says although people in this area do not buy as much bread as Europeans or those on the East Coast do, "little by little the people are beginning to come in and buy bread."

"For those living in East Sac, the fact that they have a real artisan bread bakery in their neighborhood is a luxury because most America does not have this -- it's rare to have such an entity in your neighborhood," he says. "You can walk over or ride your bike over and grab a loaf of bread for dinner."

And he's happy with the feedback he's been receiving from community members that have found Les Baux and are very pleased to have done so. "Those kinds of encounters really motivate us and keep us going," he adds.

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### PHENOMENAL EAST SACRAMENTO

4 bedrooms 4½ baths, nearly 5000 square feet, this home has it all. Inside you will see a gourmet kitchen, a formal dining room, a large living room and an open breakfast room. The home also features a family room, a sauna/steam room, a full gym, and a workshop. Outside is your own private sanctuary on a big lot with a newer pool and built in kitchen; perfect for entertaining \$1,895,000

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### HISTORIC VICTORIAN

Inviting entryway, parlor, large dining room and kitchen with 1 bedroom and bath upstairs; downstairs includes family room, 2 bedrooms and a bath. Period details include beautiful stained glass and light fixtures, high ceilings and wood flooring. Large lot, mature trees and decomposed granite; 3-car garage with alley access. \$393,300

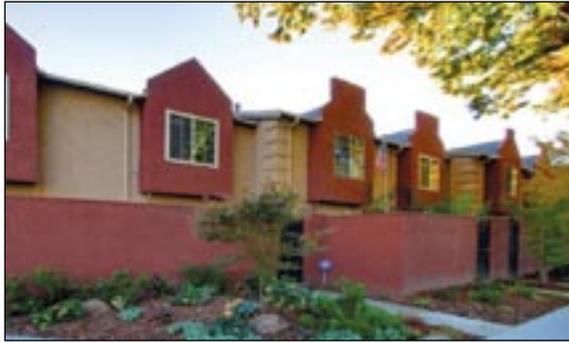
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**PENDING**

### EAST SACRAMENTO

This 3 bedroom 2 bath home is near Bertha Henschel Park and McKinley Park. Lovely hardwood floors, and a large living room - with a cozy fireplace - flows into the dining room. Granite counters in kitchen, patterned tile floor and lots of cabinet storage. The third bedroom could also be used for an exercise room, office or playroom. \$288,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



**PENDING**

### FANTASTIC EAST SACRAMENTO

3 bedroom 2 bath located on a street that is one of East Sacramento's best kept secrets. Spacious home includes refinished hardwoods, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and top of the line cabinets, open floor plan that is perfect for entertaining, dual pane windows, central heat and air, and remodeled bathrooms. \$379,000

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### MIDTOWN CRAFTSMAN

Beautifully maintained 1910 Craftsman bungalow, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, plus a 3/4 basement. Tons of charm and detail. Yard is gardener's delight with raised beds and established grapevine, and fruit trees; plus brick patio and a pergola. Deep lot with newer large 2-car garage. \$339,900

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### FABULOUS EAST SACRAMENTO

Enjoy the modern amenities of a completely rebuilt home and old world charm of this fabulous East Sac street! 4 bedrooms 3½ baths, honed granite countertops and top end appliances in the spacious chefs kitchen, luxurious master suite has two walk-in closets, a huge shower and a pedestal soaking tub, and so much more. \$999,000

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